

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

2022-2023



Contents

1. NARRATIVE REPORT AND WRITTEN STATEMENTS

Director Finance's Narrative Report
Page 1

Statement of Responsibilities
Page 27

2. CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

Explanation of Core Financial Statements
Page 28

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
Page 29

Movement in Reserves Statement
Page 30

Balance Sheet
Page 32

Cash Flow Statement
Page 33

Index of Notes to the Accounts
Page 34

3. SUPPLEMENTARY ACCOUNTS AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

Group Accounts
Page 105

Explanatory Notes to the Group Accounts
Page 111

Housing Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Account
Page 113

Statement of Movement in the Housing Revenue Account
Page 114

Explanatory Notes to the Housing Revenue Account
Page 115

Collection Fund Statement
Page 118

Explanatory Notes to the Collection Fund
Page 119

4. OTHER STATEMENTS

Annual Governance Statement
Page 120

Auditor's Report
Page 130

Glossary of Terms
Page 137

Narrative Report

1. Background

Local authorities in England are required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 to publish a narrative statement with the Statement of Accounts.

As a part of the requirement to provide a narrative statement, regulation 8(2) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 stipulates that a local authority must provide information on its “financial performance and economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources over the financial year”.

This Narrative Report provides information about Exeter, including the key issues affecting the Council and its accounts. It also provides a summary of the financial position at 31 March 2023 and is structured as follows:

- An introduction to Exeter
- Key information about Exeter City Council
- The Corporate Plan
- Financial Performance 2022/23
- Non-Financial Performance 2022/23
- Future Financial Plans
- Statement from Director Finance

2. Introduction to Exeter

Exeter’s history goes back to Roman times with two thirds of the Roman Wall still visible. Exeter Cathedral is prominent in the centre of this bustling city. This and other historic buildings help to make Exeter a popular tourist attraction.

Exeter is the capital city of the county of Devon.

Below are some key facts about Exeter:

Population: Exeter has an estimated population of 128,900 and is at the heart of a travel to work area of over 470,000 residents.

Employment: The city’s wider area includes much of the district council areas of East Devon, Teignbridge and Mid Devon. 288,100 of these residents are of working age and just under 241,300 are employed. Well over half the workforce is well qualified, substantially higher than the national average.

Commuters: Approximately 35,000 people commute into Exeter on a daily basis.

Geography: Exeter is one of two large urban centres within the rural county of Devon, Plymouth being the other.

Business: 4,877 registered for business rates.

Average City Centre footfall: 1,364,000 people per month.

Connectivity: Exeter has an international airport, two railway routes into London (Paddington and Waterloo), major routes by road (M5 to Bristol), three park and ride schemes and joined up cycle routes within the city.

Exeter specialisms: The largest number of meteorologists and climate change specialists in the UK are based in Exeter. Award-winning specialists in diabetes and breast cancer can be found at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, and the University of Exeter has many award-winning research fellows.

Narrative Report

Education: The University of Exeter is among a very few universities to be both a member of the Russell Group and have a Gold award from the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), for its international reputation for excellence in both teaching and research. The University of Exeter is ranked 143rd in the latest (2022) Times Higher Education World University Rankings, the most influential global league table.

Exeter College is a thriving and growing tertiary college. An Ofsted Inspection in 2022 resulted in the college retaining the accolade of Outstanding. The College also scored the top assessment of 'strong' for its approach to meeting the skills needs of the area. This makes Exeter College the first college in the country to achieve the highest judgement in both elements of Ofsted's new enhanced inspections.

Culture: The Art Council England's Designation Scheme has identified the George Montagu's 19th century collection of molluscs and World Cultures collection as pre-eminent collections of national and international importance at the Council's Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM). The city also has a beautiful Cathedral, four theatres and a popular quayside.

Retail: Exeter has many well-known national stores including John Lewis, Next, Zara and Apple. There are also award-winning restaurants and independent stores. The Ivy is among the newest restaurants in Exeter, famous for attracting celebrities to its London eateries. Ikea's 29,000 square metre store is located on the outskirts of the city.

Sport: Exeter Chiefs play in Premiership Rugby, England's top division of rugby. Founded in 1871, the club play their home games at Sandy Park, which is located on the outskirts of the city. The Chiefs have become one of the leading clubs in the Premiership, winning the championship title twice in 2016-17 and 2019-20. In October 2020, the Chiefs won the Champions Cup, the top prize in European club rugby union. They have won the Anglo-Welsh Cup/Premiership Rugby Cup three times, most recently in 2022/23.

Exeter City Football Club is a professional association football club, which was founded in 1901. Following their promotion, the 2022/23 season was the club's first season in the League One since the 2011/12 season.

Exeter and Cranbrook is one of only 12 places in England to be awarded Pilot status by Sport England to tackle inactivity in communities and to trail-blaze new ways of getting people active for life. Following wide-ranging consultation, strategies have been approved which reflect the ambition to make Exeter the most active city in England and for everyone to benefit from an active life.

3. Key Information about Exeter City Council

The City Council provides a range of services within the city including housing, refuse collections and recycling, planning, economic development, tourism, leisure and arts facilities. The Council also provides housing and council tax benefits as well as collecting the council tax on behalf of the county council, police and fire services. Its policies are directed by the Political Leadership and implemented by the Strategic Management Board and Officers of the Council.

Political Structure

There are 39 councillors on Exeter City Council, representing the 13 wards of the City. The political make-up of the Council during the 2022/23 financial year was:

Party	Councillors
Labour seats	25
Conservative	5
Liberal Democrat	2
Green Party	5
Independent	2

The local elections for Exeter City Councillors from May 2023 were held on 4 May 2023. Each elected Councillor is appointed for a four year term, with a third of the 39 seats contested each year (one seat per ward).

Narrative Report

YOUR CITY COUNCILLORS 2023/24 (AMENDED 16 MAY 2023)

ALPHINGTON



Yvonne Atkinson Bob Foale Steve Warwick

DURYARD & ST JAMES



Kevin Mitchell Michael Mitchell Martin Pearce

EXWICK



Phil Bialyk Paul Knott Susannah Patrick

HEAVITREE



Carol Bennett Barbara Denning Catherine Rees

MINCINGLAKE & WHIPTON



Naima Allcock Emma Morse Ruth Williams

NEWTOWN & ST LEONARDS

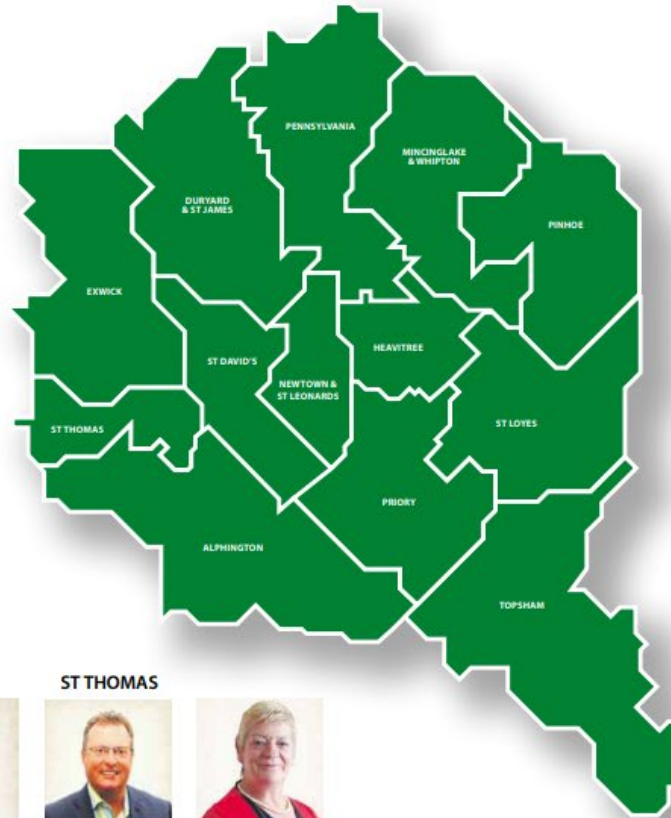


Richard Branston Andy Ketchin Matthew Vizard

PENNSYLVANIA



Zion Lights Josie Parkhouse Martyn Snow



PINHOE



David Harvey Mollie Miller Duncan Wood

PRIORY



Marina Asvachin Jane Begley Tony Wardle

ST DAVID'S



Diana Moore Tess Read Amy Sparling

ST LOYES



Peter Holland Anne Jobson Alison Sheridan

ST THOMAS



Adrian Fullam Rob Hannaford Laura Wright

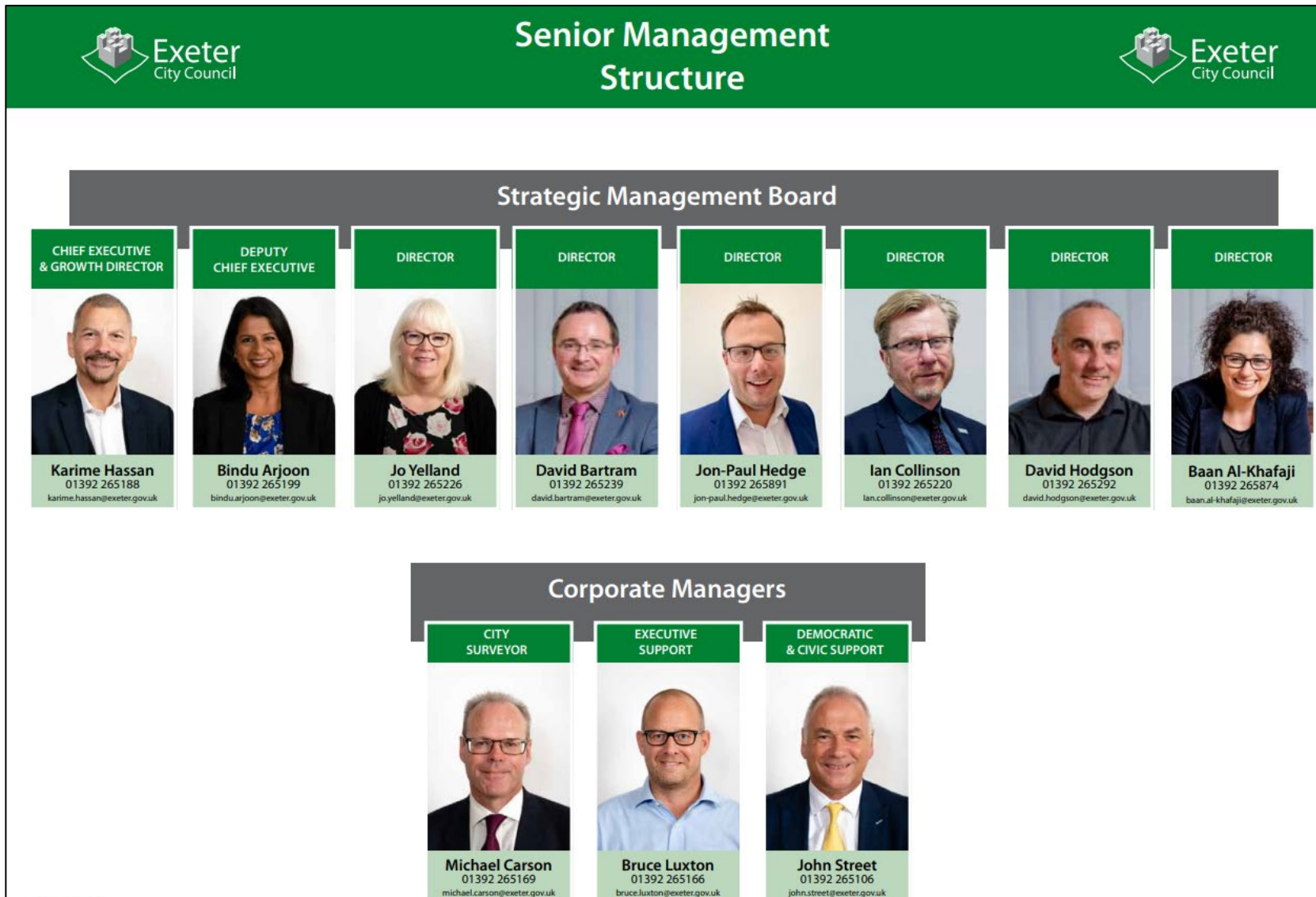
TOPSHAM



Joshua Ellis-Jones Andrew Leadbetter Matthew Williams

Narrative Report

Exeter City Council's Senior Management Structure for the 2022/23 Financial Year:



Narrative Report

Council Employees

The Council employed 824 people in full time and part time contracts in March 2023, compared to 817 people in March 2022.

In the context of managing scarce public resources, remuneration at all levels within the Council needs to be adequate to secure and retain high-quality employees dedicated to the service of the public, but at the same time providing value for money to the residents of Exeter. The Council works within a pay and reward framework which seeks to ensure that its pay and reward processes and procedures facilitate the retention and recruitment of employees with the right skills and capabilities to meet the needs of the Council now and in the future. The framework also takes account of regional and national variations, local market factors, is open and transparent and complies with equal pay legislation.

The pay policy for 2022/23 reflected the following:

- The Council adapted the National Local Government Pay Scale to include locally agreed spinal column points. With effect from 1 January 2014, the Council adopted the Real Living Wage as its minimum spinal column point, and the Living Wage of £9.90 per hour from 1 April 2022 equates to Grade A of the Council's pay scale. The Living Wage is determined nationally in or around November each year. The Council applies any uplift to the Living Wage from 1 April in the year following the increase.
- The nationally negotiated pay award for employees on Spinal Column Points 3 - 52 inclusive (Grades B – P)
- Salary increases for Chief Officers are made in line with increases agreed by the Joint National Council's for Chief Officers and Chief Executives.

The Council has 10 staff who are union representatives, with one officer spending at least 50% of their working hours on union activity.

The Council is undertaking a significant business transformation designed to modernise service delivery and respond to the financial pressures it is under. An interim senior management solution is needed to facilitate this transformation and on 20 December 2022 Council agreed to terminate the Chief Executive and Growth Director, Karime Hassan's, employment on service efficiency grounds. On 13 March 2023, the Council announced the appointment of Bindu Arjoon as the Council's new Chief Executive.

4. The Council's Corporate Plan 2022-2026

On 18 October 2022, Council approved the council's 2022-2026 Corporate Plan; one of the key strategic documents that frames the actions of the Council.

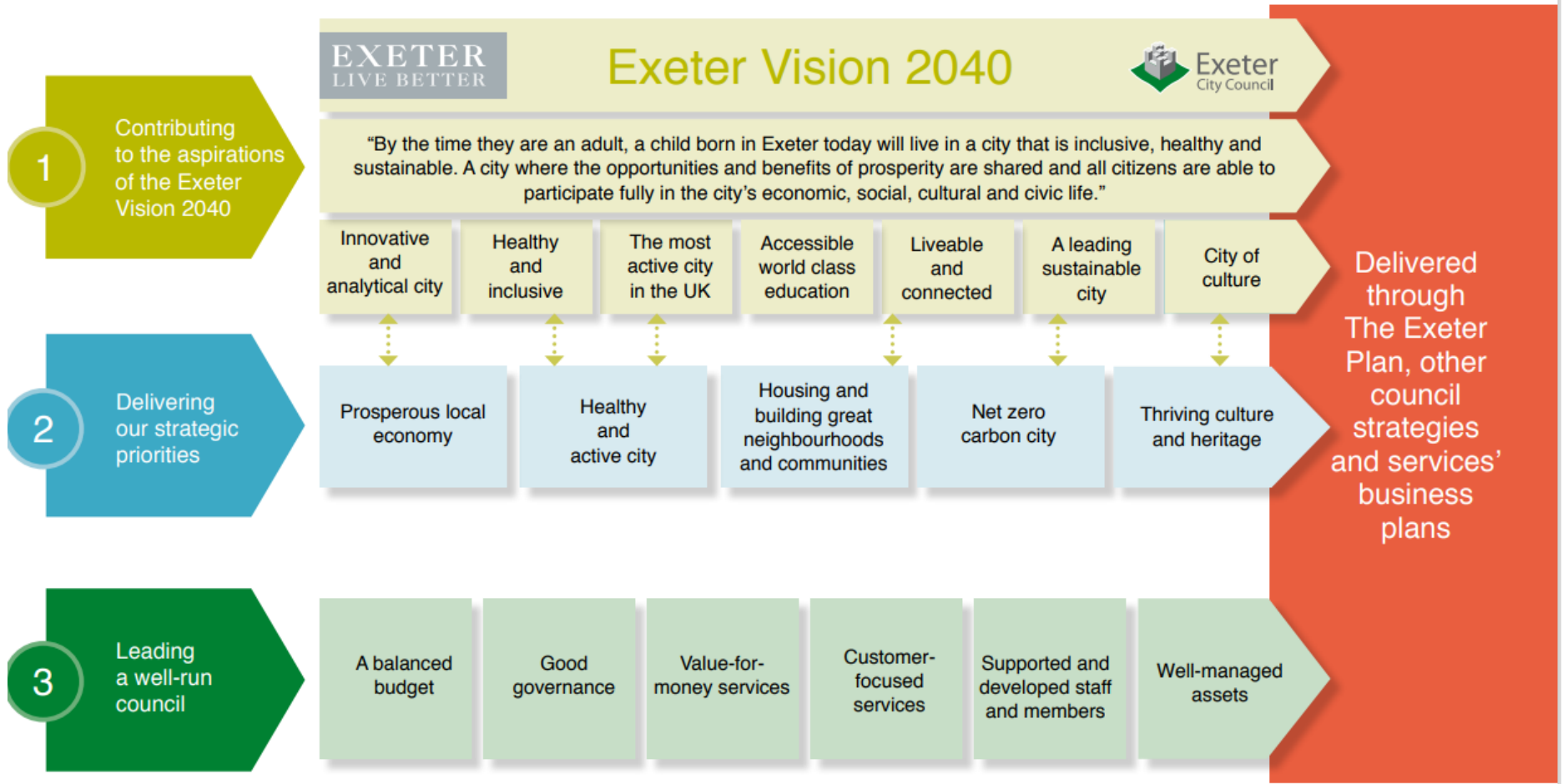
The Corporate Plan has been updated to reflect the changes that have occurred since we produced Our Strategy 2018-2021, as we face up to complex and unprecedented challenges. Some of these followed directly in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic and our exit from the European Union. Others include the climate emergency, the housing emergency, and the decline of the High Street and health inequalities.

Delivery of the plan will be very much dependent on the rapidly-changing economic climate, the availability and prioritisation of our resources. Government funding cuts mean we must reduce our budget by £6.6m by 2026. Focusing on the council and achieving savings is critical. We are still aspirational for our city so innovative and creative working with the private sector and our partners will be critical. Against this backdrop, the council will be focusing on:

- Contributing to the aspirations of the Exeter Vision 2040
- Delivering our strategic priorities
- Leading a well-run council

Narrative Report

Corporate Plan on a page



Narrative Report

Our values and behaviours – how we work

We know that only the exemplary behaviour and positive attitude of our employees will deliver outstanding results for those that visit, work in and live in the city.

We are developing a Values and Behaviours Framework, which represents how we will deliver the planned outcomes of this plan. Our values and behaviours are central to who we are as a council and they help to develop the right working environment to deliver our ambitious goals for the city.

These are our initial thoughts, developed through working with a small group of staff. Over the coming months, we will work with staff more widely and elected members to seek further feedback and to refine the framework.

Equality and diversity

As a service provider, community leader and employer we are committed to being an exemplar in promoting equality and tackling social exclusion. We demonstrate this commitment through our corporate equality group, corporate equality plan, our equality objectives and our values and behaviours. We also undertake equality impact assessments of our policies, programmes and plans to ensure we are considering their impact on equality groups.



Narrative Report

5. Financial Performance 2022/23

2022/23 was undoubtedly a challenging year financially across the Country. Significant inflation fuelled by high energy prices, a higher than anticipated national pay settlement and income streams still struggling to reach the budget meant that the Council had to take action to address significant issues. Whilst the headline figures set out that, some £628,000 is being added to the General Fund reserve, this is offset by supplementary budget requests totalling £1.807m to be funded from the Reserve. In addition to this, the Council used £2 million from the earmarked reserve set aside to address budget volatility. Whilst the Council was protected by its decision to set aside funds, this is an untenable position that the Council cannot afford to reoccur. It also gives a strong endorsement to the reason for holding a General Fund Reserve level at no less than £3 million. The Council's medium term financial plan anticipates reserves being reduced to the minimum required by 2024/25.

The revenue outturn position against the revised approved budget, was as follows:

	Revised Annual Budget £'000	Year End Outturn £'000	Variance to Budget £'000
Chief Executive & Growth Director	3,517	3,189	(328)
Housing & Supporting People	4,224	3,280	(944)
City Development	2,942	1,127	(1,815)
Communications, Culture & Leisure Facilities	7,155	7,014	(141)
Net Zero Exeter and City Management	4,634	5,336	702
Finance	(11)	(2,516)	(2,505)
Corporate Services	2,597	2,962	365
Less Notional Capital Charges	(4,187)	(4,187)	-
Service Committee Net Expenditure	20,871	16,205	(4,666)
Net Interest	1,083	660	(423)
Revenue Contribution to Capital	-	71	71
Minimum Revenue Provision	958	429	(529)
General Fund Expenditure	22,912	17,365	(5,547)
Transfer To/(From) Working Balance	(1,816)	628	2,444
Transfer To/(From) Earmarked Reserves	(3,718)	(12,347)	(8,629)
General Fund Net Expenditure	17,378	5,646	(11,732)
Met By:			
Formula Grant	(4,985)	(4,985)	-
Business Rates Growth / Pooling Gain	(3,274)	8,209	11,483
New Homes Bonus	(1,362)	(1,362)	-
Sales, Fees & Charges Compensation	-	(16)	(16)
CIL Income	(1,342)	(1,077)	265
Council Tax	(6,415)	(6,415)	-
	(17,378)	(5,646)	11,732
	March 2022	March 2023	
Working Balance	5,523	6,151	

Narrative Report

The outturn results for the last couple of years have been skewed by the pandemic and the Government's support to business and Councils. However, during 2022/23 this moved from Covid related support measures to supporting those affected by the cost of living crisis and providing support to Ukrainian refugees.

Devon Household Support Fund is a Department for Work and Pensions scheme to support low income households struggling with the increased costs of essential goods and services. Devon County Council distribute part of their funding to district councils to operate local welfare support schemes. The extension scheme ran 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022 and fund 3 ran from 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023.

Council Tax Rebate – Discretionary The Government announced on 3 February 2022, a package of support known as the Energy Bills rebate, to help households with rising energy bills. There was a mandatory award of £150 to households in Council Tax bands A to D who met specified eligibility criteria. An additional discretionary scheme and a limited funding budget was given to all councils with some specified criteria, but essentially for councils to identify and make payments to support households with their energy bills. In Exeter the discretionary rebate amount was £125 per household based on the following criteria:

- Households in council tax bands E (not with a disablement band reduction to band D applied) to H as at 1 April 2022 receiving council tax support,
- Households in council tax bands E (not with a disablement band reduction to band D applied) to H as at 1 April 2022 getting a 25% council tax discount as a sole occupier

A small proportion of funding was reserved for exceptional hardship cases not fitting the criteria above or the criteria for the mandatory scheme.

Homes for Ukraine scheme The Government launched the Homes for Ukraine Scheme in March 2022 and provided funding to councils through a £10,500 tariff for each arrival in their area. Devon County Council distribute the funding, so that district councils can help to support Ukrainians and provide essential council services such as homelessness assistance.

Cost of Living Support Measures Reported in the Council's Outturn Report

Where the authority has some discretion over the amounts awarded and the criteria for entitlement; has some control over the distribution of the funding, they have been reported as income and expenditure in the authority's financial statements. In these circumstances, the authority is deemed to be acting as a 'principal'. The table below sets out the grants schemes that have been included in the 2022/23 Council's accounts.

Grant	Funding	Expenditure	Balance as at 31 March 2023
Devon Household Support Fund Extension	371,868.80	360,194.50	(11,674.30)
Devon Household Support Fund 3	362,853.00	362,853.00	0.00
Council Tax Rebate - Discretionary	188,700.00	186,663.00	(2,037.00)
Homes for Ukraine Scheme	390,057.22	390,057.22	0.00
Total	1,313,479.02	1,299,767.72	(13,711.30)

Narrative Report

Business Rates

Due to the extent of business rate reliefs granted by the government to businesses to support them during the Covid-19 outbreak, the actual business rates receivable in the year is lower. However, the government provided Section 31 grants to offset the loss in business rates income locally, which have been held in an earmarked reserve (£11.098m as at 31 March 2022) and are being released to the General Fund in accordance with current collection fund accounting rules. A net transfer of £10.804m has been transferred from the reserve in 2022/23, taking the earmarked reserve to £0.294m, as at 31 March 2023.

General Fund Working Balance

The Council's current policy is such that the minimum level of the General Fund Balance will remain above £3 million. This is considered prudent taking into account the potential level of financial risk facing the Council in the medium term.

The outturn for 2022/23 resulted in a £0.628m transfer to the General Fund Working Balance, taking it to £6.151m as at 31 March 2023.

Government Schemes Not Reported in the Council's Outturn Report

During the year, the authority was responsible for distributing a range of Government support measures to households to help towards rising energy bills or to hosts that offer support to Ukrainians in the UK, where both the eligibility and amounts paid were defined by the Government. In these circumstances, the authority is deemed to be acting as an 'agent'. These grants are not reflected in the Council's accounts, except for any sums due to or from the authority for differences between the grant funding and actual eligible costs. As at 31 March 2023, the Council held £1.44m as a net creditor provision, for amounts due to be distributed or returned to Government in 2023/24.

Grant	Funding	Expenditure	Balance as at 31 March 2023
Council Tax Energy Bill Rebate	7,426,800.00	6,605,550.00	(821,250.00)
Alternative Fuel Payment	635,480.00	13,200.00	(622,280.00)
Ukrainian Sponsors	270,900.00	270,900.00	0.00
Total	8,333,180.00	6,889,650.00	(1,443,530.00)

Narrative Report

2022/23 Capital Outturn

The Council spent £73.047m on its Capital Programme in 2022/23 compared to the revised forecast spend of £79.699m. This comprised £59.449m on General Fund and £13.598m on HRA capital expenditure.

The variance between the outturn forecast and actual outturn for the year was £6.652m will require the re-profiling of planned expenditure into future years and therefore does not present any financial issues for the Council.

The capital expenditure, by Responsible Officer, and financing of this expenditure is set out below:

	2022/23 Forecast Outturn £'000	2022/23 Outturn £'000	Variance £'000
Capital Expenditure:			
Chief Executive & Growth Director	505	415	(90)
Net Zero Exeter and City Management	7,519	5,881	(1,638)
Housing & Supporting People	18,509	15,742	(2,767)
Communications, Culture and Leisure Facilities	4,751	4,584	(167)
Finance	48,415	46,425	(1,990)
Total Expenditure	79,699	73,047	(6,652)
Resources:			
Major Repairs Reserve	3,519	4,077	558
Capital Receipts	6,883	7,311	428
Grants and Contributions	6,436	5,008	(1,428)
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	170	3,227	3,057
Revenue Contributions	5,080	5,071	(9)
Prudential Borrowing	57,611	48,353	(9,258)
Total Financing	79,699	73,047	(6,652)

Narrative Report

Key achievements in 2022/23 Capital Programme:

- **New Leisure Complex; St Sidwell's Point**
Exeter's brand new leisure centre, St Sidwell's Point, opened its doors and welcomed customers for the first time on 29 April 2022.

St Sidwell's Point is the UK's first super-energy-efficient passiv-haus leisure centre, built next to the new Exeter Bus Station, has three pools, a gym with more than 100 stations, a premium spa, three group exercise studios, a soft play area and café.



Inside St Sidwell's Point

It features an eight-lane, 25m main pool and a four-lane, 20m learner pool, both with moveable floors. There is also a confidence pool for children.



Inside St Sidwell's Point



- **Solar Farm and Battery Storage Facility**
Exeter's £3.5m solar park and battery storage facility went live in February 2023 and is now powering the city's electric fleet of vehicles, recycling centre and offices with green energy.

The project is the first of its kind in the region and delivers a further step towards the City Council's ambition of becoming Net Zero Carbon by 2030.

Narrative Report

The Water Lane Solar Park at Marsh Barton features 3,700 solar panels which creates 1.2MW of clean, renewable energy. The substantial battery facility is capable of storing 2MW and provides flexibility between peak generation and peak usage.

Part funded by the European Regional Development Fund, the facility is built on an inactive landfill site.



Exeter's £3.5m solar park and battery storage facility

- **Guildhall Shopping Centre**

In May 2022 the City Council acquired the Guildhall Shopping Centre to secure its future use.

The popular shopping centre will continue as a key retail and food and drink destination for Exeter and the Council will invest in improvements.



Guildhall Shopping Centre

- **Rough Sleepers Accommodation**

The Council has bought back former one-bed council homes as part of an initiative to end rough sleeping in the city.

The homes will go to people who have a current or recent history of rough sleeping and in the future will form part of the Council's wider temporary accommodation offer.



One-bed council homes

Narrative Report

Housing Revenue Account

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a ring-fenced landlord's account for the running of the Council's housing stock.

During 2022/23 the HRA reported an operating deficit of £3.903m. The deficit was met by a transfer out of the HRA working balance.

The Council's current policy is such that the minimum level of the HRA working balance will remain at no less than £4 million, as a contingency against financial risks. As at 31 March 2023, the working balance was £7.555m, considerably higher than the minimum level. This is predominantly due to delays with certain capital schemes, including kitchen and bathroom replacements, the Hamlin Gardens development and the Vaughan Road development. Further revenue contributions will be required over the remainder of the Medium Term Financial Plan towards financing the capital schemes, which will reduce the working balance.

Local housing authorities are able to borrow for housebuilding in accordance with the Prudential Code. During 2022/23, work continued on Phase 1 of a new HRA House-building programme, which provides for four development schemes that will deliver 100 new homes into the HRA.

Key achievements

During the year the Council continued the housing retrofit programme with focus on the least energy efficient homes. A bid for Government Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) grant was successful and a further £1.5m has now been secured – this takes the grant awarded to £4.1m in the last 3 years and, to date, 650 properties have had retrofit works completed. The Council's work in this area was recognised at the South West Energy Awards where Exeter City Council won the Regional Landlord of the Year and Regional Large Scale Project of the Year categories. In addition to these major category wins, the Council also achieved a Commended Award for Regional Council of the Year.

Two new developments commenced during 2022/23 as part of the Council's housing development programme – at Hamlin Gardens 21

flats will be constructed and will be available in the spring of 2024. Additionally, work started on site at Vaughan Road with Phase 1 consisting of 35 affordable homes.

The Council completed its first extra care housing development at Edwards Court – 53 one and two bedroom flats which have been designed, built and certified to the rigorous passiv-haus standard. The buildings ventilation system also includes heat recovery which is around 90% efficient – this heat recovery coupled with the airtightness and insulation means that the energy required to heat the building will be reduced by up to 90%. Edwards Court is now fully operational and provides an in house catering service.

The Housing Team has an agreed Resident Involvement strategy and action plan and held a successful community event at Wonford with plans to carry out more events with more initiatives to follow.

The Council's Housing and Development Advisory Board, which comprises of Councillors and local professionals, continues to monitor housing assets and tenancy services operational delivery and comment on the strategic direction of the service.

HRA Benchmarking

Each year the HRA participates in a benchmarking exercise to assess performance and satisfaction in comparison with similar organisations within a peer group. The results of the most recent exercise were:

Headline measures	Value	Quartile	Performance
Cost headlines			
Overheads cost per property	£218	1st	Within top 25% of peer group
Total cost per property of Housing Management	£269	3rd	Below average of the peer group
Total cost per property of Responsive Repairs & Void Works	£923	3rd	Below average of the peer group
Operation performance headlines			
Average number of calendar days taken to complete repairs	13.60	3rd	Below average of the peer group
Staff turnover in the year %	8%	1st	Within top 25% of peer group
Overall satisfaction with service	81.9%	2nd	Within top 50% of peer group

Narrative Report

Pension Fund

The Council has net pension liabilities of £28.935m in the Balance Sheet. This reflects the value of pension liabilities which the Council is required to pay in the future as they fall due, offset by the value of assets invested in the pension fund. A full actuarial valuation was undertaken as at 31 March 2019 to review the contribution levels of the Council for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023 which was set at 17.6% of pensionable pay for future service plus a monetary amount in respect of the pension deficit of £4.337m, which was paid up-front during 2020/21.

Borrowing

The Capital Financing Requirement is £226.43m of which £73.242m relates to the HRA.

Actual borrowing is £166.277m, which comprises the principal outstanding on long-term loans from the PWLB. The loans include; £8.137m on-lent to Exeter City Living Ltd, £72.244m in respect of the HRA, £43.448m for the Guildhall Shopping Centre, £34.393m for the new leisure centre and £8.055m for capital acquisitions. The rest of the requirement is managed via internal borrowing.

6. Non-Financial Achievements 2022/23

Although 2022/23 has proven to be a particularly difficult year for Exeter City Council and the Local Government sector as a whole, below are some of the positive outcomes during the last financial year:

- The Council's Royal Albert Memorial Museum won Gold in the Inclusive and Accessible Tourism category at the Devon Tourism Awards. This category recognizes organisations providing truly memorable visitor experiences for everyone, particularly those with accessibility requirements and demonstrating excellence across every aspect.
- St Sidwell's Point, the Council's city centre leisure centre is continuing to be recognised nationally. It won two more prestigious awards – the national RICS award for Environmental

Impact and best Civic Development at the Exeter Property Awards.



- Exeter's new solar farm and battery storage facility at Marsh Barton has been shortlisted in the 2023 RTPi South West Awards for Planning Excellence. The RTPi Planning Excellence awards showcase and celebrate the best plans, people and projects, and recognise the positive contribution planning professionals make to communities.
- The City Council won two of the major categories – Regional Landlord of the Year and Regional Large Scale Project of the Year at the South West Energy Efficiency Awards 2023. The awards were for the Council's ambitious housing retrofit programme, which is expanding in the city, improving living conditions and providing affordable warmth for tenants.



Bindu Arjoon, Cllr Barbara Denning, Adrian Pengelly and Lawrence Blake

Narrative Report

Significant Projects and Matters

One Exeter

Since the appointment of the new Chief Executive there has been an enhanced focus to deliver on the strategic priority of 'Leading a Well-Run Council'. This will concentrate on the core functions of the council as well as the transformational work identified through the One Exeter programme. Going forward, the programme will be structured around the six pillars of Leading a Well-Run Council set out in the council's Corporate Plan:

- A balanced budget
- Good governance
- Value-for-money services
- Customer-focused services
- Supported and developed staff and members
- Well-managed assets

Over the last year the programme has delivered the following outcomes:

- A draft Digital Customer Strategy is nearing completion and this will outline key priorities, for delivering a new mission of excelling at customer and digital service and ensuring that customer needs guide how services are developed and delivered. This draft strategy will be going to public and partner consultation over the summer with a report back to Executive and Council in November.
- The roll out of Microsoft 365 has started with all office based employees now having access to Microsoft Teams.
- A new Values and Behaviours framework has been co-designed with employees and forms part of the new Performance and Development Review process. This will help to ensure that the values are embedded across the council.
- All Service Leads have undertaken a review of their service to find a 15% budget reduction over the life of the Medium Term Financial Plan and identify opportunities for providing an improved customer experience. Not only has this work identified proposals for a 15% service cost reduction, it has also identified further opportunities to reduce costs by bringing together cross cutting functions. The feasibility of this is currently being explored.
- A Staff Survey has been conducted and the results have been used to inform the proposed Employee Wellbeing Framework and Green Travel Plan

Narrative Report

- A Decision Making Accountability review has been undertaken by the Local Government Association to understand how decisions are made within the council and whether they are being made at the right level. The findings from this will help to inform a new organisational structure.

Over the next six months, the work programme will focus on

- Introducing a Council Improvement Plan, which will incorporate the work of the One Exeter programme
- Embedding the Values and Behaviours across the organisation
- Approving the Employee Wellbeing Framework and Green Travel Plan
- Introducing a new Performance and Development Review process
- Finalising and implementing the draft Digital Customer Service Strategy
- Undertaking a review of the cross cutting functions identified by the service reviews
- Conducting a restructure of the senior management arrangements to improve decision making and reduce silo working

ONE EXETER

ONE COUNCIL · ONE TEAM

Narrative Report

Sport England Partnership

The Live and Move programme has developed through a partnership between Exeter, Cranbrook and Sport England as part of the national Local Delivery Pilot programme. Sport England is working with 12 places across the country to identify how physical activity can tackle health inequalities and build healthier, more active communities. Following an award of £4.721m in June 2019 by Sport England, Exeter City Council embarked on a delivery programme to achieve the Local Delivery Pilot outcomes, named 'Live & Move'. A further £1.883m has been awarded to continue delivery of the programme in line with the Sport England strategy 'Uniting the Movement' to March 2025.

The refreshed Live and Move strategy ensures the programme is closely aligned to and directly impacts the following key council corporate strategic priorities; building great neighbourhoods and communities, promoting active and healthy lifestyles and Net Zero Carbon City ambition.



Through programmes and networks such as Wellbeing Exeter and Move More Cranbrook we are identifying ways to support people to be more active in their everyday lives, be that walking, cycling, exercising, gathering with friends and family or taking part in a club, activity or class. The importance of working with individuals and communities as early as possible, is seen in the health, social and economic benefits that increased physical activity can support.

Whilst Exeter is a city with high rates of physical activity compared to the national average, there are significant pockets of high deprivation and poor health outcomes. There is a significant health inequality gap with a wide range of life expectancy between the most affluent and most deprived wards. In Cranbrook, the identity of a new town, rapid population growth and an evolving formal community infrastructure is making us question traditional approaches to developing sport and activity as a way of life.

The impact of the pandemic on activity levels, health outcomes and widening inequalities is significant. Our own local fieldwork has identified that residents in our poorest neighbourhoods are three times more likely to be inactive than the mainstream population.

In particular, those on low incomes and from culturally diverse communities have seen a fall in activity levels and a decrease in general health and wellbeing. Our programme is changing and adapting as people's attitudes to community, work, health and wellbeing have changed dramatically in the last two years following the pandemic.

Through working with Sport England, we are aiming to contribute towards the significant challenges and opportunities outlined in the Uniting the Movement strategy by offering our learning and insight on how to tackle inactivity in Exeter and Cranbrook.

Live & Move Sustainable Outcomes and Long Term Impacts

Live and Move is focused on delivering three, sustainable, strategic outcomes, through our place-based, community led approach:

- **Increased physical activity and adoption of active and healthy lifestyles**
- **Increased walking and cycling levels supported by an active travel friendly environment and culture**
- **Increased community trust, inclusivity, and sense of belonging**

Narrative Report

By delivering sustainable outcomes, Live and Move will be setting a course toward long-term change to support Sport England in delivering the national strategy, 'Uniting the Movement':

- **A narrowing of stubborn health inequalities and reduction in the life expectancy (at birth) gap between the most and least deprived populations**
- **Active Travel and low traffic neighbourhoods are the norm**
- **Empowered communities leading change, and 'owning' local spaces**

Our Local Active Lives survey fieldwork and analysis is identifying some positive signs:

- The inactivity gap between men and women in Exeter is narrowing
- Physical activity levels recovering and increasing following the pandemic
- Physical activity levels are recovering within our culturally diverse communities, there has been a considerable decrease in inactivity amongst black and minority ethnic residents

In 2022/23 we have further developed the Live and Move programme and delivered:

Through **Wellbeing Exeter** over 4,500 referrals have been delivered since the inception of the programme, more than 7,500 of which were referred with physical activity requirements. Wellbeing Exeter now includes a self-referral process working with organisations outside of primary care to enable residents to be signposted into wellbeing support from within their community. A strategic review is underway looking at the long term sustainability and funding model.

Detailed designs, extensive technical surveys and further local engagement with a new set of Trustees is taking the **Wonford Community Wellbeing Hub** closer to planning in late 2023. A formal business case is being developed to identify the capital and revenue costing models for the building. **Inclusive Communities** grows from strength to strength.

New programmes are being delivered with **Exeter Leisure**, a This Girl Can programme attracted over 100 women from Wonford taking part in new activities, over 300 staff from the NHS accessed a workplace health, wellbeing and fitness programme across leisure sites. New activities are being introduced and supported including Pickleball.

The **Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan** has been launched, whilst the Exeter Local Plan has been consulted with a real focus on active lifestyles and creating places that support improved health outcomes for new developments. The first scheme, Water Lane is being developed with a design code that is heavily influenced by Sport England active design principles

The final designs for a transformational active streets programme **Newtown** is being finalised and consulted on in September 2023.

A social movement is developing and a digital platform created through Live & Move – www.liveandmove.co.uk where you can find out further information of all of the above, case studies and plans for the future.

Narrative Report

Liveable Exeter

Vision

“By the time they are an adult, a child born in Exeter today will live in a city that is inclusive, healthy and sustainable – a city where the opportunities and benefits of prosperity are shared and all citizens are able to participate fully in the city’s economic, social, cultural and civic life” Exeter Vision 2040

Exeter has a vision for 2040 to be a global leader in addressing the social, economic and environmental challenges including climate change and urban renewal. Liveable Exeter is an Exeter City Council initiative which will support the Exeter Plan to deliver the Exeter Vision 2040.

Liveable Exeter Principles

The Liveable Exeter document highlights how a transformational housing delivery programme can be the means to bring major investment into the city and renew its infrastructure for the 21st Century with the aim of improving peoples’ lives and wellbeing.

The principles will be used as a tool for planning officers, members, developers and others discussing and bringing forward proposals for brownfield development within the city. The principles apply to all stages of planning and design from locating development and identifying projects for infrastructure renewal down to the detailed design of individual buildings.



Narrative Report

Future Financial Plans

Revenue

The Council's General Fund Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), on the next page, will achieve the requirement to maintain a minimum balance of £3 million. However, the MTFP indicates that further reductions are required from 2024/25 to 2026/27 to fully address the additional spending pressures. The proposed budget for 2023/24 makes use of one off reserves totalling £2.386 million, which will need to be addressed in future years. The reductions required total £5.287 million, of which proposals covering £2.137 million have been identified. The reset of business rates and impact of the formula funding review have been removed pending further clarity on the timing of their implementation

The Council's current policy is such that the minimum level of General Fund Balance will remain above £3m. As the Council faces great uncertainty in the medium term over funding, high inflation and increased interest costs, it is prudent to hold reserves at this level to offset sudden losses of income or unexpected expenditure.

Risk assessment

The financial forecasts are based on a number of assumptions including the level of inflation, interest rates, income levels, support from government and general prevailing economic conditions. The main risks to the Council's financial position are as follows:

- Economic volatility, higher interest rates and inflation have added substantial costs to running services. The Council's funding has not kept pace with the scale of increases seen. Further volatility and price pressures will result in greater reductions being required. Conversely, there is a chance that prices will settle and indeed in some cases reduce. This would have a positive impact on the reductions required;
- The Government's review of the future funding formula for Local Government, including a business rates rest, coupled with the potential loss of New Homes Bonus, would add a further significant gap in funding over the Medium Term Financial Plan. The overall impact of both streams of funding stopping in the next four years would require further reductions of around £3.3 million.

Although the Council faces risks from the assumptions and uncertainties outlined above, they are mitigated by the following:

- Adopting a prudent approach to financial forecasting which involves obtained information from external professional sources
- Continuous monitoring and review of the key factors together with regular reports to Members on any key issues
- Regular budget monitoring meetings with budget managers to ensure that budget pressures are identified at the earliest opportunity
- The adoption of robust financial management arrangements including option appraisal, risk assessment and financial monitoring
- Retaining a prudent level of reserves and balances

Narrative Report

Medium Term Revenue Plan (2022/23 – 2026/27)

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000
Resources					
Revenue Support Grant	855	1,572	902	920	938
Business Rates income	7,404	7,557	7,956	7,909	7,952
CIL income	1,324	793	793	793	793
New Homes Bonus	1,362	672	600	600	600
Council Tax	6,416	6,785	6,968	7,248	7,539
Likely resources	17,361	17,379	17,219	17,470	17,822
Expenditure					
Service expenditure	21,233	19,834	15,640	15,342	14,362
Net Interest	1,011	1,320	1,581	1,805	1,773
Repayment of debt	2,438	2,495	2,538	2,583	2,629
Additional repayment of debt	(1,480)	(800)	(250)	(450)	0
	23,202	22,849	19,509	19,280	18,764
Other funding					
Contribution to/ (from) earmarked reserves	(5,453)	424	601	604	617
Contribution to/ (from) balances - Other	(388)	(386)	(1,398)	(207)	28
	(5,841)	38	(797)	397	645
Further reductions required	-	-	(750)	(1,200)	(1,200)
Potential reductions identified	-	(5,508)	(743)	(1,007)	(387)
Total Net Budget	17,361	17,379	17,219	17,470	17,822
Balanced Budget	0	0	0	0	0
Opening General Fund Balance	5,522	5,134	4,748	3,350	3,143
Closing General Fund Balance	5,134	4,748	3,350	3,143	3,171

Please note, the MTFP has been extracted from the 2023/24 published Budget Book and therefore projected General Fund Balances differ to balances reported, as at 31/3/2023.

Narrative Report

HRA Medium Term Revenue Plan (2022/23 – 2026/27)

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000
Resources					
Rents	19,400	19,400	20,563	21,221	21,900
Service Charges	1,187	1,187	1,250	1,265	1,280
Other	1,027	1,028	1,350	1,429	1,448
Inflation on income	-	1,549	751	713	736
Likely resources	21,614	23,164	23,915	24,628	25,364
Expenditure					
HRA expenditure base budget	15,174	15,466	15,753	15,354	15,621
Inflation on expenditure	-	318	126	128	130
Repairs & Maintenance Programme	-	(50)	(134)	119	199
Reduction in Ash Die Back budget	-	-	(153)	-	-
Service Review savings	-	-	(257)	-	-
Depreciation	4,073	4,073	3,998	3,948	3,948
Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay	5,000	4,000	2,500	3,350	3,550
Net interest	1,964	1,898	1,898	1,898	1,898
	26,211	25,705	23,731	24,797	25,346
Other Funding					
Contribution to / (from) HRA Working Balance	(4,597)	(2,541)	183	(169)	18
Total Net budget	-	-	-	-	-
Opening HRA Working Balance	11,146	6,549	4,008	4,191	4,022
Closing HRA Working Balance	6,549	4,008	4,191	4,022	4,040

Please note, the HRA MTFP has been extracted from the 2023/24 published Budget Book and therefore projected HRA Balances differ to balances reported, as at 31/3/2023.

Narrative Report

Capital Programme (2023/24 – 2026/27)

GENERAL FUND - CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/24 AND FUTURE YEARS				
SCHEMES LISTED WITHIN COUNCIL PURPOSES	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Chief Executive & Growth Director	999	104	104	104
Net Zero Exeter and City Management	16,724	2,121	1,150	950
Housing & Supporting People	518	-	-	-
Communications, Culture and Leisure Facilities	6,647	100	100	100
Finance	37,107	954	933	-
TOTAL GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME	61,995	3,279	2,287	1,154
FINANCING:				
Capital Receipts	2,304	204	100	204
Disabled Facility Grant	1,652	800	800	800
Community Infrastructure Levy	1,887	225	200	-
Revenue Contributions to Capital Outlay	558	169	-	-
Other Grants & Contributions	9,078	385	-	-
Prudential Borrowing	46,516	1,496	1,187	150
TOTAL GENERAL FUND CAPITAL FINANCING	61,995	3,279	2,287	1,154

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT - CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/24 AND FUTURE YEARS				
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
City Development	27,429	16,854	11,156	11,517
TOTAL HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME	27,429	16,854	11,156	11,517
FINANCING:				
Major Repairs Reserve	13,469	7,870	5,806	6,467
Capital Receipts	4,670	4,984	2,000	1,500
Commuted Sums	1,538	-	-	-
Other Grants and Contributions	1,352	-	-	-
Revenue Contributions to Capital	4,000	2,500	3,350	3,550
Prudential Borrowing	2,400	1,500	-	-
TOTAL HRA CAPITAL FINANCING	27,429	16,854	11,156	11,517

Narrative Report

The Capital Programme, on the previous page, reflects the plans approved in the 2023/24 Budget Book along with budgets slipped from 2022/23 and the associated financing. The Council continues to have an ambitious capital programme, which includes:

Two new developments commenced during 2022/23 as part of the Council's housing development programme with further development spend of £9.2m budgeted in 2023/24 – at Hamlin Gardens 21 flats will be constructed and will be available in the Spring of 2024. Additionally, work started on site at Vaughan Road with Phase 1 consisting of 35 affordable homes. All new homes are being built to the passiv-haus environmental standard and form part of the Council's wider plans to create 500 new passiv-haus Council homes in Exeter by 2030.



The Gardens, Vaughan Road, Whipton



Hamlin Gardens, view from North West

Trews Weir will be repaired and fully refurbished to extend its lifespan and to protect the Ship Canal and Exeter Quayside for generations to come. Working in partnership with the Environment Agency, in addition to the weir refurbishment we are likely to upgrade or replace the existing Fish Pass to improve migration up the River Exe for a wider range of fish now present in the river up to Trews Weir. This complex scheme is expected to take three years to design, gain approvals and complete the construction works.



Trews Weir

Narrative Report

Message from Dave Hodgson, Director Finance

2022/23 saw unprecedented, in year, financial pressures in Local Government. A higher than expected pay award, inflation, energy prices, higher interest rates and the Cost of Living crisis meant that the Council's finances were under severe strain. The Council was fortunate that it had set aside funds, which could be used to address some of those pressures. The outcome saw a drawdown of General Fund reserves to balance the outturn position and this, along with the ongoing cost pressures, have been built into the medium term financial plan.

Alongside this, the Council has also been identifying ways to increase the funding available to maintain and enhance its property portfolio and to invest in the workforce. The One Exeter transformation programme is dedicated to identifying the cost reductions required across the medium term financial plan alongside implementing improvements to the corporate structure and employees' wellbeing.

The Council does have to address a significant gap in its resources over the life of the medium term financial plan, with a requirement to identify a further £7.5m of savings over the next four financial years. Of this, proposals totalling £2.8m have been identified with a further £4.7m required from the range of cross cutting themes under the One Exeter programme. These programmes will require a shift in the way the Council generates resources as well as streamlining the way the Council is run.

A number of digitalisation projects are underway to transform the way the public interact with the Council and these will progress over the coming year.

Dave Hodgson CPFA
Director Finance

The Council's IT Company, Strata Service Solutions Ltd, set up in partnership with East Devon and Teignbridge District Councils has completed its eighth full year in operation and has delivered a refund in line with that agreed at the start of the financial year, along with an additional amount to enable further investment in the service to be delivered.

Exeter City Living Ltd, the Council's development company is continuing to support the delivery of new affordable homes, whilst making progress with other sites. Although market conditions and higher interest rates are making the development landscape challenging.

In delivering the accounts during unique and challenging circumstances, the finance team have once again shown their professionalism and commitment by dealing with ever more complex accounts and accounting frameworks whilst continuing to work at home.

Councillor A J Wardle
Chair – Audit and Governance Committee

Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

The Authority's Responsibilities

The authority is required to:

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

The Chief Finance Officer's Responsibilities

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

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Chief Finance Officer has:

- Selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently
- Made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent
- Complied with the Code except where stated in the Accounting Policies
- Kept proper accounting records which were up to date
- Taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities
- Assessed the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern
- Used the going concern basis of accounting on the assumption that the functions of the Authority will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future
- Maintained such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error

Certification of Accounts

I certify that the Statement of Accounts gives a true and fair view of the financial position of Exeter City Council at the reporting date and of its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Dave Hodgson CPFA
Director Finance
6 March 2024

Explanation of the Core Financial Statements

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the Council to produce a Statement of Accounts for each financial year. These statements contain a number of different elements which are explained below:

Core Financial Statements

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure 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 or rents. Authorities raise taxation and rents to cover expenditure in accordance with statutory requirements; this may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in both the Expenditure and Funding Analysis and the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Movement in Reserves Statement shows the movement from the start of the year to the end of the year on the different reserves held by the authority, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other 'unusable' reserves. This statement shows how the movements in year of the authority's reserves are broken down between gains and losses incurred in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices and the statutory adjustments required to return to the amounts chargeable to council tax (or rents) for the year. The net increase/decrease line shows the statutory General Fund balance and Housing Revenue Account balance movements in the year following those adjustments.

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

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

Core Financial Statements

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

Restated 2021-2022			2022-2023			Notes	
Gross Expenditure £'000	Gross Income £'000	Net Expenditure £'000	Gross Expenditure £'000	Gross Income £'000	Net Expenditure £'000		
3,311	(128)	3,183	Chief Executive & Growth Director	3,955	(417)	3,538	
39,181	(33,885)	5,296	Housing & Supporting People	39,991	(35,688)	4,303	
2,488	(2,398)	90	City Development	2,901	(1,482)	1,419	
23,131	(7,121)	16,010	Communications, Culture & Leisure Facilities	26,312	(9,687)	16,625	
21,553	(13,501)	8,052	Net Zero Exeter & City Management	21,109	(13,858)	7,251	
10,703	(466)	10,237	Finance	3,036	(534)	2,502	
4,045	(739)	3,306	Corporate Services	3,849	(544)	3,305	
20,217	(20,489)	(272)	Housing Revenue Account	32,353	(21,594)	10,759	
956	(417)	539	Strata Service Solutions Ltd	1,140	(627)	513	38
125,585	(79,144)	46,441	Cost of Services	134,646	(84,431)	50,215	
		1,431	Other operating expenditure			(1,607)	12
		(3,496)	Financing and investment income and expenditure			6,816	13
		(28,825)	Taxation and non-specific grant income			(23,343)	14
		15,551	(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services			32,081	
			Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				
		(20,152)	(Surplus) or deficit on revaluation of property, plant and equipment			(16,238)	27
		(44,982)	Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability/(asset)			(78,688)	27
		(65,134)	Total Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(94,926)	
		(49,583)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(62,845)	

The Council's internal financial reporting structure changed in 2022/23 following changes to director responsibilities. The segment information for the prior year has therefore been restated.

Core Financial Statements

Movement in Reserves Statement

	General Fund Working Balance (£'000)	Earmarked Reserves (£'000)	Sub total General Fund Total	Housing Revenue Account (£'000)	Capital Receipts Reserve (£'000)	Major Repairs Reserve (£'000)	Capital Grants Unapplied (£'000)	Total Usable Reserves (£'000)	Unusable Reserves (£'000)	Total Authority Reserves (£'000)
Balance at 31 March 2021 carried forward	(4,697)	(32,691)	(37,388)	(13,267)	(12,929)	(15,237)	(14,663)	(93,484)	(253,742)	(347,226)
Movement in Reserves 2021-2022:										
Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	16,944	-	16,944	(1,393)	-	-	-	15,551	(65,134)	(49,583)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statutory provisions (Note 10)	(11,079)	-	(11,079)	3,192	(9)	(2,952)	(4,840)	(15,688)	15,688	0
Transfers to / (from) Earmarked Reserves	(6,689)	6,689	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0
(Increase) / Decrease in 2021-2022	(824)	6,689	5,865	1,799	(9)	(2,952)	(4,840)	(137)	(49,446)	(49,583)
Balance at 31 March 2022 carried forward	(5,521)	(26,002)	(31,523)	(11,468)	(12,938)	(18,189)	(19,503)	(93,621)	(303,188)	(396,809)

Core Financial Statements

Movement in Reserves Statement

	General Fund Working Balance (£'000)	Earmarked Reserves (£'000)	Sub total General Fund Total	Housing Revenue Account (£'000)	Capital Receipts Reserve (£'000)	Major Repairs Reserve (£'000)	Capital Grants Unapplied (£'000)	Total Usable Reserves (£'000)	Unusable Reserves (£'000)	Total Authority Reserves (£'000)
Balance at 31 March 2022 carried forward	(5,521)	(26,002)	(31,523)	(11,468)	(12,938)	(18,189)	(19,503)	(93,621)	(303,188)	(396,809)
Movement in Reserves during 2022-2023										
Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	22,000	-	22,000	10,082	-	-	-	32,082	(94,927)	(62,845)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statutory provisions (Note 10)	(10,273)	-	(10,273)	(6,170)	207	(15)	707	(15,544)	15,544	0
Transfers to / (from) Earmarked Reserves	(12,357)	12,357	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0
(Increase) / Decrease in 2022-2023	(630)	12,357	11,727	3,912	207	(15)	707	16,538	(79,383)	(62,845)
Balance at 31 March 2023 carried forward	(6,151)	(13,645)	(19,796)	(7,556)	(12,731)	(18,204)	(18,796)	(77,083)	(382,571)	(459,654)

Core Financial Statements

Balance Sheet

2021-22 £'000	2022-23 £'000	Note
485,622 Property, Plant and Equipment	494,460	15
56,034 Investment Property	98,561	16
22,743 Heritage Assets	22,743	17
448 Intangible Assets	474	
6,536 Long Term Investments	5,633	19
24,007 Long Term Debtors	20,386	19
595,390 Total Long-Term Assets	642,257	
192 Inventories	203	
30,914 Short-Term Debtors	13,319	19, 20 & 21
39,019 Short-Term Investments	15,202	19
4,290 Assets Held for Sale	2,063	22
68,279 Cash & Cash Equivalents	27,754	19 & 23
142,694 Total Current Assets	58,541	
(1,510) Short-Term Borrowing	(1,537)	19
(63,210) Short-Term Creditors	(33,541)	19 & 24
(5,171) Provisions	(5,668)	25
(69,891) Total Current Liabilities	(40,746)	
(166,695) Long term borrowing	(165,160)	19
(2,760) Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	(2,835)	19 & 36
(2,641) Long-Term Creditors	(3,468)	19
(99,288) Pension Scheme Liability	(28,935)	42
(271,384) Total Long-Term Liabilities	(200,398)	
396,809 Net Assets	459,654	
Financed by:		
93,621 Usable Reserves	77,083	26
303,188 Unusable Reserves	382,571	27
396,809 Total Reserves	459,654	

These financial statements replace the unaudited financial statements certified by the Responsible Financial Officer, Dave Hodgson, on 31 August 2023.

Dave Hodgson, CPFA, Director Finance

Core Financial Statements

Cash Flow Statement

2021-22 £'000		2022-23 £'000	Notes
15,551	Net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services	32,081	
(56,890)	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	(58,448)	
13,138	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	10,117	
(28,201)	Net cashflows from Operating Activities	(16,250)	28
50,956	Investing Activities	55,823	29
(59,181)	Financing Activities	952	30
(36,426)	Net (Increase) or decrease in cash and cash equivalents	40,525	
31,853	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	68,279	
68,279	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	27,754	

Index of Notes to the Accounts

Page	Note	Page	Note
35	Note 1 Accounting policies	75	Note 23 Cash and cash equivalents
48	Note 2 Expenditure and Funding Analysis	75	Note 24 Short term creditors
50	Note 3 Accounting standards issued, not adopted	75	Note 25 Provisions
50	Note 4 Critical judgements in applying accounting policies	76	Note 26 Usable Reserves
51	Note 5 Events after the reporting period	76	Note 27 Unusable Reserves
52	Note 6 Assumptions made about the future and other major sources of estimation uncertainty	80	Note 28 Cash flow statement: operating activities
55	Note 7 Note to the expenditure and funding analysis	80	Note 29 Cash flow statement: investing activities
57	Note 8 Segmental reporting	80	Note 30 Cash flow statement: financing activities
58	Note 9 Expenditure and income analysed by nature	80	Note 31 Reconciliation of liabilities arising from financing activities
58	Note 9A Revenue from contracts with service recipients	81	Note 32 Members allowances
59	Note 10 Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	81	Note 33 Officers' remuneration
61	Note 11 Movements in earmarked reserves	83	Note 34 Termination benefits
62	Note 12 Other operating expenditure	83	Note 35 External audit costs
62	Note 13 Financing and investment income and expenditure	84	Note 36 Grants, contributions and donations
62	Note 14 Taxation and non-specific grant income	85	Note 37 Related parties
63	Note 15 Property, plant and equipment	88	Note 38 Interests in joint operations
66	Note 16 Investment properties	89	Note 39 Capital expenditure and capital financing
68	Note 17 Heritage assets	90	Note 40 Leases
68	Note 18 Heritage assets: further information on the collections	92	Note 41 Impairments and downward valuations
69	Note 19 Financial Instruments	93	Note 42 Defined benefit pension scheme
74	Note 20 Debtors	97	Note 43 Charitable and trust funds
74	Note 21 Debtors for local taxation	98	Note 44 Nature and extent of risks arising from financial instruments
75	Note 22 Assets held for sale	104	Note 45 Statutory harbour authority

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Accounting Policies

General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the authority's transactions for the 2022/23 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2023. The authority is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, which those regulations require to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and statutory guidance.

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

Accruals of income and expenditure

Income and expenditure is accounted for in the year activity takes place, not simply when cash payments are made or received. In particular;

Revenue from contracts with service recipients, whether for services or the provision of goods, is recognised when or as the goods or services are transferred to the service recipient in accordance with the performance obligations in the contract.

Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed. Where there is a gap between the date received and consumption, they are carried forward as inventories on the Balance Sheet.

Capitalisation of borrowing costs; the authority has a policy of capitalising borrowing costs. No borrowing costs have been capitalised by the Council up to 2022/23.

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

VAT payable is included as an expense only to the extent that it is irrecoverable from HMRC. VAT receivable is excluded from income.

Interest payable on borrowings and receivable on investments is accounted for on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.

Creditors and Debtors

Where income and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where it is doubtful that debts will be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.

Capital receipts

Capital receipts are sums received by the authority from the sale of assets. A proportion of capital receipts relating to certain housing disposals are payable to the government. However, the receipts may be retained providing the local authority has signed an agreement to re-invest the receipts in the provision of replacement homes within 5 years. Exeter City Council entered into the latest retention agreement in June 2023.

Capital receipts are held in the Capital Receipts Reserve and can then only be used for new capital investment or to repay debt.

Amounts received from the disposal of an asset in excess of £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts. Below this level, the receipts are accounted for as income in the income & expenditure account.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in three months or less from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

In the cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the authority's cash management.

Contingent assets and liabilities

Contingent assets and liabilities arise where an event has taken place, but the potential asset or possible obligation will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the authority. They are not recognised in the Balance Sheet, but are disclosed by way of a note to the accounts.

Contingent liabilities also arise in circumstances where a provision would otherwise be made but either it is not probable that an outflow of resources will be required or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably.

Council tax and non-domestic rates (NDR)

Exeter City Council is a billing authority and acts as an agent, collecting council tax and NDR on behalf of the major preceptors (including government for NDR) and, as principal, collecting council tax and NDR for itself. Billing authorities are required by statute to maintain a separate fund (the Collection Fund) for the collection and distribution of amounts due in respect of council tax and NDR.

Under the legislative framework for the Collection Fund, billing authorities, major preceptors and central government share

proportionally the risks and rewards that the amount of council tax and NDR collected could be less or more than predicted.

Accounting for Council Tax and NDR

The council tax and NDR income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the authority's share of accrued income for the year. However, regulations determine the amount of council tax and NDR that must be included in the authority's General Fund. The difference between the income included within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the amount required by regulation to be credited to the General Fund is taken to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account and included as a reconciling item in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The Balance Sheet includes the authority's share of the end of year balances in respect of council tax and NDR relating to arrears, impairment allowances for doubtful debts, overpayments and prepayments and appeals.

Where debtor balances for the above are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a past event that payments due under the statutory arrangements will not be made, the asset is written down and a charge made to the taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure line in the CIES. The impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount and the revised future cash flows.

Pool of Authorities for Non Domestic Rates

The Local Government Finance Act 2012 permits the Secretary of State to designate two or more relevant authorities as a pool of authorities. Exeter City Council is party to such a pool and recognises its share of the income and expenditure (and debtors and creditors) in accordance with the agreed arrangements for distribution of the pool together with accounting requirements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Employee benefits

Benefits payable during employment

Short-term employee benefits are those due to be settled wholly within 12 months of the year-end, including wages and salaries, paid annual leave and paid sick leave for current employees. They are recognised as an expense in the year in which the employees render service to the authority. An accrual is made for the cost of annual leave and flexible hours earned but not taken before the year-end that employees can carry forward into the next financial year. The accrual is charged to the relevant service but reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement so that the entitlements are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the absence occurs.

Termination benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the authority to terminate an officer's employment or for the officer to take voluntary redundancy before the normal retirement date. They are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when the authority is committed to the termination of employment.

Where the termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the General Fund to be charged with the amount payable by the authority to the pension fund in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, the notional debits and credits for pension enhancement termination benefits are replaced with the debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end.

Post-employment benefits

Employees of the authority are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme, which is administered by Devon County Council. The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) provides defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions) earned as employees worked for the authority.

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

- The liabilities of the pension fund attributable to the authority are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates etc. and projections of future earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices using a discount rate that is based on market yields at the reporting date of a 'high quality corporate bond'.
- The assets of the pension fund attributable to the authority are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:
 - quoted securities – current bid price
 - unquoted securities – professional estimate
 - unlisted securities - current bid price
 - property – market value

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

Service cost

- **Current service cost** – the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year – allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the services for which the employees worked.
- **Past service cost** – the increase in liabilities as a result of a scheme amendment or curtailment whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years – charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Notes to the Financial Statements

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

Re-measurements

- **The return on plan assets** – excluding amounts included in net interest on the defined benefit liability (asset).
- **Actuarial gains and losses** – changes in the net pension liability that arises because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions.

Contributions paid to the pension fund

- Cash paid as employer's contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities.

The treatment of the above has been mirrored in the Housing Revenue Account where full disclosure has been included.

McCloud Judgement

There are uncertainties in relation to LGPS benefits due to the McCloud and Sargeant judgements, which relate to age discrimination. Remedial regulations are expected in 2023 and uncertainty over the benefit changes proposed will remain until these have been finalised.

On the basis that an allowance has already been made in respect of the impact on liabilities (allowed for as a past service cost) and projected service costs, then no explicit adjustment is required by the actuaries for their results this year.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the

authority to the pension fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits are removed and replaced with the debits for cash paid (or due to be paid at year end). These movements are appropriated to the Pension Reserve.

The negative balance on the Pension Reserve reflects the beneficial impact to the General Fund of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as earned by employees.

Discretionary Benefits

The authority has restricted powers to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirements. Any liabilities are accrued in the year of the decision to make the award and accounted for using the same policies applied to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Events after the Balance Sheet date

Events after the Balance Sheet date are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue. Two types of events can be identified:

- Those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is adjusted to reflect such events.
- Those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period - the Statement of Accounts is not adjusted to reflect such events, but disclosure is made in the notes of the nature of the events and an estimate of the financial impact, if material.

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

Notes to the Financial Statements

Financial instruments

Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the authority becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value and are carried at their amortised cost. Annual charges to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. For all the Council's borrowings, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable (plus accrued interest) and interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement.

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 cash flow characteristics. The authority holds financial assets measured at:

- Amortised cost
- Fair value through profit and loss (FVPL)

The authority's business model is to hold investments to collect contractual cash flows. Financial assets are therefore classified as amortised cost, except for those whose contractual cash flows are not solely payment of principal and interest.

Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost

Financial assets measured at amortised cost are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the authority becomes party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Annual credits to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest receivable is based on the carrying amount of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument.

For most of the financial assets held by the authority, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal receivable (plus accrued interest) and interest credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount receivable for the year.

However, the authority has made a number of loans at less than market rates (soft loans). When soft loans are made, a loss is recorded in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the present value of the interest that will be foregone over the life of the instrument, resulting in a lower amortised cost than the outstanding principal.

Interest is credited at a higher effective rate of interest than the rate receivable, with the difference serving to increase the amortised cost of the loan in the Balance Sheet. Statutory provisions require that the impact on the General Fund Balance is the interest receivable for the financial year and is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Any gains and losses that arise on de-recognition of a financial asset are credited or debited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Profit and Loss (FVPL)

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

However, for financial assets deemed to be pooled investment funds, e.g. CCLA Property Fund, statutory regulations are in place until 31 March 2025 that permit fair value gains and losses to be reversed out of the General Fund balance to the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Fair value measurements of financial assets

Fair value of an asset is the price that would be received in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date, based on the following techniques:

- Instruments with quoted market prices – the market price
- Other instruments with fixed and determinable payments – discounted cash flow

Accounting standards provide a fair value hierarchy that categorises into three levels the inputs to fair value measurements:

Hierarchy	Inputs
Level 1 inputs	Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets
Level 2 inputs	Inputs that are observable for the asset, either directly or indirectly
Level 3 inputs	Unobservable inputs

Any gains and losses that arise on de-recognition of an asset are credited or debited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Expected Credit Loss Model

The authority recognises expected credit losses on most its financial assets held at amortised cost, either on a 12 month or lifetime basis. The expected credit loss model also applies to lease receivables and contract assets. Only lifetime losses are recognised for trade receivables (debtors) held by the authority. Loans with other local authorities and Government investments are excluded, as they are guaranteed to be repaid by statute.

Impairment losses are calculated to reflect the expectation that the future cash flows might not take place because the borrower could default on their obligations. Where risk has increased significantly since recognition of an instrument, losses are assessed on a lifetime basis. Where risk has not increased significantly or remains low, losses are assessed on a 12 month expected loss basis.

A collective assessment is carried out for sundry debtor balances in order to determine expected credit losses, as credit risk information is not available on an individual instrument basis. Provision matrices, based on historical experience but updated for future conditions are used.

Changes in loss allowances are debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. However, any changes relating to capital loans are reversed out to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Government grants and contributions

Whether paid on account, by instalments or in arrears, government grants and third party contributions and donations are recognised as due to the Council when there is reasonable assurance that the Council will comply with the conditions attached to the payments and the grants or contributions will be received.

Amounts recognised as due to the Council are not credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement until conditions attached to the grant or contribution have been satisfied.

Monies advanced as grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are held as creditors on the Balance Sheet. When the conditions have been satisfied, the grant or contribution is either credited to the relevant service line or to Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where capital grants are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Where the grant has yet to be used to finance capital expenditure, it is posted to the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve. Amounts in the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account when they have been applied to finance capital expenditure.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Business Improvement District (BID)

A BID scheme applies for Exeter city centre which is administered by InExeter Ltd. The scheme is funded by a BID levy paid by non-domestic ratepayers. The authority acts as the agent for the scheme and since it is collecting the BID levy income on behalf of InExeter Ltd most BID transactions are not recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, except the reimbursement of collection costs and any BID levies payable in respect of the Council's own premises, e.g. the Guildhall.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The Council has elected to charge a CIL. The levy is charged on new builds (chargeable developments for the authority) with appropriate planning consent. The Council charges for and collects the levy, which is a planning charge. The income from the levy is used to fund infrastructure projects to support the development of the area.

CIL is received without outstanding conditions; it is therefore recognised at the commencement date of the chargeable development in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in accordance with the accounting policy for government grants and contributions, as set out above. CIL charges are largely used to fund capital, but may also be used for revenue expenditure.

Heritage assets

The Council has a number of heritage assets. Heritage assets are recognised and measured in accordance with the policies on property, plant and equipment. However, some of the measurement rules are relaxed in relation to heritage assets, as detailed below:

Property / Infrastructure / Statues – the Council owns a range of assets around the City which are of historic value. The Council does not believe that reliable cost or valuation information can be obtained for these items because of the diverse nature of the assets and lack of comparable market values. Consequently, the authority does not recognise these assets on the balance sheet.

Museum Exhibits / Art / Civic Regalia – A non-electronic register of the assets is held by the Museum and Guildhall and from this an insurance valuation has been produced. The Council will use the insurance valuation, as at 31 March 2023, as a measurement of the valuation of the assets. The assets are deemed to have indeterminate lives and a high residual value; hence the Council does not consider it appropriate to charge depreciation. Impairments and disposals are treated as per the policy on property, plant and equipment.

Interest in companies and other entities

The authority has material interests in companies and other entities that have the nature of subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures, which require it to prepare group accounts. This most notably includes Exeter City Living Ltd, a residential property development company, which was incorporated under the Companies Act 2006 in June 2018 under a parent holding company, Exeter City Group Ltd.

In the authority's own single entity accounts, the interests in companies and other entities are recorded as financial assets at cost, less any provision for losses.

Inventories

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

Investment properties

Investment properties are those that are used solely to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation. The definition is not met if the property is used in any way for the delivery of services or is held for sale.

Measurement

Investment properties are initially measured at cost and subsequently at fair value, being the price that would be received to sell such an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Valuations

As a non-financial asset, investment properties are measured at highest and best use. Properties are not depreciated but are re-valued annually according to market conditions at the year-end. Unless market or other factors suggest a different use by market participants would maximise value, it is assumed that current use is the best and highest use.

Gains and losses on revaluation are posted to the Financing and Investment Income line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The same treatment is applied to gains or loss on disposal. However, revaluation and disposal gains and losses are reversed out in the Movement in Reserves Statement and posted to either the Capital Adjustment Account or Capital Receipts Reserve.

Valuation Technique

Three valuation techniques can be applied:

- Market approach – use of prices and other information generated by market transactions
- Cost approach – assessment of the amount required to replace the service capacity of an asset
- Income approach – conversion of future amounts (cash flows) to a single current amount

Accounting standards provide a fair value hierarchy that categorises into three levels the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value at year-end:

Hierarchy	Inputs
Level 1 inputs	Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets
Level 2 inputs	Other inputs observable for the asset (e.g. comparable properties, adjusted for relative square metres of floor space)
Level 3 inputs	Unobservable inputs (e.g. projected cash flows)

Income from Investment Properties

Rental income is credited to the Financing and Investment Income line and results in a gain to the General Fund balance.

Joint operations

Joint operations are arrangements where the parties that have joint control of the arrangement have rights to the assets and obligations for the liabilities relating to that arrangement.

Joint operations are recognised in the single entity statements by bringing in the authority's share of the assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses of the arrangement.

Exeter City Council, East Devon District Council and Teignbridge District Council each share control of Strata Service Solutions Ltd (Strata), which was incorporated under the Companies Act 2006 for the provision of a shared Information Communications Technology service. The single entity statements for each authority reflect their respective shares of Strata. However, the accompanying notes to the Council's financial statements only include information relating to Strata where this would make a material difference to the usefulness of the notes.

Leases

Leases are classified as finance leases where the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the property, plant or equipment from the lessor to the lessee. All other leases are classified as operating leases.

Where a lease covers land and buildings these are considered separately for classification.

Arrangements that do not have the legal status of a lease but convey a right to use an asset in return for payment are accounted for under this policy where fulfilment of the arrangement is dependent on the use of specific assets.

Notes to the Financial Statements

The Authority as Lessee

Finance Leases

Property, plant and equipment held under finance leases are recognised on the Balance Sheet at the commencement of the lease at its fair value at inception (or the present value of minimum payments, if lower). The asset is matched by a liability for the obligation to pay the lessor.

Initial direct costs are added to the carrying amount and any initial premium paid is applied to write down the lease liability. Contingent rents are charged as expenses in the period incurred.

Lease payments are apportioned between:

- A charge for the acquisition of the interest in the asset – applied to write down the lease liability.
- A finance charge debited to the Financing and Investment Income line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

Property, plant and equipment recognised under finance leases are accounted for using the policies applied generally to such assets. However, depreciation is charged over the term of the lease where this is lower than the useful life.

The authority is not required to raise council tax to fund these charges; however it is required to make a prudent annual contribution from revenue towards the deemed capital investment in accordance with statutory guidance. Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses are therefore replaced by this contribution in the General Fund Balance by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

Operating Leases

Rentals are charged to the relevant service benefitting from the use of the leased asset in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on a straight line basis regardless of the pattern of payments (e.g. a rent free period at the commencement of the lease).

The Authority as Lessor

Finance Leases

Where the authority grants a finance lease over a property or an item of plant and equipment, the asset is written out of the Balance Sheet as a disposal. The carrying amount of the asset is written off to Other Operating Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. A gain, representing the authority's net investment in the lease, is credited to the same line also as part of the gain or loss on disposal, matched by a long-term debtor in the Balance Sheet.

Lease rentals receivable are apportioned between:

- A charge for the acquisition of the interest in the asset – applied to write down the lease debtor
- Finance income - credited to the Financing and Investment Income line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

The gain on disposal is not allowed to increase the General Fund balance and is required to be treated as a capital receipt.

Where a premium has been received, this is posted out of the General Fund balance to the Capital Receipts Reserve via the Movement in Reserves Statement. Where the amount due is to be settled by rentals in future financial years, the amount is credited to the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve and released to the Capital Receipts Reserve when the payments are made, with the actual payment used to write down the long-term debtor.

The written-off value of disposals is not a charge against council tax and is appropriated to the Capital Adjustment Account from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Operating Leases

Where the authority grants an operating lease, the asset remains on the Balance Sheet and rental income is credited to Other Operating Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure

Notes to the Financial Statements

Statement on a straight line basis regardless of the pattern of payments (e.g. a premium paid at the commencement of the lease). Initial costs are charged to the carrying amount of the asset and charged as an expense on the same basis as rental income.

Overheads and support services

The cost of overheads and support services are charged to service segments in accordance with the authority's arrangements for accountability and financial performance with the following exceptions:

- The Housing Revenue Account is debited with a fair share of support services and overheads in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- Support services are charged to services that are required to achieve full cost recovery including; building control, land charges, vehicle licensing, licensing of houses in multiple occupation and investment properties.

Prior period adjustments, changes in accounting policies and estimates and errors

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

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

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

Property, plant and equipment

Assets that have physical substance and are held for the delivery of services, for rental to others or for administration purposes that are expected to be used during more than one financial year are classified as property, plant and equipment.

Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of property, plant and equipment is capitalised on an accruals basis in the accounts. Expenditure that maintains but does not enhance an asset, such as repairs and maintenance is charged as an expense when it is incurred.

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost. Only those costs that are directly attributable to bringing the asset into working condition for its intended use are included in its measurement. A de minimis level of £10,000 has been agreed for capital expenditure. Any costs below this are charged to revenue. The costs of assets acquired other than by purchase is deemed to be its fair value or in the case of an exchange, the carrying amount of the asset given up by the authority.

Donated Assets

Assets are measured initially at fair value and the difference to the consideration paid is credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, unless there are conditions. Until the conditions are satisfied, the gain is held in a Donated Assets Account. When gains are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, they are reversed out in the Movement in Reserves Statement to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Balance Sheet Valuation

Assets are carried in the Balance Sheet using the following measurements bases:

Class	Basis of Measurement
Community assets and assets under construction	Historical cost
Council dwellings	Current value based on existing use value – social housing (EUV-SH)
Non-property assets with short useful lives and/or low values and infrastructure	Depreciated historical cost
Surplus assets	Current value is fair value, estimated at highest and best use from a market participants perspective
All other assets	Current value of the asset in its existing use (EUV). Where there is no market-based evidence of fair value because of an assets specialist nature, depreciated replacement cost (DRC) is used

Revaluations

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at current value are re-valued 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. A full valuation is performed on a rolling basis to cover 20% of assets per annum over a five-year cycle, but with the top 4 highest value assets revalued each year. Assets not included in the full valuation are also assessed in order to ensure that carrying amounts are not materially different to current values at the year-end. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognised unrealised gains. Exceptionally, gains might be credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement where they arise from the reversal of an impairment loss previously charged to services.

A decrease in value is accounted for by:

- Where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the 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 in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

Impairment

Impairment reviews are undertaken each year to assess whether there is evidence of a reduction in an asset's value. Where impairment is identified as part of this review or as a result of a valuation exercise, this is accounted for as a decrease in value, as set out above.

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

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided for all property, plant and equipment assets by the systematic allocation of their depreciable amounts over their useful lives. An exception is made for assets without a determinable finite useful life (i.e. freehold land and community assets) and assets that are not yet available for use (i.e. assets under construction).

Notes to the Financial Statements

The following policies are used for depreciation:

- Newly acquired assets are depreciated from 1 April following their purchase.
- Full year depreciation is charged in the year an asset is disposed.
- A reducing balance method of depreciation is used for vehicles and assumes the following life expectancies and residual values:

Acquisition value	Life expectancy	Residual value
£10,000 – £14,999	6 years	12%
£15,000 - £19,999	7 years	11%
£20,000 - £49,000	6 years	12%
Over £50,000	7 years	4%

- A straight-line method of depreciation is used for the assets below and assumes the following life expectancies:

Asset	Life expectancy	Residual value
Plant & equipment	5 to 10 years	Nil
Infrastructure	20 years	Nil
Operational properties	Up to 60 years (unless otherwise specified)	As specified by the Valuers

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

Components

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. The Council has a Componentisation Policy and components are determined in accordance with the policy. For example, key components of council dwellings are depreciated on a straight line basis and assume the following life expectancies:

Component	Life expectancy
Kitchens	20 years
Bathrooms	30 years
Windows	30 years
Roofs	60 years

Disposals

When an asset is disposed of or decommissioned, the carrying value of the asset is written off in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement along with any proceeds from the disposal as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Any revaluation gains in the Revaluation Reserve relating to the disposed assets are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

The gain or loss is the amount by which the proceeds are more (gain) or less (loss) than the carrying amount of the fixed asset. Statutory regulations require that the gain or loss on the disposal of assets is reversed out in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Non-current Assets Held for Sale

When it becomes probable that the carrying value will be recovered principally through a sale transaction, it is reclassified as an asset held for sale. The asset is revalued immediately before reclassification and then carried at the lower of this amount and fair value less costs to sell. Fair value is the price that would be received in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date, which should be measured at highest and best use. Fair value for social housing being disposed of under right-to-buy (RTB) legislation is the discounted RTB value.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Losses in fair value are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Gains are recognised only up to the amount of any previous losses. Depreciation is not charged on assets held for sale.

If an asset no longer meets the criteria to be classified as assets held for sale, they are reclassified back to non-current assets and valued at the lower of the previous carrying amount adjusted for depreciation or revaluations that would have been recognised during that time and their recoverable amount at the date of the decision not to sell.

Assets to be abandoned or scrapped are not reclassified as assets held for sale.

Provisions

Provisions are made where an event has taken place on or before the Balance Sheet date that gives the authority a present obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefits and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. These are charged to the service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year that the authority becomes aware of the obligation and are measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation. When payments are eventually made they are charged to the provision carried in the Balance Sheet.

Reserves

The authority sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. Reserves are created by transferring amounts out of the General Fund Balance. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service and the reserve is transferred back into the General Fund Balance so that there is no net charge against council tax. Certain reserves are kept to manage the accounting processes for non-current assets, financial instruments, local taxation, retirement and employee benefits and do not represent usable resources for the authority – these reserves are explained in the relevant policies.

Revenue charges for non-current assets

Services are debited with the following amounts to record the cost of holding non-current 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 these charges; however it is required to make an annual contribution from revenue towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement equal to an amount calculated on a prudent basis determined by the authority in accordance with statutory guidance. Depreciation, amortisation, revaluation and impairment losses are therefore replaced by the contribution in the General Fund balance (referred to as MRP; Minimum Revenue Provision) by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference.

Since the introduction of self-financing for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) a new statutory framework has been established to allow depreciation to be a real charge. The HRA is required to set aside an amount equal to depreciation into the Major Repairs Reserve.

Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute

Expenditure incurred during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provisions but that does not result in the creation of a non-current asset has been charged as expenditure to the relevant service account in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Where it is funded by capital resources or borrowing, a transfer in the Movement in Reserves Statement from the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account is made so that there is no impact on the level of Council Tax.

Notes to the Finance Statements

2. Expenditure and Funding Analysis

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

Restated 2021-22	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances £'000	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis (Note 7) £'000	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £'000
Chief Executive & Growth Director	2,837	346	3,183
Housing & Supporting People	4,286	1,010	5,296
City Development	(251)	341	90
Communications, Culture & Leisure Facilities	4,709	11,301	16,010
Net Zero Exeter & City Management	2,832	5,220	8,052
Finance	(558)	10,795	10,237
Corporate Services	2,220	1,086	3,306
Housing Revenue Account	1,799	(2,071)	(272)
Strata Service Solutions Ltd	-	539	539
Net Cost of Services	17,874	28,567	46,441
Other income and expenditure	(10,210)	(20,680)	(30,890)
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	7,664	7,887	15,551

Opening General Fund and HRA Balance at 1 April 2021	(50,655)
Add surplus on General Fund and HRA Balance in Year	7,664
Closing General Fund and HRA Balance at 31 March 2022	(42,991)

Analysed between General Fund and HRA Balances	General Fund	HRA	Total
Opening Balance at 1 April 2021	(37,388)	(13,267)	(50,655)
(Surplus) or Deficit in Year	5,865	1,799	7,664
Closing General Fund and HRA Balance at 31 March 2022	(31,523)	(11,468)	(42,991)

The Council's internal financial reporting structure changed in 2022/23 following changes to director responsibilities. The segment information for the prior year has therefore been restated.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Expenditure and Funding Analysis

2022-2023	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances £'000	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis (Note 7) £'000	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £'000
Chief Executive & Growth Director	3,186	352	3,538
Housing & Supporting People	3,206	1,097	4,303
City Development	1,122	297	1,419
Communications, Culture & Leisure Facilities	5,667	10,958	16,625
Net Zero Exeter & City Management	3,330	3,921	7,251
Finance	(2,812)	5,314	2,502
Corporate Services	2,506	799	3,305
Housing Revenue Account	3,913	6,846	10,759
Strata Service Solutions Ltd	-	513	513
Net Cost of Services	20,118	30,097	50,215
Other income and expenditure	(4,479)	(13,655)	(18,134)
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	15,639	16,442	32,081

Opening General Fund and HRA Balance at 1 April 2022	(42,991)
Add surplus on General Fund and HRA Balance in Year	15,639
Closing General Fund and HRA Balance at 31 March 2023	(27,352)

Analysed between General Fund and HRA Balances	General Fund	HRA	Total
Opening Balance at 1 April 2022	(31,523)	(11,468)	(42,991)
(Surplus) or Deficit in Year	11,727	3,912	15,639
Closing General Fund and HRA Balance at 31 March 2023	(19,796)	(7,556)	(27,352)

Notes to the Financial Statements

3. Accounting Standards that have been issued but not yet adopted

Local authorities are required to report the impact of accounting changes that will be required by a new standard that has been issued but not yet adopted. For this disclosure, the standards introduced by the 2023/24 Code and effective from 1 April 2023, include:

- Definition of Accounting Estimates (amendment to IAS 8) issued in February 2021
- Disclosure of Accounting Policies (amendments to IAS 1 and IFRS Practice Statement 2) issued in February 2021
- Deferred Tax related to Assets and Liabilities arising from a single transactions (amendments to IAS 12) issued in May 2021
- Updating a Reference to the Conceptual Framework (amendments to IFRS 3) issued in May 2020

The impact of these accounting changes are not yet known or reasonably estimable. However, the Code does not anticipate that the amendments will have a material impact on the information provided in the local authority financial statements.

Implementation of IFRS 16 Leases has been deferred until 1 April 2024. However, both the 2022/23 and the 2023/24 Codes allow for early adoption should an authority consider that it is able to do so as of 1 April 2022 or 2023. The Council has not adopted as of 1 April 2022 or 1 April 2023 and therefore the impact is not known or reasonably estimable at 31 March 2023.

4. Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 1, the authority has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. The critical judgements made in the Statement of Accounts are:

Asset classification

Assets classified as held for sale might be particularly impacted by the higher interest rates, as the potential to discourage buyers increases uncertainty around judgements as to whether a sale is deemed 'highly probable'. Judgement has therefore been required to consider whether inflation or the cost of borrowing is likely to impact on the expectation for a sale. Where there is sufficient evidence that the authority remains committed to its plan to sell the asset it has remained classified as held for sale.

Expected Credit Losses

The cost of living pressures and higher interest rates may impact on future debt recovery. Judgement has therefore been required in respect of expected credit losses. The Council uses a range of data to help inform any loss allowances – for debtors with common risk characteristics it is based upon historically observed rates of recover but adjusted for future expectations of recovery.

Group Accounts

The Council is the sole shareholder of Exeter City Group Ltd and Exeter Business Centre Ltd, it has an associate interest in Exeter Canal and Quay Trust Ltd, a 19.9% shareholding in the Exeter Science Park Ltd, a 16.66% shareholding in the Monkerton Heat Company Limited and a 20% shareholding in Dextco Limited. It has been determined that group accounts are required, however non-material interests are excluded.

Joint Operation

Strata Service Solutions Ltd is a registered company which has been established to assist the three authorities; Exeter City

Notes to the Financial Statements

Council, East Devon District Council and Teignbridge District Council, in the provision and operation of shared ICT services. It is deemed to be a joint operation due to the inherent rights to the assets and obligations for liabilities each authority has relating to the joint arrangement, based upon the following facts and circumstances:

- The three authorities have joint control of the entity. Each authority has one nominated Director and each Director has one vote. The Directors are responsible for the management of the Company's business, for which purpose they may exercise all the powers of the company with decisions made collectively and unanimously.
- The Company is required by the Councils to carry out the tasks as set out in the Business Plans and Service Plans and is limited to the business and objectives as set by the Councils
- The Company's revenue derives from the financial allocations set and controlled by each of the Councils
- There are no plans for Strata to do anything other than provide services to the three authorities. The Company has been established as an in-house mutual trading local authority controlled company to assist them in the provision of services.

Joint operations are not consolidated into group accounts; instead each authority has recognised in its financial statement its share of assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses pertaining to Strata Service Solutions Ltd. Please refer to Note 38 for more details.

5. Events after the Reporting Period

The Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Director Finance, D Hodgson CPFA, 6 March 2024. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the 2022/23 financial statements or notes. Where events took place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31 March 2023, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information.

The financial statements and notes have not been adjusted for the following event, which took place after 31 March 2023, as they provide information that is relevant to an understanding of the authority's financial position but do not relate to conditions at that date:

- On 17 October 2023 the Council resolved to significantly reduce the capacity of its housing development company, Exeter City Living Ltd (ECL). The company will be retained for the limited purpose of holding and managing six residential flats in the Guildhall Shopping Centre. In order to facilitate this reduction in activities, the Council will enter into a business sale agreement with ECL, whereby the Council will buy back all ECL's assets (with the exception of the six leasehold flats), including any work in progress in return for proper consideration, in the form of a release of ECL from its loan agreement obligations.

Notes to the Financial Statements

6. Assumptions Made about the Future and Other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

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

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual result differs from Assumptions
<p>Pensions liability</p>	<p>Estimates of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied. Those assumptions are detailed in Note 42 to the accounts. The carrying value of this long term liability at the end of the reporting period was £28.935m.</p> <p>For 2022/23, the actuarial report was requested using the results of the latest Triennial 2022 Actuarial Valuation of the Devon Pension Fund. The actuary's standard approach uses 12 months actual cash-flow data and asset values at 31 March 2023.</p> <p>The estimated cost of the Court of Appeal judgement in relation to the McCloud and Sargeant cases, which relate to age discrimination, were updated as part of the 2022 valuation update. However, the impact on LGPS members' past and present service benefits will only be known once the Government publish the final set of remedial regulations.</p>	<p>The impact of a change in the actuarial assumptions will be to increase or decrease the net pension liability shown in the Balance Sheet. For example, a 1% increase in the discount rate would result in a decrease of £3.062m in the pension liability and £0.161m in the Projected Service Cost. However the assumptions interact in a complex way. During the year the actuaries have reduced the liability by £105.323m as a result of assumptions being updated.</p> <p>These changes do not have an impact on the Council's General Fund position as the Council is not required to fund such non-cash charges from council tax.</p>

Notes to the Financial Statements

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual result differs from Assumptions
Valuation of Property, Plant and Equipment	<p>The Council operates a rolling programme of valuation reviews which ensures all assets are revalued at intervals no greater than five years with; 20% of assets revalued each year, the top 4 highest value assets revalued every year and a desktop valuation undertaken for those assets not subject to the rolling revaluation.</p> <p>The Council's in-house valuer applies professional judgement in respect of the current value of assets including assumptions on property condition where no inspection data is available, that properties meet minimum EPC rating requirements, that there has been no recent flooding, properties are not contaminated and are free of radon gas. Valuations are undertaken in accordance with Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) guidance.</p> <p>The in-house valuer maintains knowledge of property conditions through their ongoing involvement with Corporate Property management services.</p> <p>Where external valuers were instructed to provide valuations as at 31 March 2023, property inspections were undertaken.</p>	<p>In 2022/23 £470.405m of PPE was subject to a revaluation and a variation of 1% in the value of these assets would result in a change in the carrying amount of £4.7m in the Balance Sheet.</p>
Expected Credit Losses	<p>At 31 March 2023, the authority had a balance of £12.878m for short-term debtors (excluding NDR deficit amounts). A review of significant balances suggested that a loss allowance for doubtful debts totalling £4.135m was appropriate.</p> <p>The loss allowance was based upon historically observed rates of recovery adjusted for future expectations of recovery for each type of debtor. However, the Council cannot be certain that this impairment allowance is sufficient to offset any losses through non-payment debts. This is due to the uncertainty around which organisations and individuals may become economically unviable due to the impact of the pandemic, interest rate rises and inflation rate rises. Rising costs of living may impact on debtor's ability to pay, with energy and fuel prices at elevated levels in part due to the war in Ukraine.</p>	<p>If collection rates were to deteriorate, a doubling of the amount of impairment of doubtful debts would require an additional £4.135m to be set aside as an allowance.</p>

Notes to the Financial Statements

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual result differs from Assumptions
<p>Investment Properties</p>	<p>Investment properties are required to be measured at fair value, reflecting market conditions at the end of the reporting period (i.e. 31 March 2023). Where the Authority uses significant unobservable inputs to measure the fair value of its investment properties (Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy), there is a greater level of subjectivity involved, including assumptions regarding rent growth and yield.</p> <p>Valuations have been carried out by Vickery Holman, a local firm of external registered valuers with experience in asset valuations for local authorities. Where inspections have not been carried out, assumptions are made in respect of property condition, that properties meet minimum EPC rating requirements, no recent flooding, properties are not contaminated and are free of radon gas. Valuations are undertaken in accordance with Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) guidance.</p>	<p>Significant changes in any of the unobservable inputs would result in a significantly lower or higher fair value measurement for the investment properties.</p> <p>As at 31 March 2023, investment properties were valued at £4.518m based on Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy and a variation of 1% in the value of these assets would result in a change in the carrying amount of £0.045m in the Balance Sheet.</p>
<p>Business rates</p>	<p>The Council receives income from business rates which forms part of its funding of its revenue budget. Due to the uncertain impact of rising energy and fuel prices on businesses and potential rateable value appeals it is possible that current assumptions may not be fully accurate.</p> <p>The NDR arrears balance of £1.984m at the Balance Sheet date is deemed to be at risk of material adjustment within the next year due to current economic circumstance which may result in some businesses struggling to pay. A review of arrears suggested that an impairment of doubtful debts of 47% (£0.930m) was appropriate. However, in the current economic climate it is not certain that such an allowance will be sufficient.</p>	<p>Whilst economic uncertainty means any estimate of the impact would be highly uncertain, the impact would feed through in to the collection fund balance which would then be taken account of in future years' budgets.</p> <p>If collection rates were to deteriorate further, a doubling of the amount of the impairment of doubtful debts would require an additional £0.930m to be set aside as an allowance.</p>

Notes to the Financial Statements

7. Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis

Restated	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments	Other Differences	Total Adjustments
Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis 2021-22	(Note 7.1)	(Note 7.2)	(Note 7.3)	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Chief Executive & Growth Director	-	346	-	346
Housing & Supporting People	24	945	41	1,010
City Development	5	336	-	341
Communications, Culture & Leisure Facilities	10,022	1,269	10	11,301
Net Zero Exeter & City Management	3,103	2,153	(36)	5,220
Finance	7,934	(896)	3,757	10,795
Corporate Services	696	390	-	1,086
Housing Revenue Account	2,682	584	(5,337)	(2,071)
Strata Service Solutions Ltd	-	-	539	539
Net Cost of Services	24,466	5,127	(1,026)	28,567
Other income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(9,480)	2,747	(13,947)	(20,680)
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	14,986	7,874	(14,973)	7,887

Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis 2022-23	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments	Other Differences	Total Adjustments
	(Note 7.1)	(Note 7.2)	(Note 7.3)	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Chief Executive & Growth Director	3	348	1	352
Housing & Supporting People	327	821	(51)	1,097
City Development	5	292	-	297
Communications, Culture & Leisure Facilities	9,702	1,258	(2)	10,958
Net Zero Exeter & City Management	2,211	1,876	(166)	3,921
Finance	445	(1,371)	6,240	5,314
Corporate Services	456	338	5	799
Housing Revenue Account	7,821	462	(1,437)	6,846
Strata Service Solutions Ltd	-	-	513	513
Net Cost of Services	20,970	4,024	5,103	30,097
Other income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(8,580)	2,622	(7,697)	(13,655)
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	12,390	6,646	(2,594)	16,442

The Council's internal financial reporting structure changed in 2022/23 following changes to director responsibilities. The segment information for the prior year has therefore been restated.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Note 7.1: Adjustments for Capital Purposes

Adjustments for capital purposes reflect:

- **For services** this column adds in depreciation and impairment and adjusts for revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute and removes the revenue contribution to capital made by the Housing Revenue Account.
- **Other income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis** adjusts for statutory charges for capital financing i.e. Minimum Revenue Provision, Voluntary Revenue Provision and other capital contributions are deducted. It also adjusts for capital disposals with a transfer of the income on the disposal and the amounts written-off. The pooling payment in respect of properties sold under the right-to-buy scheme, capital grants and the gain on donated assets are also recognised.

Note 7.2: Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments

Net changes for the removal of pension contributions and the addition of IAS 19 Employee Benefits pension related expenditure and income:

- **For services** this represents the removal of the employer pension contributions made by the authority as allowed by statute and the replacement with current service costs and past service costs.
- **For other income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis** – the net interest on the defined benefit liability is charged to the CIES.

Note 7.3: Other Differences

Other differences between amounts debited/credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and amounts payable/receivable to be recognised under statute and other non-statutory adjustments:

- **For services** reflects the Council's proportional shares of Strata Service Solutions cost of services, the removal of investment property net income as this is reported below the net cost of services and the removal of interest costs as they are also reported below the net cost of services.
- **For other income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis** represents the difference between what is chargeable under statutory regulations for council tax and NDR that was projected to be received at the start of the financial year and the income recognized under generally accepted accounting practices. This is a timing difference. The adjustments also reflect interest costs and investment property net income, which are reported as financing and investment income and expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Notes to the Financial Statements

8. Segmental Reporting

The net expenditure figures in the Expenditure and Funding Analysis for the Council's services include the following particular amounts of income and expenditure.

	Chief Executive & Growth Director £'000	City Development £'000	Housing & Supporting People £'000	Communications, Culture & Leisure Facilities £'000	Net Zero Exeter & City Management £'000	Finance £'000	Corporate Services £'000	Housing Revenue Account £'000
2021-2022 Restated								
Expenditure								
Benefit payment	-	-	28,704	-	-	-	-	-
Revenue Contribution to Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,397
Net interest expense	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,940
Covid support payments	-	-	1,278	63	1,354	-	-	-
Depreciation & impairment	43	-	(14)	10,022	3,148	7,933	696	6,530
Income								
Benefit subsidy	-	-	(27,076)	-	-	-	-	-
Car park income	-	-	-	-	(7,544)	-	-	-
Covid grant funding	-	-	(490)	(467)	-	-	-	-
Furlough funding	-	-	(8)	(147)	-	(1)	(7)	-
Revenues from other external sources	(117)	(1,368)	(2,603)	(3,784)	(4,747)	(494)	(412)	(20,278)
Revenues from transactions with other operating segments of the authority	(469)	-	(265)	(39)	(710)	(531)	(453)	(93)
2022-2023								
Expenditure								
Benefit payment	-	-	28,411	-	-	-	-	-
Revenue Contribution to Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
Net interest expense	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,442
Depreciation & impairment	3	5	327	9,702	2,248	445	456	16,913
Income								
Benefit subsidy	-	-	(26,916)	-	-	-	-	-
Car park income	-	-	-	-	(8,504)	-	-	-
Leisure membership	-	-	-	(2,308)	-	-	-	-
Revenues from other external sources	(394)	(1,225)	(2,426)	(4,312)	(4,788)	(506)	(476)	(21,574)
Revenues from transactions with other operating segments of the authority	(559)	-	(295)	(77)	(731)	(944)	(495)	(95)

The Council's internal financial reporting structure changed in 2022/23 following changes to director responsibilities. The segment information for the prior year has therefore been restated.

Notes to the Financial Statements

9. Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature

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

	2021-22	2022-23
	£'000	£'000
Expenditure:		
Employee benefits expenses	35,082	39,041
Other service expenses	61,908	65,273
Depreciation, amortisation, impairment	28,591	30,331
Interest payments	3,741	4,889
Levies payable	-	3
Net interest on the net defined benefit liability	2,662	2,526
Pension Fund administration expenses	90	96
Impairment losses	671	531
Payments to Housing Capital Receipts Pool	425	0
Total expenditure	133,170	142,690
Income:		
Fees, charges and other service income	(23,141)	(27,266)
Revenue from contracts with service recipients	(18,811)	(19,873)
Interest and investment income	(9,749)	(2,037)
Income from council tax, non-domestic rates	(12,612)	(13,221)
Government grants and contributions	(39,836)	(39,311)
Furlough funding	(163)	-
Covid grants	(2,175)	(16)
Cost of Living Support grants	-	(923)
Homes for Ukraine Scheme	-	(390)
Capital grants and contributions	(11,227)	(6,773)
Movements in Financial Instruments held at Fair Value through Profit and Loss	(821)	907
Gain on the disposal of assets	916	(1,706)
Total income	(117,619)	(110,609)
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	15,551	32,081

9A. Revenue from Contracts with Service Recipients

	2021-22	2022-23
	£'000	£'000
Amounts included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for contracts with service recipients:		
Revenue from contracts with service recipients	18,826	19,908
Impairment of receivables or contract assets	(15)	(35)
Total included in Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	18,811	19,873
Amounts included in the Balance Sheet for contracts with service recipients:		
Receivables, which are included within debtors (Note 20)	315	255
Total included in net assets	315	255

The Council recognises revenue from contracts with service recipients when it satisfies a performance obligation by transferring promised goods or services to a recipient. For HRA rental income, the performance obligations are satisfied over time and recognises revenue over time, as the service recipient (tenant) simultaneously receives and consumes the benefits provided by the authority's performance through their residency at the property. The rents charged in accordance with the tenancy agreement are accounted for on an accruals basis, i.e. when due and not necessarily when paid.

Notes to the Financial Statements

10. Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations

This note details the adjustments made to the total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) recognised by the authority in accordance with proper accounting practice to arrive at the resources specified by statutory provisions as being available to the authority to meet future capital and revenue expenditure. The following sets out a description of the reserves that the adjustments are made against:

General Fund Balance

The General Fund is the statutory fund into which all the receipts of an authority are required to be paid and out of which all liabilities are to be met, except to the extent that statutory rules might provide otherwise. These rules can also specify the financial year in which liabilities and payments should impact on the General Fund Balance, which is not necessarily in accordance with proper accounting practice. The General Fund Balance therefore summarises the resources that the Council is statutorily empowered to spend on its services or on capital investment. The balance is not available to be applied to fund HRA services.

Housing Revenue Account Balance

The Housing Revenue Account Balance reflects the statutory obligation to maintain a revenue account for local authority council housing provision in accordance with Part VI of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. It contains the balance of income and expenditure as defined by the 1989 Act that is available to fund future expenditure in connection with the Council's landlord function.

Major Repairs Reserve

The authority is required to maintain the Major Repairs Reserve, which controls an element of the capital resources limited to being used on capital expenditure on HRA assets or the financing of historical capital expenditure by the HRA. The balance shows the capital resources that have yet to be applied at the year-end.

Capital Grants Unapplied

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

Capital Receipts Reserve

The Capital Receipts Reserve holds the proceeds from the disposal of land or other assets, which are restricted by statute from being used other than to fund new capital expenditure or to be set aside to finance historical capital expenditure. The balance on the reserve shows the resources that have yet to be applied for these purposes at the year-end.

Notes to the Financial Statements

	Usable Reserves									
	2021-22					2022-23				
	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adjustments to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement										
Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the CIES are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements:										
~ Pension costs (transferred to or from the Pensions Reserve)	(7,306)	(877)	-	-	-	(6,179)	(727)	-	-	-
~ Financial instruments (transferred to the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account)	858	-	-	-	-	(868)	-	-	-	-
~ Council Tax and NDR (transfers to or from the Collection Fund)	6,320	-	-	-	-	10,923	-	-	-	-
~ Holiday pay (transferred to the Accumulated Absences Reserve)	(27)	-	-	-	-	(40)	(5)	-	-	-
~ Reversal of entries included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure (these items are charged to the Capital Adjustment Account)	(11,123)	(8,101)	-	-	(7,196)	(17,517)	(18,726)	-	-	(235)
Total Adjustments to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(11,278)	(8,978)	0	0	(7,196)	(13,681)	(19,458)	0	0	(235)
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources										
~ Transfer of non-current asset sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve	331	4,972	(5,303)	-	-	2,908	4,247	(7,155)	-	-
~ Administrative costs of non-current asset disposals (funded by a contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve)	-	(48)	48	-	-	-	(51)	51	-	-
~ Payments to the Government housing receipts pool (funded by a transfer from the Capital Receipts Reserve)	(425)	-	425	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
~ Posting of HRA resources from revenue to the Major Repairs Reserve	-	3,849	-	(3,849)	-	-	4,092	-	(4,092)	-
~ Statutory provision for the repayment of debt (transfer from the Capital Adjustment Account)	957	-	-	-	-	1,909	-	-	-	-
~ Voluntary provision for the repayment of debt (transfer from the Capital Adjustment Account)	(664)	-	-	-	-	(1,480)	-	-	-	-
~ Adjustment to Long Term Debtor Repayments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
~ Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)	-	3397	-	-	-	71	5,000	-	-	-
Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources	199	12,170	(4,830)	(3,849)	0	3,408	13,288	(7,104)	(4,092)	0
Capital Financing Adjustments										
~ Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure	-	-	4,773	-	-	-	-	7,311	-	-
~ Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance capital expenditure	-	-	-	897	-	-	-	-	4,077	-
~ Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	-	-	-	-	2356	-	-	-	-	942
~ Cash payments in relation to deferred capital receipts	-	-	48	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Capital Financing Adjustments	0	0	4,821	897	2,356	0	0	7,311	4,077	942
Total Adjustments	(11,079)	3,192	(9)	(2,952)	(4,840)	(10,273)	(6,170)	207	(15)	707

Notes to the Financial Statements

11. Movements in Earmarked Reserves

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund balances in earmarked reserves to provide funding for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from earmarked reserves to meet expenditure in the year. There are no HRA earmarked reserves.

	Balance 31 March 2021	Transfers in	Transfers out	Balance 31 March 2022	Transfers in	Transfers out	Balance 31 March 2023
	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s
Building Control Reserve	39	19	-	58	-	(46)	12
Capital Fund	500	-	-	500	-	-	500
Covid Response Funds	6,957	202	(2,941)	4,218	454	(2,133)	2,539
Economic Development	103	10	-	113	1,301	(13)	1,401
Environment	1,000	-	(32)	968	-	(102)	866
Housing GF Reserves	353	-	(104)	249	340	(15)	574
Land Charges Reserve	263	62	-	325	17	-	342
Leisure Reserves	550	67	(56)	561	-	(292)	269
Museum Reserves	733	6	(6)	733	-	(351)	382
New Homes Bonus	134	-	-	134	-	-	134
NDR Deficit	17,424	11,084	(17,410)	11,098	-	(10,804)	294
Planning Reserves	1,407	635	(23)	2,019	80	(419)	1,680
Redundancy Reserve	500	500	(62)	938	706	(596)	1,048
Transformation	422	264	(3)	683	-	(93)	590
Other Earmarked Reserves	2,047	1,200	(101)	3,146	695	(1,076)	2,765
Strata Usable Reserves	259	-	-	259	-	(10)	249
Total	32,691	14,049	(20,738)	26,002	3,593	(15,950)	13,645

Movements in earmarked reserves continue to be at higher than usual levels and this is predominantly due to the NDR Deficit. The accounting arrangements for NDR meant that losses incurred in 2020/21, due to collection losses and rate reliefs to particular business sectors, were able to be carried forward. The earmarked reserve reflects the setting aside of grant scheme monies which the Government implemented to compensate authorities for the lost income, which have been debited back to the General Fund Balance in both 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Notes to the Financial Statements

12. Other Operating Expenditure

	2021-22	2022-23
	£'000	£'000
Pension Fund Administration Expenses	90	96
Levies - Strata Service Solutions	-	3
Payment to the Government's Housing Capital Receipt Pool	425	-
(Gain) / losses on the disposal of non-current assets	916	(1,710)
(Gain) / losses on disposal of assets - Strata Service Solutions Ltd	-	4
	1,431	(1,607)

13. Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

	2021-22	2022-23
	£'000	£'000
Interest payable and similar charges	3,741	4,889
Net interest on the net defined benefit liability	2,587	2,438
Net interest on the net defined benefit liability - Strata Service Solutions Ltd	75	88
Interest receivable	(1,033)	(2,753)
Income and expenditure in relation to investment properties and changes in their fair value	(8,856)	651
Other investment income and expenditure	141	80
Movements in Financial Instruments held at Fair Value through Profit and Loss	(821)	907
Impairment losses	671	531
Interest receivable - Strata Service Solutions Ltd	(1)	(15)
	(3,496)	6,816

14. Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income

	2021-22	2022-23
	£'000	£'000
Council tax income	(6,247)	(6,534)
Non-domestic rates	(6,365)	(6,687)
Non-ringfenced government grants	(3,768)	(3,333)
Capital grants and contributions	(11,227)	(6,773)
Covid Grants:		
Sales, Fees & Charges		
Compensation Scheme	(457)	(16)
Covid Support Grant	(761)	-
	(28,825)	(23,343)

Notes to the Financial Statements

15. Property, Plant and Equipment

	Council Dwellings and Garages £'000s	Other Land and Buildings £'000s	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £'000s	Infrastructure Assets £'000s	Community Assets £'000s	Surplus Assets £'000s	Assets under Construction £'000s	Total Property, Plant and Equipment £'000s
Cost or valuation								
As at 1 April 2021	263,989	126,359	22,878	5,561	5,242	980	54,807	479,816
Additions	17,022	2,278	2,555	233	150	-	11,989	34,227
Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Revaluations - Revaluation Reserve	14,573	(7,740)	-	-	-	(161)	-	6,672
Revaluations - CIES	-	240	-	-	-	-	-	240
Impairments - CIES	(2,704)	(9,424)	-	-	-	(516)	-	(12,644)
Derecognition - disposals	(1,538)	(1,717)	(347)	-	-	(980)	-	(4,582)
Reclassifications - held for sale	(1,059)	(430)	-	-	-	-	-	(1,489)
Reclassifications - surplus	-	(794)	-	-	-	794	-	0
Reclassifications - AUC	170	8,448	-	-	-	-	(8,618)	0
Reclassifications - Investment property	-	2,300	-	-	-	-	-	2,300
Other movements - Strata Service Solutions Ltd	-	-	93	-	-	-	-	93
Gross Book Value At 31 March 2022	290,453	119,520	25,179	5,794	5,392	117	58,178	504,633
Depreciation and impairments								
At 1 April 2021	-	-	(13,603)	(3,346)	-	-	-	(16,949)
Depreciation Charge	(3,815)	(10,004)	(2,118)	(240)	-	-	-	(16,177)
Depreciation written out to Revaluation Reserve	3,771	9,482	-	-	-	-	-	13,253
Impairment - CIES	22	199	-	-	-	-	-	221
Derecognition - disposals	22	323	296	-	-	-	-	641
Accumulative Depreciation At 31 March 2022	0	0	(15,425)	(3,586)	0	0	0	(19,011)
Balance Sheet amount at 31 March 2022	290,453	119,520	9,754	2,208	5,392	117	58,178	485,622

Notes to the Financial Statements

	Council Dwellings and Garages £'000s	Other Land and Buildings £'000s	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £'000s	Infrastructure Assets £'000s	Community Assets £'000s	Surplus Assets £'000s	Assets under Construction £'000s	Total Property, Plant and Equipment £'000s
Cost or valuation								
As at 1 April 2022	290,453	119,520	25,179	5,794	5,392	117	58,178	504,633
Additions	11,709	4,141	4,525	329	64	-	5,111	25,879
Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Revaluations - Revaluation Reserve	15,452	(4,864)	-	-	-	-	-	10,588
Revaluations - CIES	-	221	-	-	-	-	-	221
Impairments - CIES	(12,832)	(9,532)	-	-	-	-	-	(22,364)
Derecognition - disposals	(1,369)	-	(627)	(28)	-	-	-	(2,024)
Reclassifications - held for sale	(1,592)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,592)
Reclassifications - surplus	-	-	-	-	-	(117)	-	(117)
Reclassifications - AUC	14,451	44,647	-	-	-	-	(59,098)	0
Reclassifications - Investment property	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Other movements - Strata Service Solutions Ltd	-	-	68	-	-	-	-	68
Gross Book Value At 31 March 2023	316,272	154,133	29,145	6,095	5,456	0	4,191	515,292
Depreciation and impairments								
At 1 April 2022	-	-	(15,425)	(3,586)	-	-	-	(19,011)
Depreciation Charge	(4,062)	(1,912)	(2,140)	(245)	-	-	-	(8,359)
Depreciation written out to Revaluation Reserve	4,032	1,600	-	-	-	-	-	5,632
Impairment - CIES	11	312	-	-	-	-	-	323
Derecognition - disposals	19	-	564	-	-	-	-	583
Accumulative Depreciation At 31 March 2023	0	0	(17,001)	(3,831)	0	0	0	(20,832)
Balance Sheet amount at 31 March 2023	316,272	154,133	12,144	2,264	5,456	0	4,191	494,460

Notes to the Financial Statements

Revaluations

The frequency of revaluations and significant assumptions applied in estimating fair value are set out in the statement of accounting policies. Valuations of land and buildings were carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. The valuations, as at 31 March 2023 were carried out by the Council's in-house valuers; registered with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, and externally appointed valuers.

	Council Dwellings and Garages £'000s	Other Land and Buildings £'000s	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £'000s	Infrastructure Assets £'000s	Community Assets £'000s	Surplus Assets £'000s	Assets under Construction £'000s	Total Property, Plant and Equipment £'000s
Carried at historical cost	-	-	29,145	6,095	5,456	-	4,191	44,887
Valued at current value as at:								
31 March 2019	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
31 March 2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
31 March 2021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
31 March 2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
31 March 2023	316,272	154,133	-	-	-	-	-	470,405
Gross Book Value At 31 March 2023	316,272	154,133	29,145	6,095	5,456	0	4,191	515,292

Capital Commitments

At 31 March 2023, the authority has entered into a number of contracts for the construction or enhancement of property, plant and equipment in 2023/24 and future years budgeted to cost £17.318m. Similar commitments at 31 March 2022 were £9.293m. The major commitments are:

- £ 0.544m St Sidwell's Point Leisure Complex
- £ 11.600m Vaughan Road, phase I
- £ 3.549m Hamlin Gardens council housing development
- £ 0.099m Bus station construction
- £ 1.602m Planned enhancements to housing stock (boiler replacements, electrical re-wiring)
- £ 0.126m Other (IT and property improvements)

Notes to the Financial Statements

16. Investment Properties

The following items of income and expenditure have been accounted for in the Financing and Investment income and expenditure line in the CIES:

	2021-22	2022-23
	£'000	£'000
Rental income from investment property	4,363	9,431
Direct operating expenditure arising from investment property	(612)	(3,238)
Net gain	3,751	6,193

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

With regards to the Guildhall Shopping Centre, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities permitted the Council to borrow in respect of acquiring this investment property on the basis that any net gain is set aside specifically for the purposes of economic regeneration. During 2022/23, the shopping centre generated a net gain of £1.301m, which has been set aside in an earmarked reserve for economic regeneration future spend.

Fair Value Hierarchy

Details of the authority's investment properties and information about fair value hierarchy as at 31 March 2023 and comparatives as at 31 March 2022 are as follows:

Class of Asset	Other significant observable inputs (Level 2) £'000	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) £'000	Fair value as at 31 March 2022 £'000
Industrial	1,490	4,560	6,050
Retail	26,130	3,361	29,491
Leisure	6,385	96	6,481
Office	11,835	-	11,835
Other Commercial	1,465	712	2,177
Total	47,305	8,729	56,034

Class of Asset	Other significant observable inputs (Level 2) £'000	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) £'000	Fair value as at 31 March 2023 £'000
Industrial	2,637	4,235	6,872
Retail	70,008	31	70,039
Leisure	7,385	-	7,385
Office	11,701	-	11,701
Other Commercial	2,312	252	2,564
Total	94,043	4,518	98,561

The movements in the fair value of investment properties over the year are summarised below:

	2021-22	2022-23
	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1 April	53,388	56,034
Additions :		
Purchases	-	49,061
Construction	-	-
Subsequent expenditure	-	310
Disposals	(159)	
Net gains / losses from fair value adjustments	5,105	(6,844)
Transfers:		
To/from Property, Plant & Equipment	(2,300)	
Balance at 31 March	56,034	98,561

Notes to the Financial Statements

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

Significant Observable Inputs – Level 3

The industrial, retail, leisure and other commercial assets in the portfolio are valued using the income approach, where the expected cash flows from the properties are discounted utilising market derived rates. This is used to establish the present value of the net income.

This approach has been developed using internal data supplemented where possible with evidence from analysis of relevant recent market transactions and external market reports/reviews. This requires a number of assumptions such as the duration and timing of cash flows, current market rental value, rent growth, occupancy levels, void periods, covenant strength, risk and maintenance costs (where appropriate) etc.

The industrial, retail, leisure and other commercial assets are therefore categorised as level 3 in the fair value hierarchy as the measurement technique uses significant unobservable inputs to determine fair value.

Reconciliation of Fair Value Measurements Categorised within Level 3 of the Fair Value Hierarchy

	Industrial	Retail	Leisure	Office	Other Commercial	Fair value as at 31 March 2023
Level 3 fair value measurements	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1 April	4,560	3,361	96	-	712	8,729
Gains/(losses) recognised in the CIES resulting from changes in the fair value	332	(26)	-	-	(140)	166
Additions	-	-	-	-	-	0
Transfers in and out of level 3	(657)	(3,304)	(96)	0	(320)	(4,377)
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	0
Level 3 balance at 31 March	4,235	31	0	0	252	4,518

Quantitative Information about Fair Value Measurement of Investment Properties using Significant Unobservable Inputs

Property type	Lease type	Rent type	Fair value as at 31 March 2023 £'000	Valuation technique used to measure fair value	Unobservable inputs	Range / percentage used	Sensitivity
Industrial	Commercial	Market	1,556	Income approach	Rent & Yield	Rent £3.50 - £8 psf Yield 7 - 10%	Significant changes in rental levels or yield will result in a significantly lower or higher fair value
	Ground	Nominal	925	Income approach	Rent & Yield	Rent £3.50 - £8 psf Yield 2.5 - 10%	Significant changes in rental levels or yield will not result in a significant difference to the fair value
	Ground	Gearred	1,754	Income approach	Yield	Yield 3.5 - 8%	Significant changes in yield will result in a significantly lower or higher fair value
Retail	Commercial	Market	-	Income approach	Rent & Yield	Rent £13 - £25 psf ITZA. Yield 9 - 12%	Significant changes in rental levels or yield will result in a significantly lower or higher fair value
	Ground	Nominal	31	Income approach	Rent & Yield	Rent £15 - £42 psf ITZA. Yield 7 - 10.5%	Significant changes in rental levels or yield will not result in a significant difference to the fair value
	Ground	Gearred	-	Income approach	Yield	Yield 7-8%	Significant changes in yield will result in a significantly lower or higher fair value
Other commercial	Commercial	Market	-	Income approach	Yield	Yield 10- 12%	Significant changes in yield will result in a significantly lower or higher fair value
	Ground	Gearred	134	Income approach	Yield	Yield 9%	Significant changes in yield will result in a significantly lower or higher fair value
	Ground	Nominal	118	Income approach	Yield	Yield 5.5 - 12%	Significant changes in yield will not result in a significant difference to the fair value

Notes to the Financial Statements

17. Heritage Assets

Reconciliation of the Carrying Value of Heritage Assets Held by the Authority

	Museum Exhibits £'000	Civic Regalia and Paintings at the Guildhall £'000	Artefacts at St Nicholas Priory £'000	Total £'000
Cost or Valuation				
1 April 2021	20,000	2,663	163	22,826
Additions	-	-	-	0
Disposals	-	-	(163)	(163)
Revaluations	-	80	-	80
Impairment Losses/(reversals) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	-	-	-	0
Impairment Losses/(reversals) recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	0
31 March 2022	20,000	2,743	0	22,743
Cost or Valuation				
1 April 2022	20,000	2,743	-	22,743
Additions	-	-	-	0
Disposals	-	-	-	0
Revaluations	-	-	-	0
Impairment Losses/(reversals) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	-	-	-	0
Impairment Losses/(reversals) recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	0
31 March 2023	20,000	2,743	0	22,743

18. Further Information on the Collections

St Nicholas Priory

St Nicholas Priory is the 900 year old guest wing of a former Benedictine Priory in Exeter City Centre. Adorned with quality replica furniture and painted in the bright colours of the period, the Priory is presented as the 1602 home of the wealthy Hurst family. The display of Elizabethan items is from the city's collection. The artefacts at Nicolas Priory were removed from the Council's insurance portfolio following the grant of a long lease to Exeter Historic Buildings Trust and treated as a disposal in accordance with the policy on property, plant and equipment during 2021/22.

Guildhall

The Guildhall is home to a number of fine art portraits painted between the 17th and 19th Century. They include a portrait of Princess Henrietta Anne, daughter of King Charles I, who was born in Exeter, and a number of other prominent local people. There are a number of portraits by Thomas Hudson including one of George II as Prince of Wales.

Royal Albert Memorial Museum

RAMM cares for a wonderful and diverse collection consisting of approximately one and a half million individual objects and specimens from all over the globe. They are divided into the following curatorial departments: antiquities, ethnography, natural history, decorative and fine arts. The collections contain items of local, national and international importance, and many are of outstanding historical or cultural significance.

Other Heritage Assets

The Council owns a range of assets around the City which are of historic value including; the Roman Wall, Underground Passages, Catacombs and various statues. These have not been valued and do not form part of the figure held in the Balance Sheet, as explained in Note 1 Accounting Policies.

Notes to the Financial Statements

19. Financial Instruments

Classification of Financial Instruments

The following judgements were made in respect of classifying financial instruments:

- A long-term investment in the CCLA Property Fund is designated at fair value through profit and loss as the contractual terms of the asset do not give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest
- Money market funds are designated at fair value through profit and loss as the contractual terms of the asset do not give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest
- Equity shareholdings in other related parties are carried at amortised cost. The Code permits group interests to be accounted for at cost. This is on the basis that the group accounts provide information about the value and performance of these investments
- All other financial liabilities and assets are carried at amortised cost on the basis that the Council holds the financial assets until it collects contractual cash-flows or has a liability to transfer economic benefits under a contractual obligation

Categories of Financial Instruments

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

Financial Assets

	Long-term				Current			
	Investments		Debtors		Investments		Debtors	
	31 March 2022 £'000	31 March 2023 £'000	31 March 2022 £'000	31 March 2023 £'000	31 March 2022 £'000	31 March 2023 £'000	31 March 2022 £'000	31 March 2023 £'000
Financial Assets								
Fair value through profit or loss	5,554	4,651	-	-	30,007	25,080	-	-
Amortised cost	982	982	24,007	20,386	77,291	17,876	4,496	4,617
Total Financial Assets	6,536	5,633	24,007	20,386	107,298	42,956	4,496	4,617
Non-financial assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	26,418	8,702
Total	6,536	5,633	24,007	20,386	107,298	42,956	30,914	13,319

Notes to the Financial Statements

Financial Liabilities

	Long-term				Current			
	Borrowings		Creditors		Borrowings		Creditors	
	31 March 2022 £'000	31 March 2023 £'000	31 March 2022 £'000	31 March 2023 £'000	31 March 2022 £'000	31 March 2023 £'000	31 March 2022 £'000	31 March 2023 £'000
Financial Liabilities								
Fair value through profit or loss	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Amortised cost	166,695	165,160	2,397	3,211	1,510	1,537	16,420	14,340
Total Financial Liabilities	166,695	165,160	2,397	3,211	1,510	1,537	16,420	14,340
Non-financial liabilities	-	-	3,004	3,092	-	-	46,790	19,201
Total	166,695	165,160	5,401	6,303	1,510	1,537	63,210	33,541

Material Soft Loans Made by the Authority

Soft loans are those advanced at below market rates in support of the Council's service priorities. A soft loan of £1m was advanced by the Council towards funding the building of the Science Park centre, in two loan advances of £500,000 with interest charged at 2.55% and 2.62% respectively. The loans are repayable on maturity along with accrued interest in 2023/24.

	2021-22 £'000	2022-23 £'000
Balance at start of year	1,067	1,129
New loans granted in the year	-	-
Fair value adjustment on initial recognition	-	-
Accrued interest	62	64
Nominal value at 31 March	1,129	1,193

Valuation Assumptions

The interest rate at which the fair value of this soft loan has been made is arrived at by taking the authority's prevailing cost of borrowing and adding an allowance for the risk that the loan might not be repaid by Exeter Science Park Ltd.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Reclassification of Financial Instruments

During the year the Council has not reclassified any financial instruments, or transferred any financial instruments that would require a change in the recognition of that instrument.

Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

The gains and losses in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account in relation to Financial Instruments for Investments and Borrowing are made up as follows:

	2021-22 Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services £'000	2022-23 Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services £'000
Net gains/losses on:		
Financial assets measured at fair value through profit and loss	(821)	907
Financial assets measured at amortised cost	-	-
Financial liabilities measured at fair value through profit and loss	-	-
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	-	-
Total net gains/losses	(821)	907
Interest receivable:		
Financial assets measured at fair value through profit and loss	(241)	(928)
Financial assets measured at amortised cost	(792)	(1,825)
Total interest receivable	(1,033)	(2,753)
Interest payable	3,741	4,889

Changes in the valuation technique

There have been no change in the valuation technique used during the year for financial instruments.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Fair Value of Financial Assets

Some of the authority's financial assets are measured at fair value on a recurring basis and are described in the following table, including the valuation techniques used to measure them.

	Fair Value Level	Valuation technique used to measure fair value	Balance Sheet 31 March 2022 £'000	Fair Value 31 March 2022 £'000	Balance Sheet 31 March 2023 £'000	Fair Value 31 March 2023 £'000
Financial Assets Held at Fair Value						
Financial instruments classified as fair value through profit and loss:						
Money market funds	1	Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical shares	30,007	30,007	25,080	25,080
Local Authorities' Property Fund	1	Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical shares	5,554	5,554	4,651	4,651
Total			35,561	35,561	29,731	29,731

Fair Values of Financial Assets that Are Not Measured at Fair Value

Except for the financial assets carried at fair value (described in the table above), all other financial liabilities and financial assets held by the authority are carried at amortised cost, as follows:

- The carrying amount of short term creditors and debtors (trade payables and receivables) are considered a reasonable approximation of fair value
- The fair value of finance leases (receivable) have been calculated by discounting the contractual cash-flows at the appropriate PWLB annuity loan rate
- The fair value of long term creditors and capital grants received in advance is assumed to approximate to the carrying value as it is considered unlikely, owing to historical experience, that they will require repayment
- All investments in subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures are measured as financial instruments, however, on the basis that group accounts are prepared which provides information about the value and performance of these investments it is not necessary to supplement with financial instrument valuations

Notes to the Financial Statements

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

	Fair Value Level	Restated			
		Balance Sheet 31 March 2022 £'000	Fair Value 31 March 2022 £'000	Balance Sheet 31 March 2023 £'000	Fair Value 31 March 2023 £'000
Financial Assets Held at Amortised Cost					
Unquoted equity investment	3	982	982	982	982
Loans made for service purposes	2	10,002	10,002	11,292	11,292
Lease receivables	3	14,005	14,005	9,094	9,094
Short term investments	2	39,019	39,019	15,202	15,202
Cash (including bank accounts)	2	38,272	38,272	2,674	2,674
Short term debtors	3	30,914	30,914	13,319	13,319
Total Financial Assets		133,194	133,194	52,563	52,563
Financial Liabilities Held at Amortised Cost					
Long term borrowing	2	166,695	164,520	165,160	110,234
Short term borrowing	2	1,510	1,510	1,537	1,537
Finance lease liabilities	3	2,397	2,397	3,211	3,211
Long term creditors	3	245	245	257	257
Capital grants receipts in advance	3	2,760	2,760	2,835	2,835
Short term creditors	3	63,210	63,210	33,541	33,541
Total Financial Liabilities		236,817	234,642	206,541	151,615

Fair Value Disclosure of PWLB Loans

The Council's borrowings are all with the PWLB. The fair value of PWLB loans measures the economic effect of terms agreed with the PWLB compared with estimates of the terms that would be offered for market transactions undertaken at the Balance Sheet date. However, the authority has a continuing ability to borrow at concessionary rates from the PWLB rather than from the markets, this is referred to as the new loan rate. One approach is to measure the interest that the authority will pay on its PWLB commitments for fixed rate loans and compare these to the terms of these loans with the new loan rates available from PWLB, on the Balance Sheet date. Under this approach, the difference between the carrying amount and fair value measures the variation in interest costs that the authority will pay over the remaining terms of the loans, against what would be paid if the loans were at prevailing rates. If a value is calculated on this basis, the carrying amount of £167.759m (£165.160m long term and £1.509m short term borrowing) would be valued at £110.234m. Alternatively, if the authority were to seek to move to the notional new loan rate by repaying the loans to the PWLB, the exit price, including a penalty charge, would be based on the PWLB Premature Repayment Rates at the Balance Sheet date and this fair value would be £130.197m.

Notes to the Financial Statements

20. Debtors

Long-term Debtors		Short-term Debtors	
2021-22	2022-23	2021-22	2022-23
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
-	-	3,481	4,315
-	-	(914)	(1,693)
-	-	2,567	2,622
-	-	1,844	1,858
-	-	(1,310)	(1,334)
-	-	534	524
-	-	811	765
-	-	(477)	(481)
-	-	334	284
-	-	18,640	1,874
-	-	1,053	32
-	-	1,059	148
-	-	450	1,858
-	-	3,992	3,571
-	-	461	342
-	-	838	928
14,005	9,094	141	80
1,130	1,194	-	-
181	166	-	-
8,596	9,838	223	259
95	94	-	-
24,007	20,386	30,292	12,522

21. Debtors for Local Taxation

The past due amounts for local taxation (council tax and NDR) can be analysed by age as follows:

	2021-22	2022-23
	£'000	£'000
Less than 1 year	491	780
Less impairment allowance	(213)	(268)
Less than 1 year	278	512
Over 1 to 5 years	662	548
Less impairment allowance	(371)	(311)
Over 1 to 5 years	291	237
Over 5 to 10 years	88	84
Less impairment allowance	(45)	(43)
Over 5 to 10 years	43	41
Over 10 to 15 years	8	8
Less impairment allowance	(4)	(4)
Over 10 to 15 years	4	4
Over 15 years	7	4
Less impairment allowance	(1)	(1)
Over 15 years	6	3
Total Debtors for Local Taxation	622	797

Notes to the Financial Statements

22. Assets Held for Sale

	2021-22	2022-23
	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1 April	4,683	4,290
Assets newly classified:		
Property, plant and equipment	1,605	1,851
Revaluation gains	147	17
Assets declassified:		
Property, plant and equipment	(116)	(142)
Assets sold	(2,029)	(3,953)
Balance at 31 March	4,290	2,063

23. Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2021-22	2022-23
	£'000	£'000
Cash held by the Council	241	113
Bank current accounts	4,649	(753)
Money Market Funds	30,007	25,080
Short-term investments	30,000	-
Short-term call accounts	3,002	3,057
Strata - Cash at bank and in hand	380	257
Total cash and cash equivalents	68,279	27,754

24. Short Term Creditors

	Restated	
	2021-22	2022-23
	£'000	£'000
Trade Payables	21	280
Collection Fund amounts	28,567	17,216
Income in Advance	5,883	4,301
Other Payables	10,033	9,590
Covid funding to be transferred to other parties	10,796	539
Energy Bill Support Scheme *	7,427	1,446
Creditors of Strata Service Solutions Ltd	483	169
Total Short Term Creditors	63,210	33,541

*Restated to separately report the monies held on behalf of the Government in respect of the Energy Bills Support Scheme. The authority acts as an agent for the Government in distributing funding to those in need in accordance with set criteria.

25. Provisions

	Business Rates Appeal Provision	Loan Loss Allowances	Total Provisions
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance as at 1 April 2022	4,442	729	5,171
Additional provisions	681	399	1,080
Provision utilised in year	(583)	-	(583)
Unused amounts reversed in year	-	-	-
Unwinding of discount	-	-	-
Balance as at 31 March 2023	4,540	1,128	5,668

Notes to the Financial Statements

26. Usable Reserves

Movements in the Council's usable reserves are detailed in the Movement in Reserves Statement and Note 10.

	2021-22	2022-23
Usable Reserve	£'000	£'000
General Fund Balance	5,521	6,151
Housing Revenue Account	11,468	7,556
Capital Receipts Reserve	12,938	12,731
Major Repairs Reserve	18,189	18,204
Earmarked Reserves	26,002	13,645
Capital Grants Unapplied	19,503	18,796
Balance at 31 March	93,621	77,083

27. Unusable Reserves

	2021-22	2022-23
Unusable Reserve	£'000	£'000
Revaluation Reserve	157,876	170,695
Capital Adjustment Account	242,999	232,743
Financial Instrument Adjustment Account	448	(421)
Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve	14,194	9,222
Pensions Reserve	(100,717)	(28,934)
Collection Fund Adjustment Account	(10,971)	(48)
Accumulated Absences Account	(641)	(686)
Total Unusable Reserves	303,188	382,571

Revaluation Reserve

The Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the authority arising from increases in the value of its property, plant and equipment. The balance is reduced when assets with accumulated gains are:

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

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

2021-22 Revaluation Reserve	2022-23
£'000	£'000
149,646 Balance at 1 April	157,876
38,085 Upward revaluation of assets	26,620
Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to (17,933) CIES	(10,382)
20,152 Surplus / (deficit) on revaluation	16,238
Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost (9,879) depreciation	(2,124)
(2,043) Accumulated gains on assets sold	(1,295)
(11,922) Amount written off to CAA	(3,419)
157,876 Balance at 31 March	170,695

Notes to the Financial Statements

Capital Adjustment Account (CAA)

The Capital Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of non-current assets and for financing the acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions. The Account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert current and fair value figures to a historical cost basis). The Account is credited with the amounts set aside by the authority as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement.

The Account contains accumulated gains and losses on investment properties and gains recognised on donated assets that have yet to be consumed by the authority. The Account also contains revaluation gains accumulated on property, plant and equipment before 1 April 2007, the date the Revaluation Reserve was created to hold such gains.

Note 10 provides details of the source of all the transactions posted to the Account, apart from those involving the Revaluation Reserve.

2021-22 Capital Adjustment Account		2022-23
£'000		£'000
245,759	Balance at 1 April	242,999
(28,422)	Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(30,179)
(169)	Amortisation of intangible assets	(153)
45	Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	38
(698)	Capital loan loss allowance	(399)
(4,247)	Amounts of non-current assets written-off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal	(4,103)
(33,491)		(34,796)
9,879	Adjusting amounts to Revaluation reserve	2,124
222,147	Net amount written out of the cost of non-current assets in year	210,327
	Capital finance applied in year:	
4,773	Use of Capital Receipts Reserve	7,311
897	Use of the Major Repairs Reserve	4,077
6,387	Capital Grants and contributions applied - CIES	7,479
0	Capital Grants and contributions applied - Capital Grants Unapplied Account	-
957	Statutory provision for financing capital	1,909
(664)	Voluntary provision for financing capital	(1,480)
3,397	Capital Expenditure charged directly to the General Fund and HRA	5,071
15,747		24,367
5,105	Movements in the market value of Investment Properties	(6,844)
0	Movement in the Donated Assets Account	-
0	Repayment of Long Term Debtors	4,893
242,999	Balance at 31 March	232,743

Notes to the Financial Statements

Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

This reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for income and expenditure relating to certain financial instruments and for bearing losses or benefiting from gains per statutory provisions. Up until 31 March 2025, this account also holds the gains and losses that would otherwise hit the General Fund balance in respect of pooled investment funds.

2021-22 Financial Instruments Adjustment Account £'000	2022-23 £'000
(411) Balance at 1 April	448
Statutory reversal of movements in Financial Instruments held at Fair	
822 Value through Profit and Loss	(907)
Transfer to Capital Adjustment	
- Account - soft loan write off	-
Amount by which finance costs charged to CIES differ from finance costs charged in year under statute	38
448 Balance at 31 March	(421)

Pensions Reserve

The Pensions Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post-employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. The authority accounts for post-employment benefits in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as the benefits are earned by

employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs.

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

2021-22 Pensions Reserve £'000	2022-23 £'000
(137,516) Balance at 1 April	(100,717)
Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability/(asset)	78,688
44,756	
Other items treated as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-
226	
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits in the CIES	(12,880)
(13,419)	
Employers pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners	5,975
5,236	
(100,717) Balance at 31 March	(28,934)

Notes to the Financial Statements

Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve

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

2021-22 Deferred Capital Receipts £'000 Reserve	2022-23 £'000
14,170 Balance at 1 April	14,194
Deferred sale proceeds forming part of the 165 gain/loss on disposal to CIES	(4,893)
(141) Transfer of Finance Lease Premium to CIES	(79)
Transfer to Capital Receipts Reserve upon - receipt of cash	-
14,194 Balance at 31 March	9,222

A finance lease relating to the Guildhall shopping Centre was terminated early, as the Council acquired the leasehold interest in May 2022. This has resulted in a reduction in deferred sale proceeds in conjunction with a reduction in long term debtors of £4.893m in the Balance Sheet.

Collection Fund Adjustment Account

The Collection Fund Adjustment Account manages the differences arising from the recognition of council tax and NDR income in the CIES as it falls due from council tax payers and business rate payers compared with the statutory arrangements for paying across amounts to the General Fund from the Collection Fund.

2021-22 Collection Fund Adjustment £'000 Account	2022-23 £'000
(17,292) Balance at 1 April	(10,971)
Amount by which council tax and NNDR income credited to CIES differs from that calculated for 6,321 the year under statute	10,923
(10,971) Balance at 31 March	(48)

Accumulated Absences Account

This account absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise on the General Fund Balance from accruing for compensated absences earned but not taken in the year (e.g. annual leave entitlement carried forward at 31 March). Statutory arrangements require that the impact on the General Fund Balance is neutralised by transfers to or from the Account.

2021-22 Accumulated Absences Account £'000	2022-23 £'000
(614) Balance at 1 April	(641)
Settlement / cancellation of previous year's 614 accrual	641
(641) Amounts accrued at the end of year	(686)
Amount by which remuneration charged to CIES differs from remuneration charged for the year (27) under statute	(45)
(641) Balance at 31 March	(686)

Notes to the Financial Statements

28. Cash Flow Statement – Operating Activities

	2021-22	2022-23
	£'000	£'000
Net (surplus) / deficit on provision of Services	15,551	32,081
Adjusted for non-cash movements:		
Depreciation	(16,239)	(8,359)
Impairment	(12,183)	(21,820)
Amortisation	(169)	(153)
Investment (losses) / gains	-	-
Donated assets	-	-
Pension liability	(8,184)	(6,905)
Carrying amount of non-current assets sold	(6,294)	(5,398)
Movement in investment properties	5,105	(6,844)
Finance lease income	(23)	(80)
Other	(914)	(2,931)
Movement in inventories	27	11
Movement in debtors	(14,307)	(16,776)
Movement in creditors	(3,709)	10,807
Items classified as investing and financing activities:		
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant & equipment	5,255	7,155
Items classified elsewhere	7,883	2,962
Net cashflows from Operating Activities	(28,201)	(16,250)

29. Cash Flow Statement – Investing Activities

	2021-22	2022-23
	£'000	£'000
Purchase of non-current assets	33,270	73,292
Purchase of short and long-term investments	547,000	111,000
Other payments for investing activities	3,249	4,058
Proceeds from the sale of non-current assets	(5,255)	(7,155)
Proceeds of short and long-term investments	(516,000)	(118,000)
Other receipts for investing activities	(11,308)	(7,372)
Net cash flows from investing activities	50,956	55,823

30. Cash Flow Statement – Financing Activities

	2021-22	2022-23
	£'000	£'000
Cash receipts of short and long-term borrowing	(44,000)	0
Other receipts for financing activities	(16,681)	(1,382)
Cash payments for the reduction of liabilities relating to finance leases	587	852
Repayments of short and long-term borrowing	913	1,482
Net cash flows from financing activities	(59,181)	952

31. Reconciliation of Liabilities arising from Financing Activities

The total of Financing cash flows of £0.952m reconciles to the movement in borrowings in the Balance Sheet, excluding £1.382m in respect of Collection Fund cash-flows and a £0.852m reduction in liabilities relating to finance leases. Apart from this, there have been no non-cash movements in borrowing amounts on the Balance Sheet.

Notes to the Financial Statements

32. Members Allowances

The authority paid the following amounts to members of the council during the year:

	2021-22 £'000	2022-23 £'000
Salaries	14	15
Allowances	399	406
Expenses	-	-
Total	413	421

33. Officers' Remuneration

The table below sets out the remuneration paid to or receivable by the authority's senior management:

	Salary, fees & allowances	Expenses	Compensation for Loss of Office	Total Remuneration	Employers Pension Contributions (inc. strain payments)	Total
2022-23	£	£	£	£	£	£
Chief Executive & Growth Director (left 31 March 2023)	123,678	-	60,877	184,555	185,125	369,680
Deputy Chief Executive	103,755	38	-	103,793	18,261	122,054
Director (0.81 FTE)	71,942	-	-	71,942	12,620	84,562
Director (0.86 FTE)	76,739	388	-	77,127	13,506	90,633
Director	88,729	-	-	88,729	15,616	104,345
Director (Finance)	88,729	362	-	89,091	15,616	104,707
Director (Corporate Services)	88,729	-	-	88,729	15,616	104,345
Director (City Development wef 4 April 2022)	87,989	-	-	87,989	15,486	103,475
City Surveyor	71,915	-	-	71,915	12,657	84,572
Corporate Manager - Executive Support	65,148	-	-	65,148	11,466	76,614
Corporate Manager - Democratic/Civic Support (0.80 FTE) Leaving 31 May 2023 *	52,823	66	60,812	113,701	31,297	144,998

*Additional £4,706 allowances and £828 employers pension contributions receivable in respect of Returning Officer duties

Notes to the Financial Statements

	Salary, fees & allowances	Expenses	Compensation for Loss of Office	Total Remuneration	Employers Pension Contributions (inc. strain payments)	Total
2021-22	£	£	£	£	£	£
Chief Executive & Growth Director	121,753	-	-	121,753	21,428	143,181
Deputy Chief Executive	99,178	447	-	99,625	17,455	117,080
Director (0.81 FTE wef 1 January 2022)	81,523	132	-	81,655	14,260	95,915
Director (0.86 FTE wef 28 February 2022)	85,792	-	-	85,792	15,099	100,891
Director	86,804	-	-	86,804	15,278	102,082
Director (Finance)	86,804	718	-	87,522	15,344	102,866
Director (Corporate Services)	86,804	-	-	86,804	15,278	102,082
City Surveyor	66,606	539	-	67,145	11,723	78,868
Corporate Manager - Executive Support	63,223	-	-	63,223	11,127	74,350
Corporate Manager - Democratic/Civic Support (0.80 FTE) *	51,262	-	-	51,262	11,346	62,608

*Additional £21,962 allowances and £2,325 employers pension contributions receivable in respect of Returning Officer duties

The authority's other employees receiving more than £50,000 remuneration in the year (excluding employer's normal pension contributions) were:

Remuneration band	Number of employees	
	2021-22	2022-23
£50,000 - £54,999	2	3
£55,000 - £59,999	7	4
£60,000 - £64,999	6	9
£65,000 - £69,999	3	3
£70,000 - £74,999	-	-
£75,000 - £79,999	-	-
£80,000 - £84,999	-	1
£85,000 - £89,999	1	-
£90,000 - £94,999	-	-
£95,000 - £99,999	-	1

Notes to the Financial Statements

34. Termination Benefits

The number of exit packages with total cost per band and total cost of compulsory redundancies and other departures are set out below. The total cost of £595,683 has been charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2022/23.

Exit Package Cost Band	Number of employees		Total Cost of exit packages in each band	
	2021-22	2022-23	£'000	£'000
Compulsory Redundancies				
Less than £20,000	6	3	12	10
£20,001 - £39,999	1	-	30	-
£40,000 - £59,999	-	-	-	-
Other Departures Agreed				
Less than £20,000	4	6	16	61
£20,001 - £39,999	1	4	27	107
£40,000 - £59,999	-	1	-	46
£60,000 - £79,999	-	1	-	67
£80,000 - £99,999	-	1	-	81
£100,000 - £149,999	-	-	-	-
£150,000 - £199,999	-	-	-	-
£200,000 - £249,999	-	1	-	224
Total	12	17	85	596

35. Audit Costs

The authority has incurred the following audit costs in relation to the statement of accounts and certification of grant claims:

	2021-22	2022-23
	£'000	£'000
Fees payable to Grant Thornton with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year	83	94
Fees payable to Grant Thornton; external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor in respect of prior year	22	-
Fees payable to Grant Thornton; certification of grant claims and returns	34	38
Total	139	132

Notes to the Financial Statements

36. Grants, Contributions and Donations

The Authority credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement in 2022/23:

	2021-22	2022-23
	£'000	£'000
Credited to Taxation and non-specific grant income		
Council taxpayers	(6,247)	(6,534)
Revenue Support Grant	(602)	(894)
New Homes Bonus	(1,941)	(1,362)
NDR	(6,365)	(6,687)
Community Infrastructure Levy	(1,225)	(1,077)
Other Capital Grants & Contributions	(11,227)	(6,773)
Covid Grants	(1,218)	(16)
Total	(28,825)	(23,343)
Credited to Services		
Benefit Subsidy	(27,076)	(26,916)
Furlough funding	(163)	-
Covid Grants	(957)	-
Cost of Living Support Grants	-	(923)
Homes for Ukraine Scheme	-	(390)
NDR Cost of Collection	(209)	(212)
Sport England	(1,197)	(1,104)
Homelessness and Rough Sleepers Support Grant	(1,720)	(2,434)
CT/HB Admin Grant	(690)	(456)
Other Grants and Contributions	(5,176)	(4,856)
Total	(37,188)	(37,291)

The authority has received a number of grants, contributions and donations that have yet to be recognised as income as they have conditions attached to them that may require the monies or property to be returned to the giver in the event that the conditions are not fulfilled. The balances at the year-end are as follows:

	2021-22	2022-23
	£'000	£'000
Capital Grants receipts in advance		
Affordable Housing - Pinhoe	(179)	-
Affordable Housing - Yeoman Gardens	-	(34)
Car Club - Harrington Lane	(87)	(89)
Community Facility - Hill Barton	(205)	(208)
Community Facility - Newcourt	(369)	(376)
Extracare - St Loyes	(27)	-
Habitats Mitigation	-	(33)
Land at Beacon Avenue	(6)	(6)
Leisure Contribution - Bishops Court	(303)	(309)
Leisure Contribution - Hill Barton	(111)	(70)
Leisure Contribution - Holland Park	(55)	(56)
Leisure Contribution - Monkerton	(78)	(102)
Leisure Contribution - Newcourt	(548)	(558)
Leisure Contribution - Rydon Lawns	(12)	(12)
Leisure Contribution - Rydon Place	(186)	(190)
Leisure Contribution - St Loyes	(292)	(298)
Leisure Contribution - Tithebarn Green	(23)	(106)
Leisure Contribution - Yeoman Gardens	-	(8)
Leisure Contribution - Brookhayes	(49)	(43)
Local Energy Networks	(28)	(29)
Other Grants	(202)	(308)
Total	(2,760)	(2,835)

Notes to the Financial Statements

37. Related Parties

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

Central Government – has significant influence over the general operations of the Council, providing the statutory framework, the majority of the funding, and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the council has with other parties (e.g. housing benefits and council tax bills).

Council Members – have direct control over the council's financial and operating policies. The total of member allowances paid in 2022/23 is shown in Note 32. During the financial year, the Council paid grants to organisations totalling £49,163 (£28,500 2021/22-restated in respect of grants to Turntable) in which thirteen members had an interest. In all instances, the grants were made with proper considerations of declarations of interest. The relevant members did not take part in any discussion relating to the grants. Payments totalling £237,653 (£226,509 2021/22-restated in respect of payments to Turntable) were also made to organisations in which ten members had an interest in respect of goods and services.

Other public bodies – Exeter City Council is part of a designated pool for the retention of business rates, which allows local authorities to be treated as if they were a single entity for the purposes of calculating tariffs, top-ups, levies and safety net payments.

Entities Controlled or Significantly Influenced by the Authority

Exeter City Group Ltd and Exeter City Living Ltd

Exeter City Group Ltd (holding company) and Exeter City Living Ltd (housing development company) are subsidiary companies due to the Council's 100% shareholding. The main purposes of the group are to build more and better homes to tackle housing need in Exeter, help reduce the substantial pressures on the Council's housing waiting list and to improve the lives of those residents currently living in poor quality homes. To date, the Council has provided four loan advances to facilitate the development of sites, undertake site viability investigations and provide adequate working capital. The balance outstanding as at 31 March 2023 was £10.096m.

Exeter Business Centre Ltd (EBC)

EBC's main purpose is the letting of affordable business units to support small businesses. The Authority controls EBC through its ownership of 100% of the shares in the Company and it is deemed to be a subsidiary. EBC had net assets of £88,338 as at 31 March 2023 (£95,040 as at 31 March 2022).

Exeter Canal and Quay Trust Ltd (ECQT)

ECQT has a charitable status and its main objectives are to preserve and develop the Exeter Canal and Quay area. ECQT is deemed to be an associate company, as the company is limited by guarantee and the Council has significant influence through its representation on the Trust Board. The Council leases a number of assets to ECQT on a long term basis at nil rent, with the exception of Double Locks Hotel whereby rent is 5% of turnover divided equally between ECQT and the Council (£35,855 in 2022/23). ECQT also contributed £135,326 towards Council costs mostly in respect of running the Custom House Visit Centre during 2022/23.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Exeter Science Park Ltd

The principal activity of the Company is to ensure the successful delivery of the Science Park by enabling the market for the Science Park to be developed through connections with the knowledge base at the University of Exeter, the Met Office and the Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry. The largest shareholder is Devon County Council (46%) along with the East Devon District Council (18.8%) and University of Exeter (15.3%).

The Authority has a 19.9% shareholding in the Company. It is deemed to be an associate due to the Council's ownership interest and significant influence. The Council has previously provided a loan of £1m towards funding the building of the Science Park centre, in two loan advances of £500,000 with interest charged at 2.55% and 2.62% respectively. The loans are repayable on maturity in 2023/24. The Council has also provided a guarantee to the University of Exeter for a lease granted to Exeter Science Park Ltd of up to £950,054.

Exeter City Futures Community Interest Company

The Authority is a registered Member of Exeter City Futures Community Interest Company, which is a type of company designed in particular for social enterprises that want to use their profits and assets for the public good. The primary objectives of the Company are to promote and work towards the decarbonisation of the City of Exeter.

It was announced that Exeter City Futures would close by the end of June 2023 and that the community interest company goals will continue to be delivered through the strategies of the Council, Devon County Council, the University of Exeter, Exeter College and the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

Exeter City Futures was instrumental in developing the Net Zero Exeter 2030 Plan and bringing institutions and communities together

around four themes; energy, transport, capability and sustainability, and the net zero plan has been adopted by leaders across all partners.

Monkerton Heat Company Ltd

The company was set up to help facilitate the formation of a district heating network, as part of planning requirements relating to five major residential developments at Monkerton. Exeter City Council is a shareholder along with the five developers.

The purpose of the company is to hold a 999 year head lease for the pipelines and to grant an 80 year sub-lease to the energy supplier – both leases at nil consideration. As a result, the company is considered a dormant company as it is not carrying on any kind of business activity or receiving any form of income.

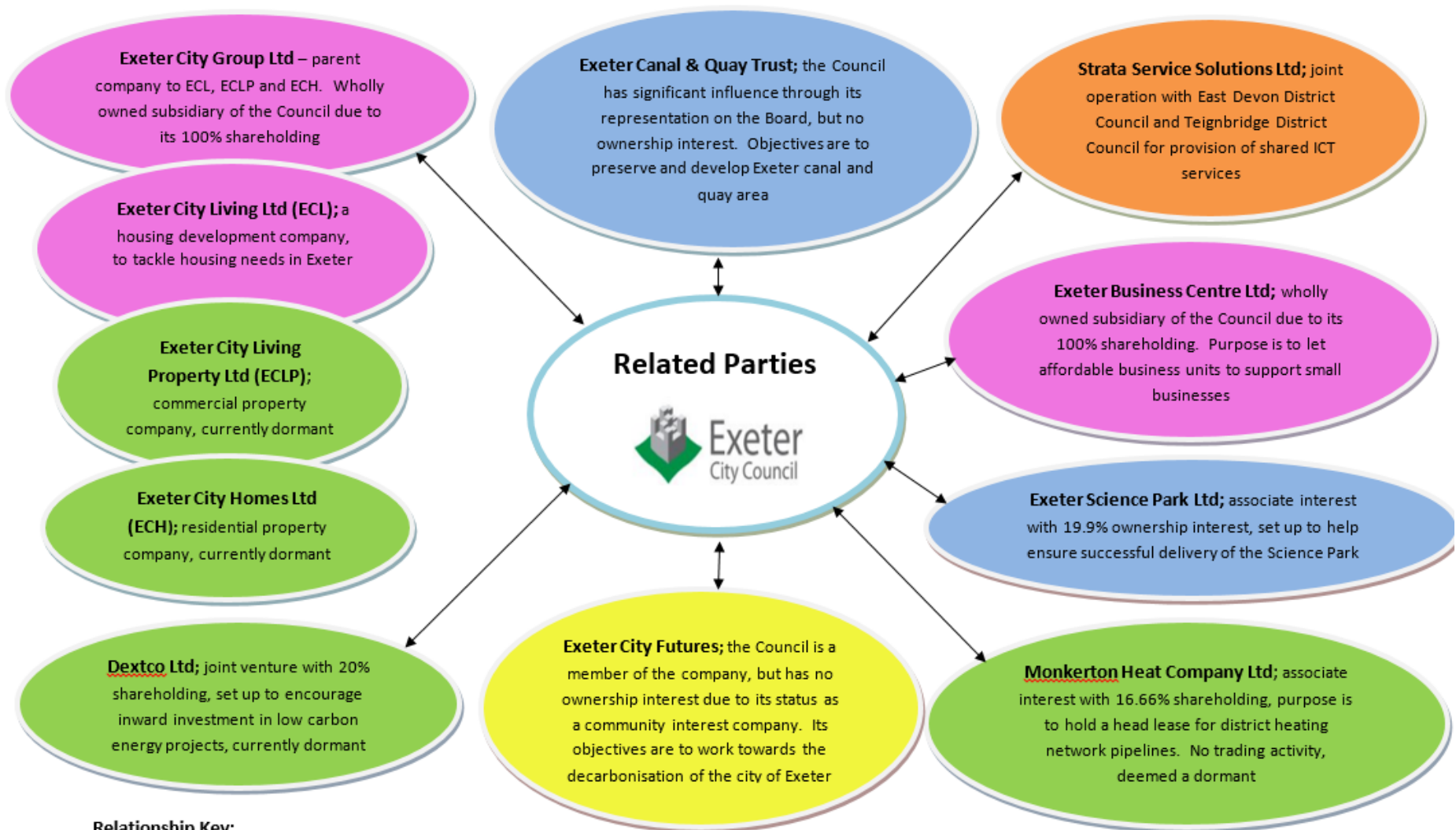
Dextco Ltd

Dextco Ltd was established to procure a delivery partner and funding to implement a district heating network in Exeter to deliver a reliable, low cost energy infrastructure which will encourage inward investment, thereby driving growth in the local economy and skilled jobs for the workforce. Exeter City Council is one of five equal shareholders comprising; Devon County Council, Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Foundation Trust, University of Exeter and Teignbridge District Council.

Dextco Limited is deemed to be a joint venture, as it is a separate legal entity with shareholders that have equal and collective control with decisions made unanimously. In 2021/22 a collective decision was made to place the company into abeyance with any further activities being temporarily suspended.

The next page contains a visual representation of the entities controlled or significantly influenced by the Authority, to further support the Related Party disclosure note.

Notes to the Financial Statements



Relationship Key:

Subsidiary	Associate	Joint operation	Related party	Dormant
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Notes to the Financial Statements

38. Interests in Joint Operations

Exeter City Council, Teignbridge District Council and East Devon District Council each have interests in a joint operation called Strata Service Solutions Ltd, a registered company (company number 09041662) whose registered office is Civic Centre, Paris Street, Exeter, Devon, EX1 1JN. The business of the Company is the operation and provision of a shared information communications technology service to each of the Councils.

The proportions of ownership interests are; Exeter City Council (35.936%), Teignbridge District Council (27.372%) and East Devon District Council (36.692%). Each authority has equal voting rights, with decisions taken collectively and unanimously.

The figures that have been consolidated into the Council's single entity financial statements in respect of Strata Service Solutions Ltd are:

	2021-22	2022-23
Adjustments to CIES	£'000	£'000
Fees	(2,568)	(2,949)
Cost of sales	1,369	1,558
Admin expenses	1,740	1,904
Transfer of pension scheme liability	-	-
Cost of Services	541	513
Loss/(Gain) on disposal of assets	-	4
Pension Fund Administration	-	3
Net interest on the net defined benefit liability	74	88
Levies	-	3
Interest receivable	-	(15)
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	615	596
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability	(650)	(3,589)
Total CIES	(35)	(2,993)

	2021-22	2022-23
Adjustments to Balance Sheet	£'000	£'000
Property, plant & equipment	93	(14)
Intangible assets	(82)	26
Investment in Strata removed upon consolidation and replaced with proportional share of assets and liabilities	(280)	(434)
Total Long Term Assets	(269)	(422)
Inventories	-	2
Short Term Debtors	98	90
Cash & cash equivalents	71	(123)
Total Current Assets	169	(31)
Short Term Creditors	(195)	314
Total Current Liabilities	(195)	314
Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	63	(107)
Pension Scheme Liability	267	3,239
Total Long Term Liabilities	330	3,132
Net assets	35	2,993
Financed by:		
Usable Reserves	(1)	(8)
Unusable Reserves	36	3,001
Total Reserves	35	2,993

Notes to the Financial Statements

39. 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 authority, the expenditure results in an increase in the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), a measure of the capital expenditure incurred historically by the authority that has yet to be financed. The CFR is analysed in the second part of this note.

	2021-22	2022-23
	£'000	£'000
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	160,236	178,753
Capital Investment		
Intangible Assets		
Property, Plant and Equipment	34,227	25,880
Investment Properties	-	44,477
Long Term Debtors	-	1,500
Long Term Investments	280	434
REFCUS	1,828	718
Sources of Finance		
Capital Receipts	(4,778)	(7,311)
Government grants and other contributions	(8,259)	(8,235)
Sums set aside from revenue	(3,397)	(5,071)
Major Repairs Reserve	(897)	(4,077)
Minimum Revenue Provision	(957)	(1,909)
Voluntary Revenue Provision	664	1,480
Repayment of Long Term Debtors	(194)	(209)
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	178,753	226,430
Explanation of movements in year		
Increase in underlying need to borrow (unsupported by Government financial assistance)	18,517	47,677
Increase/(decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement	18,517	47,677

Notes to the Financial Statements

40. Leases

Council as Lessee

Finance Leases

The Council is taking a phased approach to leasing in items of plant and vehicles, as items fall due for replacement. A total of 15 vehicles and plant were acquired under finance leases during 2022/23, bringing the total number of vehicles and plant leased to 97 as at 31/3/2023.

The Council also holds fifteen investment property assets, which have been leased in under finance leases, owing to the length of the lease. However, fifteen leases did not attract a lease premium payment, nor is there an annual lease payment due. The assets therefore have been initially recognised in the accounts at zero, being the lower of the net present value of the lease payments or the fair value of the asset. Only the acquisition of a 999 year leasehold interest in Senate Court attracted a lease premium. Where appropriate the assets have been revalued to reflect the value to the Council of the lease, were the Council to sell it at market value.

The assets acquired under these leases are carried in the Balance Sheet at the following net amounts:

	2021-22 £'000	2022-23 £'000
Net amount carried in the Balance Sheet		
Council dwellings	395	431
Other land and buildings	9,900	4,995
Investment property	7,950	7,444
Vehicles, plant and equipment	2,540	3,702

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

	2021-22 £'000	2022-23 £'000
Finance lease liabilities (net present value of minimum lease payments)		
Current	599	867
Non-current	2,397	3,211
Finance costs payable in future years	641	815
Total minimum lease payments	3,637	4,893

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

	Minimum lease payments		Finance lease liabilities	
	2021-22 £'000	2022-23 £'000	2021-22 £'000	2022-23 £'000
Not later than one year	728	1,042	599	867
2 - 5 years	2,760	3,384	2,272	2,817
5+ years	149	467	125	394
	3,637	4,893	2,996	4,078

The authority has sub-let some properties held under finance leases. At March 2023 the minimum future payments expected to be received under non-cancellable sub-leases is £1.501m.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Operating Leases

The Council holds some capital assets, principally property, plant and equipment under operating lease agreements. The majority of the lease payments represent rent payments to landlords who have provided property on short term leases for use as temporary accommodation.

Rental payments made in the year amounted to £318,334 (2021/22 £286,207).

The future minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable leases in future years can be broken down as follows:

	2021-22 £'000	2022-23 £'000
Not later than one year	72	69
2 - 5 Years	77	54
5+ Years	36	35
	185	158

Council as a Lessor

Finance Leases

The Authority has 55 leases, which would be classified as finance leases under IFRS. The asset valuation in the Balance Sheet is therefore based on the freehold interest in the asset.

The gross investment is made up of the following amounts:

	2021-22 £'000	2022-23 £,000
Finance Lease Debtor (net present value of minimum lease payments)		
Current	141	80
Non-current	14,005	9,094
Unearned finance income	14,146	9,174
Unguaranteed Residual Value	26,267	20,815
Gross Investment in Lease	40,413	29,989
Minimum lease payments are:		
Per annum	703	378

The lease out of the Guildhall Shopping Centre ended during 2022/23, following the Council's acquisition of the leasehold interest, returning full ownership back to the Council. This resulted in a significant reduction in finance lease debtors.

Rents due in respect of leases out (lessor) are collected by the Council's ASH Debtors system. As there is a possibility that worsening financial circumstances might result in lease payments not being made, the authority has set aside an allowance for uncollectable amounts using the simplified approach. Please refer to Note 20.

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

Notes to the Financial Statements

Operating Leases

The Council leases out approximately 350 commercial premises, which are held as investment properties. Note 16 sets out the value of the investment properties in the accounts.

The future minimum lease payments receivable under non-cancellable leases in future years can be broken down as follows:

	2021-22	2022-23
	£'000	£'000
Not later than one year	2,725	2,835
2 - 5 Years	8,008	8,229
5+ Years	57,437	70,920
	68,170	81,984

41. Impairments and Downward Valuations

During 2022/23, the Council recognised impairment losses of £22.364m in relation to its council dwellings and operational land and buildings. Impairment losses of £0.221m charged to the Surplus and Deficit on the Provision of Services in previous financial years were reversed.

The impairments mainly reflect capital expenditure incurred without a commensurate increase in respective asset values, the HRA impairments also include the application of the Existing Use Value - Social Housing (EUV-SH) valuation basis:

- Edwards Court extra care facility was opened in 2022/23 and the total impairment on the 53 flats was £12.139m
- 2022/23 saw the completion of St Sidwells Point. The value as at 31st March 2023 was £7.047m less than the cost to build
- Improvements to the Riverside Leisure Centre roof during the year resulted in an impairment of £0.577m
- The external valuation of the Royal Albert Memorial Museum resulted in an impairment of £1.107m

The impairment reversals reflect an upward movement in market yield. The impairments are reflected in Note 15 which reconciles the movement over the year in the Property, Plant and Equipment balances.

Notes to the Financial Statements

42. Defined Benefit Pension Scheme

Participation in Pension Scheme

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

- Exeter City Council participates in the Local Government Pension Scheme, which is administered by Devon County Council in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013. The Pension Fund Committee oversees the management of the Fund.
- The Local Government Pension Scheme is a defined benefit statutory scheme and currently provides benefits based on career average revalued earnings.
- The principle risks to the authority of the scheme are the longevity assumptions, statutory changes to the scheme, structural changes to the scheme (i.e. large scale withdrawals from the scheme), changes to inflation, bond yields and the performance of the equity investments held by the scheme. These are mitigated to a certain extent by the statutory requirements to charge to the general fund and HRA the amounts required by statute.
- The Pension Reserve shows the City Council's current deficit in the Devon County Council Pension Fund. The figure has been derived from the latest triennial valuation of the LGPS pension fund at 31 March 2022, but re-measured at the reporting date.

Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

The most recent triennial valuation was carried out as at 31 March 2022 and has been updated by Barnett Waddingham, independent actuaries to the Devon County Council Pension Fund as at 31 March 2023.

To assess the value of the liabilities at 31 March 2023, the actuaries have rolled forward the value of the Employer's liabilities calculated for the funding valuations as at 31 March 2022, using financial assumptions that comply with IAS 19.

To calculate the asset share the actuaries have rolled forward the assets at 31 March 2022 allowing for investment returns, contributions paid into and estimated benefits paid from the Fund by the Council and its employees.

Scheduled Contributions

Exeter City Council's contribution rate during 2022/23 was 17.6% of pensionable pay. The contribution rates certified for the Council at 31 March 2022 valuation are as follows:

Future Service Pay

2023/24 – 2025/26	19.6% of pensionable pay
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Past Service Deficit

2023/24	£1.120 million
2024/25	£1.160 million
2025/26	£1.200 million

Notes to the Financial Statements

Local Government Pension Scheme Assets Comprised:

Asset Share	2021-22		2022-23	
	£'000	%	£'000	%
Equities	14,207	9	12,197	8
Overseas Equities	80,170	50	69,264	45
Infrastructure	9,492	6	13,902	9
Gilts	21,157	13	-	-
Other Bonds	3,176	2	33,062	21
Property	13,330	10	13,553	9
Cash	2,237	1	1,836	1
Target Return Portfolio	14,705	9	10,747	7
Alternative Assets	(68)	-	60	-
Total	158,406	100	154,621	100

Significant Assumptions used by the Actuary:

	2021-22	2022-23
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	2.6% pa	4.8% pa
Rate of increase in salaries	4.2% pa	3.95% pa
Rate of increase in pensions	3.2% pa	2.95% pa
Rate of inflation - RPI	4.2% pa	3.95% pa
Rate of inflation - CPI	3.2% pa	2.95% pa
Longevity at 65 - current pensioners		
Men	21.7	21.8
Women	22.9	22.9
Longevity at 65 - future pensioners		
Men	23.0	23.1
Women	24.3	24.4
Conversion of pension into lump sum		
Pre April 2008 permitted amount	50%	50%
Post April 2008 permitted amount	50%	50%

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 actually paid as pensions. However, the charge that is required to be made against council tax and the HRA is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of post-employment benefits is reversed out via the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The following transactions have been made in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement and the movement in reserves statement during the year:

	2021-22	2022-23
	£'000	£'000
Cost of Services		
Current Service Cost	10,224	10,204
Loss / (Gain) on curtailment	212	54
(Gain) / Loss from Settlements	-	-
Other Operating Expenditure		
Administration expenses	96	96
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure		
Net Interest on the net defined benefit liability	2,662	2,526
Total post-employment benefits charged to the CIES	13,194	12,880
Movement in Reserves Statement:		
Reversal of net charges	(13,194)	(12,880)
Actual Employers contributions payable to the scheme	5,235	5,975

Notes to the Financial Statements

Pension Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet:

	2021-22	2022-23
	£'000	£'000
Present value of defined benefit obligation	257,693	183,557
Fair Value of Scheme Assets	(158,405)	(154,622)
Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation	99,288	28,935

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

	2021-22	2022-23
	£'000	£'000
Opening fair value of assets	145,215	154,209
Opening fair value of Strata assets	3,735	4,196
Interest income	2,962	4,097
Re-measurement gains / losses	8,419	(6,107)
Administration expenses	(96)	(96)
Contributions by the employer	3,917	4,273
Contributions by participants	1,360	1,522
Net benefits paid out	(7,107)	(7,472)
Settlement prices received / (paid)	-	-
Closing fair value of assets	158,405	154,622

Reconciliation of the Present Value of Scheme Liabilities (Defined Benefit Obligation):

	2021-22	2022-23
	£'000	£'000
Opening present value of liabilities	276,186	250,029
Opening present value of Strata liabilities	7,470	7,664
Current service cost	10,224	10,204
Interest cost	5,624	6,623
Contributions by participants	1,360	1,522
Re-measurement (gains) and losses:		
Change in demographic assumptions	(15,370)	(443)
Change in financial assumptions	(10,623)	(104,880)
Experience loss (gain)	(10,283)	20,256
Benefits paid out	(6,863)	(7,236)
Past service cost, including curtailments	212	54
Liabilities assumed / (extinguished) on settlements	-	-
Unfunded pension payments	(244)	(236)
Closing present value of liabilities	257,693	183,557

Notes to the Financial Statements

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions.

The sensitivity analysis below sets out the impact on the defined benefit obligations for each change while all other assumptions remain constant:

	Increase in assumption £'000	Decrease in assumption £'000
Longevity (increase or decrease by 1 year)	190,666	176,234
Rate of increase in salaries (increase or decrease by 1%)	183,564	183,018
Rate of increase in pensions (increase or decrease by 1%)	185,930	180,715
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities (increase or decrease by 1%)	180,495	186,155

Notes to the Financial Statements

43. Charitable and Trust Funds

The Council administers six charitable/trust funds related to Leisure and Museum services, principally from legacies left by individual Exeter inhabitants over a period of years.

The funds do not represent assets of the Council and are not included in the Balance Sheet. The funds are:

	Value of fund at 31 March 2022 £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Value of fund at 31 March 2023 £'000
Reynolds Chard Bequest	455	-	12	467
Veitch Bequest	23	-	-	23
Dorothy Holman Trust	27	-	-	27
Bowling Green Marshes	2	-	1	3
Topsham Recreation Ground	18	-	-	18
King George Playing Field Trust	19	(19)	28	28
	544	(19)	41	566

Notes to the Financial Statements

44. Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments

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

- credit risk – the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the authority
- liquidity risk – the possibility that the authority might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments
- 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 movements

The Council's overall risk management programme focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the resources available to fund services. Risk management is carried out by the Council's finance team, under policies approved by full Council as set out in the Treasury Management Strategy. The Council provides written principles for overall risk management, as well as written policies covering specific areas, such as interest rate risk, credit risk and the investment of surplus cash.

Credit risk

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the Council's customers. This risk is minimised through the annual investment strategy. The Council's latest Treasury Management Strategy, incorporating the Annual Investment Strategy was approved on 21 February 2023, which is available on the Council's website (use search function for the 2023/24 Budget Book).

Credit Risk Management Practices

The authority's credit risk management practices are set out in the annual Investment Strategy, with particular regard to determining the credit criteria and monitoring arrangements for specified investments.

Notes to the Financial Statements

The table below sets out the credit risk management practices and estimation techniques for calculating impairment loss allowances.

Asset Type	Credit Risk Management Practice	Estimation of Impairment Loss Allowance
Loans to businesses and voluntary organisations	Loans are subject to internal credit risk assessment, based on audited accounts, match funding secured or management accounts. Loans are treated as credit impaired where the borrower defaults on the terms of the loan or there is evidence of significant financial difficulties. Balances are not written off until there is no realistic prospect of recovery.	12 month expected credit losses are calculated in respect of loans where the credit risk has not increased significantly, using a probability of default approach. Lifetime expected credit losses are calculated in respect of loans where the credit risk has increased significantly, i.e. when default has occurred, using probability weighted outcomes.
Short term investments: Loans to other local authorities	Investments guaranteed by statute - no credit risk. However, a monetary limit of £5m may be placed with each upper tier and lower tier local authority for up to 12 months	No allowance required
Investments with banks and building societies	Deposits are restricted by the Council's treasury strategy to institutions with high credit ratings (Fitch and Moodys ratings). Up to £4m may be placed with UK owned banks and buildings societies with F1+ and P-1 credit ratings for up to 12 months, up to £3m may be placed with foreign owned banks that deal in sterling holding short-term credit ratings no lower than F1+ and P-1 for up to 9 months and up to £3m may be placed with UK owned banks and building societies holding short-term credit ratings no lower than F1 and P-1 for up to 6 months. Consideration is given to recalling any existing investments when an institution has been downgraded	12 month expected credit losses are calculated applying risk factors provided by the Council's treasury management advisers, Link Asset Services.
Sundry debtors	Sundry debtors are not subject to internal credit rating and have been grouped for the purposes of calculating expected credit losses. The groupings used comprise: - Trade receivables Recovery of overpaid housing benefits Council Tax and NDR balances are not written off until all debt recovery actions have been taken and there is no realistic prospect of recovery	Trade receivables & recovery of overpaid housing benefits - Expected credit losses are calculated using provision matrices based on historical data in respect of aged debt, adjusted for future expectations of recovery. - Council Tax and NDR - Expected credit losses are calculated using provision matrices based on the stages of debt recovery actions and historically observed rates of recovery adjusted for future expectations of recovery.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Impairment Loss Allowances

The changes in the loss allowance for each class of financial asset during the year are as follows:

	Allowance at 1 April 2022 £'000	Allowance for assets originated or acquired £'000	Allowance for assets de- recognised £'000	Assets switching measurement basis £'000	Changes in models/risk parameters £'000	Other movements £'000	Allowance at 31 March 2023 £'000
Deposits with bank and building societies							
12-month expected credit losses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Loans to business and voluntary organisations							
12-month expected credit losses	729	-	-	-	-	399	1,128
Lifetime expected credit losses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other debtors							
Sundry debtors	914	-	-	-	-	779	1,693
Overpaid Housing Benefits	1,310	-	-	-	-	24	1,334
Housing rents	477	-	-	-	-	4	481
Council Tax and NDR	634	-	-	-	-	(7)	627
Total Loss Allowances	4,064	-	-	-	-	1,199	5,263

Notes to the Financial Statements

Credit Risk Exposure

The authority has the following exposure to credit risk at 31 March 2023:

	Credit risk rating	Gross carrying amount
	£'000	£'000
Deposits with bank and building societies:		
12-month expected credit losses	Low	6,092
Loans to business and voluntary organisations:		
12-month expected credit losses	Low	11,471
Lifetime expected credit losses	High	-
Other debtors:		
Sundry debtors	Other *	4,315
Overpaid Housing Benefits	Other *	1,858
Housing rents	Other *	765
Council Tax and NDR	Other *	1,424
Total amount exposed to credit risk		25,925

* Credit risk rating – Other

These debtors are not subject to internal credit rating. The Code allows a simplified approach, which removes the need to consider changes in credit risk. Instead, expected credit losses are considered for debtors with common risk characteristics based upon historical experience but updated for future conditions.

Exposure to Credit Risk on Guarantees

The Council also has exposure to credit risk on a guarantee provided to the University of Exeter in respect of an 18 year lease granted to Exeter Science Park Ltd (in which the Council has a shareholding interest). The risk of the guarantee being called in considered low, as the lease payments are included in the company's Business Plan. The maximum value of the guarantee is £950,055 and the Council's exposure will reduce annually as lease payments are made by the company.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Liquidity Risk

The authority has a comprehensive cash flow management system that seeks to ensure that cash is available as needed. As the Council has ready access to borrowings from the Public Works Loans Board, there is no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments. Instead, the risk is that the authority may need to replenish its borrowings at a time of unfavourable interest rates. All trade and other payables are due to be paid in less than one year, although some debt repayment plans are agreed over a longer period in order to support individuals and businesses experiencing financial difficulties, but these measures are not expected to present a significant risk to liquidity and instead encourage continuing payment behaviour.

The Council has several long-term loans with the PWLB and one interest free loan in respect of energy saving projects. The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is as follows:

	Restated	
	31 March 2022	31 March 2023
	£'000	£'000
Less than 1 year	1,511	1,537
1 - 2 years	1,537	1,565
2 - 5 years	4,720	4,778
5 - 10 years *	8,405	8,556
+ 10 years *	151,671	149,898
	167,844	166,334

*Restated to split repayments between 5-10 years and over 10 years in order to align to statistical returns to central government

Market risk

Interest rate risk

The Council is exposed to risk in terms of its exposure to interest rate movements on its borrowing and investments. Movements in interest rates have a complex impact on the Council. For example a rise in interest rates would have the following effects:

- borrowings at variable rates – the interest expenses charged to the Income and Expenditure will rise
- borrowings at fixed rates - the fair value of the liabilities borrowings will fall
- investments at variable rates – the interest income credited to the Income and Expenditure will rise
- investments at fixed rates - the fair value of the assets will fall

Borrowings are not carried at fair value, so nominal gains and losses on fixed rate borrowings would not impact on the CIES. However, changes in interest payable and receivable on variable rate borrowings and investments will be posted to the CIES and affect the General Fund

Notes to the Financial Statements

Balance. Movements in the fair value of fixed rate investments that have a quoted market price will be reflected in the Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure in the CIES.

The Council has a number of strategies for managing interest rate risk; however it has not borrowed using variable rate loans for many years.

If on the 31 March 2023 the interest rates are 1% higher than the actual interest rates the financial impact would be:

Borrowing:

As at 31 March 2023, the Council had a number of long-term loans with the PWLB amounting to £166m. A 1% increase in interest rates would increase the cost of borrowing by £1.66m a year. However, the Council is protected from interest rate rises in respect of these arrangements due to the fixed rates of borrowing.

Investments:

In respect of the fixed term deposits of £15m a 1% increase in interest rates would increase interest receivable by £150k a year. The impact of a 1% fall in interest rates would be the same, but with the movements being reversed.

Price Risk

The authority does not generally invest in equity shares but does have shareholdings to the value of £982k in a number of associates and joint ventures on the Balance Sheet, held at historic cost.

As the shareholdings have arisen in the acquisition of specific interests, the authority is not in a position to limit its exposure to price movements by diversifying its portfolio. However, the authority can monitor factors that might cause a fall in the value of specific shareholdings through having significant influence.

The Council has investments in pooled investment funds, which are classified as fair value through profit and loss, including £25.080m in money market funds and a £5m investment in the CCLA Local Authorities' Property Fund. At the end of each financial year the value of the local authority's investment is adjusted to equal the number of units held multiplied by the published bid price, with the gain or loss charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services. However, the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting)(England) Regulations 2003, allows local authorities to reverse out all unrealised fair value movements resulting from pooled investment funds. Following consultation, the Government has announced that the statutory override will remain in place, for an additional two-year period, until 31 March 2025.

Foreign Exchange Risk

The authority has no financial assets or liabilities denominated in foreign currencies and thus no exposure to loss arising from movements in exchange rates.

Notes to the Financial Statements

45. Statutory Harbour Authority

Exeter City Council is the harbour authority for the Exe Estuary.

An annual Statement of Account relating to harbour activities is required to be prepared, in accordance with the 1964 Harbours Act.

	2021-22	2022-23
	£'000	£'000
Income		
Fees and Charges	(123)	(27)
Total Income	(123)	(27)
Expenditure		
Employees	197	194
Premises	71	62
Supplies and Services	33	43
Transport	40	37
Capital Charges	52	47
Total Expenditure	393	383
Net cost of Harbour Activities as included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	270	356

Group Accounts

The Code sets out a requirement to prepare Group Accounts where the authority has interests in subsidiaries, associates and/or joint ventures, subject to consideration of materiality. As at 31 March 2023, the authority has the following interests (please also refer to Note 37, Related Parties, for more information):

Composition of the Group:

Entity	Purpose	Significant judgements	Relationship with the Exeter City Council	Accounting	Materiality
Exeter City Group Ltd and Exeter City Living Ltd	Housing development company to sell homes on the open market, to tackle housing needs in Exeter and to improve the provision of quality homes	100% shareholding	Subsidiary	Line-by-line consolidation of assets, liabilities, income and expenditure	Material 2022/23 is the fourth full year of trading for the company with work in progress valued at £4.041m and an operating loss of £1.3m for the year. Intra group loans of £10.096m from the Council are in place at 31/3/2023.
Exeter Canal and Quay Trust Ltd	Charitable status and its main objectives are to preserve and develop Exeter Canal and Quay area	The company is limited by guarantee and the Council has significant influence through its representation on the board	Associate	Equity method	Not material The Council has significant influence but no interest in the net assets of the charity and no rights to the profits
Exeter Business Centre Ltd	Main purpose is the letting of affordable business units to support small businesses	100% shareholding	Subsidiary	Line-by-line consolidation of assets, liabilities, income and expenditure	Not material Largest item for consolidation is turnover of £233k (20/21) and net assets of £133k (20/21) and £227k turnover (21/22) and net assets of £95k (21/22). No material changes expected in the 22/23 accounts
Exeter Science Park Ltd	Principal activity is to ensure the successful delivery of the Science Park by enabling the market for the Science Park to be developed through connections with the knowledge base at the University of Exeter, the Met Office and the Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry	19.9% ownership interest and significant influence through its representation on the board	Associate	Equity accounting	Not material Accounts to 31 March 2022 show Council's equity share of profit at (£373k) and (£1.360m) net assets and draft accounts to 31 March 2022 show Council's equity share of profit at (£11k) and £1.372m net assets
Dextco Ltd	Established to fund and implement low carbon energy projects across Devon to deliver a reliable, low cost energy infrastructure which will encourage inward investment	20% shareholding with equal and collective control with five equal shareholders and unanimous decisions	Joint Venture	Equity method	Not material Financial year-end 31 Dec (unable to synchronise with all shareholders), accounts to 31 Dec 2020 reports nil profit/loss and net assets of £25k - the same as 2019/20. The company was placed into abeyance during 2021/22
Monkerton Heat Company Ltd	Set up to facilitate the formation of a district heating network, as part of planning requirements relating to five major residential developments at Monkerton	16.66% shareholding with significant influence due to representation on the board	Associate	Equity accounting	Not material The company is deemed to be a dormant company with no transactions to recognise

Group Accounts

Non Material Interests

As set out in the previous table, the authority has applied judgement in respect of materiality (both singly and in aggregate) and assessed that its interests in Exeter Canal and Quay Trust Ltd, Exeter Business Centre Ltd, Exeter Science Park Ltd, Dextco Ltd and Monkerton Heat Company Ltd are not material. Where non-material interests are excluded from the Group Accounts, the Council's interests are carried at cost in the single entity Balance Sheet.

Group Accounts

The Group Accounts consist of the Core Financial Statements, which have been prepared using consistent accounting policies as those applied to the authority-only accounts. Notes have been omitted if there are no material differences to the disclosures already made.

The Group Accounts have been prepared by combining Exeter City Living Ltd.'s income and expenditure and assets and liabilities with those of the Council on a line-by-line basis, eliminating intra-group transactions. Copies of Exeter City Living Ltd.'s accounts to 31 March 2023 can be obtained from Exeter City Living Ltd, Civic Centre, Paris Street, Exeter, EX1 1JN.

Exeter City Group Ltd and Exeter City Living Ltd

Exeter City Group Ltd (holding company) and Exeter City Living Ltd (housing development company), are subsidiary companies of Exeter City Council who own a 100% shareholding in the group. The main purpose of the group are to build more and better homes to tackle housing need in Exeter, help reduce the substantial pressures on the Council's housing waiting list and to improve the lives of those residents currently living in poor quality homes. During the year, the Group continued to take forward its development projects with the following activities taking place in the year:

- Demolition and enabling works were completed in the year for both the Clifton Hill and The Gardens Whipton sites utilising funding secured from One Public Estates Land Release Fund
- The Gardens Whipton also moved into the delivery phase with ECL entering into a Development Agreement with the Council's Housing Revenue Account (HRA) to deliver 91 new Passiv-haus homes (plus Communal Room) on a phased basis. The construction contract for the first phase of 35 homes was awarded to Classic Builders (South West) Ltd who took possession of the site on 20 March 2023
- The project to deliver 21 new Passiv-haus homes for the HRA at Hamlin Gardens continues with ECL as Development Agent and Nevada Construction Ltd as main contractor targeting completion in March 2024
- Development work towards planning submissions on four sites (circa 200 homes) has continued with planning applications expected in 2023-24 and Initial Development Feasibility Work on six HRA sites (circa 200-350 homes) was completed to enable the HRA to decide which sites to take forward to Council for approval to develop to provide new Affordable Homes

The challenges in the current construction market, continue to impact on the timing of delivering the build phase of developments. The successful procurement of a main contractor for the Whipton Gardens development using an open tender with a different collaborative contractual approach has highlighted Exeter City Living's proactive approach to enable delivery in an uncertain unprecedented economic environment.

Group Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement

Restated 2021-2022			2022-2023			Notes
Gross Expenditure £'000	Gross Income £'000	Net Expenditure £'000	Gross Expenditure £'000	Gross Income £'000	Net Expenditure £'000	
3,268	(14)	3,254	Chief Executive & Growth Director	3,936	48	3,984
39,181	(33,885)	5,296	Housing & Supporting People	39,991	(35,688)	4,303
2,488	(2,356)	132	City Development	2,901	(1,390)	1,511
23,106	(7,119)	15,987	Communications, Culture & Leisure Facilities	26,116	(9,687)	16,429
21,544	(13,501)	8,043	Net Zero Exeter & City Management	21,109	(13,858)	7,251
10,701	(409)	10,292	Finance	3,036	(451)	2,585
4,045	(643)	3,402	Corporate Services	3,849	(436)	3,413
19,377	(20,489)	(1,112)	Housing Revenue Account	32,343	(21,594)	10,749
956	(417)	539	Strata Service Solutions Ltd	1,140	(627)	513
750	36	786	Exeter City Group Ltd - subsidiary	1,198	(869)	329
125,416	(78,797)	46,619	Cost of Services	135,619	(84,552)	51,067
		1,431	Other operating expenditure			(1,607)
		(3,052)	Financing and investment income and expenditure			7,230
		(28,775)	Taxation and non-specific grant income			(23,393)
		16,223	(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services			33,297
			Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			
		(20,152)	(Surplus) or deficit on revaluation of property, plant and equipment			(16,238)
		(44,982)	Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability/(asset)			(78,688)
		(65,134)	Total Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(94,926)
		(48,911)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(61,629)

The Council's internal financial reporting structure changed in 2022/23 following changes to director responsibilities. The segment information for the prior year has therefore been restated.

Group Movement in Reserves Statement

	General Fund Working Balance (£'000)	Earmarked Reserves (£'000)	Sub total General Fund Total	Housing Revenue Account (£'000)	Capital Receipts Reserve (£'000)	Major Repairs Reserve (£'000)	Capital Grants Unapplied (£'000)	Council's share of Reserves of Subsidiary (£'000)	Total Usable Reserves (£'000)	Unusable Reserves (£'000)	Total Authority Reserves (£'000)
Balance at 31 March 2022 carried forward	(5,521)	(26,002)	(31,523)	(11,468)	(12,938)	(18,189)	(19,503)	3,311	(90,310)	(303,188)	(393,498)
Movement in Reserves during 2022-2023											
Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	22,000	-	22,000	10,082	-	-	-	1,216	33,298	(94,927)	(61,629)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statutory provisions (Note 10)	(10,273)	-	(10,273)	(6,170)	207	(15)	707	-	(15,544)	15,544	0
Transfers to / (from) Earmarked Reserves	(12,357)	12,357	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0
(Increase) / Decrease in 2022-2023	(630)	12,357	11,727	3,912	207	(15)	707	1,216	17,754	(79,383)	(61,629)
Balance at 31 March 2023 carried forward	(6,151)	(13,645)	(19,796)	(7,556)	(12,731)	(18,204)	(18,796)	4,527	(72,556)	(382,571)	(455,127)

Group Balance Sheet

2021-22 £'000	2022-23 £'000	Note
485,622	494,460	15
56,034	98,561	16
22,743	22,743	17
448	474	
6,536	5,633	19
15,411	10,548	19
586,794	632,419	
1,737	4,294	
30,764	13,078	19, 20 & 21
39,019	15,202	19
4,290	2,063	22
72,302	29,269	19 & 23
148,112	63,906	
(1,510)	(1,537)	19
(63,341)	(33,595)	19 & 24
(5,173)	(5,668)	25
(70,024)	(40,800)	
(166,695)	(165,160)	19
(2,760)	(2,835)	19 & 36
(2,641)	(3,468)	19
(99,288)	(28,935)	42
(271,384)	(200,398)	
393,498	455,127	
Financed by:		
90,310	72,556	26
303,188	382,571	27
393,498	455,127	

These financial statements replace the unaudited financial statements certified by the Responsible Financial Officer, Dave Hodgson, on 31 August 2023.

Dave Hodgson, CPFA, Director Finance

Group Cash-Flow Statement

2021-22 £'000		2022-23 £'000	Notes
18,673	Net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services	33,297	
(58,610)	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	(55,929)	
13,143	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	10,149	
(26,794)	Net cashflows from Operating Activities	(12,483)	28
49,060	Investing Activities	54,564	29
(59,181)	Financing Activities	952	30
(36,915)	Net (Increase) or decrease in cash and cash equivalents	43,033	
35,387	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	72,302	
72,302	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	29,269	

Group Notes to the Accounts

1. Financial Instruments

	Long-term				Current			
	Investments		Debtors		Investments		Debtors	
	31 March 2022	31 March 2023	31 March 2022	31 March 2023	31 March 2022	31 March 2023	31 March 2022	31 March 2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Financial Assets								
Fair value through profit or loss	5,554	4,651	-	-	30,007	25,080	-	-
Amortised cost	982	982	15,411	10,548	81,314	19,391	4,346	4,376
Total Financial Assets	6,536	5,633	15,411	10,548	111,321	44,471	4,346	4,376
Non-financial assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	26,418	8,702
Total	6,536	5,633	15,411	10,548	111,321	44,471	30,764	13,078

	Fair Value Level	Restated			
		Balance Sheet		Balance Sheet	
		31 March 2022	31 March 2022	31 March 2023	31 March 2023
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Financial Assets Held at Amortised Cost					
Unquoted equity investment	3	982	982	982	982
Loans made for service purposes	2	1,406	1,406	1,454	1,454
Lease receivables	3	14,005	14,005	9,094	9,094
Short term investments	2	39,019	39,019	15,202	15,202
Cash (including bank accounts)	2	42,295	42,295	4,189	4,189
Short term debtors	3	30,764	30,764	13,078	13,078
Total Financial Assets		128,471	128,471	43,999	43,999

Restated to reflect all financial assets, only excluding those held at fair value through profit and loss

Group Notes to the Accounts

2. Inventories

	Exeter City Council consumables 2021/22 £'000s	Exeter City Council consumables 2022/23 £'000s	Strata proportional share of stock 2021/22 £'000s	Strata proportional share of stock 2022/23 £'000s	Subsidiary work in progress 2021/22 £'000s	Subsidiary work in progress 2022/23 £'000s	Total 2021/22 £'000s	Total 2022/23 £'000s
Balance at 1 April	161	188	4	4	2,973	1,545	3,138	1,737
Purchases	344	463	-	2	520	2,549	864	3,014
Expense in year	(317)	(454)	-	-	(1,948)	(3)	(2,265)	(457)
Written off balances	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reversals of write-offs in previous years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31 March	188	197	4	6	1,545	4,091	1,737	4,294

3. Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2021-22 £'000	2022-23 £'000
Cash held by the Council	241	113
Bank current accounts	4,649	(753)
Money Market Funds	30,007	25,080
Short-term investments	30,000	-
Short-term call accounts	3,002	3,057
Strata - Cash at bank and in hand	380	257
Subsidiary - Cash at bank and in hand	4,023	1,515
Total cash and cash equivalents	72,302	29,269

4. Cash flow Statement – Investing Activities

	2021-22 £'000	2022-23 £'000
Purchase of non-current assets	30,820	71,842
Purchase of short and long-term	547,000	111,000
Other payments for investing activities	3,249	4,058
Proceeds from the sale of non-current assets	(4,885)	(7,155)
Proceeds of short and long-term	(516,000)	(118,000)
Other receipts for investing activities	(11,124)	(7,181)
Net cash flows from investing	49,060	54,564

HRA Income & Expenditure Statement

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

2021-22		2022-23	
£'000	Income	£'000	£'000
(18,850)	Dwelling rents	(19,926)	
(410)	Non dwelling rents	(336)	
(1,018)	Charges for services and facilities	(908)	
(20,278)	Total Income		(21,170)
	Expenditure		
6,900	Repairs and maintenance	7,664	
6,257	Supervision and management	6,750	
103	Rents, rates, taxes and other charges	387	
6,530	Depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	16,913	
22	Debt management costs	23	
19,812	Total Expenditure		31,737
(466)	Net Cost of HRA Services as included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		10,567
194	HRA share of Corporate and Democratic Core		191
(272)	Net Cost of HRA Services		10,758

HRA Income & Expenditure Statement

2021-22 £'000		2022-23 £'000
(272)	Net Cost of HRA Services	10,758
HRA share of the operating income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
(1,380)	(Gain) or loss on sale of HRA non-current assets	(1,545)
2,193	Interest payable and similar charges	2,155
(253)	Interest and investment income	(713)
294	Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset) and administration expenses	265
(1,975)	Capital grants and contributions receivable	(838)
(1,393)	(Surplus) or deficit for the year on HRA services	10,082

Movement on the HRA Statement

2021-22 £'000		2022-23 £'000
(13,267)	Housing Revenue Account surplus brought forward	(11,468)
(1,393)	(Surplus) or deficit for the year on the HRA Income and Expenditure Account	10,082
3,192	Net additional amount required by statute to be debited or (credited) to the HRA balance for the year	(6,170)
1,799	(Increase) or decrease in the HRA Balance	3,912
(11,468)	Housing Revenue Account surplus carried forward	(7,556)

Notes to the HRA Statements

1. HRA Dwellings

	Flats	Houses and Bungalows	Total
At 31 March 2022	2,513	2,280	4,793
At 31 March 2023	2,532	2,260	4,792

2. Vacant Possession Value of Dwellings

At 1 April 2023 the vacant possession value of the dwellings was £893.491m, this compares to the tenanted market value in the Balance Sheet of £312.722m. The difference of £580.769m represents the economic cost to the Government of providing council housing at less than open market rents.

3. Council Own Build Scheme

The Council's Own Build scheme involves the development of 21 homes at Sivell Place and Merlin Crescent. Whilst the developments remain within the overall umbrella of the Housing Revenue Account, the costs and incomes arising from the developments are accounted for separately as part of their build costs were financed from borrowing. The cost of servicing the borrowing will therefore be met from the rent income received from the completed dwellings.

4. Impairment Charges

Impairment charges of £12.821m (£2.682m 2021/22) were debited to the HRA Income and Expenditure Account in 2022/23 although they were reversed out in the Statement of Movement on the HRA Balance, to avoid having an impact on rent levels, in accordance with the Code of Practice.

5. HRA Capital Receipts

The following capital receipts were received during the year from disposals of land, houses and other property within the authority's HRA:

	2021-22 £'000	2022-23 £'000
Land	-	-
Dwellings	4,924	4,196
Repayment of discounts	-	-
	4,924	4,196
Less amount pooled	(425)	-
	4,499	4,196

Notes to the HRA Statements

6. Balance Sheet Valuation of Assets

	Dwellings	Garages	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Assets Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Assets Held for Sale	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
At 31 March 2022	286,593	3,860	73	16,519	-	1,638	308,683
At 31 March 2023	312,722	3,550	45	3,937	-	1,991	322,245

Within the valuation of Council dwellings as at 31 March 2023 of £312.722m, £158.275m was attributable to the value of land (2021/22 £145.052m) and £154.447m to buildings (2021/22 £141.541m).

7. HRA Capital Expenditure

HRA capital expenditure amounted to £13.598m during 2022/23 (£19.268m 2021/22), the expenditure and sources of finance were as follows:

	Sources of Finance					Capital Receipts	Total Expenditure
	Major Repairs Reserve	Revenue Contributions	Borrowing	Grants & Other Contributions			
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		
Land	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Houses	4,076	5,000	-	191	4,331	13,598	
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	4,076	5,000	-	191	4,331	13,598	

Notes to the HRA Statements

8. Depreciation

The depreciation charges for the year in respect of HRA assets were:

	2021-22	2022-23
	£'000	£'000
Operational assets		
Dwellings	3,764	4,011
Garages	51	51
Equipment	33	29
Total depreciation charged	3,848	4,091
Less depreciation written off - disposals	(22)	(19)
Less depreciation written off - revaluations	(3,772)	(4,032)
Less depreciation written off - impairments	(21)	(11)
Total depreciation	33	29

Collection Fund

The Collection Fund is an agent's statement that reflects the statutory obligation for billing authorities to maintain a separate Collection Fund. The statement shows the transactions of the billing authority in relation to the collection from taxpayers and distribution to local authorities and the government of council tax and non-domestic rates.

2021-2022			2022-2023		
Council Tax £'000	NDR £'000	Total £'000	Council Tax £'000	NDR £'000	Total £'000
Income					
76,561	-	76,561	79,918	-	79,918
-	(969)	(969)	-	(1,672)	(1,672)
-	56,063	56,063	-	73,731	73,731
76,561	55,094	131,655	79,918	72,059	151,977
Expenditure					
Demands on the Fund by:					
8,956	-	8,956	9,302	-	9,302
3,410	368	3,778	3,463	442	3,905
57,231	3,309	60,540	58,721	3,978	62,699
6,169	14,707	20,876	6,405	17,679	24,084
-	18,383	18,383	-	22,098	22,098
-	209	209	-	211	211
83	-	83	10	-	10
Bad and doubtful debts					
252	(4)	248	161	487	648
520	(70)	450	410	(90)	320
-	2,379	2,379	-	243	243
76,621	39,281	115,902	78,472	45,048	123,520
60	(15,813)	(15,753)	(1,446)	(27,011)	(28,457)
(1,371)	43,559	42,188	(1,311)	27,746	26,435
(1,311)	27,746	26,435	(2,757)	735	(2,022)

Notes to the Collection Fund

1. Council Tax base

The council tax base, for tax setting purposes, is calculated by reference to the number of chargeable dwellings in each valuation band, adjusted for dwellings where discounts apply, converted to an equivalent number of Band D dwellings. The figures for 2022/23 were:

	Band Dwellings	Less Discounts	Technical Changes	Conversion Factor	Band D equivalents
A Relief	26	15	-	5/9ths	6
A	9,559	3,626	17	6/9ths	3,967
B	14,292	3,118	(2)	7/9ths	8,689
C	13,098	1,841	(2)	8/9ths	10,004
D	8,195	785	4	9/9ths	7,414
E	3,996	281	(1)	11/9ths	4,539
F	1,961	122	1	13/9ths	2,658
G	946	50	3	15/9ths	1,498
H	31	3	-	18/9ths	56
Band D equivalent					38,831
Less Hardship Relief (Band D)					0
Total Band D equivalent					38,831
Collection rate					97%
Tax base					37,666

2. Income from Business Rates

Under the arrangements for uniform business rates, the Council collects non-domestic rates for its area, which are based on local rateable values (£190.018m at March 2023) multiplied by a uniform rate 51.2p (49.9p for those receiving small business relief) for 2022/23.



Exeter City Council

Annual Governance Statement

2022-23

Annual Governance Statement

Scope of Responsibility

Exeter City Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively. The Council also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

In discharging this overall responsibility, the Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, including arrangements for the management of risk.

The Council has approved and adopted a Code of Corporate Governance, which is consistent with the principles of Delivering Good Governance in Local Government (CIPFA/Solace 2016). This statement explains how Exeter City Council has complied with the code and also meets the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015, paragraph 4(3), which required all relevant bodies to prepare an Annual Governance Statement.

The Code of Governance sets out the seven principles of good governance and the arrangements the Council has put in place to meet each of these principles:

1. Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the law
2. Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement
3. Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits
4. Determining interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes
5. Developing the Council's capacity. Including the capability of its leadership and individuals within it
6. Managing risk and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management
7. Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability

A copy of the Council's code is available on our website.

Annual Governance Statement

The Purpose of the Governance Framework

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

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

The governance framework has been in place at Exeter City Council for the year ended 31 March 2023 and up to the date of the approval of the annual statement of accounts.

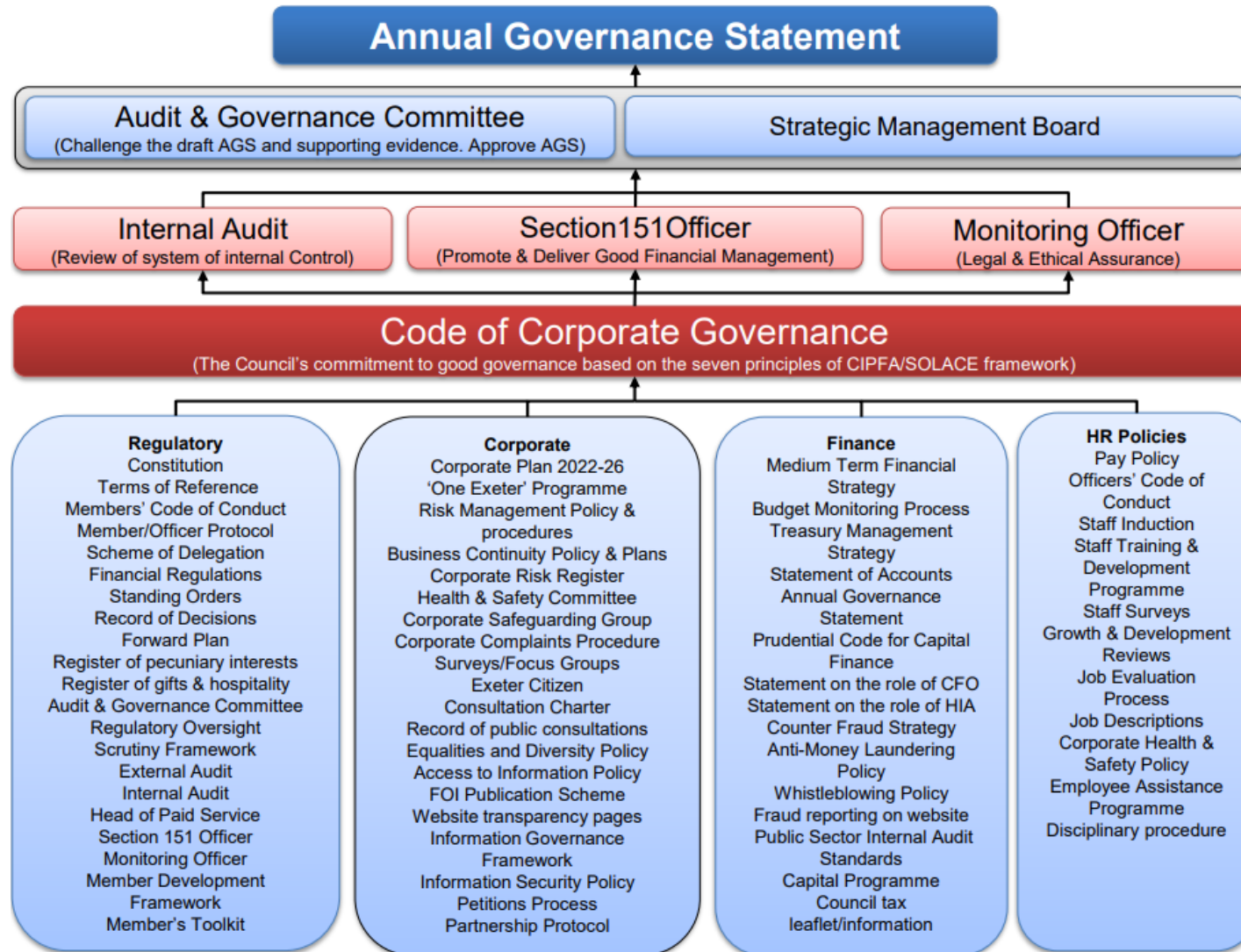
The Governance Framework

The Council's Governance Framework addresses the way the Council is controlled and managed, both strategically and operationally, and how it will deliver its services. The Framework recognises that the Council's business is focussed upon its corporate priorities and seeks to facilitate delivery to our local communities of the goals set out in the Council's Corporate Plan 2022-26. The structures and processes, risk management and other internal control systems, such as standards of conduct, form part of this Framework, which is about managing the barriers to achieving the Council's objectives.

The local Code of Corporate Governance is reviewed annually through the Audit and Governance Committee and was last reviewed and recommended for approval by Council on 08 March 2023. Members and senior officers are responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of the Council's affairs and the stewardship of the resources at its disposal. This task is managed by the Strategic Management Board (SMB) which comprises the Chief Executive, Directors, Director Finance (Section 151), Director Corporate Services (Monitoring Officer).

The Council has designed systems and processes to regulate, monitor and control its activities in order to achieve its vision and objectives. The Code of Corporate Governance sets out the controls in full.

Annual Governance Statement



Annual Governance Statement

Review of effectiveness

The Council has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control. The review of effectiveness is informed by:

- ✓ The work of the Strategic Management Board who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment
- ✓ The work of Executive who are responsible for considering overall financial and performance management and receive comprehensive reports throughout the year;
- ✓ The work of Customer Focus and Strategic Scrutiny Committees who monitor the overall financial performance of the Council;
- ✓ The work of the Audit & Governance Committee who monitor the standards of conduct of Members, effectiveness of risk management, the work of Internal Audit and the system of internal control;
- ✓ The Section 151 Officer who is responsible for delivering and overseeing the financial management of the Council
- ✓ The Monitoring Officer who provides assurance that the Council has complied with its statutory and regulatory obligations;
- ✓ Annual reviews of the Council's key financial and non financial systems by Internal Audit against known and evolving risks which are reported on a quarterly basis to the Audit & Governance Committee;
- ✓ Annual reviews of the Council's financial accounts and records by the External Auditors leading to their opinion as published in the year-end statements;
- ✓ Ongoing reviews of strategic and operational risks in each service area and the conduct of risk analysis and management in respect of major projects undertaken by the Council;
- ✓ Reviews and, where appropriate, updates of the Council's Constitution including Financial Regulations and Standing Orders
- ✓ Comments made by other review agencies and inspectorates

Risk Management

Responsibility for the risk management process sits with the Audit and Governance Committee. Review of the risks included in the Corporate Risk Register (CRR) is undertaken by the Executive as owners of the CRR, this is done on a quarterly basis. The Council's Strategic Management Board (SMB) are responsible for constantly reviewing the risks being posed to the Council and ensuring that significant risks are recorded on the CRR along with the mitigating actions. Service Leads monitor risks at operational level and feedback any issues to their Director. Any significant risks, at operational level, that could impact the Council corporately are escalated to the CRR. The administrative support for the CRR process is provided by the Audit Manager.

Annual Governance Statement

Financial Management Arrangements

The Council's financial management arrangements conform with the governance requirements of the CIPFA "Statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government" (2010) as set out in the "Application Note to Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework". The Section 151 Officer is a member of the Council's Strategic Management Board.

Internal Audit

The Internal Audit Service has been managed and delivered in accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) which were introduced in April 2013. It is a requirement of the standards that an independent external review of Internal Audit's compliance with PSIAS is undertaken every five years. This external review was completed in January 2020 when the external assessor concluded that:

"It is our overall opinion that the Exeter City Council Internal Audit Team generally conforms to the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards, including the Definition of Internal Auditing, the Code of Ethics and the Standards." Generally Conforms is the top rating and means that the internal audit service has a charter, policies and processes that are judged to be in conformance to the Standards.

Based on the assurance work undertaken by Internal Audit, the Audit Manager has provided an opinion on the adequacy of the control environment as part of the Annual Internal Audit Report which concluded that the key systems are operating soundly and that there are no fundamental breakdowns of controls resulting in material discrepancy.

External Audit

The Council's external auditor (Grant Thornton) has not yet issued a certificate of completion in respect of 2020/21, although all necessary audit work has been completed. With regards to 2021/22, the audit of the Council's financial statements remains ongoing, but substantial progress has been made. Unfortunately the audit commenced later than planned, in the middle of October 2022, due to Grant Thornton's commitment to a prior audit and a delay transitioning to the Council's audit.

Annual Governance Statement

Corporate Complaints

During 2022-23, 14 corporate complaints were received compared to 13 in 2021-22. Of the 13 complaints received, 11 were dealt with at Stage 1, 2 were dealt with at stage 2 and 2 are still to be resolved.

Performance Management

Performance management of individual services, for example building control, planning and waste management has been developed in our Power BI dashboards. The scope of these dashboards continues to expand and the reports enable accessible, visible data and analytics to support managers in monitoring performance. A review of the priorities and objectives in the corporate plan will be undertaken shortly following the appointment of the new Chief Executive. When completed a performance framework will be introduced to enable reporting and monitoring of performance across key areas of the council.

Annual Governance Statement

Key Issues 2022-23

This Statement is intended to provide reasonable assurance. It is stressed that no system of control can provide absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss. In concluding this overview of the Council's governance arrangements, three key issues have been identified for 2022-23 shown in the table below. Progress will be subject to regular monitoring by the Audit and Governance Committee.

Issue No.	Issue Identified	Summary of Action to be Taken
1	<p>Financial position – Significant inflation fuelled by high energy prices, a higher than anticipated national pay settlement and income streams still struggling to reach the budget meant that the Council had to take action to address significant issues during 2022/23. The unprecedented cost pressures also meant that significant reductions and additional income were required to deliver a balanced budget for 2023/24.</p> <p>The Council's medium term financial plan anticipates reserves being reduced to the minimum required by 2024/25 and further budget reductions of £5.1m are required by 2028.</p>	<p>One Exeter plan is operational and being progressed. Specific reduction targets have been set for each year of the plan. This is being monitored monthly by SMB. Clear programmes of work are in place and are being actioned.</p> <p>It is imperative that strong financial discipline is maintained across the Council to ensure that the reductions are delivered. It should also be noted that areas of concern around income targets; business rates, parking, trade waste, Civic Centre rental will be subject to close monitoring during the year rental will be subject to close monitoring during the year.</p>
2	<p>Debt Collection – The Council has actively been seeking to identify new income streams as part of the 'One Exeter' project. Whilst this is good news, our work has identified that there are significant weaknesses within service areas around raising invoices and the subsequent collection of debt for all income streams. For example, services are being provided but invoices are not always raised, or not raised promptly, to collect fees for services provided. It should be noted that this weakness relates only to service areas and does not apply to the Council's Income Collection Team.</p>	<p>An external review of debt collection has been already been commissioned the results of which are due to be presented to the Council shortly. As debt management is also one of the themes for the cross cutting review this report will feed into that review.</p>

Annual Governance Statement

Key Issues 2022-23

Issue No.	Issue Identified	Summary of Action to be Taken
3	<p>Change Management – the current scale and pace of change due to a number of factors presents a risk to achieving objectives and may impact the extent to which the organisation is capable of maintaining acceptable levels of compliance amid the shake-up of operations and control systems. These factors include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• external factors e.g. regulatory change and compliance, climate change• internal factors e.g. The One Exeter project to deliver the digitalisation/transformation of service delivery	<p>The Audit Managers have been involved in a number of the One Exeter work streams, including the cross cutting theme reviews. Involvement at this early stage should help identify risks to the internal control environment that could arise due to any changes being brought about by the program and this work will continue as the project develops.</p> <p>Internal Audit have also been asked to input into the development of service plans advising on governance and risk assessment processes.</p>

Approval of the Annual Governance Statement

To the best of our knowledge, the governance arrangements, as outlined in this AGS have been operating effectively during the year. During the review of effectiveness, we have identified three key areas of concern and we propose over the coming year to take steps to address these concerns in order to enhance our governance arrangements and are satisfied that these steps will address the need for improvements that were identified during the review of effectiveness. Progress against the action plan will be monitored quarterly by the Audit & Governance Committee.

Signed: **Date:**
Councillor Wardle
Chair of Audit & Governance Committee

Signed: **Date:**
Dave Hodgson CPFA
Director Finance & Section 151 Officer

Signed: **Date:**
Councillor Bialyk
Leader of the Council

Signed: **Date:**
Bindu Arjoon
Chief Executive

Auditors Report

Auditors Report

Auditors Report

Auditors Report

Auditors Report

Auditors Report

Auditors Report

Glossary of Terms

Accounting Period

The period of time covered by the accounts, normally a period of twelve months, commencing on 1 April for local authority accounts.

Accrual Basis

The accruals principle is that income is recorded when it is earned rather than when it is received, and expenses are recorded when goods or services are received rather than when the payment is made

Actual

Actual, as opposed to budget, expenditure and income directly attributable to an accounting period, generally referred to as actuals.

Appointed Auditors

For audits of Council accounts from 1 April 2018, Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA) is responsible for appointing an auditor, as Exeter City Council opted into its national appointment arrangements. Grant Thornton (UK) LLP is the Council's appointed Auditor.

Associate Companies

An associate is an entity over which the Council has significant influence.

Balances

Working balances are reserves needed to finance expenditure in advance of income from debtors, precepts and grants. Any excess may be applied at the discretion of the authority, to reduce future demands on the Collection Fund or to meet unexpected costs during the year. Balances on holding accounts and provisions are available to meet expenditure in future years without having adverse effect on revenue expenditure.

Budget

A statement of the income and expenditure policy plan of the Council over a specified period. The most common is the annual Revenue Budget expressed in financial terms and including other physical data, e.g. staff resources.

Capital Expenditure

This is expenditure on the acquisition of a fixed asset, or expenditure, which adds to, and not merely maintains, the value of an existing fixed asset.

Capital Financing

The raising of money to meet the cost of capital expenditure. Capital expenditure may be financed by borrowing, leasing, and contributions from revenue accounts, the proceeds from the sale of capital assets, capital grants and contributions from developers or others.

Glossary of Terms

Capital Grants

Grants specifically towards capital expenditure on a specific service or project.

Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)

CIPFA is the leading professional accountancy body for public services. CIPFA publishes the annual Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code). The Code constitutes proper accounting practice.

Collection Fund

This is a statutory fund kept separate from the main accounts of the Council. The Collection fund shows the transactions of the billing authority in relation to the collection from taxpayers and distribution to local authorities (Devon County Council, Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall and Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service) and the government of council tax and non-domestic rates.

Community Assets

These are non-current assets that the Council intends to hold in perpetuity which have no determinable finite useful life and may have restrictions on their disposal.

Contingent Liability or Assets

These are amounts potentially due to or from individuals or organisations which may arise in the future but which at this time cannot be determined accurately and for which provision has not been made in the Council's accounts.

Council Tax Requirement

This is the estimated revenue expenditure on General Fund services that will be financed from the Council Tax after deducting income from fees and charges, General Fund Balances, specific grants and any funding from reserves.

Creditors

Amounts owed by the authority for work done, goods received or services rendered, but for which payment was not made at the balance sheet date.

Current Service Cost

This is an increase in the present value of a defined benefit pension scheme's liabilities expected to arise from employee service in the current period.

Current Assets

Assets that can be expected to be consumed or realised during the next accounting period.

Glossary of Terms

Current Liabilities

Amounts that will become due or could be called upon during the next accounting period.

Curtailement

The cost of the early payment of pension benefits if any employee has been made redundant in the previous financial year.

Debtors

Amounts due to the Council that have not been received at the balance sheet date.

Deferred Liabilities

This represents the liability for principal repayments on finance leases.

Depreciation

This is the measure of the wearing out, consumption or other reduction in the useful economic life of property, plant and equipment.

Earmarked Reserves

The Council holds a number of reserves earmarked to be used to meet specific, known or predicted future expenditure.

Employee Costs

These include salaries, wages and employer's national insurance and superannuation costs payable by the Council, together with training expenses and charges relating to the index-linking of pensions of former employees.

External Audit

The independent examination of the activities and accounts of local authorities to ensure the accounts have been prepared in accordance with legislative requirements and proper practices and to ensure the Authority has made proper arrangements to secure value for money in its use of resources.

Fair Value

The price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

Glossary of Terms

Final Accounts

Accounts prepared for an accounting period, showing the net surplus (profit) or deficit (loss) on individual services and a balance sheet is prepared for them. They are produced as a record of stewardship and are available to interested parties. Local authorities are required to publish each year a Statement of Accounts, as specified in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

Finance Lease

A lease that transfers substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of a fixed asset to the lessee.

Financial Instruments

A contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another.

Financial Year

The local authority financial year commences 1 April and finishes 31 March the following year.

Financial Regulations

These are a written code of procedures approved by the Council, intended to provide a framework for proper financial management. Financial regulations usually set out rules on accounting, audit, administrative and budgeting procedures.

Government Grants

Payments by central government towards local authority expenditure. They must be specific e.g. Housing Benefits, or general e.g. Revenue Support Grant.

Housing Benefit

This is an allowance to persons receiving little or no income to meet, in whole or part, their rent. Benefit is allowed or paid by local authorities but Central Government refunds part of the cost of the benefits and of the running costs of the services to local authorities. Benefits paid to the Authority's own tenants are known as rent rebates and that paid to private tenants as rent allowances.

Housing Revenue Account

Local authorities are required to maintain a separate account, the Housing Revenue Account, which sets out the expenditure and income arising from the provision of Council housing.

Impairment

A reduction in the value of an asset below its value held in the Balance Sheet. Factors which may cause such a reduction include; fall in general prices, a decline in an asset's market value and evidence of obsolescence or physical deterioration.

Glossary of Terms

Interest

An amount receivable or payable for the use of a sum of money when it is invested or borrowed.

Inventories

Items of raw materials and stock an authority has procured to use on a continuing basis which it has not consumed or the value of work in progress.

Investment Properties

Property, which can be land or a building or part of a building or both, that is held solely to earn rentals or for capital appreciation or both, rather than for operational purposes.

Materiality

Information is material if omitting it or misstating it could influence the decisions that users make on the statement of accounts.

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

The minimum amount that must be charged to an authority's revenue accounts and set aside for the repayment of debt. It is calculated in accordance with the Council's approved MRP policy.

Non Domestic Rates (NDR)

NDR is also referred to as business rates; is the levy on business property, based on a national rate in the pound applied to the 'rateable value' of the property. Authorities can voluntarily form a business rate retention pool, where all authorities in the pool can benefit from keeping a proportion of business rate revenue as well as growth on the revenue that is generated in their area to spend on local services.

Net Book Value

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

Non-Current Assets

Assets that can be expected to be of use or benefit to the Authority in providing its service for more than one accounting period.

Operating Lease

A lease under which ownership of the asset remains with the lessor; the lease costs are revenue expenditure to the Authority.

Glossary of Terms

Precepts

The amount levied by various Authorities that is collected by the Council on their behalf. The major precepting authorities in Exeter are Devon County Council, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service and Devon and Cornwall Police Authority.

Prior Period Adjustments

These are material adjustments which are applicable to an earlier period arising from changes in accounting policies or for the correction of fundamental errors.

Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

Tangible assets that are held for use in the production or supply of goods and services, for rental to others, or for administration purposes, and are expected to be used during more than one year.

Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)

An arm of Central Government which is the major provider of loans to finance long term funding requirements for Local Authorities

Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay (RCCO)

The mechanism by which items of capital expenditure can be financed by the General Fund or Housing Revenue Account

Revenue Expenditure Financed by Capital under Statute (REFCUS)

Expenditure which has been legally capitalised but which does not produce a fixed asset for the council, e.g. renovation grants for homeowners.

Revenue Support Grant

A grant paid by government to meet a proportion of the local authority expenditure necessary to provide a standard level of service throughout the country.

Subsidiary

A subsidiary is an entity that is controlled by another entity (the parent). A reporting authority controls an entity if it has; power over the entity, exposure to or rights to variable returns from its involvement with the entity and the ability to use its power over the entity to affect the amounts of its returns.

Value for Money

An expression describing the benefit obtained (not just in financial terms) for a given input of cash. The term is widely used within public bodies, but there are many difficulties in its use because value, as such, is a subjective measure and there are rarely supporting objective measures. The appointed auditors are required to consider value for money with the three objectives of economy of input, efficiency of operation and effectiveness of output in service provision and report on the Council's arrangements for securing VFM.



Exeter
City Council



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