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Contact:/Cysylltwch â: Democratic Services



THIS IS A MEETING WHICH THE PUBLIC ARE ENTITLED TO ATTEND

24th February, 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

AUDIT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Audit Committee will be held in Virtually via Microsoft Teams - if you would like to attend this meeting live via Microsoft Teams please contact committee.services@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk on Tuesday, 2nd March, 2021 at 9.30 am.

Yours faithfully

Michelle Morris
Managing Director

AGENDA

Pages

1. SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION

You are welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, a minimum notice period of 3 working days is required should you wish to do so. A simultaneous translation service will be provided if requested.

1.1. CHAIR

We welcome correspondence in the medium of Welsh or English. / Croesawn ohebiaith trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg.

2. **APOLOGIES**
- To receive.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**
- To receive.
4. **AUDIT COMMITTEE** 5 - 16
- To receive the minutes of the Audit Committee held on 2nd February, 2021.
- (Please note the minutes are submitted for accuracy points only)
5. **ACTION SHEET - 2ND FEBRUARY, 2021**
- There were no actions arising from the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 2nd February, 2021.
6. **AUDIT PLAN PROGRESS REPORT – JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 2021** 17 - 26
- To consider the report of the Chief Officer Resources.
7. **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019/2020** 27 - 208
- To consider the report of the Chief Officer Resources.
8. **AUDIT WALES - BLAENAU GWENT CBC 2019-20** 209 - 234
AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS REPORT
- To consider the Audit Wales report.

To: Councillor S. Healy (Vice-Chair)
Councillor D. Davies
Councillor P. Baldwin
Councillor D. Hancock
Councillor J. Hill
Councillor W. Hodgins
Councillor J. Holt
Councillor J. Millard
Councillor J. C. Morgan
Councillor M. Moore
Councillor K. Rowson

Councillor B. Summers
Councillor S. Thomas
Councillor H. Trollope
Councillor L. Winnett
T. Edwards
M. Veale

All other Members (for information)
Manager Director
Chief Officers

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: AUDIT COMMITTEE – 2ND FEBRUARY, 2021

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC SUPPORT OFFICER

PRESENT: MR. T. EDWARDS (CHAIR)

Councillors S. Healy
P. Baldwin
D. Davies
D. Hancock
J. Hill
W. Hodgins
J. Holt
J. Millard
M. Moore
J.C. Morgan
K. Rowson
B. Summers
S. Thomas
L. Winnett

Mr. M. Veale

WITH: Managing Director
Chief Officer Resources
Professional Lead – Internal Audit
Corporate Director Regeneration & Community Services
Senior Auditor
Data Protection & Governance Officer

AND: Audit Wales
Mike Jones

DECISIONS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
No. 1	<p><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p>	
No. 2	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H. Trollope, and the Audit & Risk Manager.</p>	
No. 3	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>The following declarations of interest were reported:</p> <p>Councillor B. Summers - Item No. 8 Annual Report of the Audit & Risk Manager 2019/20</p> <p>Councillor J. Hill - Item No. 8 Annual Report of the Audit & Risk Manager 2019/20</p> <p>Councillor W. Hodgins – Item No. 10 Investigation into Publication of Exempt Report</p>	
----	<p><u>ORDER OF AGENDA</u></p> <p>The Data Protection & Governance Officer explained that Item No. 11 Building Decommissioning Process had been submitted under exempt information in error, therefore the report should be considered under the public section of the agenda (following Item No. 9).</p> <p>RESOLVED accordingly.</p>	
No. 4	<p><u>APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR</u></p> <p>Nominations were sought for the appointment of Chair of the Audit Committee for 2020/2021.</p>	

	<p>A Member proposed that Councillor J. Millard be appointed to the role, and this proposal was seconded.</p> <p>Another Member proposed that Mr. T. Edwards be appointed to the role, and this proposal was seconded.</p> <p>A discussion ensued when both Nominees gave a brief summary of what they intended to bring to the role of Chair of the Audit Committee.</p> <p>Upon a vote being taken it was</p> <p>RESOLVED that Mr. T. Edwards be appointed as Chair of the Audit Committee for 2020/21.</p>	
No. 5	<p><u>AUDIT COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>The minutes of the special Audit Committee held on 17th November, 2020 were submitted.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
No. 6	<p><u>ACTION SHEET</u></p> <p>The Action Sheet arising from the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 17th November, 2020 was submitted, whereupon:</p> <p><u><i>Statement of Accounts 2016/17, 2017/18 & 2018/19</i></u></p> <p>Following a request for additional information, the Chief Officer Resources reported that the costs for the independent legal advice obtained as part of work undertaken on the Statement of Accounts was £8,200k.</p> <p>RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing, that the Action Sheet be noted.</p>	
No. 7	<p><u>ANTI MONEY LAUNDERING POLICY</u></p>	

	<p>Consideration was given to report of the Senior Auditor.</p> <p>The Senior Auditor presented the report which provided the Anti-Money Laundering Policy, which had been revised to reflect the amended Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing (Amendment) Regulations 2019. The Policy was attached at Appendix 1.</p> <p>The Officer spoke to the report and highlighted point contained therein.</p> <p>A Member said it would be beneficial for amendments to be highlighted within the report, and also whether the Policy was in line with other LA's.</p> <p>In response the Officer said the amendments to the Policy were mainly in the format to reflect other LA policies, however, any further amendments would be made clearer moving forward.</p> <p>Another Member referred to the reporting procedure highlighted at section 6 of the Policy document, and the Officer explained that any suspicions of money laundering should be reported within 24 hours, or as soon as possible.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Policy be approved and adopted.</p>	
No. 8	<p><u>ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT & RISK MANAGER 2019/20</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Audit & Risk Manager.</p> <p>The Professional Lead Internal Audit presented the report which provided the Audit & Risk Manager's objective review of the Authority's system of internal control during the financial year 2019/20, and the annual audit opinion of the Audit & Risk Manager.</p> <p>The opinion of the Audit & Risk Manger was that Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's system of internal control</p>	

<p>during the financial year 2019/20 operated to a level which gives Reasonable Assurance on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the organisation's framework of governance, risk management and control.</p> <p>The Officer then went through the report and highlighted points contained therein.</p> <p>In response to a Member's comments, the Officer explained that the Appendices attached to the report were also included in the following item on the agenda. This was the Audit & Risk Manager's annual report, and her opinion was based on a combination of work that had previously been reported to Committee through the usual Audit Plan Progress Reports.</p> <p>A Member referred to section 2.2.3 of the report and felt that the wording of the paragraph could be misinterpreted, and the Officer undertook to raise this with the Audit & Risk Manager.</p> <p>Another Member then referred to section 2.4.2 where it stated that 'no areas for concern have been highlighted', and said he would have thought there would always be areas where improvements could be made.</p> <p>In response the Officer agreed and said there was always areas for improvement. She explained that the progress reports submitted to the Committee routinely identified weaknesses and actions for Managers to mitigate these weaknesses, and a follow-up audit was then conducted to ensure that the actions had been addressed. However, in terms of the Audit & Risk Manager's opinion for 2019/20, no actual significant trends or areas of concern had been identified that would impact on her audit opinion.</p> <p>A Member referred to the previous outstanding Statements of Accounts and asked whether these had now been signed-off.</p> <p>The Audit Wales Officer confirmed that the outstanding accounts for Blaenau Gwent up to 2018/19 was signed off by the Audit General for Wales on the 26th November, 2020; and the Accounts for 2019/20 would be signed-off at the next meeting of the Audit Committee.</p>	
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	<p>In response to a question raised by a Member regarding the lack of an IT Auditor, the Officer said this was recognised and documented in the service risk register. It was not unique to Blaenau Gwent and most LA's lacked specialist IT Auditors. However, she assured that there was staff within the team that were very competent with IT.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Audit & Risk Manager's annual audit opinion, as detailed in paragraphs 1.1 and 3.3, be acknowledged, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The audit assignments conducted cover a range of activities and provide a reasonable indicator of the level of assurance for the Authority, however, they cannot provide complete coverage and it is acknowledged that assurance procedures alone do not guarantee that all significant risks are detected. • Based on the findings of the audit work undertaken during 2019/20 and the continued improvement of the Authority's governance framework and the internal control environment, in my opinion, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's system of internal control during the financial year 2019/20 operates to a level which gives Reasonable Assurance on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the organisation's framework of governance, risk management and control. 	
No. 9	<p><u>AUDIT PLAN PROGRESS REPORT – APRIL 2020 TO DECEMBER 2020</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Professional Lead Internal Audit.</p> <p>The Professional Lead Internal Audit presented the report which updated Members on progress for the period 1st April to 31st December, 2020; and confirmed the process for determining the priority areas of the operational audit plan for the financial year.</p> <p>The Officer reported that at the close of the 2019/20 financial</p>	

	<p>year, the Authority instigated emergency planning arrangements as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, only critical services operated for a period during lockdown and audit staff were redeployed to assist in these areas. The redeployments lasted throughout the first quarter of the financial year and impacted the section's ability to complete audit work. Therefore, the Internal Audit Plan for 2020/21 was based on 9 months of the year from July 2020 to March 2021.</p> <p>In response to a question raised by a Member, the Officer reported a typing error in Appendix D, and confirmed that the column should read '2019/20 Actual to month 9'.</p> <p>A Member questioned the historic cost of £33 per man highlighted within Highways Maintenance on Appendix C, and whether these would impact on the highways maintenance budget.</p> <p>The Officer explained that Appendix C highlighted follow-up audits where weaknesses identified have not been addressed. As outlined, the Officer has met with the Accountancy Department and the cost is to remain.</p> <p>RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted and the Audit Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the findings within the attached Appendices; • Note the progress on activities for the period 1st April to 31st December 2020; and • Continue to provide appropriate challenge where relevant, and support the selection of audit activities for the 2020/21 operational audit plan 	
<p>No. 10</p>	<p><u>BUILDING DECOMMISSIONING PROCESS</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Corporate Director Regeneration & Community Services.</p> <p>Prior to consideration of the report a Member sought clarification as to why the report had been removed from exempt information status, in light of the previous reports</p>	

being considered under exempt information.

The Data Protection & Governance Officer explained that there was no removal of exemption for this particular report, as exemption was not applied in the first instance. He said the report outlined the building decommissioning process moving forward, rather than specific issues of the BRC which was the case with previous reports.

In response the Member asked whether a further report could be expected in relation to the BRC, as a number of issues had been raised by Members at the special meeting of the Audit Committee in March 2020.

Another Member agreed, and said she understood that the Managing Director would be submitting a further response on the concerns raised by Members.

A brief discussion ensued when a Member pointed out that at the meeting held in March 2020 a wide discussion took place regarding the decommissioning of the BRC, Members felt that the issues were so significant that they requested a further report on the issues raised. However, he appreciated that the Managing Director had been dealing with other priorities in response to the Covid pandemic.

In response the Managing Director explained that an independent investigation was undertaken by the Internal Audit Team of the decommissioning of the BRC, which was the subject of the original report considered by the Committee. This report outlined the follow-up action taken in response to the original report, i.e. 'The Managing Director has tasked the Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services to undertake a full review of the arrangements for the management of disposals'.

The Managing Director recalled that at the meeting in March 2020 Members sought assurance that lessons have been learned, and that management processes were in place to ensure that there would be no repeat of the issues identified at the BRC. This report detailed the arrangements in place, and needed to be considered by the Audit Committee as it was the

outcome of the original investigation, and was requested by the Committee. However, she understood that Members felt there were other questions to be answered, and the Managing Director undertook to discuss the issues the Audit & Risk Manager to ensure that all points raised by Members have been covered.

The Member felt that this report lacked further reassurance for Members, in light of the fact that the previous events took place without Members' knowledge. Members wanted sufficient proof that those lessons have been learned. He welcomed the Managing Director having further discussions with the Audit & Risk Manager and suggested that further discussions be held with political group leaders as a further level of reassurance for Members.

The Managing Director said she was happy to have further discussions with political group leaders if further reassurance was needed.

In response the Member said he was pleased that the Managing Director would be taking that action, and he accepted the report with the condition that further discussions would take place.

The Corporate Director Regeneration & Community Services presented the report which updated Members on the implementation of the actions identified in the previous report around the decommissioning of the BRC. He said the decommissioning process had been reviewed and the lessons learned highlighted the need for a systematic approach to the decommissioning of non-operational buildings. An approach has been developed and was now embedded into working practice, whereby the Corporate Landlord would implement the actions in conjunction with the service area vacating a premises.

In addition, a protocol (attached at Appendix 2) was developed using the lessons learned from previous reports for the disposal of schools, which included the actions set out previously. The recent disposal of Queen Street and Bryngwyn Schools used the revised practice, and following

completion the Officer Group met to review how the process had worked to ensure any further lessons are learned and embedded into the disposal process. The use of the developed process for disposals demonstrated that the Council had learned from previous experiences and the weaknesses identified in the BRC Decommissioning report, and was now using an effective process.

A Member referred to the table on the appendix to the report and asked whether the asbestos register should be included

In response the Corporate Director explained that this would be picked up by the Corporate Landlord separately following completion of the decommissioning process. The actions outlined in the report was focussed on ensuring that any building or space was correctly emptied of any materials or activity prior to it being transferred to the Corporate Landlord. The asbestos register would apply if the building was to be demolished.

In response to a question raised by a Member, the Corporate Director confirmed that the Corporate Landlord would not accept transfer of a building until completion of the checklist, and service areas now understood their requirements prior to vacating a building.

A Member proposed that Option 1 be supported, with the addendum that the Managing Director hold further discussions with the Corporate Director Regeneration & Community Services and relevant Officers; and report back to political group leaders as a further level of assurance for Members.

The proposal was seconded.

RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted and the Audit Committee:

Take assurance that improvements in the decommissioning processes have been made and compliance was being monitored (Option 1); and

The Managing Director hold further discussions with the Audit

	& Risk Manager; and report back to political group leaders as a further level of assurance for Members.	
No. 11	<p><u>INVESTIGATION INTO PUBLICATION OF EXEMPT REPORT</u></p> <p>Councillor W. Hodgins left the meeting at this juncture.</p> <p>Having regard to the views expressed by the Proper Officer regarding the public interest test, that on balance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information and that the report should be exempt.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the public be excluded whilst this item of business is transacted as it is likely there would be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 14 & 15 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended).</p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Managing Director.</p> <p>The Managing Director presented the report which provided Members with the outcome of the investigation into the unauthorised publication of an Exempt report.</p> <p>A discussion ensued, and it was</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report which contained information relating to the financial/business affairs of persons other than the Authority; and information relating to any consultations/negotiations or contemplated consultations/negotiations in connection with any labour relations matters arising between the Authority and employees/office-holders under the Authority be accepted and the information and recommendations contained therein be approved.</p>	

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Agenda Item 6

Executive Committee and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer:

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer:

Committee: **Audit Committee**

Date of meeting: **2nd March 2021**

Report Subject: **Audit Plan Progress Report – January to February 2021**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr. Nigel Daniels**

Report Submitted by: **Rhian Hayden – Chief Officer Resources**

Report Written by: **Andrea Owen – Professional Lead – Internal Audit.**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
Feb 2021	25/02/2021		02/03/2021					

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update the Audit Committee on the progress against the Internal Audit Plan for the period 1st January 2021 to 28th February 2021.

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 The report highlights the work undertaken by the Internal Audit Service and complies with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS).
- 2.2 The Internal Audit Plan for the year has been based upon the Risk Assessments completed for 2019/20 with appropriate updates from senior management following the impact of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 2.3 The audit work allocated to staff for the period January to February 2021 is based on the Risk Assessment rank order prioritisation and the ongoing operation of the service areas throughout the pandemic response, taking into account an individual auditor's experience and skill set.

3. Option for Recommendation

- 3.1 The Audit Committee considers the report and findings within the attached Appendices, notes the progress on activities for the period 1st January 2021 to 28th February 2021 providing appropriate challenge where relevant.

4. Evidence of how does this topic support the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan

- 4.1 In line with the Corporate Plan Priority of being an efficient Council, presentation of the Internal Audit progress report demonstrates the breadth and depth of the audit coverage of the Council's systems and internal controls. In

doing this it also enables the Chief Officer – Resources to satisfy her statutory duties under Section 151 of the Local Government Act (1972) in providing an effective Internal Audit Service.

- 4.2 The Audit Committee, in their role as those responsible for governance, and in compliance with the PSIAS, have a responsibility to oversee the performance of the Internal Audit function including receiving a summary of the work upon which the Audit and Risk Manager will base her annual audit opinion.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

5.1 Impact on Budget

There are no direct financial implications resulting from this report.

5.2 Risk including Mitigating Actions

The report demonstrates the breadth and depth of audit coverage to provide assurance that key areas of concern and areas deemed to have the highest risk priority are being examined during the financial year. Failure to cover sufficient audit areas exposes the Authority to the risk that weaknesses within specific systems in the Authority's internal control environment are not being identified, resulting in increased financial or reputational damage. This is mitigated by regular review of progress and reprioritisation as appropriate.

5.3 Legal

The Section 151 Officer has a statutory responsibility under the Local Government Act (1972) to ensure the provision of an adequate Internal Audit Service.

5.4 Human Resources

The section currently has a complement of six full time posts. This includes an Apprentice post via the Aspire Scheme administered by the Authority enabling a young person to attain the AAT qualification.

The section's sickness for the period 1st April 2020 to 28th February 2021 is an average of 6.67 days per person against a departmental target of 6 days per person.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 Performance Information and Data

Activities during the period 1st January to 28th February 2021 are set out in Appendix A attached. The format shows a summary of findings from audit reports produced in the period, including a formal audit opinion where appropriate. Where individual audits are graded as Limited Assurance or No Assurance, an Internal Audit Summary Report is presented at Appendix B.

6.2 ***Expected outcome for the public***

An effective Audit Committee will assist with the stewardship of public money providing assurance to the communities of Blaenau Gwent on the robustness of the Authority's internal control.

6.3 ***Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)***

Prior engagement has been undertaken with Heads of Services when determining the risk assessments for the audit plan.

6.4 ***Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)***

The work of Internal Audit is intended to provide advice and guidance on system improvements resulting in an improved control environment for the future of the Authority.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

Internal Audit provides a cost effective and professional Audit review of the Authority's internal control environment with the aim of minimising the risk of loss from error, fraud, or irregularities.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

There are no collaboration / partnership working arrangements arising from this report.

6.7 ***Integration (across service areas)***

The audit plan is developed with a view to providing assurance on the whole of the Authority's control environment. Audit assignments are conducted for a range of activities across all directorates in order for the Audit and Risk Manager to provide an annual audit opinion that an adequate internal audit service has been provided.

6.8 ***EqlA***

No impact assessment is required for this report.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 Internal Audit Summary reports are presented to the Audit Committee as part of the progress report. Where audit assignments have been graded as Limited Assurance or No Assurance, the Internal Audit Summary reports will be provided as appendices for Members' consideration.

7.2 Performance data for the Section is periodically presented to members as part of the ongoing progress reports.

7.3 The levels of audit coverage and the grading's of individual audits will inform the annual opinion of the Audit and Risk Manager and supports the Audit Committee in fulfilling its assurance role to the citizens of Blaenau Gwent.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- Appendix A – Audit activities for the period January 2021 to February 2021.
- Appendix B – Internal Audit Summary Report Community Care.

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Progress Against Activities Undertaken for the Period 1st January 2021 - 28th February 2021	
The progress against each task undertaken by the Internal Audit Section during the period is as follows:	
<u>Internal Control Classification</u>	Full Assurance - Minimal or no risks identified. Reasonable Assurance - Controls appear to be operating effectively, however some weaknesses have been identified. Limited Assurance - Weaknesses have been identified with an increased risk to the Authority. No Assurance - Unacceptable risks identified.

Audit Area	Audit Scope	Grading	Progress / Comments
Resources			
Financial Services			
Creditors System CRSA	To determine the effectiveness of the internal controls operating with regards to the Creditors System. A Control Risk Self Assessment (CRSA) methodology has been used for this audit.	Not Applicable	A review commenced in January 2021. Audit planning ongoing.
Treasury Management -Bank Reconciliation	To determine the effectiveness of the internal controls operating with regards to the Bank Reconciliation process.	Not Applicable	A review commenced in January 2021. Audit planning ongoing.
Creditors Reconciliation	To determine the effectiveness of the internal controls operating with regards to the Creditors Reconciliation process.	Full Assurance	Final report issued in January 2021. No weaknesses were identified.
Bedwellty House & Park Charity Accounts	Independent audit review to provide an annual return for the charity as prescribed by the Charity Commission.	Not Applicable	Final report issued in January 2021. No weaknesses were identified.
Ebbw Vale Recreation Ground Charity Account	Independent audit review to provide an annual return for the charity as prescribed by the Charity Commission.	Not Applicable	Final report issued in January 2021. No weaknesses were identified.
Revenue Services			
Debtors Reconciliation	To determine the effectiveness of the internal controls operating with regards to the Debtors Reconciliation process.	Not Applicable	A review commenced in January 2021. Audit planning ongoing.
Debtors CRSA	To determine the effectiveness of the internal controls operating with regards to the Debtors System. A Control Risk Self Assessment (CRSA) methodology has been used for this audit.	Not Applicable	A review commenced in November 2020. Audit testing ongoing.
Social Services Debtors CRSA	To determine the effectiveness of the internal controls operating with regards to the Debtors System for Social Services. A Control Risk Self Assessment (CRSA) methodology has been used for this audit.	Full Assurance	Final report issued in February 2021. No weaknesses were identified.

Commercial			
Procurement			
Purchasing CRSA	To determine the effectiveness of the internal controls operating with regards to the Purchasing system to include the creditor payments system in each directorate. A Control Risk Self Assessment (CRSA) methodology has been used for this audit.	Not Applicable	A review commenced in November 2020. Audit testing ongoing.
Customer Services			
Housing Benefit CRSA	To determine the effectiveness of the internal controls operating with regards to the Housing Benefit System. A Control Risk Self Assessment (CRSA) methodology has been used for this audit.	Not Applicable	A review commenced in October 2020. Audit testing ongoing.
Workforce Management			
Standby Payments (2019/20)	To determine the effectiveness of the internal controls operating in respect of Standby Payments.	Reasonable Assurance (provisional)	Draft report issued in September 2020. A meeting is to be arranged to agree an action plan.
Payroll CRSA	To determine the effectiveness of the internal controls operating with regards to the Payroll System. A Control Risk Self Assessment (CRSA) methodology has been used for this audit.	Full Assurance	Final report issued in February 2021. No weaknesses were identified.
Health & Safety Follow Up Audit	Follow up review to determine the actions taken on the weaknesses identified as a result of the audit.	Not Applicable	A review commenced in February 2021. Audit planning ongoing.
Communications			
Social Media Accounts Follow Up	Follow up review to determine the actions taken on the weaknesses identified as a result of the audit.	Not Applicable	A review commenced in February 2021. Audit planning ongoing.
Regeneration & Community Services			
Frontline Integrated Services			
Waste Disposal	To determine the effectiveness of the Internal Controls operating with regards to Waste Disposal.	Not Applicable	A review commenced in September 2019. Audit deferred due to COVID 19.

Education			
Education Transformation			
SIMS (School System)	Internal Audit review of the SIMS system within all schools to determine the use and consistency applied by all schools.	Not Applicable	A review commenced in October 2020. Audit testing ongoing.
Schools CRSA	Internal Audit review of the Control Risk Self Assessment (CRSA) programme issued to all schools.	Reasonable Assurance	The CRSA report was issued to Education in January 2021. The report is to be disseminated to all schools and for each Headteacher to provide assurance that their own internal controls are robust.
Social Services			
Adult Services			
Long Term Care			
Community Care (2019/20)	To determine the effectiveness of the internal controls operating in respect of Community Care.	Limited Assurance	Final report issued in January 2021. 13 weaknesses were identified of which 5 were classified as high risk, 7 were medium risk and 1 was low risk. The Manager has agreed appropriate actions to mitigate all the weaknesses identified. The Internal Audit Summary is attached at Appendix B.
Childrens Services			
Flying Start, early Years & Play			
Flying Start	To determine the effectiveness of the internal controls operating in respect of Flying Start system.	Not Applicable	Internal Audit review commenced September 2020. Audit planning ongoing.
General			
General Audit Areas			
Departmental Flexi System Use (2019/20)	To determine the effectiveness of the internal controls with regard to the application of the Flexible Working Scheme policy.	Not Applicable	Draft report issued in November 2019. A meeting is to be arranged to agree an action plan.
Thematic Review	To undertake a thematic review of the internal controls within the systems and processes involved in the recruitment and retention of employees, from the pre-recruitment stages through to end of an employee's probationary period.	Not Applicable	Internal Audit review commenced in April 2020. Audit testing ongoing.

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INTERNAL AUDIT SUMMARY REPORT**SYSTEMS AUDIT – COMMUNITY CARE****1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. This audit was carried out in line with the Internal Audit Plan 2019/20, and in full consultation with operational staff and management.
- 1.2. The scope of the audit was to determine the effectiveness of the internal controls within the Community Care processes with specific regard to the adherence to the Adult Services Quality Assurance process.
- 1.3. The audit was conducted by the Senior Auditor and took the form of a series of detailed tests and checks, together with discussions with operational staff and managers.

2. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- 2.1. Thirteen weaknesses were identified, five of which were classified as High Risk, seven of which were classified as Medium Risk, with the one remaining weakness classified as Low Risk. The weaknesses identified as High Risks were:
 - The Care Management policy or guidance notes were out of date at the time of the audit.
Agreed Action – The Care Management guidance notes are being reviewed and updated as necessary in accordance with the new procedures and documentation that are being designed. These will be subject to formal DMT approval.
 - There were instances identified where the Tier 1 Quality Assurance (QA) Self-Assessment form had not been completed and attached to WCCIS (Welsh Community Care Information System).
Agreed Action – The process is being redesigned with the QA process being integrated within the ordinary procedures that must be completed by the practitioner within each case.
 - There were instances identified where a Consent to Share Information document had not been attached to WCCIS.
Agreed Action – The Consent to Share process is being redesigned where the information is captured and verified once. Consent to Share will form part of the Care Management and QA process that is integrated.
 - The Corporate Performance Team do not have access to the Tier 2 QA information to facilitate the Tier 3 process.
Agreed Action – A new policy and Quality Assurance process is being designed and will negate the requirement for this access.
 - It could not be confirmed that the outcomes of the Tier 3 QA process had been fed back to the relevant practitioner.
Agreed Action – The integrated QA process that is being designed will ensure accountability for the practitioners involved and will provide feedback to address any issues.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1. After reviewing all documentation and the current system, it was found that the internal controls used within the Community Care process generally appear to be operating effectively in respect of care management processes. However, a significant number of weaknesses have

been identified through the sample testing undertaken specifically in respect of the Quality Assurance policy and the adherence to the procedures contained therein.

- 3.2. The Social Services DMT has agreed mitigating actions for the weaknesses identified.

4. INTERNAL CONTROL STANDARD GRADING

- 4.1. In accordance with the standard gradings, the systems examined indicate that internal controls used within the Community Care processes generally appear to be operating effectively; however, a significant number of weaknesses were identified through the sample testing undertaken specifically in respect of the Quality Assurance policy and operation of its procedures. The grading is therefore assessed as '**Limited Assurance**'.

Agenda Item 7

Executive Committee and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer:

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer:

Committee: **Audit Committee**

Date of meeting: **2 March 2021**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr N Daniels, Leader / Executive Member
Corporate Services**

Report Subject: **Statement of Accounts 2019/2020**

Report Submitted by: **Rhian Hayden, Chief Officer, Resources**

Report Written by: **Tony Hagland, Chief Accountant – Corporate
Services**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
Feb 2021	25/02/2021		02/03/2021					Statutory Returns; Financial Governance

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To present for approval the 2019/2020 Statement of Accounts.

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 The requirements for preparation, inspection, audit, approval and publication of Local Authority annual accounts are specified in the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 [the 2004 Act] and the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 [the 2014 Regulations] as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018.
- 2.2 Section 25 of The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003 specifies that the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting ("the Code") represents proper practice in preparing local authority accounts in compliance with section 8(1) of the 2014 Regulations.
- 2.3 During the initial stages of the Covid 19 pandemic, critical services were prioritised with staff being redeployed into those critical services to support the Council's response. As a result, the completion of the Statement of Accounts was delayed with Wales Government recommending Welsh Authorities prepare their draft accounts by 31 August 2020 and publication of final audited accounts by 30 November 2020.
- 2.4 The Council's draft Statement of Accounts were reported to Audit Committee on 29 September and since that time, a number of adjustments have been identified and these are being reported to Audit Committee before their approval.

- 2.5 Section 11 of the 2014 Regulations and Section 29 of the 2004 Act require that the Accounts and other documents are made available for public inspection for 20 working days. The documents were made available from Monday 5 October until Friday 30 October 2020 inclusive. No requests for information or inspection were received during that period.
- 2.6 Section 31 of the 2004 Act provides for local electors to make objections to the External Auditor regarding any item of account that is contrary to law or any matter that could result in a report in the public interest. The auditor appointed 2 November 2020 as the date on or after which these rights could be exercised.
- 2.7 The External auditor (i.e. Audit Wales) has now finalised the detailed financial audit of the accounts and disclosure notes that comprise the overall Statement. Audit Wales has prepared its statutory Audit of Accounts Report (International Standards on Auditing or ISA 260 report) and this forms part of today's agenda.
- 2.8 The Authority anticipates receiving an unqualified (i.e. clear or satisfactory) signed audit opinion from the Appointed Auditor. At this stage, Audit Wales are unable to issue a certificate of completion of audit for 2019/2020, pending the certification of audits in respect of prior financial years.
- 2.9 Following this Audit Committee, if agreed, the Statement of Accounts will need to be signed by the Chief Officer Resources and the Chair of the Audit Committee (as the person presiding over the meeting).
3. **Options for Recommendation**
 - 3.1 **Option 1 (preferred)**

On consideration of this report and the External Auditor's report, the Accounts **are approved** by the Audit Committee under the delegated authority of the Council.
 - 3.2 **Option 2**

The Audit Committee considers and does not approve the Statement of Accounts.
4. **Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Council Priorities / Statutory Responsibilities / National Well-being Goals etc**
 - 4.1 **Statutory Responsibilities**

The Statement of Accounts is prepared in accordance with relevant statutory and regulatory provisions, accounting codes of practice and accounting standards. It details the financial transactions of the Authority for the 2019/2020 financial year and the value of assets, liabilities and reserves at the balance sheet date (31 March 2020).

5. Implications Against Each Option

5.1 Financial

- 5.1.1 There are no significant financial implications arising directly out of the approval and publication of the Statement of Accounts.

5.2 Risk

- 5.2.1 Achievement of the statutory requirements in relation to the annual Accounts is important in demonstrating that the Authority has the appropriate governance arrangements in place to manage the reporting of its strategic financial affairs.
- 5.2.2 A clear audit opinion indicates that the Statement of Accounts presents a 'true and fair view' of the Council's financial position as at 31 March each year and that the accounting statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting.
- 5.2.3 The absence of an audit opinion exposes the Council to reputational damage as it implies that the Accounts do not present a true and fair view of the financial position and/or have not been properly prepared. It may also imply that the Authority does not have appropriate financial governance arrangements in place.

5.3 Legal

- 5.3.1 The requirements for preparation, inspection, audit, approval and publication of Local Authority annual accounts are specified in the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 [the 2004 Act] and the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 [the 2014 Regulations] as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018.

5.4 Personnel

- 5.4.1 There are no direct personnel/staffing implications arising out of this report.

6. Supporting Evidence

6.1 Performance Information and Data

Unadjusted Misstatements

- 6.1.1 The Audit Wales *Audit of Accounts Report* highlights one unadjusted misstatement identified during the course of the audit. Details of this are as follows:

6.1.2 Note 31 – Creditors (£0.288m)

Of this, £0.200m relates to balances held in the Collections Account in respect of income collected in 2019/2020 to be applied to the appropriate accounts in the 2020/2021 financial year. The remaining £0.088m relates to balances on a number of holding accounts. These creditor balances have not been adjusted as they are not considered to be material and further investigation is required to ascertain the exact corrective entries in the ledger. Appropriate corrections will be in the 2020/2021 financial statements.

Adjusted Misstatements

6.1.3 Since the Draft Statement of Accounts was reported to Audit Committee, the audit of the Accounts has resulted in the correction of a number of misstatements. These are detailed in Appendix 3 of The Audit Wales *Audit of Accounts Report*, the most significant of which are:

6.1.4 Note 40.3 - Financing Activities (£5.512m)

The opening liabilities figure arising from Financing Activities within the cashflow was understated by £5.512m, as the figure did not match the final version of the 2018/2019 Statement of Accounts.

6.1.5 Note 31 – Creditors (£0.822m)

Creditors were overstated by £1.110m, of which £0.822m has been corrected, leaving an uncorrected balance of £0.288m (as per 6.1.2). The corrected misstatements were a result of accounting errors and retained balances where the review of the existence of liabilities had been limited and insufficiently evidenced. The correction of £0.822m resulted in a reduction in associated debtor balances of £0.194m with the remainder contributing to an increase in usable reserves.

6.1.6 Note - 40.3 - Financing Activities (£0.185m)

Repayments of amounts borrowed did not include £0.185m repaid during 2019/2020 in respect of Salix.

6.1.7 In addition, there have been a number of amendments to information included in the disclosure notes. In overall terms, these changes would not substantially alter the reader's interpretation and understanding of the Accounts compared to the Draft Accounts considered by Audit Committee in September 2020.

6.1.8 The summary of the changes is as follows:

	Draft Accounts	Final Accounts	Change
	<u>£000</u>	<u>£000</u>	<u>£000</u>
Creditors	-13,854	-13,270	584
Current Provisions	-2,159	-2,057	102
Debtors	25,726	25,658	-68
Total	9,713	10,331	618
Council Fund	-6,347	-6,399	-52
Earmarked Reserves	-15,058	-15,624	-566
Total Usable Reserves	-21,405	-22,023	-618

6.1.9 Total usable reserves have increased by £0.618m.

6.2 Expected outcome for the public

6.2.1 Preparation, publication and approval of statutory accounts helps demonstrate stewardship of the Authority's resources and its ability to provide services to the local community in the short and long term.

6.3 Involvement (*consultation, engagement, participation*)

6.3.1 Statement of Accounts is presented to the Audit Committee for approval subsequent to consideration of the draft version.

6.4 Thinking for the Long term (*forward planning*)

6.4.1 Preparation of statutory accounts helps demonstrate stewardship of the Authority's resources and its ability to provide services to the local community in the short and long term.

6.5 Preventative focus

6.5.1 Not applicable.

6.6 Collaboration / partnership working

6.6.1 Not applicable.

6.7 Integration (across service areas)

6.7.1 Not applicable.

6.8 ***EqlA***

- 6.8.1 The Statement of Accounts provides an actual outturn position in relation to the Authority's transactions and year-end balances for the financial year, on an objective basis in accordance with relevant accounting standards, codes, concepts, principles, guidance and legislation.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

- 7.1 The Council continues to take into consideration the financial standing of the Authority as reported within the Statement of Accounts for 2019/2020 when monitoring budgets for 2020/2021, setting a Revenue Budget for 2021/2022 and in developing future medium term spending plans.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

Appendix – Statement of Accounts 2019/20

2019/2020

Statement of Accounts

February 2021

Page 33



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
Blaenau Gwent
County Borough Council



Cover Photo: "The Wheel", Ebbw Vale.



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council

Contents	Page Number
Abbreviations and Terms Used	i - ii
Narrative Report	1
Statement of Responsibilities	18
Auditor’s Report	19
<i>The Statement of Accounts</i>	
<i>The Core Financial Statements</i>	
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	21
Movement in Reserves Statement	23
Balance Sheet	25
Cash Flow Statement	26
<i>The Notes to the Core Financial Statements</i>	
1. Accounting Policies	27
2. Impact of Changes in Accounting Policies	39
3. Accounting Standards Issued but not yet Adopted	39
4. Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies	40
5. Assumptions Made About the Future and Other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty	41
6. Events After the Reporting Period	42
<i>Notes to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</i>	
7. Expenditure and Funding Analysis	42
8. Other Operating Expenditure	48

Contents (Continued)**Page Number**

9. Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	49
10. Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	49
11. Partnership Schemes Under Section 33 of the NHS (Wales) Act 2006	50
12. Members' Allowances	51
13. Officers' Remuneration	51
14. Termination Benefits and Exit Packages - Costs to Authority	54
15. Termination Benefits and Exit Packages - Causes	55
16. External Audit Fees	55
17. National Non-Domestic Rates	56
18. Council Tax	56
19. Precepts and Demands	57
20. Grants & Contributions	58
21. Related Parties	59

Notes to the Movements in Reserves Statement

22. Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	63
23. Adjustments Between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis Under Statutory Provisions	64

Notes to the Balance Sheet

24. Property Plant and Equipment	67
25. Heritage Assets	74
26. Leases	76
27. Non-Current Investments	78

Contents (Continued)

Page Number

28. Non-Current Debtors	79
29. Consolidation of Schools in Single Entity Accounts	79
30. Current Debtors	81
31. Current Creditors	83
32. Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets	84
33. Other Long-Term Liabilities	87
34. Financial Instruments	88
35. Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments	90
36. Post-Employment Benefits - Defined Contribution Plans (Teachers)	94
37. Post-Employment Benefits - Defined Benefit Plans (LGPS & TPS Discretionary Payments)	95
38. Reserves	104

Notes to the Cash Flow

39. Reconciliation of the Deficit on the Provision of Services to Net Cash Flows From Operating Activities	114
40. Analysis of the Amounts of Major Classes of Gross Cash Receipts and Gross Cash Payments	115
41. Cash and Cash Equivalents	116

Other Notes

42. Joint Arrangements - Cardiff Capital Region City Deal	117
43. Joint Arrangements - Other	120
44. Charitable Trusts	122

Group Accounts

124



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council

Abbreviations and Terms Used in the Statement of Accounts

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

Abbreviations and Terms Used in the Statement of Accounts

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



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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council

Narrative Report

1. Introduction

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

The financial statements cover the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 and have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/2020 (the Code), issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

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

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

The economic situation remains a major concern to the public sector both in Wales and the UK. The overall Welsh Government (WG) Revenue Settlement for 2019/2020 saw a slight increase for local government of 0.2% compared with 2018/2019, with settlements across Wales ranging from +0.9% to -0.3%. For 2019/2020, Blaenau Gwent CBC received a cash flat settlement. Currently Welsh Government do not provide forecasts for future years funding and this makes financial planning, even in the short term, quite challenging. The 2020/2021 and draft 2021/2022 settlements have seen improvements on the 2019/2020 position, with increases in Aggregate External Finance (after allowing for specific grants transferring into the settlement) of 3.9% (£4.3m) and 3.7% (£4.3m) respectively. Current predictions assume the continuation of a cash flat settlement.

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

Following the unprecedented level of savings required in previous years, the 2019/2020 settlement posed a continuing challenge for the Authority both in terms of developing a robust and balanced revenue budget (where savings of £3.4m were required whilst also addressing £1.43m of cost pressures and growth items with no planned draw from general reserves) and managing its financial affairs during the year with the aim of achieving a sustainable financial position. Despite these considerable challenges, the Council was able to set its budget for 2019/2020 and subsequently for 2020/2021.

During March 2020, the global Covid-19 pandemic and the required response had a significant impact on the Council both financially (£14,000 incurred during March 2020) and on the delivery of services. By the end of the financial year, a number of services had been suspended and Council buildings closed, with staff working from home and/or redeployed to support front line services. Significant cost pressures were being identified for 2020/2021 as a result of responding to the pandemic e.g. social distancing measures, increased infection control and free school meals provision whilst schools were closed. These costs were funded through the Welsh Government Hardship fund established to support local authorities in meeting the costs of delivering existing essential services and additional demands and responsibilities arising from the implementation of the UK-wide lockdown in March 2020. The initial Fund of £30m has been increased to over £500m to cover additional expenditure and loss of income occurring to 31 March 2021. There is however no guarantee of funding past the end of the 2020/2021 financial year.

3. Background - Significant Events

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

3.1 Audit of 2016/2017 - 2018/2019 Statutory Accounts by Audit Wales (AW) (formerly Wales Audit Office (WAO))

Audit Wales received external correspondence towards the planned end of its 2016/2017 audit, relating to the arrangements between the Council and Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd. (a wholly owned company of the Council). As the resulting investigation had not been finalised, the Council did not receive an audit opinion or certificate of completion in relation to the 2016/2017 audit at that time and subsequently it was not possible for Audit Wales to provide an opinion on, or conclude, the Accounts for 2017/2018 and 2018/2019.

Audit Wales' investigation is now coming to a conclusion and the Council has been advised that the element of the review specifically impacting upon the Statement of Accounts relates to the treatment of employer pension contributions for the Council-nominated Directors on the Company's Board. The Auditor General for Wales considers that these contributions paid by the Council into the Local Government Pension Scheme appear to be contrary to law on the basis that the Council did not have the power to make pension payments on behalf of Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd..

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

The Council re-approved the Statement of Accounts for each of the financial years 2016/2017 to 2018/2019 on 17 November 2020. Further to this, on 26 November 2020 the Auditor General for Wales provided qualified opinions on the 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 Accounts and an unqualified opinion on the 2018/2019 Accounts.

3.2 Annual Governance Statement

In the Annual Governance Statement, the Head of Internal Audit has concluded that Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's system of internal control during the financial year 2019/2020 operated to a level which gives reasonable assurance on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the organisation's framework of governance, risk management and control. In general, positive movement has been evident with no individual findings being of such significance as to cause concern regarding the integrity of the Statement of Accounts.

3.3 Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd.

In December 2017, Council made an in-principle decision to transfer the assets and liabilities of Silent Valley Waste Services Limited back to the Council in order that the service would be delivered in-house. A process of commercial, legal and financial due diligence has been undertaken and the outcome reported to Members. Soft market testing is now in progress in advance of a final decision.

3.4 European Union Membership

On 23 June 2016, the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union (EU). The UK formally left the European Union on 31 January 2020 and entered into a transition period ending on 31 December 2020. During the period of transition there have been no significant changes to the legal and financial environment in which the Authority operates and there has therefore been no direct material impact on the transactions and balances reported for the 2019/2020 financial year. Further consideration of the potential impact of the vote to leave the EU is included in note 16.4 to this Narrative Report (page 17).

3.5 Aneurin Leisure Trust

In 2018 a review commenced to determine the future management options available to the Council for the provision of Leisure Services. On 26 March 2020, the Council agreed to provide Aneurin Leisure Trust with a time limited extension period of five years, with a break/review point at year 3. A further contract extension will be considered by the Council if the Trust fully deliver their business plan.

3.6 Material Events After the Reporting Date

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

4. Summary of Outturn

In setting the 2019/2020 budget, the Authority agreed a Council Tax increase of 4.9%, identified savings of £3.4m and addressed £1.43m of cost pressures and growth including £0.3m for pay and pension liabilities and £0.4m for increased utility costs within street lighting and the corporate landlord function.

Overall, management accounts have reported an underspend against budget of £0.482m, after the net application of earmarked reserves totalling £1.5m. A number of budget pressures were identified during the year and these have been managed within the overall budget, with ongoing cost pressures being built into the budget for 2020/2021.

The outturn position includes revenue expenditure of £64,000 as a result of the severe floods in February 2020. Unfortunately this level of costs did not trigger emergency funding from Welsh Government.

Costs of £14,000 incurred to the end of March 2020 have been included in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic and these have been fully funded by the Welsh Government Hardship Fund.

5. Revenue Expenditure Outturn and Funding

5.1 2019/2020 Outturn

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

Service Expenditure Compared to Budget	2019/2020					
	CIES Net Expenditure £000	Accounting Code Adjustments £000	Funding and Accounting Basis Adjustments £000	Net Outturn - Management Accounts £000	Revised Budget £000	Variance: Adverse/ (Favourable) £000
Portfolio/Committee:						
Corporate Services	25,373	(7,787)	(2,877)	14,709	14,725	(16)
Education *	19,067	46,073	(9,792)	55,348	55,477	(129)
Environment	28,577	11,738	(10,717)	29,598	29,523	75
Regeneration & Economic Development	2,117	862	(1,463)	1,516	1,516	0
Social Services	45,675	3,182	(4,331)	44,526	44,915	(389)
Licensing	79	19	(24)	74	65	9
Planning	955	225	(156)	1,024	1,056	(32)
Sub-Total:	121,843	54,312	(29,360)	146,795	147,277	(482)
Education - School Spending **	42,154	(43,223)	(256)	(1,325)	0	(1,325)
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal ***	(119)	119	0	0	0	0
Total:	163,878	11,208	(29,616)	145,470	147,277	(1,807)

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

**: *Education - School Spending* refers to financial transactions related specifically to school establishments.

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

5.2 Impact of Inflation on Revenue Expenditure

Consumer price inflation at March 2020 was 1.5%, having ranged between 1.3% and 2.1% during 2019/2020 and being below the Bank of England target rate of 2% since August 2019.

Whilst the 2% target has been retained, the Bank has recognised the challenges arising from the response to the severe financial and economic disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. During 2020 CPI reduced to below 1% but is projected to rise during 2021 to reach the target during 2022.

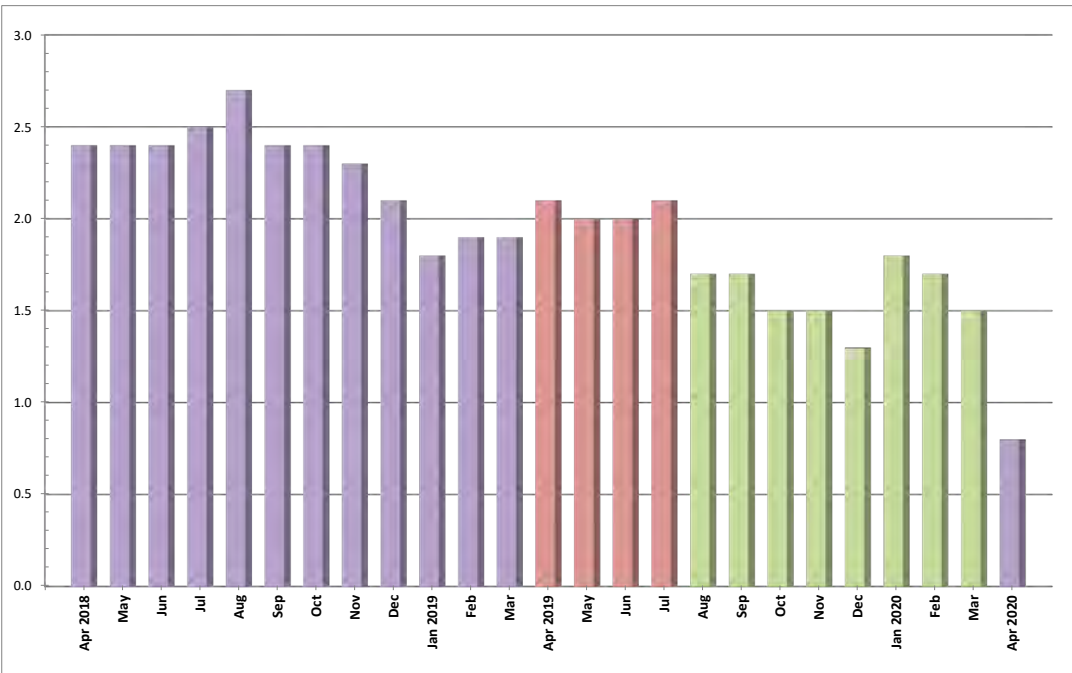
The impact of inflationary pressures on the Authority varies according to specific areas of spend. Much of the Authority's expenditure relates to employee costs with a 1% increase in employee costs equating to £1m. An extended period of wage restraint and below-inflation settlements in the previous decade briefly gave way to increases in public sector pay awards, including a 2.75% APT&C settlement from April 2020.

However, future employee cost pressures for the Authority could be constrained by a renewal of specific public sector pay restraint. Across the economy as a whole, the impact of Covid-19 is expected to weaken wage growth during 2020 and 2021.

As part of the Bank of England's response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Monetary Policy Committee decided on 11 March 2020 to reduce the Bank Rate from 0.75% to 0.25%, and then to 0.1% on 19 March 2020. This is projected to remain at historically low levels for the foreseeable future. Consequently, inflationary pressure resulting from changes in interest rates is limited. However, the Bank is keeping under review the possibility that the Bank Rate could fall below zero. In these circumstances the Authority would incur additional interest costs as a result of holding any significant sums of money.

Overall, increases in prices at which the Authority procures goods and services (in excess of related income from fees and charges or general government grants) will have a detrimental impact on a wide range of services.

Consumer Price Index (CPI) Inflation: April 2018 - April 2020



5.3 Funding Sources

Central Government provides the majority of the Authority's funding, through Revenue Support Grant, Specific Grants and Non-Domestic Rates (67% of funding in 2019/2020). For 2019/2020, Aggregate External Financing (adjusted for transfers) reduced by 0.02% compared with 2018/2019, lower than the average Welsh Unitary Authority increase of 0.2% (source: Local Government Finance Report (No. 1) 2019-20 (Final Settlement - Councils) - Table 1a.) The spending review covering the period to 2020/2021 indicated a significant increase to the Welsh Government budget compared to previous years and consequently the level of funding to Welsh local authorities increased by 4.3% on average, with BGCBC receiving a 3.9% increase.

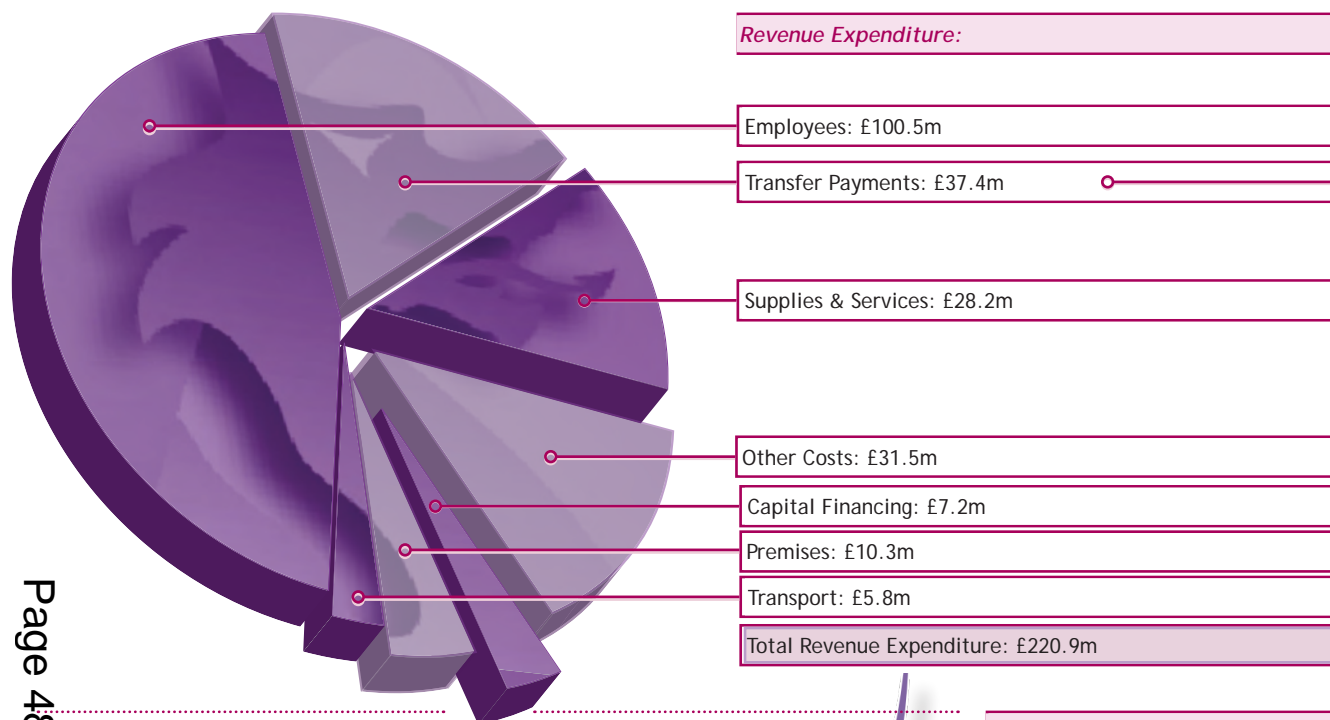
A 1% increase in RSG compared to 2018/2019 levels represents additional funding of £0.879m, which equates to 0.36% of the Authority's total funding. In real terms this increase is reduced by the impact of inflation.

The level of investment income available to the Authority has been reduced as a result of low rates of interest, but this has been more than offset by the reduction in interest expenses on borrowing. Should lending rates fall below zero, this could result in additional income to the Authority associated with borrowing, whilst additional costs would be incurred on investments - a reversal of the commonly-accepted 'normal' position.

The economic impact of Covid-19 is yet to be fully realised, but reduced economic activity, business failures, increases in unemployment and reductions in disposal income could all have a detrimental impact on the Authority's revenue streams.

In summary, the combination of historically low interest rates, controlled grant funding and the uncertainties caused by Covid-19 create an environment in which there is continued pressure to maintain control of costs.

For 2019/2020, revenue expenditure and funding can be analysed as follows:



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

Summary	2019/2020 £000
Total Revenue Expenditure	220,867
Total Revenue Funding	(222,816)
Net Revenue Expenditure	(1,949)
Transfer to Earmarked Reserves	1,444
Increase in Council Fund General Reserve	(505)

Revenue Funding:

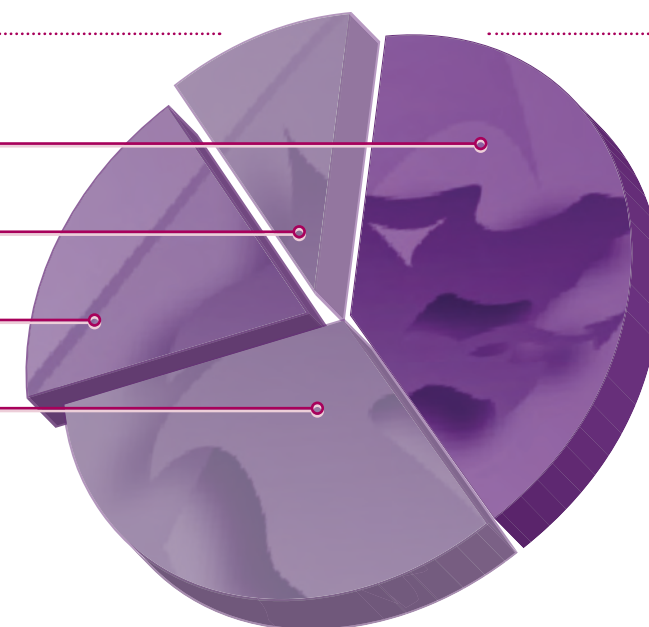
RSG: £88.2m

Non-Domestic Rates: £22.6m

Council Tax: £40.3m

Grants & Other Service Income: £71.7m

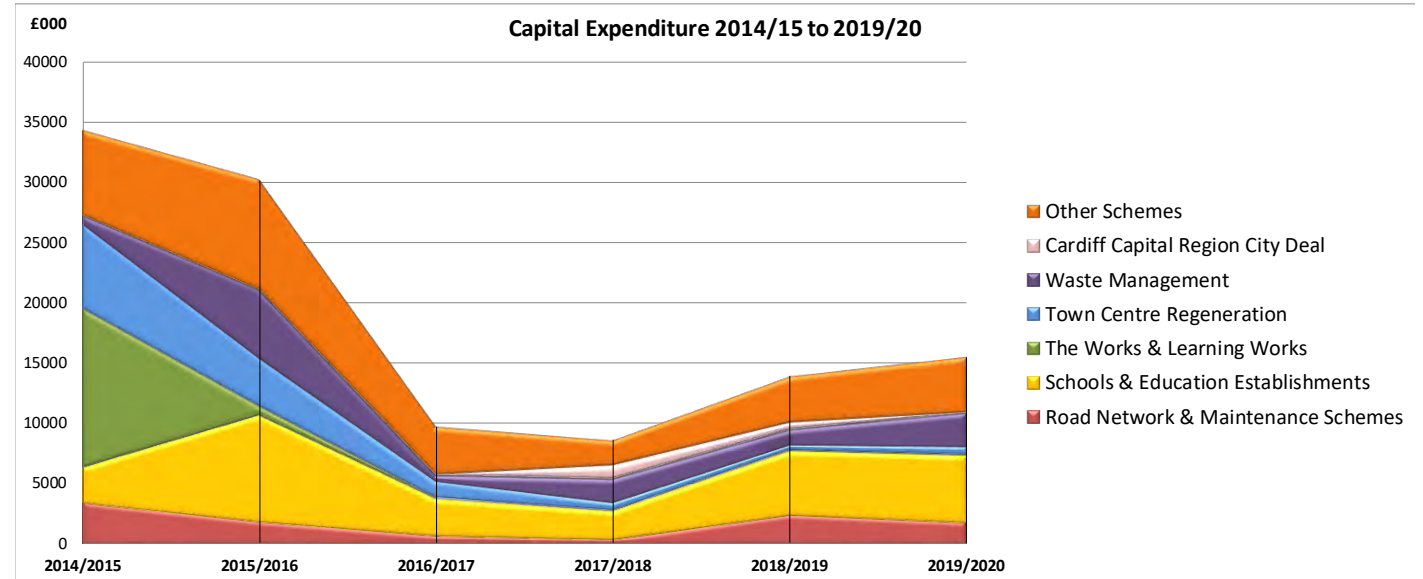
Total Revenue Funding: £222.8m



6. Capital Expenditure Outturn and Funding

Capital Expenditure

In year, total capital expenditure amounted to £15.466m, an increase of £1.569m compared to the previous year, largely due to the increase in expenditure on schools and education establishments, waste management, regeneration programme and leisure schemes, offset by reductions in road network & maintenance schemes, land reclamation and contributions to the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal.



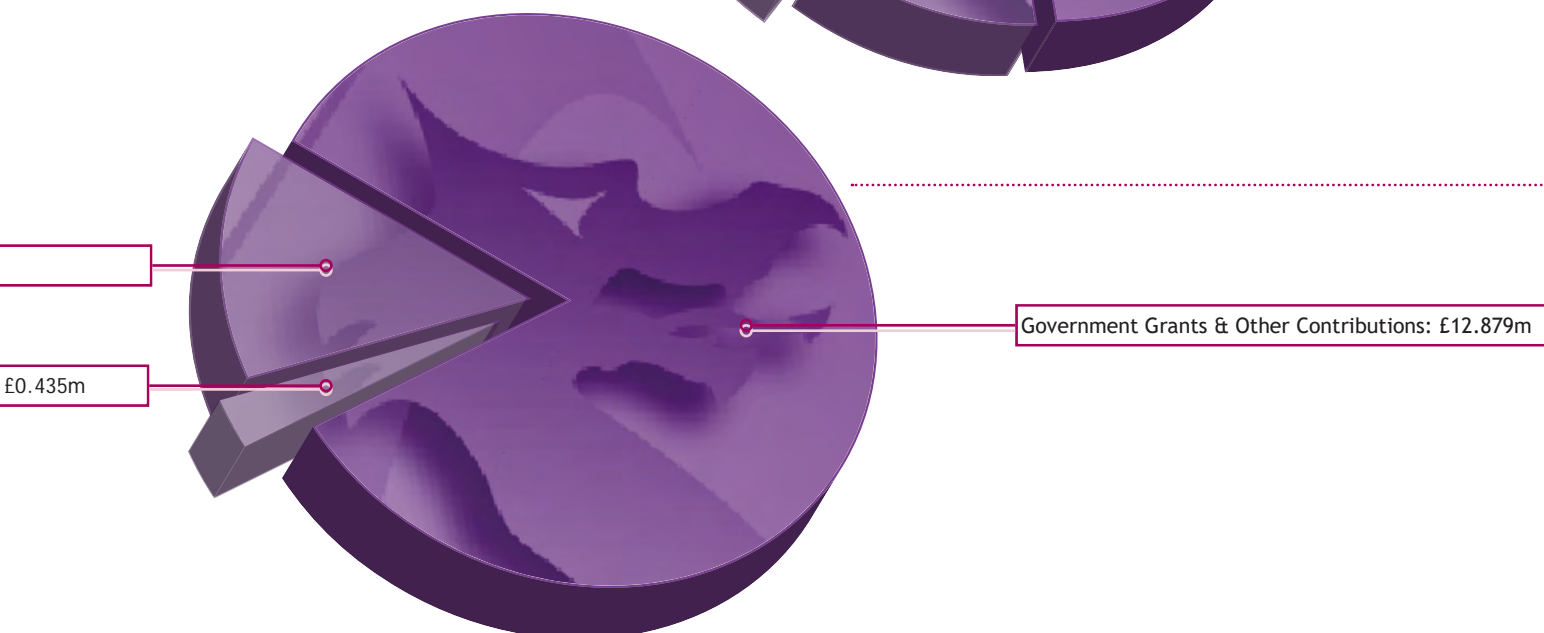
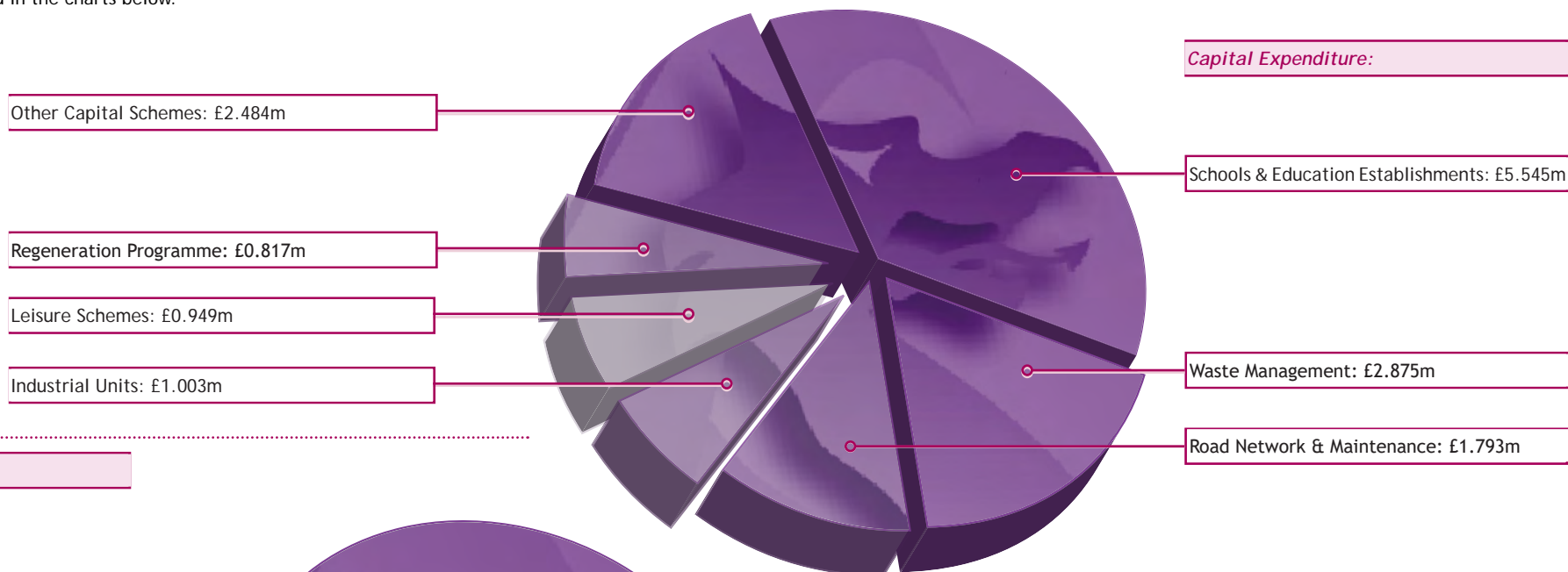
Capital Expenditure by Scheme	2019/2020		2018/2019	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Schools & Education Establishments	5,545		5,265	
Waste Management	2,875		1,301	
Road Network & Maintenance Schemes	1,793		2,455	
Industrial Units	1,003		825	
Leisure Schemes	949		530	
Regeneration Programme	817		146	
Town Centre Regeneration	707		452	
Housing General	588		413	
Social Services Adults	485		561	
Flying Start Schemes	355		56	
CCTV	159		0	
Workplace Transformation	87		78	
Land Reclamation	0		944	
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal	0		569	
Other	103		302	
Total:		15,466		13,897

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

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

Financing of Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditure totalling £15.466m was financed by local authority borrowing (£2.152m), grants (£12.879m), capital receipts (£0.142m) and revenue contributions (£0.293m). Capital expenditure and funding are summarised in the charts below.



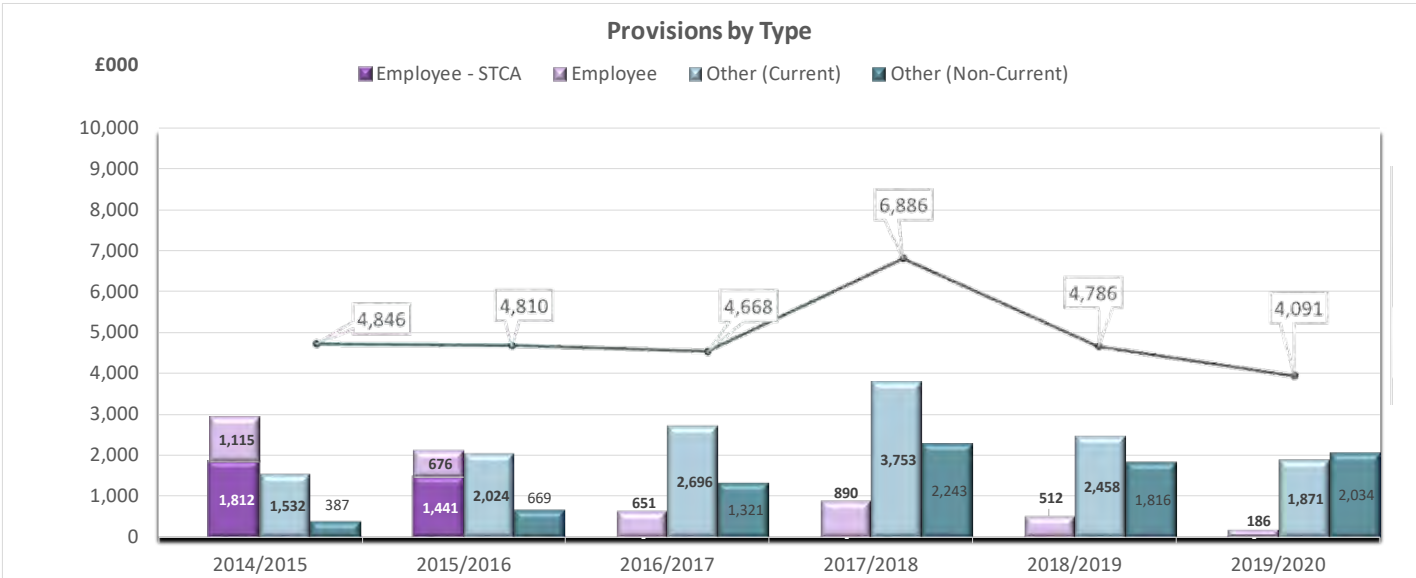
7. Provisions, Reserves, Contingencies and Write Offs

7.1 Provisions

The level of provisions held by the Authority varies each year in relation to the level of liabilities identified. Total provisions held by the Authority at the beginning of the year amounted to £4.786m, decreasing by £0.695m to £4.091m during 2019/2020. This was largely due to the ending of the carbon reduction commitment scheme and reductions in sums held for early termination payments and insurance liabilities.

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

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



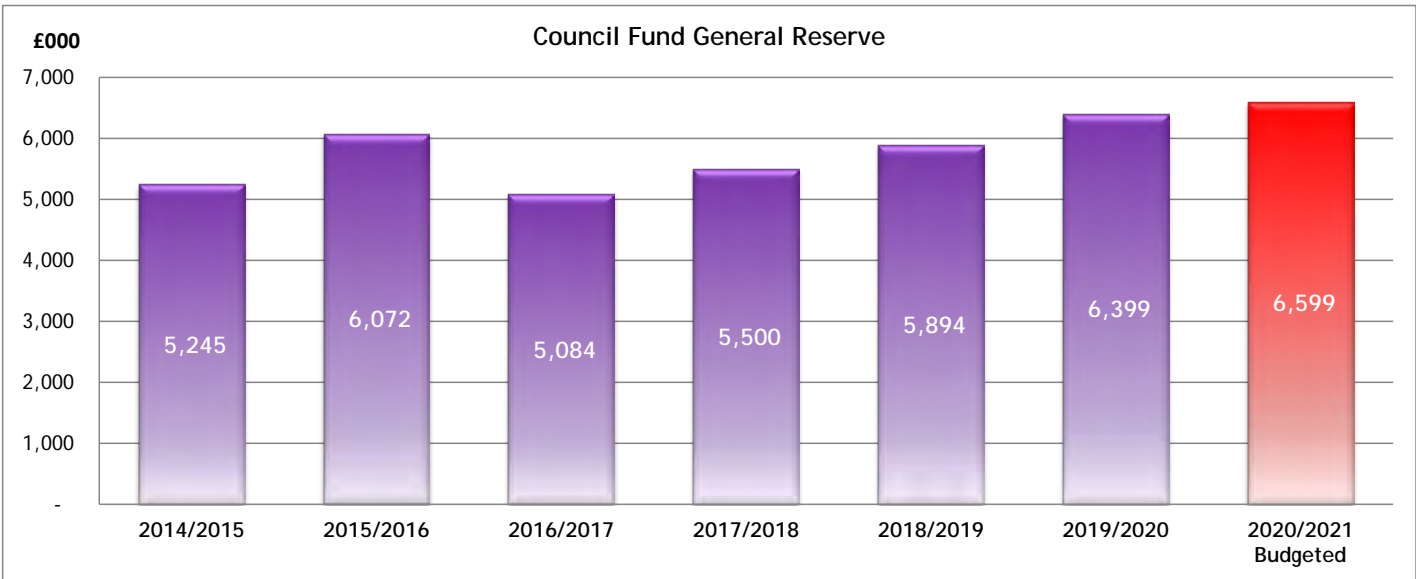
7.2 Reserves

Over the past five years the Council Fund General Reserve has increased by 22%, from £5.245m at 31 March 2015 to £6.399m at 31 March 2020.

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

At 31 March 2020, the General Reserve equated to 4.73% of 2019/2020 Revenue Outturn Net Revenue Expenditure, an increase of 0.33% compared with the position at 31 March 2019.

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



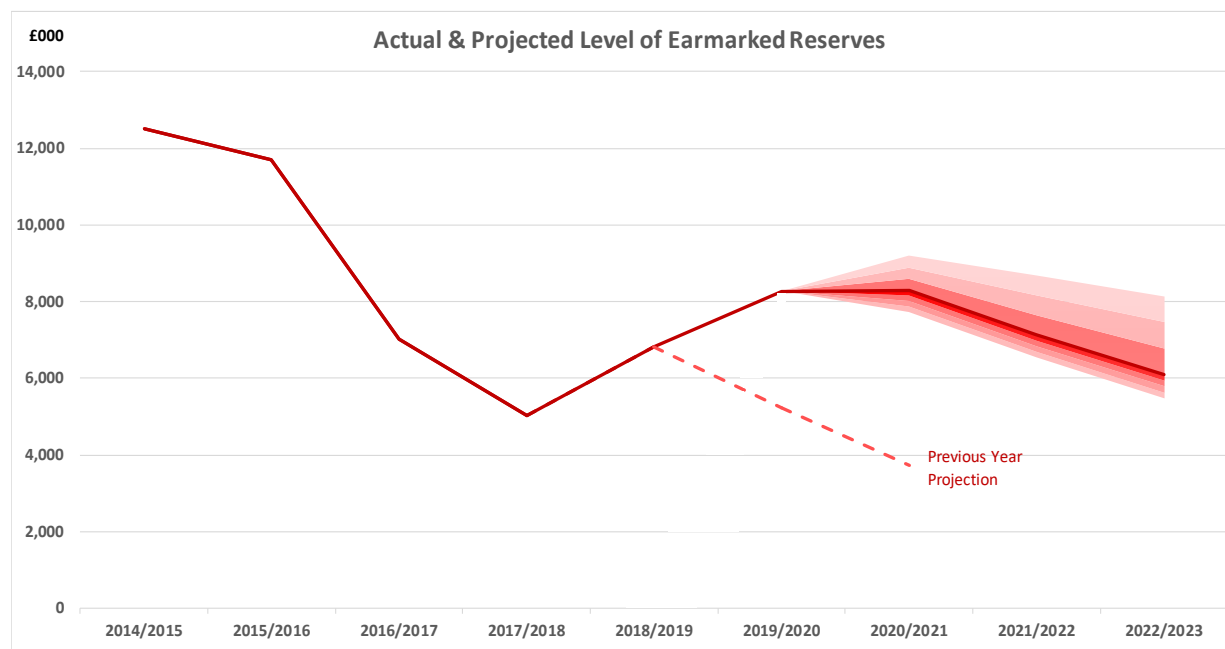
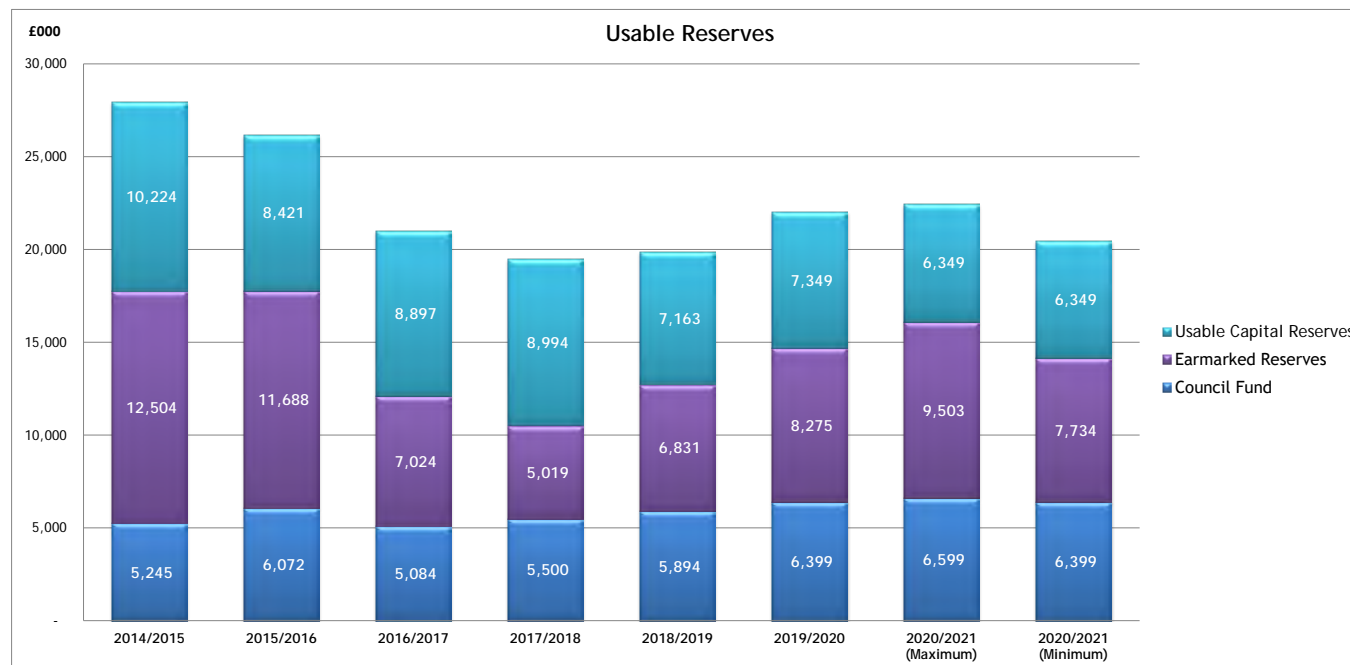
In their 2017/2018 Annual Audit Letter to Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, the Wales Audit Office noted that the level of General and Earmarked Reserves as a percentage of gross revenue expenditure was 4.63%, the lowest of any Welsh Authority and significantly below the 2017/2018 Welsh average of 11.44%. The Authority accepted the need to maintain an appropriate level of reserves and in taking the first steps towards the replenishment of General Reserves agreed a planned annual contribution as part of its Medium Term financial Strategy. In addition the budget for 2020/2021 agreed a £1.4m earmarked reserve to support medium term financial planning. By the end of 2019/2020 there has been an improvement in the level of usable reserves held by the Council, increasing to 9.45% as a percentage of gross revenue expenditure. Whilst this is still lower than the Welsh average for 2019/2020 of 17.74%, it is no longer the lowest in comparison with other Welsh Authorities.

Aggregate Usable Reserves have reduced from £27.973m in 2014/2015 to £22.023m in 2019/2020. This represents 16.27% of 2019/2020 Net Revenue Outturn Expenditure. Within this figure, the level of usable capital reserves has declined over that period from £10.224m to £7.349m (-£2.875m, -28.1%) and earmarked revenue reserves have similarly reduced from £12.504m to £8.275m (-£4.229m, -33.8%). This highlights the use of these reserves for their intended purposes and to some extent the impact of reduced levels of funding for the Authority as a consequence of austerity.

For 2019/2020, the 'most likely' projected range for aggregate earmarked reserve balances at year-end was between £5.077m and £5.573m, with actual earmarked reserves of £8.275m at 31 March 2020 being 58.1% higher than the 'most likely' projection. This increase in earmarked reserves was due to reductions in the insurance provision (note 7.1), improvements in Schools balances, and control of in-year spend resulting in an underspend of £0.482m (note 4).

The net movement on earmarked reserves for 2020/2021 is projected to be in the range of +£1.228m to -£0.541m. As indicated in the fan chart (right), it is anticipated that the 'most likely' range of projected movements is between an increase of £0.327m and a reduction of £0.116m. This would result in total earmarked reserves balances at 31 March 2021 in the range of £8.159m and £8.602m.

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



Movements on usable reserves are detailed in note 38 to the Core Statements (pages 104-109). Total usable reserves at the commencement of the year amounted to £19.888m, increasing by £2.135m to £22.023m at 31 March 2020. The most significant net contributions to/from usable reserves were:

Summary Reserves Movements	2019/2020		2018/2019	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April		(19,888)	Balance at 1 April	(19,513)
Adjustment to Opening Balance		0	Adjustment to Opening Balance	(92)
Revised Balance at 1 April		(19,888)		(19,605)
Significant net contributions (to)/from earmarked reserves:			Significant net contributions (to)/from earmarked reserves:	
Budget Contingency Fund / Invest to Save		7	Budget Contingency Fund / Invest to Save	482
Downsizing, Redundancy & Transitional Costs		16	Corporate Services Portfolio	(138)
Future Interest Rate		106	Downsizing, Redundancy & Transitional Costs	(98)
Individual Schools Budget (ISB)		159	Facilities (Capital)	(80)
Insurance Liabilities		(1,016)	Future Interest Rate	(106)
Land at Blaenant Road		136	Infrastructure Portfolio	(154)
Leisure Termination Costs		165	Insurance Liabilities	(570)
LMS		(214)	Land at Blaenant Road	(136)
Prudential Borrowing		200	Leisure Termination Costs	(165)
Revenue Grants & Contributions Unapplied		(628)	LMS	(763)
Technology Park Feasability Study		(120)	Revenue Grants & Contributions Unapplied	228
		(1,189)		(1,500)
Significant net contributions (to)/from other usable reserves:			Significant net contributions (to)/from other usable reserves:	
Usable Capital Receipts		(296)	Usable Capital Receipts	1,822
Other net contributions (to)/from usable reserves		(650)	Other net contributions (to)/from usable reserves	(605)
		(946)		1,217
Balance at 31 March		(22,023)		(19,888)

Impact of Pension Deficit on Reserves

The Authority holds total usable reserves of £22.023m at 31 March 2020 (£19.888m at 31 March 2019). The effect of applying the net superannuation fund deficit of £267.258m to the Authority's usable reserves would be a deficit of £245.235m (2018/2019: the superannuation deficit of £325.993m exceeded usable reserves by £306.105m).

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

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

7.3 Contingencies

A number of contingent liabilities are disclosed in relation to issues where an event has taken place that gives the Authority a possible obligation whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Authority, where it is not probable that an outflow of resources will be required or where the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably. For 2019/2020, disclosures cover:

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

No contingent assets have been identified.

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

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

8. Treasury Management Activities

In March 2019, the Authority approved the Treasury Strategy Statement, Annual Investment Strategy and MRP Policy Statement for the 2019/2020 financial year. The prime objectives of these policies were firstly to ensure the security of capital and secondly to maximise the liquidity of investments. In doing so, the policies sought to minimise the revenue costs of debt whilst maintaining a prudent level of debt redemption.

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

	2019/2020			2018/2019		
	Temporary Loans £000	Other Loans £000	Total £000	Temporary Loans £000	Other Loans £000	Total £000
Borrowing						
Balance at 1 April	(61,650)	(95,892)	(157,542)	(51,250)	(97,329)	(148,579)
Loans Raised	(122,550)	(13,845)	(136,395)	(129,500)	(8,448)	(137,948)
Loans Repaid	123,500	11,454	134,954	119,100	9,927	129,027
Effective Interest Adjustment	0	(44)	(44)	0	(42)	(42)
Balance at 31 March	(60,700)	(98,327)	(159,027)	(61,650)	(95,892)	(157,542)

Total external loan debt at 31 March 2020 amounted to £159.027m (31 March 2019: £157.542m). A long term loan for £10m was raised towards the end of the financial year to take advantage of favourable long term interest rates. Further opportunities to raise long term loans will be explored in 2020/2021.

Investing Activities

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

Investments	2019/2020 £000	2018/2019 £000
Balance at 1 April	6,000	2,000
Investments Made	306,500	216,300
Investments Repaid	(312,500)	(212,300)
Balance at 31 March	0	6,000

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

The 2003 Capital Finance Regulations require amounts to be set aside from revenue for the repayment of external loans. This is known as the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) and in 2019/2020 the sum of £0.689m (2018/2019: £0.620m) has been set by the Authority based on statutory guidance, as disclosed in note 1.17 (page 37).

Interest on external loan debt of £4.281m has been charged to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement in 2019/2020 (2018/2019: £4.376m).

9. Pension Assets and Liabilities

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

Pension Assets and Liabilities	31 March 2020			31 March 2019		
	LGPS	uTPS	Total	LGPS	uTPS	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Assets	339,718	0	339,718	378,786	0	378,786
Liabilities	(574,483)	(32,493)	(606,976)	(666,977)	(37,802)	(704,779)
Net Liabilities	(234,765)	(32,493)	(267,258)	(288,191)	(37,802)	(325,993)

10. Movement in Valuation of Non-Current Assets

During 2019/2020, the net cost or valuation of non-current assets (Property, Plant & Equipment) recorded on the Authority's Balance Sheet showed a net increase of £2.994m, from £264.264m to £267.258m. This movement was largely the result of £9.8m additions and enhancements to assets in addition to net revaluation gains of £3.5m, offset by depreciation charges and appropriations of £10.2m.

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

11. Significant Changes in Accounting Policies

11.1 CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting, 2019/2020

The 2019/2020 Accounting Code of Practice includes the following new or revised accounting standards, none of which has impacted on the preparation of the Authority's Accounts:

- Amendments to *IFRS 9 Financial Instruments* - amended to clarify that amortised cost should be used where prepayments are substantially lower than the unpaid principal and interest.
- Amendments to *IAS 40 Investment Property* - amended to provide further explanation of the instances in which a property can be reclassified as investment property.
- *Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2014-2016 Cycle* - IFRS 1 has been amended to remove exemptions on a first time adoption of IFRS; IAS 28 has been clarified in respect of the treatment of investments in associates or joint ventures.
- *IFRIC 22 Foreign Currency Transactions and Advance Consideration* - clarifies the treatment of payments in a foreign currency made in advance of obtaining or delivering services or goods.
- *IFRIC 23 Uncertainty over Income Tax Treatment* - providing additional guidance on income tax treatment in cases where there is uncertainty.

12. Main Financial Statements

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

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

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

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

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

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

12.3 The Balance Sheet (Page 25)

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

12.4 The Cash Flow Statement (Page 26)

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

13. Expenditure and Funding Analysis

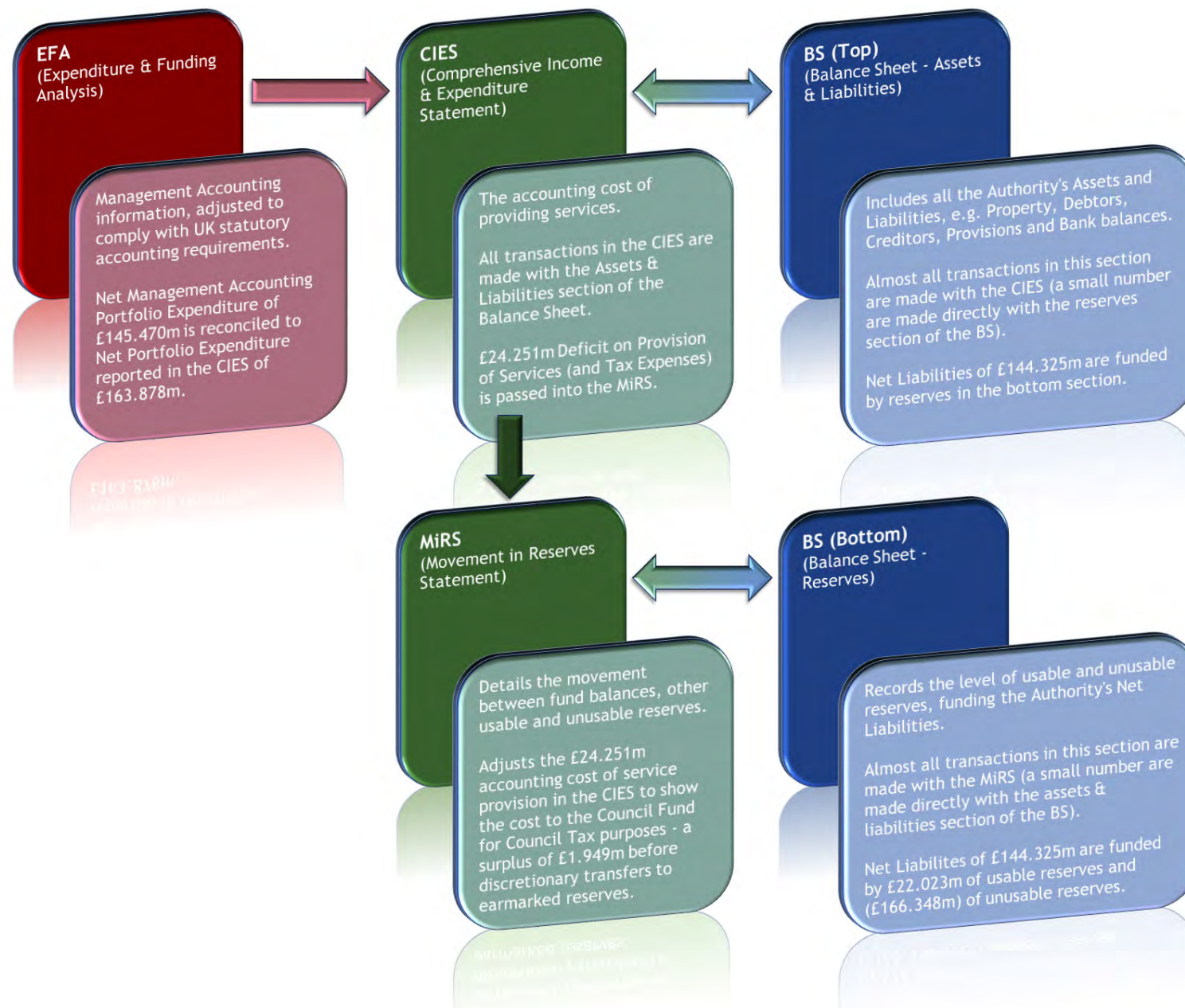
The objective of the Expenditure and Funding Analysis is to demonstrate to council tax payers how the funding available to the Authority (i.e. government grants, council tax and business rates) for the year has been used in providing services in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by the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

The following table summarises the transactions recorded in the EFA for 2019/2020 - more detail is included in the full EFA on page 43.

Expenditure & Funding Analysis - Summary	2019/2020					2018/2019				
	Management Account Net Expenditure £000	Accounting Code Adjustments £000	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the Council Fund £000	Funding and Accounting Basis Adjustments £000	CIES Net Expenditure £000	Management Account Net Expenditure £000	Accounting Code Adjustments £000	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the Council Fund £000	Funding and Accounting Basis Adjustments £000	CIES Net Expenditure £000
(Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services	145,470	(147,444)	(1,974)	26,200	24,226	144,407	(146,546)	(2,139)	17,689	15,550
Tax Expenses			25					25		
Transfers to/(from) earmarked reserves			1,444					1,720		
(Increase)/Decrease in year			(505)					(394)		
Opening council Fund Balance as at 1 April			(5,894)					(5,500)		
Closing Council Fund Balance as at 31 March			(6,399)					(5,894)		

14. Interaction of Main Financial Statements

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



15. Group Accounts

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

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

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

16. Future Developments

16.1 Budget-Setting Process

The Council recognises the challenges that it faces in the short, medium and long terms and has developed a programme of Strategic Business Reviews to deal with potential gaps between anticipated funding and expenditure that aims to build financial resilience. Based on strategic themes the 'Bridging the Gap' programme aims to identify savings opportunities, potential cost avoidance and new revenue streams. Designed to support a balanced budget it is also focussed on creating the conditions of a commercially-minded council.

For 2020/2021, the Bridging the Gap programme identified estimated savings/revenues/efficiencies of between £1.46m and £2.1m. These benefits (if achieved), in conjunction with the better than anticipated budget settlement for 2020/2021, could allow for £1.5m to be earmarked in a specific reserve to support medium term financial planning.

16.2 Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRCDD)

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

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

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

16.3 Impact of the Referendum to Leave the European Union

On 23 June 2016, the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union (EU). Whilst the outcome of the referendum has no direct material impact on the transactions and balances reported for the 2019/2020 financial year, the decision has the potential to have a significant impact on the Authority across a wide range of areas in future years, including:

European Structural and Other Transnational European Funding Streams;

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

Pension Scheme Asset and Liability Valuations and Employer Contributions;

The long-term impact on the value of equities, bonds, gilts and other assets held by pension funds remains uncertain, but will be dependent on the interaction of the currency and equity markets and other factors, such as the level of domestic and international growth and the impact of the response and consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic.

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

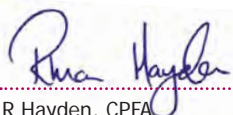
The legal framework regarding these areas is unlikely to change significantly in the short term, as much EU law is implemented by specific national law. In addition, the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018, the Withdrawal Agreement 2019 and subsequent legislation set out the 'retained EU legislation' which remains part of UK legislation after the transition period to 11:00pm on 31 December 2020. After that point in time, in accordance with the European Union (Future Relationship) Act 2020 and subject to any further agreement, it may be possible for the UK to amend or repeal this body of retained legislation.

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

17. Conclusion

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

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



R Hayden, CPFA
Chief Officer - Resources



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council



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Statement of Responsibilities

The Authority's Responsibilities

The Authority is required to:

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

The Responsibilities of the Chief Officer - Resources

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

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

The Chief Officer - Resources has also:

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

Certification of Accounts

In my opinion the Statement of Accounts gives a true and fair view of the financial position of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and the Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Group as at 31 March 2020, and of their expenditure and income for the year then ended.

.....
Chief Officer - Resources	Date

I confirm that these Accounts were approved at the Audit Committee Meeting on 2 March 2021. Signed on behalf of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council:

.....
Chair of Meeting	Date



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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council

Auditor's Report

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

Report on the audit of the financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of:

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

for the year ended 31 March 2020 under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

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

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

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019-2020 based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

In my opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council as at 31 March 2020 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with legislative requirements and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019-2020.

Basis for Opinion

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

Emphasis of Matter - effects of COVID-19 on the Council's assets and property pension fund valuations

I draw attention to Note 5 to the financial statements which describes the impact of material uncertainty clauses included within the year end valuations of the Council's property and the Greater Gwent Pension Fund's pooled pension fund assets, for which a proportion is attributable to the Council, arising from circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council has disclosed this material uncertainty and my audit opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Conclusions relating to going concern

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require me to report to you where:

- the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the responsible financial officer has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Council's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least 12 months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Report on other requirements

Opinion on other matters

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

- the information contained in the Narrative Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and the Narrative Report has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019-2020; and
- the information given in the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and the Annual Governance Statement has been prepared in accordance with guidance.

Matters on which I report by exception

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

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

- proper accounting records have not been kept;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit.

Certificate of completion of audit

I am unable to certify that I have completed the audit of the accounts of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, as I have ongoing work in relation to concerns raised in correspondence in respect of Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd.

Responsibilities

Responsibilities of the Responsible Financial Officer for the financial statements

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Adrian Crompton

Date

Auditor General for Wales

24 Cathedral Road

Cardiff

CF11 9LJ

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



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Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council



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Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

This statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. The Authority raises taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this differs from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

	2019/2020			2018/2019			Note:	Page:
	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000		
Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement								
Continuing Operations								
Corporate Services	50,637	(25,264)	25,373	52,527	(28,457)	24,070	16	55
Education	25,121	(6,054)	19,067	17,706	(5,404)	12,302		
Education - Schools	47,443	(5,289)	42,154	45,984	(4,749)	41,235	29	80
Environment	36,133	(7,556)	28,577	33,624	(8,489)	25,135		
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal	113	(232)	(119)	62	(196)	(134)	42	117
Regeneration & Economic Development	5,764	(3,647)	2,117	5,519	(3,339)	2,180		
Social Services	68,602	(22,927)	45,675	63,460	(18,748)	44,712	11	50
Licensing	209	(130)	79	197	(133)	64		
Planning	1,412	(457)	955	1,610	(651)	959		
Total Deficit on Continuing Services	235,434	(71,556)	163,878	220,689	(70,166)	150,523	7	43

Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement (Continued)	2019/2020			2018/2019			Note:	Page:
	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000		
Total Deficit on Continuing Services	235,434	(71,556)	163,878	220,689	(70,166)	150,523		
Other Operating Expenditure	10,698	(595)	10,103	9,042	(413)	8,629	8, 18, 19	48, 56, 57
Financing and Investment Income & Expenditure	21,749	(9,333)	12,416	21,287	(9,902)	11,385	9	49
Taxation & Non-Specific Grant Income	0	(162,171)	(162,171)	0	(154,987)	(154,987)	10, 17, 18, 20	49, 56, 58
(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services	267,881	(243,655)	24,226	251,018	(235,468)	15,550	7	43
Tax Expenses			25			25	42	117
(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services <i>less</i> Tax Expenses			24,251			15,575	MiRS	23-24
(Surplus)/Deficit Arising on the Revaluation of Non-Current Assets			(9,238)			(538)	38	111
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit pension liability			(76,068)			41,883	37	97
Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure			(85,306)			41,345	MiRS, 22	23-24, 63
Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure			(61,055)			56,920	MiRS	23-24

Movement in Reserves Statement

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

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

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

Movement in Reserves Statement 2019/2020	Council Fund £000	Earmarked Council Fund Reserves £000	Capital Reserves		Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Authority Reserves £000	Note	Page
			Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000					
Balance at 31 March 2019	(5,894)	(6,831)	(6,504)	(659)	(19,888)	225,255	205,367	BS	25
Adjustments to brought forward balances	0	0	0	0	0	13 *	13		
Revised Balance at 1 April 2019	(5,894)	(6,831)	(6,504)	(659)	(19,888)	225,268	205,380		
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	24,251	0	0	0	24,251	(85,306)	(61,055)	CIES	22
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under statutory provisions	(26,200)	0	(296)	110	(26,386)	26,386	0	23	64-66
Net (Increase)/Decrease before transfers to Earmarked Reserves	(1,949)	0	(296)	110	(2,135)	(58,920)	(61,055)		
Transfers from Council Fund (to) Earmarked Reserves	1,444	(1,444)	0	0	0	0	0	38	108-109
(Increase)/Decrease in 2019/2020	(505)	(1,444)	(296)	110	(2,135)	(58,920)	(61,055)		
Balance at 31 March 2020	(6,399)	(8,275)	(6,800)	(549)	(22,023)	166,348	144,325	BS	25

*: Unusable Reserve balances at 1 April 2019 were amended to reflect adjustments in the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal accounts for 2019/2020, decreasing the Blaenau Gwent share of the capital adjustment account by £0.013m.

Balance Sheet

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

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

Balance Sheet	31 March 2020		31 March 2019		Note:	Page:
	£000	£000	£000	£000		
Property, Plant & Equipment	267,258		264,264		24, 26, 29	67-74, 76, 79
Heritage Assets	531		413		25	74-75
Non-Current Investments	250		250		27	78
Non-Current Debtors	3,220		4,490		28	79
Sub Total: Long-Term Assets		271,259		269,417		
Assets Held for Sale	590		880		24	70-72
Inventories	396		461			
Current Debtors	25,658		16,987		30	81-83
Cash and Cash Equivalents	5,573		10,574		41	116
Sub Total: Current Assets		32,217		28,902		
Current Borrowing	(69,479)		(73,103)		34-35	88-93
Current Creditors	(13,270)		(11,414)		31	83
Current Grants Receipts in Advance	(1,964)		(2,301)		20	58
Current Provisions	(2,057)		(2,970)		32	84-86
Sub Total: Current Liabilities		(86,770)		(89,788)		
Non-Current Borrowing	(89,548)		(84,439)		34-35	88-93
Non-Current Provisions	(2,034)		(1,816)		32	84-86
Other Long-Term Liabilities	(269,449)		(327,643)		33, 37	87, 95-104
Sub Total: Long-Term Liabilities		(361,031)		(413,898)		
Total Net Assets/(Liabilities)		(144,325)		(205,367)		
Usable Reserves	(22,023)		(19,888)		38.1	104-109
Unusable Reserves	166,348		225,255		38.2	110-113
Total Reserves		144,325		205,367		

Cash Flow Statement

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

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

Cash Flow Statement	2019/2020		2018/2019		Note:	Page:
	£000	£000	£000	£000		
Net surplus/(deficit) on the provision of services less tax expenses	(24,251)		(15,575)		CIES	22
Adjustments to the provision of services for non-cash movements	34,272		23,776		39.1	114
Adjustments for items included in the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	(12,896)		(6,844)		39.2	114
Net Cash Inflows/(Outflows) from Operating Activities		(2,875)		1,357		
Investing activities		(3,412)		(6,947)	40.1	115
Financing activities		1,286		8,767	40.2	115
Net increase or (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(5,001)		3,177		
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		10,574		7,397	B5, 41	25, 116
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		5,573		10,574	B5, 41	25, 116



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Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council

Notes to the Accounts**1. Accounting Policies****1.1 General Principles**

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Authority's transactions for the 2019/2020 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2020. The Authority is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper accounting practices by the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.

These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/2020 and the Service Reporting Code of Practice 2019/2020, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). Where there is no relevant IFRS or International Accounting Standard (IAS), reference is made to International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSASs); if there is no relevant IPSAS, domestic Financial Reporting Standards (FRSs) are applied.

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

1.2 Back Pay Arising from Unequal Pay Claims

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

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

1.3 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 investments that are held in call accounts 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.

1.4 Employee Benefits**1.4.1 Post Employment Benefits***The Local Government Pension Scheme*

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

- The liabilities of the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method - i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc., and projections of earnings for current employees.
- The assets of Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value.

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

Duration Category	31 March 2020			31 March 2019		
	Discount			Discount		
	Rate	RPI	CPI	Rate	RPI	CPI
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Short (Less than 17 years)	2.3	2.9	2.0	2.4	3.5	2.5
Medium (between 17 and 23 years)	2.3	2.8	1.9	2.4	3.5	2.5
Long (over 23 years)	2.3	2.7	1.8	2.5	3.4	2.4

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

Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability

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

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

1.4.2 Discretionary Benefits

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

1.5 Contingent Liabilities

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

1.6 Provisions

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Authority a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefits or service potential, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Provisions are charged as an expense to the appropriate service line 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 at the Balance Sheet date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

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

Where some or all of the payment required to settle a provision is expected to be recovered from another party (e.g. from an insurance claim), this is only recognised as income for the relevant service if it is virtually certain that reimbursement will be received if the Authority settles the obligation.

1.7 Financial Instruments

Valuation of Assets and Liabilities Carried at Amortised Cost

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

- The discount rate used in the NPV calculation is equal to the current rate in relation to the same instrument from a comparable lender. This is the rate applicable in the market on the date of valuation (31 March 2020) for an instrument with the same duration, i.e. equal to the outstanding period from valuation date to maturity. For Public Works Loan Board (PWLb) borrowing the new PWLB borrowing rate has been used.
- Interest is calculated using the most common market convention (actual number of days/365).
- For fixed term deposits it is assumed that interest is received on maturity.

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

Premiums/Discounts

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

Interest

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

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

1.8 Intangible Assets

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

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

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

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

1.9 Inventories

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

1.10 Leases

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

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

The following accounting treatment applies to each type of lease:

Finance Lease

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

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

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

- A long term lease debtor is set up for the principal amount outstanding (the net investment in the lease)

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

Operating Lease

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

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

Service Concessions and Arrangements Containing Leases

The Authority currently has no such arrangements.

1.11 Fair Value Measurement

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

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

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

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

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

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

When measuring the fair value of a non-financial asset, the Authority takes into account a market participant's ability to generate economic benefits by using the asset in its highest and best use or by selling it to another market participant that would use the asset in its highest and best use. In considering alternative higher and best uses for the asset being valued, consideration has been given to value for the asset that may not necessarily be reflected in the existing configuration or use of the asset. In the consideration of alternatives the physical, legal and financial feasibility of that alternative has been taken into account.

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

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

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

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

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

1.12 Assets Held for Sale

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.13 Surplus Non-Current Assets Under PPE

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

1.14 Overheads and Support Services

The costs of overheads and support services are charged to those that benefit from the supply or service in accordance with the costing principles of the CIPFA Service Reporting Code of Practice 2019/2020 (SeRCOP). The total absorption costing principle is used - the full cost of overheads and support services are shared between users in proportion to the benefits received, with the exception of:

- Corporate and Democratic Core - costs relating to the Authority's status as a multifunctional, democratic organisation.
- Non Distributed Costs - the cost of discretionary benefits awarded to employees retiring early and impairment losses chargeable on Assets Held for Sale.

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

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

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

1.15 Property, Plant and Equipment

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

1.15.1 Recognition

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

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

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.15.2 Impairment

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

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

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

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

1.15.3 Depreciation

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

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.15.4 Disposals

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

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

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

1.15.5 Componentisation

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

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

1.16 Heritage Assets

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

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

The acquisition of heritage assets is a rare occurrence; in the event a new asset is acquired or identified it will be valued using an appropriate basis (where the expected value is estimated to be significant). Given the nature of heritage assets identified for inclusion in the accounts, disposal is also a rare occurrence. On disposal, proceeds would be accounted for in accordance with statutory accounting requirements relating to capital expenditure and capital receipts as outlined in section 1.15.4.

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

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

1.17 Minimum Revenue Provision

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

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

The MRP for 2019/2020 has been calculated in accordance with the amended MRP policy that was approved by full Council in December 2017, using the following method:

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

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

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

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

Council Tax

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

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

Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS)

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

National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR)

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

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

1.19 Joint Arrangements

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

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

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

1.20 Accounting for Schools

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

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

- Community
- Voluntary Aided
- Voluntary Controlled
- Foundation

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

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

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

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

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

1.21 Group Accounts

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

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

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

1.22 Determination of Operating Segments

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

2. Impact of changes in Accounting Policies

There are no significant changes to accounting policies adopted in preparing the 2019/2020 Accounts.

3. Accounting Standards Issued but not yet Adopted

The 2019/2020 Accounting Code of Practice includes the following new or revised accounting standards that have effect from 1 April 2020.

Source	Requirement and Potential Impact
<i>Amendments to IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements and IAS 8: Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors</i>	No anticipated impact on the Authority.
<i>Amendments to IAS 28 Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures</i>	Clarification that entities should apply IFRS 9 to account for long-term interests in an associate or joint venture that form part of the net investment in the associate or joint venture but to which the equity method is not applied. No significant impact.
<i>Amendments to IAS 19 Employee Benefits</i>	Amendments to IAS19 will require remeasurement of the net pension asset/liability in the event of amendments to pension schemes. The financial impact on the Authority - positive, negative or neutral - cannot be determined without specific detail of any potential scheme changes.

Source	Requirement and Potential Impact
<i>Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2015-2017 Cycle</i>	IFRS 3 Business Combinations, IFRS 11 Joint Arrangements - clarification that when a party to a joint arrangement obtains control of the joint arrangement that is a joint operation, the transaction is a business combination achieved in stages. No anticipated impact on the Authority. IAS 12 Income Taxes - treatment of the income tax consequences of dividends. No impact on the Authority. IAS 23 Borrowing Costs - specification for calculation of borrowing costs which can be capitalised when a 'weighted average' borrowing cost is used. No anticipated impact on the Authority.
<i>Amendments to References to the Conceptual Framework in IFRS Standards</i>	No anticipated impact on the Authority.

4. Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

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

- i. These accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis, which assumes that the functions and services provided by the Authority will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, although there will be significant financial challenges to be met (see also note 16 to the Narrative Report, pages 16-17).
- ii. The Authority has reviewed all property assets in accordance with the relevant accounting policies and has made appropriate reclassifications for assets that are held for sale.
- iii. All maintained schools in the County Borough are considered to be entities controlled by the Authority, with the income, expenditure, assets, liabilities, reserves and cash flows of each school recognised in the single entity accounts on the basis outlined in the Authority's Accounting Policies (1.20, page 38).
- iv. The Authority has determined that assets used for economic development purposes, e.g. industrial estates, are not held solely for the purpose of income generation or capital appreciation and therefore do not meet the definition of investment properties. These assets have been treated as Property, Plant and Equipment in the Balance Sheet.
- v. The Authority has classified its leases as finance or operating in accordance with IFRS. Finance leases are not precisely defined and therefore an element of judgement has been required in assessing each lease arrangement.
- vi. Capital and revenue grants and contributions continue to be reviewed to determine the existence of any conditions requiring repayment of sums involved to the awarding body, and the extent to which any conditions have been fulfilled. There has been a consequential impact on sums retained on the Balance Sheet and credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
- vii. Where disclosure notes required by the Accounting Code are insignificant or immaterial in value and their omission has been determined not to have a detrimental impact on the presentation of the financial position or performance of the Authority, these disclosures have not been presented.
- viii. Further to the decision for the United Kingdom to leave the European Union, there is a high degree of uncertainty regarding the continuation of existing funding streams and future levels of funding for local government. However, a judgement has been taken that there remains insufficient indication that this funding uncertainty will result in reduction of service provision with a consequent impairment of assets held by the Authority.

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

The Statement of Accounts contains estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the Authority about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates. The items in the Authority's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2020 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
Local Government Scheme Pensions Liability	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. The Greater Gwent Local Government Pension Scheme has engaged Hymans Robertson LLP as its consulting actuary to provide expert advice concerning the appropriate assumptions to be applied.	The effects on the net pensions liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured. The fund actuary has advised that a 0.5% decrease in the discount rate assumption would result in an increase in the pension liability of £57.616m (see pages 100-101 for further sensitivity analysis). However, the assumptions interact in complex ways. During 2019/2020, the Authority's actuaries advised that the net pensions liability had decreased by £71.818m as a result of remeasurements of pension assets and liabilities. This decrease comprised a £46.037m loss on assets (representing the difference between actual and expected asset return for the year) and net decreases in liabilities of £117.855m (arising from changes in demographic/financial assumptions and other experience gains (see pages 98-99)).
Local Government Pension Scheme - Pooled Property Investments	The Greater Gwent Pension Fund, of which Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council is an admitted body, holds investments in Pooled Property Funds. The Pension Fund Annual Report and Accounts for 2019/2020 include the following statement on uncertainty around the valuation of pooled property funds: <i>Market activity is being impacted in many sectors by Covid-19. At the March 2020 reporting date, property fund managers consider that they can attach less weight to previous market evidence for comparison purposes. They are faced with an unprecedented set of circumstances on which to base a judgement. The fall in transactions and lack of clarity on pricing means that all major industry valuers have now added Material Uncertainty clauses to their property fund valuations.</i>	For the Greater Gwent Pension Fund, <i>Indicative net asset statements for property funds are subject to uncertainty at the reporting date and the £73.02m valuation for pooled property funds is less reliable than usual. The 1 year expected volatility of 14.2% could decrease the valuation to £62.6m or increase it to £83.4m.</i> The Local Government Pension Scheme pooled property assets attributable to Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council account for £9.121m, being 2.7% of total attributable assets. Given the reported level of volatility, these assets could be revalued between £7.826m and £10.417m.
Revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment	Property, Plant and Equipment assets are revalued on a sufficiently regular basis to ensure their carrying amount is not materially different from their fair value. As a minimum, all assets are revalued every five years. In addition, all assets are assessed annually for impairment. The value of the asset portfolio is based upon calculations and estimation techniques following the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) guidance.	The appointed valuers have applied professional judgement and assumptions in determining the value of assets and the extent of any impairment. A 1% variation arising from these judgements and assumptions would result in the over or understatement of the Gross Book Value of PPE of £3.327m. These variances could result in the Statement of Accounts being materially mis-stated and, subject to proper capital accounting practice, their adjustment could have an impact on the Balance Sheet, CIES and the level of the Authority's Reserves.
Revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment - Impact of Covid 19	As a result of the outbreak of Covid 19, valuations provided to the Council by its valuers this year have been reported subject to a 'Material Uncertainty Clause' on the basis of RICS guidance. This is true for all asset classes subject to valuations. The valuations contain the following clause: <i>The outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), declared by the World Health Organisation as a 'Global Pandemic' on the 11th March 2020, has impacted global financial markets. Market activity is being impacted in many sectors. As at the valuation date, we consider that we can attach less weight to previous market evidence for comparison purposes to inform opinions of value. Indeed, the current response to COVID-19 means that we are faced with an unprecedented set of circumstances on which to base a judgement. Our valuations are therefore reported on the basis of 'material valuation uncertainty' as per VPS 3 and VPGA 10 of the RICS Red Book Global. Consequently, less certainty - and a higher degree of caution - should be attached to our valuations than would normally be the case. Given the unknown future impact that COVID19 might have on the real estate market, we recommend that the valuations are kept under frequent review.</i>	The valuers have included the following statement in respect of impact: <i>For the purposes of this valuation therefore, although there is evidence of market uncertainty, no downward adjustments have been made as we are of the opinion that the evidence, if any, is scant and is unlikely to impact on service potential. In this respect and in relation to market conditions and movements in the property markets in which the Properties covered by this Valuation Report are located, we do not consider that the movement in respect of the Properties constitutes a material change in value since 30th November 2019.</i>

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
Depreciation of Property, Plant and Equipment	Assets are depreciated based on useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about the level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual assets. The current economic climate makes it uncertain that the Authority will be able to maintain the required level of expenditure on repairs and maintenance, resulting in uncertainty regarding the useful lives assigned to assets.	If the useful life of assets is reduced, depreciation charged to the CIES increases and the carrying amount of assets on the Balance Sheet falls.
Fair Value Estimations	<p>When the fair values of Investment Properties, Surplus Assets and Assets Held for Sale cannot be measured based on quoted prices in active markets (i.e. Level 1 inputs), their fair value is measured using the following valuation techniques:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Level 2 inputs, quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets at the balance sheet date; • For level 3 inputs, valuations based on a combination of available market data derived from a mixture of transactions on both Council and 3rd party assets which are then analysed to take into account yields, rates per sq. m, build costs etc.. <p>Where possible, the inputs to these valuation techniques are based on observable data, but where this is not possible, judgment is required in establishing fair values. These judgments typically include considerations such as uncertainty and risk. Changes in assumptions used could affect the fair value of the Authority's assets and liabilities.</p>	<p>The Authority uses a combination of available market data derived from a mixture of transactions on both Council and 3rd party assets which are then analysed to take into account yields, rates per sq. m, build costs etc. to measure the fair value of its Surplus Assets and Assets Held for Sale under IFRS13, depending on which technique it considers most appropriate.</p> <p>The significant unobservable inputs used in the fair value measurement include management assumptions regarding rent growth, occupancy levels, floor area repairs backlogs, and others.</p> <p>Significant changes in any of the unobservable inputs would result in a significantly lower or higher fair value measurement for these assets.</p>
Impairment of Debtors	As at 31 March 2019, the Authority has an outstanding debtors balance of £24.364m. In accordance with proper accounting practice, impairment allowances totalling £4.291m have been calculated for the various classifications of debt outstanding. However, these allowances are based on estimates and judgements, including past experience of collecting similar debts, which may not accurately reflect future levels of debt recovery.	An understatement of debtor impairment allowances would result in an overstatement of income recovered that would require adjustment in the Accounting Statements. At 31 March 2020, impairment allowances represent 11.88% of debt outstanding. A 5% understatement in impairment would therefore represent a potential reduction in revenues of £1.597m.

6. Events After the Reporting Period

The Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by Ms R. Hayden CPFA, Chief Officer - Resources, on 19 February 2021.

Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or notes. Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31 March 2020, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Notes

7. Expenditure and Funding Analysis

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

Expenditure & Funding Analysis	2019/2020					2018/2019				
	Management Account Net Expenditure	Accounting Code Adjustments (Note 7.1)	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the Council Fund (Note 7.2)	Funding & Accounting Basis Adjustments (Note 7.3)	CIES Net Expenditure	Management Account Net Expenditure	Accounting Code Adjustments (Note 7.1)	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the Council Fund (Note 7.2)	Funding & Accounting Basis Adjustments (Note 7.3)	CIES Net Expenditure
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Corporate Services	14,709	7,787	22,496	2,877	25,373	14,580	8,063	22,643	1,427	24,070
Education	55,348	(46,073)	9,275	9,792	19,067	55,075	(45,816)	9,259	3,043	12,302
Education - School Spending	(1,325)	43,223	41,898	256	42,154	(1,054)	42,505	41,451	(216)	41,235
Environment	29,598	(11,738)	17,860	10,717	28,577	29,325	(13,431)	15,894	9,241	25,135
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal	0	(119)	(119)	0	(119)	0	(134)	(134)	0	(134)
Regeneration & Economic Development	1,516	(862)	654	1,463	2,117	1,457	(892)	565	1,615	2,180
Social Services	44,526	(3,182)	41,344	4,331	45,675	43,924	(2,128)	41,796	2,916	44,712
Licensing	74	(19)	55	24	79	71	(28)	43	21	64
Planning	1,024	(225)	799	156	955	1,029	(194)	835	124	959
Capital Adjustments*	0	(5)	(5)	5	0	0	(1)	(1)	1	0
Pension Adjustments**	0	554	554	(554)	0	0	1,008	1,008	(1,008)	0
Net Expenditure on Continuing Operations	145,470	(10,659)	134,811	29,067	163,878	144,407	(11,048)	133,359	17,164	150,523
Other Operating Expenditure	0	9,060	9,060	1,043	10,103	0	8,549	8,549	80	8,629
Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure	0	5,266	5,266	7,150	12,416	0	4,672	4,672	6,713	11,385
Taxation & Non-Specific Grant Income	0	(151,111)	(151,111)	(11,060)	(162,171)	0	(148,719)	(148,719)	(6,268)	(154,987)
(Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services	145,470	(147,444)	(1,974)	26,200	24,226	144,407	(146,546)	(2,139)	17,689	15,550
Tax Expenses			25					25		
Transfers to/(from) earmarked reserves			1,444					1,720		
(Increase)/Decrease in year			(505)					(394)		
Opening Council Fund Balance as at 1 April			(5,894)					(5,500)		
Closing Council Fund Balance as at 31 March			(6,399)					(5,894)		

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

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

7.1 Code-Compliant Adjustments to Management Accounts

This table shows the adjustments made to the 2019/2020 management accounts to arrive at 'Net Expenditure Chargeable to the Council Fund' on an Accounting Code of Practice-compliant basis:

Expenditure and Funding Analysis: Accounting Code Adjustments to Management Accounts	2019/2020							
	Capital Charges (Note 7.1.1)	Elimination of Internal Recharges (Note 7.1.2)	Pension Liabilities (Note 7.1.3)	Precepts & Levies (Note 7.1.4)	Provisions (Note 7.1.5)	Reserves (Note 7.1.6)	Other (Note 7.1.7)	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Corporate Services	(11)	6,831	0	0	0	186	781	7,787
Education	(2,480)	(43,583)	0	0	(78)	210	(142)	(46,073)
Education - School Spending	(39)	42,220	0	0	(12)	1,054	0	43,223
Environment	(5,613)	(2,985)	0	(3,404)	0	261	3	(11,738)
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal	0	0	0	0	0	0	(119)	(119)
Regeneration & Economic Development	(616)	0	0	0	(19)	26	(253)	(862)
Social Services	(163)	(2,403)	0	0	(46)	(483)	(87)	(3,182)
Licensing	0	(11)	0	0	0	0	(8)	(19)
Planning	0	(186)	0	0	0	15	(54)	(225)
Capital Adjustments	0	0	0	0	0	0	(5)	(5)
Pension Adjustments	0	0	554	0	0	0	0	554
Net Expenditure on Continuing Operations	(8,922)	(117)	554	(3,404)	(155)	1,269	116	(10,659)
Other Operating Expenditure	0	0	0	3,404	0	0	5,656	9,060
Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure	689	0	(7,943)	0	0	0	12,520	5,266
Taxation & Non-Specific Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	(151,111)	(151,111)
(Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(8,233)	(117)	(7,389)	0	(155)	1,269	(132,819)	(147,444)

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

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

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

7.1.1 Capital Charges

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

7.1.2 Elimination of Internal Recharges

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

7.1.3 Pension Liabilities

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

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

7.1.4 Precepts & Levies

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

7.1.5 Provisions

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

7.1.6 Reserves

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

7.1.7 Other Adjustments

This includes:

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

7.2 Expenditure and Income Charged to the Council Fund

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

Expenditure & Income Charged to Council Fund	2019/2020 £000	2018/2019 £000
External Fees, Charges & Other Service Income	(17,633)	(20,345)
Government Grants	(52,274)	(50,411)
Total Income	(69,907)	(70,756)
Employee Expenses	100,597	97,923
Other Service Expenses	104,121	106,192
Support Service Recharges	0	0
Depreciation, amortisation & impairment	0	0
Total Expenditure	204,718	204,115
Net Expenditure	134,811	133,359

7.3 Adjustments Between Funding and Accounting Basis

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

Expenditure & Funding Analysis: Adjustments between 'Code-Compliant' Management Accounts and the CIES	2019/2020				2018/2019			
	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (Note 7.3.1)	Net Change for Pensions Adjustments (Note 7.3.2)	Other Adjustments (Note 7.3.3)	Total Adjustments	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (Note 7.3.1)	Net Change for Pensions Adjustments (Note 7.3.2)	Other Adjustments (Note 7.3.3)	Total Adjustments
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Corporate Services	11	2,865	1	2,877	101	1,302	24	1,427
Education	8,845	938	9	9,792	2,798	291	(46)	3,043
Education - School Spending	0	0	256	256	30	0	(246)	(216)
Environment	8,547	2,158	12	10,717	7,698	1,553	(10)	9,241
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Regeneration & Economic Development	1,143	321	(1)	1,463	1,369	243	3	1,615
Social Services	931	3,379	21	4,331	393	2,524	(1)	2,916
Licensing	0	24	0	24	0	18	3	21
Planning	0	156	0	156	0	126	(2)	124
Capital Adjustments	5	0	0	5	1	0	0	1
Pension Adjustments	0	(554)	0	(554)	0	(1,008)	0	(1,008)
Net Expenditure on Continuing Operations	19,482	9,287	298	29,067	12,390	5,049	(275)	17,164
Other Operating Expenditure	1,043	0	0	1,043	80	0	0	80
Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure	(689)	7,943	(104)	7,150	(622)	7,406	(71)	6,713
Taxation & Non-Specific Grant Income	(11,060)	0	0	(11,060)	(6,268)	0	0	(6,268)
(Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services	8,776	17,230	194	26,200	5,580	12,455	(346)	17,689

7.3.1 Adjustments for Capital Purposes

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

- Other operating expenditure - adjusts for capital disposals with a transfer of income on disposal of assets and the amounts written off for those assets.
- Financing and investment income and expenditure - the statutory charges for capital financing i.e. Minimum Revenue Provision and other revenue contributions are deducted from other income and expenditure as these are not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices.
- Taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure - capital grants are adjusted for income not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices. Revenue grants are adjusted from those receivable in the year to those receivable without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied throughout the year. The Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income and Expenditure line is credited with capital grants receivable in the year without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied in the year.

7.3.2 Net Change for Pensions Adjustments

This column shows the net change for the removal of pension contributions and the addition of IAS19 *Employee Benefits* pension related expenditure and income:

- For services this represents the removal of the employer pension contributions made by the Authority as allowed by statute and the replacement with current service costs and past service costs.
- For financing and investment income and expenditure, the net interest on the defined benefit liability is charged to the CIES.

7.3.3 Other Adjustments

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

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

8. Other Operating Expenditure

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

		2019/2020			2018/2019		
Other Operating Expenditure		Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000
(Gains)/losses on the Disposal of Non-Current Assets		1,639	(595)	1,044	489	(413)	76
Precepts & Levies:	Gwent Police Authority Precept	5,158	0	5,158	4,820	0	4,820
	South Wales Fire Authority Levy	3,267	0	3,267	3,251	0	3,251
	Community Council Precepts	497	0	497	372	0	372
	Coroners' Courts	108	0	108	82	0	82
	National Park Levy	29	0	29	28	0	28
Total		10,698	(595)	10,103	9,042	(413)	8,629

9. Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

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

	2019/2020			2018/2019		
	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure						
Impairment *	446	0	446	(158)	0	(158)
Interest payable and similar charges - Financial Instruments	4,274	0	4,274	4,368	0	4,368
Interest payable and similar charges - Other **	7	0	7	7	0	7
Interest receivable and similar income - Financial Instruments	0	(74)	(74)	0	(48)	(48)
Interest receivable and similar income - Other ***	0	(180)	(180)	0	(190)	(190)
Net Pensions Interest Cost	17,022	(9,079)	7,943	17,070	(9,664)	7,406
Total	21,749	(9,333)	12,416	21,287	(9,902)	11,385

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

** : Interest on finance leases and school balances.

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

10. Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income

This disclosure includes:

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

Taxation & Non Specific Grant Income	2019/2020 £000	2018/2019 £000
Taxation & Non-Specific Revenue Grants		
Council Tax Income	(40,296)	(38,369)
Non-Domestic Rates	(22,628)	(22,443)
Revenue Support Grant	(88,187)	(87,908)
Total Taxation and Non-Specific Revenue Grants	(151,111)	(148,720)
Capital grants and contributions	(11,060)	(6,267)
Total	(162,171)	(154,987)

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

11.1 The Gwent Wide Integrated Community Equipment Service (GWICES)

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

11.2 The Gwent Frailty Programme

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

11.3 The Gwent Care Home Accommodation Functions Pooled Fund

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

The Authority’s transactions in relation to these partnership schemes are included in the Social Services Portfolio line of the CIES. Summarised transactions for the financial year ending 31 March 2020 were as follows.

Partnership Schemes:	2019/2020				2018/2019			
	GWICES £000	Gwent Frailty £000	Care Homes £000	Total £000	GWICES £000	Gwent Frailty £000	Care Homes £000	Total £000
Total Expenditure	3,398	16,458	104,976	124,832	3,366	16,515	98,596	118,477
Funding								
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	(258)	(576)	(7,505)	(8,339)	(252)	(580)	(7,060)	(7,892)
Caerphilly County Borough Council	(449)	(2,310)	(22,039)	(24,798)	(462)	(2,340)	(21,136)	(23,938)
Monmouthshire County Borough Council	(323)	(1,361)	(9,738)	(11,422)	(378)	(1,387)	(8,993)	(10,758)
Newport City Council	(331)	(1,768)	(17,329)	(19,428)	(325)	(1,720)	(16,449)	(18,494)
Torfaen County Borough Council	(847)	(842)	(10,714)	(12,403)	(636)	(809)	(9,986)	(11,431)
Aneurin Bevan University Health Board	(904)	(9,714)	(37,651)	(48,269)	(922)	(9,616)	(34,972)	(45,510)
Other	(286)	0	0	(286)	(391)	0	0	(391)
Total Funding	(3,398)	(16,571)	(104,976)	(124,945)	(3,366)	(16,452)	(98,596)	(118,414)
Net In-Year (Under)/Overspend	0	(113)	0	(113)	0	63	0	63
Balance Brought Forward	0	(377)	0	(377)	0	(440)	0	(440)
Balance Carried Forward	0	(490)	0	(490)	0	(377)	0	(377)

12. Members' Allowances

The total amount of allowances and expenses paid to Members during the year was £740,877 (2018/2019: £727,893), analysed as follows:

Members' Allowances	2019/2020 £000	2018/2019 £000
Allowances	738	724
Expenses	3	4
Total:	741	728

13. Officers' Remuneration

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

Officers Emoluments	2019/2020					2018/2019				
	Teaching	Other	Total	Left During Year	Total excluding leavers	Teaching	Other	Total	Left During Year	Total excluding leavers
Remuneration Band										
£60,000 - £64,999	10	2	12	0	12	12	2	14	2	12
£65,000 - £69,999	6	3	9	0	9	5	4	9	2	7
£70,000 - £74,999	2	0	2	0	2	3	1	4	1	3
£75,000 - £79,999	1	2	3	0	3	3	1	4	0	4
£80,000 - £84,999	1	1	2	0	2	0	2	2	1	1
£85,000 - £89,999	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
£90,000 - £94,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£95,000 - £99,999	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
£100,000 - £104,999	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
£105,000 - £109,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
Total	22	8	30	0	30	24	11	35	7	28

Notes: 1) Employees that are included in the Senior Officers Remuneration disclosure have been excluded from the above table.
2) Voluntary Aided School employees have been included in the above disclosure.

The 2019/2020 total of 30 does not include any staff who have been included in the note as a result of one-off severance payments. (The 2018/2019 total of 35 includes 5 members of teaching staff and 1 member of staff in the 'Other' category who would not have been included in the note if it were not for one-off severance payments). Further details of termination benefits can be found in notes 14-15 (pages 54-55).

13.2 Remuneration Ratio

The Accounts and Audit Regulations (Wales) 2014 require the disclosure of the ratio of the Chief Executive's remuneration in comparison to the median remuneration of all the Authority's employees. For 2019/2020 this was as follows:

	2019/2020	2018/2019
Ratio of Managing Director pay to median pay of all staff	1:4.47	1:4.66

13.3 Senior Officers' Remuneration

The following table sets out the remuneration in 2019/2020 for senior officers (as defined by statute) whose salary for the year was between £60,000 and £150,000. There were no senior officers whose salary exceeded £150,000.

2019/2020						Total Remuneration (excluding Pension Contributions)	Employers Pension Contributions	Total Remuneration (including Pension Contributions)
Post Title	Notes	Salary (including fees & allowances)	Expense Allowances	Compensation for Loss of Office	Benefits in Kind			
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Managing Director	Note 1	106,486	0	0	0	106,486	25,024	131,510
Corporate Director of Education	Note 2	101,714	0	0	0	101,714	23,903	125,617
Corporate Director of Education (from 30 March 2020)	Note 3	430	0	0	0	430	101	531
Corporate Director of Regeneration & Community Services		88,048	0	0	0	88,048	20,691	108,739
Corporate Director of Social Services		88,048	0	0	0	88,048	20,691	108,739
Chief Officer (Resources)		72,964	0	0	0	72,964	17,147	90,111
Chief Officer (Commercial)		76,044	0	0	0	76,044	17,870	93,914
Head of Governance & Partnerships	Note 4	68,238	0	0	0	68,238	16,036	84,274
Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance	Note 4	68,238	0	0	0	68,238	16,036	84,274
Total		670,210	0	0	0	670,210	157,499	827,709

Note 1: The Managing Director also received payments totalling £5,096 in her role as Returning Officer.

Note 2: The employment of the (former) Corporate Director of Education terminated on the 15th of April 2020, with outstanding annual leave being taken prior to this date.

Note 3: Further to the departure of the (former) Corporate Director of Education, a temporary arrangement has been established pending a formal recruitment process to fill the post on a permanent basis. The Head of Education Transformation is therefore 'acting up' as the Corporate Director of Education with effect from the 30th March 2020, to provide continuity in terms of the Council's response during the Covid emergency period and allow for a degree of handover.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14. Termination Benefits and Exit Packages - Costs to Authority

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

Exit Package Cost Band	2019/2020				2018/2019			
	Compulsory Redundancies	Other Departures	Exit Packages	Total Cost of Exit Packages	Compulsory Redundancies	Other Departures	Exit Packages	Total Cost of Exit Packages
	Nº	Nº	Nº	£000	Nº	Nº	Nº	£000
£0-£19,999	13	48	61	377	2	63	65	488
£20,000-£39,999	0	9	9	239	1	18	19	542
£40,000-£59,999	0	3	3	137	0	9	9	425
£60,000-£99,999	0	2	2	153	0	6	6	456
£100,000-£149,999	0	2	2	245	0	0	0	0
£150,000-£249,999	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	386
Total	13	64	77	1,151	4	97	101	2,297

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

Employment contracts may be terminated for a variety of reasons, including redundancy and retirement. On termination, the Authority incurs a range of liabilities including redundancy payments, pension lump sum payments and enhancements (e.g. added years). In 2019/2020, the contracts of 77 employees were terminated, incurring total liabilities of £1.151m (2018/2019: 101 employees, incurring liabilities of £2.297m). These payments can be disaggregated as follows:

Termination Benefits & Exit Packages	2019/2020 £000	2018/2019 £000
Pay in Lieu of Notice	116	184
Pension Costs	405	872
Redundancy Costs	613	983
Other Payments	17	258
Total	1,151	2,297

Included in the Authority's Early Terminations Provision are sums totalling £0.125m payable to 3 staff that have not been included in the exit packages disclosure, but for which the Authority has a legal or constructive obligation at the balance sheet date. (2018/2019: Early Terminations provision included £0.141m payable to 11 staff). Details of the Early Terminations Provision can be found in notes 32.1-32.2, pages 84-85.

Following the agreement to transfer staff to the charity in 2014, the Authority has exercised its discretion in funding £0.161m of exit packages for 9 staff at Aneurin Leisure Trust. (2018/2019: exit packages of £0.123m for 9 members of staff were funded).

15. Termination Benefits and Exit Packages - Causes

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

Termination Benefits	2019/2020		2018/2019	
	No	£000	No	£000
Closure of Facilities / Cessation of Services	8	4	11	211
Early Retirements/Efficiency/Flexible Retirements	5	40	14	161
Financial Efficiency Project	15	523	29	921
School Downsizing Restructuring & Reorganisation - Crossmatching	25	423	18	658
Termination benefits arising for other reasons	24	161	29	346
Total	77	1,151	101	2,297

16. External Audit Fees

The Authority's appointed external auditors for the 2019/2020 financial year were Audit Wales (AW), formerly the Wales Audit Office (WAO). The following fees were incurred in relation to external audit and inspection:

External Audit Fees	2019/2020	2018/2019	CIES Service Line
	£000	£000	
Fees payable in respect of:			
External audit services relating to audit of the accounts	251	191	<i>Corporate Services Portfolio</i>
External audit services relating to Local Government Measures	105	105	<i>Corporate Services Portfolio</i>
Certification of grant claims and returns	40	70	<i>Portfolio responsible for the specific grant claim or return</i>
Other Services	38	0	<i>Corporate Services Portfolio</i>
Total Audit Fees	434	366	

Other Services in 2019/2020 consists of charges for the statutory audit of 3 years of charitable trust accounts required for Bedwellty House and Park, of which the Authority is the sole trustee.

17. National Non-Domestic Rates

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

Summary information for the year is as follows:

- The total non-domestic rateable value at 31 March 2020 was £31,878,837 (31 March 2019: £31,852,617).
- The national non-domestic rate multiplier for the year 2019/2020 was 0.526 (2018/2019: 0.514).
- The contribution received from the NNDR pool in 2019/2020 was £22,628,000 (2018/2019: £22,442,550).

18. Council Tax

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

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

Council Tax Transactions	2019/2020		2018/2019	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Council Tax Collected	(40,750)		(38,679)	
Less: Impairment of bad & doubtful debts	455		310	
Net Total Proceeds from Council Tax		(40,295)		(38,369)
Less: Gwent Police Authority Precept	5,158		4,820	
Community Council Precepts:				
Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council	234		113	
Brynmawr Town Council	43		43	
Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council	82		78	
Tredegar Town Council	138		138	
		5,655		5,192
Council Tax attributable to this Authority:		(34,640)		(33,177)

18.2 Council Tax Base

The Council Tax base is calculated with reference to the number of effective properties (i.e. properties net of specific exemptions, reliefs and discounts) in each of 10 property valuation bands, multiplied by a ratio related to that valuation band. For 2019/2020 the tax base, expressed as equivalent band D properties, has been calculated as follows:

	Band										Total
	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	
Properties	61.00	18,590.00	7,806.00	2,548.00	1,592.00	816.00	306.00	55.00	15.00	6.00	31,795.00
Exemptions, Reliefs & Discounts	(6.25)	(2,456.00)	(702.50)	(208.75)	(100.75)	(44.00)	(13.00)	(3.50)	(6.50)	(1.50)	(3,542.75)
Effective Properties	54.75	16,134.00	7,103.50	2,339.25	1,491.25	772.00	293.00	51.50	8.50	4.50	28,252.25
Ratio	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9	21/9	-
Band D Equivalents	30.42	10,756.01	5,524.95	2,079.33	1,491.25	943.56	423.22	85.83	17.00	10.50	21,362.07
Impairment											(1,174.91)
Council Tax Base											20,187.16

19. Precepts & Demands**19.1 Precepting Authorities**

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

19.2 Levies & Demands by Joint Committees and Other Bodies

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

Levies & Demands	2019/2020 £000	2018/2019 £000
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	29	28
Coroners' Courts	90	77
South Wales Fire Authority	3,267	3,251
Total:	3,386	3,356

20. Grants and Contributions

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

Capital Grants Credited to Services	2019/2020 £000	2018/2019 £000	Capital Grants Credited to taxation and non-specific grant income	2019/2020 £000	2018/2019 £000
Welsh European Funding Office	0	0	Welsh European Funding Office	(79)	0
Welsh Government	(1,694)	(413)	Welsh Government	(10,389)	(5,820)
Other Grants & Contributions	(15)	(241)	Other Grants & Contributions	(592)	(446)
Total:	(1,709)	(654)	Total:	(11,060)	(6,266)

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

Revenue Grants Credited to Services	2019/2020 £000	2018/2019 £000
Welsh Government	(25,569)	(21,172)
Department for Work and Pensions	(22,576)	(25,626)
Other Central Government	(930)	(662)
Local Authorities	(2,259)	(2,173)
NHS	(845)	(680)
Other Grants & Contributions	(95)	(98)
Total:	(52,274)	(50,411)

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

Receipts in Advance	2019/2020			2018/2019		
	Capital £000	Revenue £000	Total £000	Capital £000	Revenue £000	Total £000
Welsh European Funding Office	(5)	(216)	(221)	(5)	(287)	(292)
Welsh Government	(478)	(1,125)	(1,603)	(825)	(977)	(1,802)
Other Central Government	(17)	(4)	(21)	(17)	(110)	(127)
Local Authorities	0	(40)	(40)	0	(15)	(15)
NHS	0	(17)	(17)	0	(17)	(17)
Other Grants & Contributions	0	(62)	(62)	0	(48)	(48)
Total	(500)	(1,464)	(1,964)	(847)	(1,454)	(2,301)

21. Related Parties**21.1 Central Government**

Central Government has effective control over the general operations of the Authority and provides the statutory framework within which the Authority operates, the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Authority has with other parties. Details of the general and specific grants received in 2019/2020 can be found in note 20 (page 58); details of the amounts owed to or from central government are included in notes 31 (page 83) and 30 (pages 81-83) respectively.

21.2 Members

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

Related Party & Relationship	Transaction Details	Year Ended 31 March 2020				Year Ended 31 March 2019			
		Transactions		Balances		Transactions		Balances	
		Amounts Paid by Authority	Amounts Received by Authority	Amounts Owed By Authority	Amounts Owed To Authority	Amounts Paid by Authority	Amounts Received by Authority	Amounts Owed By Authority	Amounts Owed To Authority
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Blaenau Gwent & Caerphilly Care & Repair: A number of Members are trustees.	Payments for support for independent living, home adaptations and voluntary sector grants.	242,215	(15,195)	29,577	(250)	293,429	(15,881)	0	(3)
Blaina Community Centre: A Member of the Council is a Director.	Grants, room hire and reimbursement of maintenance costs.	7,740	(4,669)	0	(510)	7,234	(434)	160	0
Blaina Community Institute: A Member of the Council is a Director.	Payment for room hire (Town Centre and Heritage Action Group) and Income for waste transfer and works carried out at Institute.	23,552	(618)	0	(4,110)	8,205	(163)	0	0
Brynmaur Museum: A Member of the Council is a Director.	Member grants; donation for dignitaries attending Royal Welsh Regiment parade. Income for ground rent, insurance and works carried out at museum.	900	(927)	0	(195)	713	(10)	0	(187)
Hodge Municipal Services: A Member of the Council is the proprietor.	Maintenance of public toilets in Brynmaur and other supplies.	3,360	(140)	100	(140)	2,521	0	0	(140)
Jim Davies Civil Engineering Ltd.: A Council Member is the brother-in-law of one of the Directors.	Capital works including: retaining wall maintenance; Silent Valley transfer station/ overflow extension; footpaths & cycleways; & household waste recycling centre.	787,365	0	507,277	0	129,977	0	20,000	0
Total:		1,065,132	(21,549)	536,954	(5,205)	442,079	(16,488)	20,160	(330)

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

Related Party	Related Party Relationship	Year Ended 31 March 2020		Year Ended 31 March 2019		Notes
		Amounts Paid by Authority	Amounts Received by Authority	Amounts Paid by Authority	Amounts Received by Authority	
		£	£	£	£	
Blaina Post Office	A Member of the Council is Post Master of this business.	0	(50)	0	(57)	Waste transfer.
Highfield Properties (Tredegar)	A Member of the Council is a Director of the organisation.	15,725	0	15,314	0	Tenants' Rent Allowances.
Hodge Distributions	A Member of the Council is the proprietor of the organisation.	0	0	0	(1,149)	Rental of an industrial unit.
Sirhowy Community Centre	A Member of the Council is a Director of the organisation.	2,686	0	600	0	Grants.
Pins & Things	A Member of the Council is the partner of the proprietor of the business.	0	(50)	0	(46)	Waste transfer.
Circle of Beauty	A Member of the Council is joint proprietor of the business.	60,444	0	0	0	Town Centre Loan and Heritage Grant towards the development of the property.
Total:		78,855	(100)	15,914	(1,252)	

The Authority also had related party relationships with the following members, for which there were no associated transactions during the year or balances at the year end:

Related Party	Related Party Relationship	Year Ended 31 March 2020				Year Ended 31 March 2019			
		Transactions		Balances		Transactions		Balances	
		Amounts Paid by Authority	Amounts Received by Authority	Amounts Owed By Authority	Amounts Owed To Authority	Amounts Paid by Authority	Amounts Received by Authority	Amounts Owed By Authority	Amounts Owed To Authority
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Glen Willis Ltd. Plumbing & Heating	The son of a Member of the Council is proprietor of this business.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
J.P. Print and Signs	A Member of the Council is proprietor of this business.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total:		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

	Year Ended 31 March 2020				Year Ended 31 March 2019			
	Transactions		Balances		Transactions		Balances	
	Amounts Paid by Authority	Amounts Received by Authority	Amounts Owed By Authority	Amounts Owed To Authority	Amounts Paid by Authority	Amounts Received by Authority	Amounts Owed By Authority	Amounts Owed To Authority
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Summary - Related Party Transactions and Balances								
Related Parties (with year end balances)	1,065,132	(21,549)	536,954	(5,205)	442,079	(16,488)	20,160	(330)
Related Parties (with no year end balances)	78,855	(100)	0	0	15,914	(1,252)	0	0
Total:	1,143,987	(21,649)	536,954	(5,205)	457,993	(17,740)	20,160	(330)

21.3 Silent Valley Waste Services Limited

The Authority is the sole shareholder of the waste disposal company Silent Valley Waste Services Limited (SVWS Ltd.). Two of the Authority's Elected Members are non-executive directors of the company. These Members are each receiving a 'senior salary' allowance, as the responsibility involved has been assessed to be of an equivalent level to a committee/scrutiny Chair. The Authority's former Chief Executive was a director for the full year. As at 31 March 2020, the Authority effectively holds 67% of the board membership. The following related party transactions took place with SVWS Ltd. during the year:

	Year Ended 31 March 2020				Year Ended 31 March 2019			
	Transactions		Balances		Transactions		Balances	
	Amounts Paid by Authority	Amounts Received by Authority	Amounts Owed By Authority	Amounts Owed To Authority	Amounts Paid by Authority	Amounts Received by Authority	Amounts Owed By Authority	Amounts Owed To Authority
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Related Party Transactions								
Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd.:								
Collection of waste; management of civic amenity sites; haulage charges:								
Payments relating to current year	800,212	0	73,357	0	747,575	0	65,970	0
Payments relating to previous year	65,791	0	0	0	69,782	0	0	0
Repair of power wash nozzle in transfer station	51	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reimbursement of payments made to directors of SVWS Ltd.:								
Payments to Chief Finance Officer	0	0	0	0	0	(591)	0	0
Payments to Corporate Director of Environment and Regeneration	0	0	0	0	0	(591)	0	0
Payments in respect of Nominated Representatives	0	(18,151)	0	(1,650)	0	(19,801)	0	0
Leachate	0	(130,000)	0	(110,000)	0	0	0	(130,000)
Damage to loading bay	0	0	0	0	0	(504)	0	0
Total (Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd.):	866,054	(148,151)	73,357	(111,650)	817,357	(21,487)	65,970	(130,000)

21.4 Education Achievement Service for South East Wales

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

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

In 2019/2020, net contributions of £0.311m were due to the EAS (2018/2019: £0.319m). The total summarised transactions of the Service were as follows:

Education Achievement Service	2019/2020 £000	2018/2019 £000
Expenditure	6,801	6,922
Income	(6,828)	(6,941)
Net Expenditure	(27)	(19)

21.5 Cardiff Capital Region City Deal

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

Related Party Transactions	Year Ended 31 March 2020				Year Ended 31 March 2019			
	Transactions		Balances		Transactions		Balances	
	Amounts Paid by Authority	Amounts Received by Authority	Amounts Owed By Authority	Amounts Owed To Authority	Amounts Paid by Authority	Amounts Received by Authority	Amounts Owed By Authority	Amounts Owed To Authority
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal:								
Partner contribution to support the work of the Joint Cabinet	50,324	0	0	0	46,132	0	0	0
Contributions towards Capital Expenditure	0	0	0	0	568,613	0	0	0
Reimbursement of Seconded Post	0	(87,551)	0	(20,570)	0	0	0	(25,264)
Total (Cardiff Capital Region City Deal):	50,324	(87,551)	0	(20,570)	614,745	0	0	(25,264)

*Movements in Reserves Notes***22. Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure**

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

Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	2019/2020 £000	2018/2019 £000
(Surplus)/Deficit arising on the revaluation of non-current assets	(9,238)	(538)
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit pension liability	(76,068)	41,883
Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	(85,306)	41,345

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

This note details the adjustments that are made to the total comprehensive income and expenditure recognised by the Authority in the year in accordance with proper accounting practice to the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to the Authority to meet future capital and revenue expenditure. These adjustments include transactions relating to depreciation and impairment, pensions provision, employee accruals, unequal pay and capital grants. The following transactions were made in 2019/2020:

	2019/2020			2018/2019		
	Council Fund Balance £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Council Fund Balance £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000
Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Statutory Provisions						
Transactions between Funds & Usable Reserves:						
Capital grants & contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	2,714	0	(2,714)	3,001	0	(3,001)
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	595	(595)	0	413	(413)	0
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve towards funding of prudential borrowing schemes	(60)	60	0	(56)	56	0
Total: Transactions between Funds & Usable Reserves:	3,249	(535)	(2,714)	3,358	(357)	(3,001)

	2019/2020		2018/2019	
	Council Fund Balance £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000	Council Fund Balance £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000
Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Statutory Provisions				
Transactions involving Unusable Reserves:				
Adjustments to/from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account:				
Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	104	(104)	71	(71)
Adjustments to/from the Pensions Reserve:				
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	(31,157)	31,157	(25,964)	25,964
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	13,926	(13,926)	13,508	(13,508)

	2019/2020		2018/2019	
	Council Fund Balance £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000	Council Fund Balance £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000
Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Statutory Provisions				
Transactions involving Unusable Reserves <i>(Continued)</i> :				
Adjustments to/from Capital Adjustment Account:				
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement:				
Charges for depreciation & impairment of non-current assets	(13,012)	13,012	(11,299)	11,299
Revaluation losses on Property, Plant & Equipment	(6,023)	6,023	(55)	55
Capital grants & contributions applied	10,055	(10,055)	3,919	(3,919)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(2,388)	2,388	(1,678)	1,678
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain on disposal to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	(469)	469	(489)	489
Adjustments to/from Deferred Capital Receipts Account:				
Adjustment to Deferred Capital Receipts on Revaluation of Assets Leased to Third Parties	(1,169)	1,169	0	0
Items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement:				
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	689	(689)	620	(620)
Capital expenditure charged against the Council Fund	293	(293)	44	(44)
Adjustment to/from the Accumulated Absences Account:				
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(298)	298	276	(276)
Total: Transactions between Funds & Unusable Reserves:	(29,449)	29,449	(21,047)	21,047

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

	2019/2020			2018/2019		
	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000
Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Statutory Provisions						
Adjustments to/from the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve:						
Transfer from Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash	(60)	0	60	(133)	0	133
Items involving Usable Capital Reserves:						
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account	0	2,824	(2,824)	0	3,010	(3,010)
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	299	0	(299)	2,312	0	(2,312)
Total: Other Capital Reserve Transactions:	239	2,824	(3,063)	2,179	3,010	(5,189)

	2019/2020				2018/2019			
	Council Fund Balance £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000	Council Fund Balance £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000
Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Statutory Provisions								
Total: Transactions between Funds & Usable Reserves:	3,249	(535)	(2,714)	0	3,358	(357)	(3,001)	0
Total: Transactions involving Unusable Reserves:	(29,449)	0	0	29,449	(21,047)	0	0	21,047
Total: Other Capital Reserve Transactions:	0	239	2,824	(3,063)	0	2,179	3,010	(5,189)
Total Adjustments:	(26,200)	(296)	110	26,386	(17,689)	1,822	9	15,858

Balance Sheet Notes**24. Property Plant & Equipment**

As a result of the outbreak of Covid 19, valuations provided to the Council by its valuers this year have been reported subject to a 'Material Uncertainty Clause' on the basis of RICS guidance. See note 5 (page 41) for further detail.

24.1 Carrying Amount of Non-Current Assets

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

Property, Plant & Equipment	31 March 2020 £000	31 March 2019 £000
Gross Carrying Amount	330,029	324,067
Accumulated Depreciation	(62,771)	(59,803)
Net Book Value	267,258	264,264

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

Property, Plant & Equipment							Total Property, Plant & Equipment
	Other Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment £000	Infrastructure Assets £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets Under Construction £000	£000
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2020	156,390	4,312	93,822	107	4,661	7,966	267,258
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2019	148,134	4,873	95,466	108	4,303	11,380	264,264
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2018	151,701	4,765	96,587	109	4,500	5,910	263,572

Movements in 2019/2020:

Property, Plant & Equipment							Total Property, Plant & Equipment £000
	Other Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment £000	Infrastructure Assets £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets Under Construction £000	
Cost or Valuation as at 1 April 2019	164,158	14,625	129,453	120	4,331	11,380	324,067
Appropriations	10,849	0	0	0	(218)	(10,631)	0
Assets reclassified to/from held for sale	(85)	0	0	0	(45)	0	(130)
Additions	0	405	1,335	0	0	3,295	5,035
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	5,456	0	0	0	13	0	5,469
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Provision of Services	(9,698)	0	0	0	615	0	(9,083)
Capital expenditure written off	(3,040)	(40)	(59)	(66)	0	0	(3,205)
Derecognition - disposals	(49)	0	0	0	0	0	(49)
Other movements in cost or valuation *	3,040	447	450	66	0	3,922	7,925
Cost or Valuation as at 31 March 2020	170,631	15,437	131,179	120	4,696	7,966	330,029

Property, Plant & Equipment: Depreciation & Impairment							Total Property, Plant & Equipment £000
	Other Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment £000	Infrastructure Assets £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets Under Construction £000	
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment as at 1 April 2019	(16,024)	(9,752)	(33,987)	(12)	(28)	0	(59,803)
Depreciation Charge & Appropriations	(5,417)	(1,373)	(3,370)	(1)	(7)	0	(10,168)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	4,139	0	0	0	0	0	4,139
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	3,061	0	0	0	0	0	3,061
Derecognition - disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment as at 31 March 2020	(14,241)	(11,125)	(37,357)	(13)	(35)	0	(62,771)

Movements in 2018/2019:

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

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

Notes * & **: Amounts included in 'Other movements in cost or valuation' relates to capital expenditure incurred during the year, £4.720 million of which has been added to the asset base and £3.205 million of which has been written off as there has been no increase to the asset value in 2019/2020(*); £5.36 million of which has been added to the asset base and £1.91 million of which has been written off as no increase to the asset value resulted in 2018/2019(**).

24.2 Fair Value Measurement of Surplus and Assets Held for Sale

Fair Value Hierarchy

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

	31 March 2020			31 March 2019		
	Surplus Assets £000	Assets Held for Sale £000	Total £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets Held for Sale £000	Total £000
Recurring fair value measurements:						
Using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)	4,661	90	4,751	4,303	380	4,683
Fair Value	4,661	90	4,751	4,303	380	4,683

Transfers between Levels of the Fair Value Hierarchy

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

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

Significant Unobservable Inputs - Level 3

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

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

Highest and Best Use

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

Valuation Process

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

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

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

Reconciliation of Fair Value Measurements (using Significant Unobservable Inputs) Categorised with Level 3 of the Fair Value Hierarchy	2019/2020			2018/2019		
	Surplus	Assets	Total	Surplus	Assets	Total
	Assets	Held for Sale		Assets	Held for Sale	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April:	4,303	380	4,683	4,500	125	4,625
Appropriations (to)/from Property, Plant & Equipment Operational Assets	(218)	85	(133)	10	356	366
Appropriations (to)/from Assets Held for Sale	(45)	0	(45)	(295)	0	(295)
Appropriations (to)/from Surplus Assets	0	45	45	0	295	295
Total Gains for the period included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services resulting from changes in the fair value	939	0	939	110	0	110
Total Losses for the period included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services resulting from changes in the fair value	(324)	0	(324)	(15)	0	(15)
Total Gains/(Losses) for the period included in the Revaluation Reserve resulting from changes in the fair value	13	0	13	0	0	0
Disposals	0	(420)	(420)	0	(396)	(396)
In-Year Depreciation	(7)	0	(7)	(7)	0	(7)
Balance at 31 March:	4,661	90	4,751	4,303	380	4,683

Reconciliation of Assets measured at Fair Value to the Balance Sheet

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

	31 March 2020			31 March 2019		
	Surplus Assets £000	Assets Held for Sale £000	Total £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets Held for Sale £000	Total £000
Reconciliation of Assets measured at Fair Value						
Assets measured at Fair Value	4,661	90	4,751	4,303	380	4,683
Assets measured at carrying amount	0	500	500	0	500	500
Assets carried on Balance Sheet	4,661	590	5,251	4,303	880	5,183

24.3 Capital Commitments

Within the Authority's 2019/2020 capital programme, £8.878m relates to schemes that were contractually committed as at 31 March 2020 (£6.399m contractually committed as at 31 March 2019):

Capital Commitments	Commitment Value 2019/2020 £000	Estimated Timescale for Completion No of Years	Commitment Value 2018/2019 £000	Estimated Timescale for Completion No of Years
Lime Avenue Development	5,482	1	83	2
Household Waste Recycling Centre	1,394	1	0	0
Box Works	526	1	959	1
Highways Improvement Works	367	1	841	1
Collaborative Change Programme	279	1	256	1
21st Century Schools - Six Bells Project	221	1	2,739	1
Valleys Regional Park	155	1	0	0
Schools IT Infrastructure	59	1	374	1
CCTV Upgrade	12	1	146	1
Other*	383	1	1,001	1
Total	8,878		6,399	

Other: Includes outstanding retentions on infrastructure & regeneration projects and various other scheme commitments.*

24.4 Revaluations

The Authority has adopted a rolling programme of revaluations to ensure that all assets are revalued at intervals of not more than 5 years. In 2019/2020, the range of assets were revalued by the Authority's Head of Estates and Strategic Asset Management, P.J. Miles BSc. (Hons), MRICS.

Valuations were carried out using the bases outlined in the Accounting Policies (pages 33-34), in accordance with the Statements of Asset Valuation Practice and Guidance Notes of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and resulted in a net increase in value to the Authority's non-current assets of £5.458 million.

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

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

All assets subject to revaluation during 2019/2020, along with an asset from each different class of asset, have been assessed for material components. The revaluations of those components, where considered to be material, are included in the figures below.

The effective date of revaluation is 30 November 2019. The Authority does not consider the difference in valuations between this date and 31 March 2020 to be material. As a result of the outbreak of Covid 19, valuations provided to the Council by its valuers this year have been reported subject to a 'Material Uncertainty Clause' on the basis of RICS guidance. The following statement has been provided in respect of this material valuation uncertainty: *'For the purposes of this valuation therefore, although there is evidence of market uncertainty, no downward adjustments have been made as we are of the opinion that the evidence, if any, is scant and is unlikely to impact on service potential. In this respect and in relation to market conditions and movements in the property markets in which the properties covered by this Valuation Report are located, we do not consider that the movement in respect of the properties constitutes a material change in value since 30 November 2019'.*

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

Non-Current Asset Valuations	31 March 2020 £000	31 March 2019 £000	31 March 2018 £000	31 March 2017 £000	31 March 2016 £000	Total £000
Current Value:						
Heritage Assets	532	0	0	0	0	532
Other Land & Buildings	79,436	31,683	22,185	33,492	108,642	275,438
Community Assets	0	0	30	0	32	62
	79,968	31,683	22,215	33,492	108,674	276,032
Historic Cost:						
Vehicles Plant & Equipment	5	86	0	112	80	283
	5	86	0	112	80	283
Total cost or valuation:	79,973	31,769	22,215	33,604	108,754	276,315

24.5 Capital Expenditure and Financing

Of the £15.466m capital investment made in 2019/2020, £13.314m was financed in-year through revenue contributions, the application of capital receipts and government grants. The remaining £2.152m capital financing requirement has been funded through borrowing, as indicated below:

Capital Expenditure & Financing	2019/2020		2018/2019	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Capital Investment: Property, Plant & Equipment	13,078		11,650	
REFCUS	2,388		2,247	
		15,466		13,897
Sources of Finance:				
Revenue Provision	(293)		(44)	
Capital Receipts	(142)		(2,235)	
Government Grants & Other Contributions	(12,879)		(6,929)	
		(13,314)		(9,208)
Increase in capital financing requirement:		2,152		4,689
Explanation of in-year movements:				
Borrowing Supported by Government Financial Assistance		1,415		1,975
Borrowing Unsupported by Government Financial Assistance		737		2,714
Total Borrowing:		2,152		4,689

25. Heritage Assets

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

Heritage Assets (On Balance Sheet)	Estimated Cost/Valuation £000	Description
The Guardian, Six Bells	333	'Guardian' is the largest mining memorial in Wales and commemorates the 1960 Six Bells mining disaster in which 45 men and boys lost their lives in an underground gas and coal dust explosion. The memorial is a 12.6 meter high statue of a miner, constructed from over 20,000 individual slices of 10mm thick steel and stands on a 7.4 meter high sandstone plinth.
Ebbw Vale War Memorial	198	Unveiled September 24th 1924 by Sir Frederick Mills. Listed as an unusually elaborate war memorial, in a prominent setting.
Total Value:	531	

These monuments have been valued on an insurance replacement cost basis and are not depreciated as their useful life is deemed to be indefinite. Revaluations in 2019/2020 increased the carrying amounts of these assets by £0.074m (The Guardian) and £0.044m (War Memorial).

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

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

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

26. Leases

26.1 Authority as Lessee - Finance Leases

The Council has acquired a number of assets under finance leases, the net value of which total £0.272m (2018/2019: £0.341m). The assets acquired under these leases are carried as Property, Plant and Equipment in the Balance Sheet. The Authority is committed to making minimum payments under these leases comprising settlement of the non-current liability for the asset acquired by the Authority and finance costs that will be payable by the Authority in future years while the liability remains outstanding. The minimum lease payments required over a period of not more than 5 years total £0.120m (2018/2019: £0.260m).

26.2 Authority as Lessee - Operating Leases

The Authority has acquired various vehicles and equipment by entering into operating leases, with typical lives of 5 years. The minimum lease payments at 31 March 2020 due under non-cancellable leases in future years are:

	31 March 2020		31 March 2019	
	Vehicles, plant & equipment	Other land & buildings	Vehicles, plant & equipment	Other land & buildings
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Operating Lease Minimum Payments				
Not later than one year	128	256	65	226
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	169	932	98	880
Later than 5 years	0	880	0	1,098
Total Minimum Lease Payments	297	2,068	163	2,204

Charges to service revenue accounts in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the year in relation to these leases totalled £0.387m (2018/2019: £0.295m).

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

26.3 Authority as Lessor - Finance Leases

The Authority has 2 finance lease arrangements as a lessor:

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

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

	31 March 2020		31 March 2019	
	Vehicles, plant & equipment	Other land & buildings	Vehicles, plant & equipment	Other land & buildings
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Finance Lease Debtor				
Current	0	64	78	59
Non-Current	0	2,851	0	4,085
Unguaranteed Residual Value of Property	0	(450)	0	(566)
Total	0	2,465	78	3,578

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

	Gross Investment in Lease			
	31 March 2020		31 March 2019	
	Vehicles, plant & equipment	Other land & buildings	Vehicles, plant & equipment	Other land & buildings
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Finance Leases - Lessor				
Not later than one year	0	64	78	59
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	0	289	0	268
Later than 5 years	0	2,112	0	3,251
Total	0	2,465	78	3,578

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

	Minimum Lease Payments			
	31 March 2020		31 March 2019	
	Vehicles, plant & equipment	Other land & buildings	Vehicles, plant & equipment	Other land & buildings
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Finance Leases - Lessor				
Not later than one year	0	216	80	269
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	0	866	0	1,074
Later than 5 years	0	4,653	0	7,344
Total	0	5,735	80	8,687

26.4 Authority as Lessor - Operating Leases

The Authority leases out land and buildings under operating leases. The minimum lease payments receivable under non-cancellable leases in future years are £2.916m (2018/2019: £3.061m).

	31 March 2020	31 March 2019
	Other land & buildings £000	Other land & buildings £000
Operating Lease Minimum Payments Receivable		
Not later than one year	558	540
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	1,748	1,696
Later than 5 years	610	825
Total Minimum Lease Payments Receivable	2,916	3,061

27. Non-Current Investments

Non-current investments consist of the Authority's 100% shareholding in Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd. The value of this shareholding included in the Authority's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2020 was £0.250m (31 March 2019: £0.250m).

27.1 Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd. (SVWS)

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

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

At 31 March 2020 the company had three registered directors. Two Elected Members of Blaenau Gwent CBC were appointed as non-executive directors with effect from 19 March 2018; one of these resigned on 31 May 2019 and was replaced with another Elected Member with effect from 1 June 2019.

One of the stated purposes of a board restructure in 2012 was for the Authority to take control of activities at Silent Valley Waste Services, and consequently the Authority is required to prepare Group Accounting statements. These have been included on pages 124-144, based on the company's 2019/2020 Accounts as approved by the Silent Valley Board on 19 August 2020.

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

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

28. Non-Current Debtors

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

	31 March 2020				31 March 2019			
	Gross Debtors £000	Impairment £000	Prepayments £000	Total Net Non-Current Debtors £000	Gross Debtors £000	Impairment £000	Prepayments £000	Total Net Non-Current Debtors £000
Non-Current Debtors								
Local Authorities	2,852	0	0	2,852	4,085	0	0	4,085
Other Entities & Individuals	496	(128)	0	368	442	(37)	0	405
Total	3,348	(128)	0	3,220	4,527	(37)	0	4,490

Impairment of Non-Current Debtors

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

	31 March 2020			31 March 2019		
	Gross Debtor £000	Impairment £000	Net Debtor £000	Gross Debtor £000	Impairment £000	Net Debtor £000
Impairment of Non-Current Debtors						
Land & Property Charges	175	(128)	47	51	(37)	14
Total	175	(128)	47	51	(37)	14

29. Consolidation of Schools in Single Entity Accounts

The income, expenditure, assets, liabilities, reserves and cash flows of schools are accounted for in accordance with the prescribed treatment in the Accounting Code of Practice as set out in the Authority's accounting policies (see policy 1.20, page 38). The value of school assets included in the Balance Sheet is as follows:

	31 March 2020				31 March 2019			
	Community Schools £000	Voluntary Controlled & Aided Schools £000	Foundation Schools £000	Total £000	Community Schools £000	Voluntary Controlled & Aided Schools £000	Foundation Schools £000	Total £000
Value of School Assets								
Land & Buildings	75,548	0	2,086	77,634	73,326	0	2,608	75,934

The net valuation of school non-current assets increased by £1.7m during 2019/2020, due to the completion of the Six Bells Primary School valued at £4.2m, offset by in-year depreciation across all schools of £2.5m.

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

Analysis of School by Type	31 March 2020				31 March 2019			
	Community Schools	Voluntary Controlled & Aided Schools	Foundation Schools	Total	Community Schools	Voluntary Controlled & Aided Schools	Foundation Schools	Total
Primary Schools	15	4	0	19	15	4	0	19
Middle Schools	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	2
Secondary Schools	1	0	1	2	1	0	1	2
Special Schools	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	2
Total	20	4	1	25	20	4	1	25

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

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

School Transactions - In-Year (Surplus)/Deficit	2019/2020				2018/2019			
	Community Schools £000	Voluntary Controlled & Aided Schools £000	Foundation Schools £000	Total £000	Community Schools £000	Voluntary Controlled & Aided Schools £000	Foundation Schools £000	Total £000
Primary Schools	(276)	29	0	(247)	(227)	(201)	0	(428)
Middle Schools	68	0	0	68	(86)	0	0	(86)
Secondary Schools	8	0	(60)	(52)	(19)	0	(76)	(95)
Special Schools	(40)	0	0	(40)	(165)	0	0	(165)
Total In-Year (Surplus)/Deficit	(240)	29	(60)	(271)	(497)	(201)	(76)	(774)

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

School Balances	31 March 2020				31 March 2019			
	Community Schools	Voluntary Controlled & Aided Schools	Foundation Schools	Total	Community Schools	Voluntary Controlled & Aided Schools	Foundation Schools	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Primary Schools	(1,225)	(306)	0	(1,531)	(948)	(336)	0	(1,284)
Middle Schools	829	0	0	829	761	0	0	761
Secondary Schools	(294)	0	(43)	(337)	(303)	0	18	(285)
Special Schools	(286)	0	0	(286)	(246)	0	0	(246)
Total	(976)	(306)	(43)	(1,325)	(736)	(336)	18	(1,054)

30. Current Debtors

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

Current Debtors	31 March 2020				31 March 2019			
	Gross Debtors	Impairment	Prepayments	Total Net Current Debtors	Gross Debtors	Impairment	Prepayments	Total Net Current Debtors
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Welsh Government	10,092	0	0	10,092	5,473	0	0	5,473
Other Central Government	2,120	0	0	2,120	1,099	0	0	1,099
Local Authorities	2,804	(19)	0	2,785	2,379	(1)	32	2,410
NHS	2,286	(20)	22	2,288	929	(5)	0	924
Council Tax Arrears	5,046	(2,102)	0	2,944	4,546	(1,867)	0	2,679
Other Entities and Individuals	5,380	(1,409)	923	4,894	4,481	(2,295)	1,372	3,558
Trade	762	(227)	0	535	930	(86)	0	844
Total	28,490	(3,777)	945	25,658	19,837	(4,254)	1,404	16,987

Impairment of Current Debtors

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

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

	31 March 2020			31 March 2019		
	Gross	Impairment	Net	Gross	Impairment	Net
	Debtor £000		Debtor £000	Debtor £000		Debtor £000
Impairment of Current Debtors						
<i>Impairment of Debtors within the scope of IFRS 9:</i>						
Land & Property Charges	303	(222)	81	312	(227)	85
Trade Debtors	671	(227)	444	919	(86)	833
Debtors related to Sales, Fees & charges	709	(544)	165	490	(322)	168
<i>Impairment of Debtors outside of the scope of IFRS 9:</i>						
Council Tax	5,046	(2,102)	2,944	4,546	(1,867)	2,679
Housing Benefits	1,598	(616)	982	1,715	(1,688)	27
Public Sector Bodies	4,128	(39)	4,089	2,281	(4)	2,277
Other Debtors	172	(27)	145	17	(60)	(43)
Total	12,627	(3,777)	8,850	10,280	(4,254)	6,026

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

Council Tax

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

Housing Benefits

The simplified approach has been adopted to impairment of Housing Benefit Overpayments, with expected lifetime losses calculated using a probability matrix based on the age of debt outstanding and an assessment of the possibility of default occurring.

Public Sector Bodies

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

Other Debtors

The simplified approach has been adopted to impairment of Other Debtors, with expected lifetime losses calculated using a probability matrix based on the age of debt outstanding and an assessment of the possibility of default occurring.

Impairment of Debtors Outside of the Scope of IFRS9	31 March 2020						31 March 2019					
	Council Tax	Housing Benefit	Public Sector Bodies	Other Debtors	Total Debtors Outside Scope	Impairment	Council Tax	Housing Benefit	Public Sector Bodies	Other Debtors	Total Debtors Outside Scope	Impairment
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<i>Category of debtor:</i>												
General Arrears < 1 year old	1,981	260	4,010	33	6,284	(164)	1,908	3	2,283	8	4,202	(105)
General Arrears > 1 year <5 years old	2,081	929	7	59	3,076	(1,410)	1,618	24	5	4	1,651	(866)
General Arrears > 5 years old	464	378	(1)	32	873	(712)	426	4	(7)	5	428	(441)
Recovered Through Housing Benefits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,684	0	0	1,684	(1,670)
Absconders	371	0	0	0	371	(371)	445	0	0	0	445	(445)
Bankruptcy/Liquidation/Insolvency	71	0	0	0	71	(71)	43	0	0	0	43	(43)
Other	57	0	0	0	57	(56)	49	0	0	0	49	(49)
Arrears not impaired	21	31	112	48	212	0	57	0	0	0	57	0
Total	5,046	1,598	4,128	172	10,944	(2,784)	4,546	1,715	2,281	17	8,559	(3,619)

31.

Current Creditors

Amounts owed by the Authority were as follows:

Current Creditors	31 March 2020			31 March 2019		
	Creditors	Receipts in Advance	Total Current Creditors	Creditors	Receipts in Advance	Total Current Creditors
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Welsh Government	(80)	0	(80)	(226)	0	(226)
Other Central Government	(679)	0	(679)	(810)	0	(810)
Local Authorities	(1,309)	(5)	(1,314)	(1,335)	(3)	(1,338)
NHS	(290)	0	(290)	(407)	0	(407)
Capital Creditors	(1,511)	0	(1,511)	(226)	0	(226)
Council Tax Credits	(876)	0	(876)	(835)	0	(835)
Other Entities and Individuals	(6,869)	(275)	(7,144)	(5,946)	(225)	(6,171)
Trade	(1,376)	0	(1,376)	(1,401)	0	(1,401)
Total	(12,990)	(280)	(13,270)	(11,186)	(228)	(11,414)

32. Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

32.1 Provisions - Purpose

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

Employee-Related Provisions:

Provision	Purpose	Timescale for Utilisation	Uncertainties, Assumptions and Potential Reimbursement
Back Pay	To provide for outstanding amounts estimated in relation to back pay claims and associated tax and pension liabilities.	Inherently uncertain; from 2020/2021.	The sum included in the provision for back pay represents a reasonable estimate of the possible financial impact of the liability arising from these claims. There are diverging legal views and uncertainty regarding the need to recognise a provision in respect of pension contributions on equal pay settlements. The Authority has decided to include pension contributions, but future legal opinion may change this position.
Early Terminations	To provide for known sums in relation to early terminations where these had been approved prior to the end of the financial year.	Redundancy payments expected to be settled in 2020/2021.	The provision for early terminations comprises the known value of redundancy payments occurring after 31 March 2020 for which a legal or constructive obligation existed at that date. This obligation may have been through approval of the individual redundancies or through a decision that has a material impact on the structure or functions of the Authority. It is assumed that all employees included within the provision will have left during the next financial year.

Other Provisions:

Provision	Purpose	Timescale for Utilisation	Uncertainties, Assumptions and Potential Reimbursement
Carbon Reduction Commitment	To provide for purchase of allowances arising from in year production of carbon emissions.	Fully utilised in 2019/2020.	Provision was based on relevant utility readings for 2018/2019, some of which were estimated. The remaining balance has been unwound.
Insurance	To provide for known insurance liabilities, including sums relating to the Municipal Mutual Insurance Scheme of Arrangement originally established in 1994 under section 425 of the Companies Act 1985 (now section 899 of the Companies Act 2006).	To be utilised from 2020/2021 on settlement of claims.	The amount and timing of settlement of insurance claims are inherently uncertain. It has been assumed that the timing and value of the settlement of future claims will be similar to known claims history. As the majority of known claims fall below the Authority's excess level(s) there is not expected to be any significant reimbursement by the Authority's insurers. In November 2012 the Directors and Board of Municipal Mutual Insurance agreed to the irrevocable triggering of the Scheme of Arrangement in order to avoid insolvent liquidation. As a result, the Authority has included £0.011m in the Insurance Provision, set at 25% of total outstanding claims. In addition, £0.038m has been included in respect of MMI claims for the former Gwent County Council.

Other Provisions (Continued):

Provision	Purpose	Timescale for Utilisation	Uncertainties, Assumptions and Potential Reimbursement
Lease Dilapidation	To provide for works to three leased assets (Anvil Court, Ebbw Vale Multi-Storey Car Park, and 20 Church Street) to return the assets to their condition as at the inception of the respective lease agreements.	Ebbw Vale Multi-Storey Car Park: ending in 2070. Anvil Court: ending in 2026. 20 Church Street: to be utilised in 2020/2021.	Sums provided are for estimated costs to restore leased assets to original condition. No allowance has been made for improvement works undertaken that may be retained by the lessor.
Part 1 Land Compensation Claims	To provide for claims under Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 in relation to depreciation of the value of an interest in land by physical factors caused by the use of public works.	There is uncertainty with regards to the timescale for agreement.	The sum provided is an estimate based on total proposed settlements, but is subject to change. Additional claims could become payable in respect of a number of other public works in the County Borough. It is assumed that all settlements will be as offered and no reimbursements will be expected.
Waun y Pound Unit 1	To provide for repairs to Waun y Pound Unit 1 arising from damages to loading bay on 26 November 2016.	Unwound in 2019/2020.	Outstanding issues have been resolved and the remaining balance unwound.

32.2 Provisions - Movements

Movements in employee-related and other provisions during 2019/2020 were as follows:

	Balance at	Amounts	Unused	Unwinding of	Additional	Reclassification	Balance at
Provision Movements	1 April 2019	Used in	Reversed in	Discount in	Provisions	of Provision	31 March 2020
	£000	2019/2020	2019/2020	2019/2020	2019/2020	2019/2020	£000
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Current Provisions							
Employee Provisions:							
Back Pay	(146)	0	0	0	0	0	(146)
Early Terminations	(366)	366	0	0	(40)	0	(40)
Total Current Employee Provisions:	(512)	366	0	0	(40)	0	(186)

Provision Movements	Balance at 1 April 2019 £000	Amounts Used in 2019/2020 £000	Unused Amounts Reversed in 2019/2020 £000	Unwinding of Discount in 2019/2020 £000	Additional Provisions made in 2019/2020 £000	Reclassification of Provision 2019/2020 £000	Balance at 31 March 2020 £000
Other Provisions (Current):							
Carbon Reduction Commitment	(138)	128	10	0	0	0	0
Insurance	(1,954)	142	546	0	(536)	283	(1,519)
Part 1 Land Compensation Claims	(357)	5	0	0	0	0	(352)
Waun Y Pound Unit 1	(9)	0	9	0	0	0	0
Total Other Current Provisions:	(2,458)	275	565	0	(536)	283	(1,871)
Total Current Provisions:	(2,970)	641	565	0	(576)	283	(2,057)
Other Provisions (Non-Current):							
Insurance	(1,733)	126	484	0	(475)	(283)	(1,881)
Lease Dilapidation - Anvil Court	(69)	0	69	0	(133)	0	(133)
Lease Dilapidation - Ebbw Vale Multi Storey Car Park	(14)	0	14	0	(14)	0	(14)
Lease Dilapidation - 20 Church Street	0	0	0	0	(6)	0	(6)
Total Non-Current Provisions:	(1,816)	126	567	0	(628)	(283)	(2,034)
Total Provisions:	(4,786)	767	1,132	0	(1,204)	0	(4,091)

32.3 Contingent Liabilities

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

- On creation of Aneurin Leisure Trust in October 2014, pension assets and liabilities assessed on an actuarial basis were transferred from Blaenau Gwent CBC, such that the Trust's pension obligations were deemed to be fully funded. The funding deficit accruing to 30 September 2014 in respect of employees relocating to Aneurin Leisure Trust was not transferred, but was retained by Blaenau Gwent CBC. The Trust is therefore only responsible for any increase in liabilities (on an actuarial valuation basis) occurring after the transfer date, with the Authority acting as a guarantor for the previously accrued net deficit. In addition, the Authority agreed to act as guarantor of last resort in order that the Leisure Trust could enter the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund as an admitted body and has therefore agreed to underwrite any costs arising in the event that the admitted body defaults on any or all of its payments in relation to its pension obligations. Further details of the liability on transfer are included in note 37 (page 104). However it is not possible to place an estimate on the level of other potential liabilities for which the Authority is acting as guarantor which are dependent on the occurrence of future events.
- With effect from 1 October 2018, the Authority entered into an agreement with Compass Contract Services (UK) Limited, trading as Chartwells, for the provision of catering services at Glyncoed Primary School. In order to continue the pension rights of the staff transferred under a TUPE arrangement, it was agreed that Chartwells would be designated an admitted body in the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund. The Authority has agreed to provide a guarantee to the administering body (Torfaen CBC) underwriting any scheme liabilities unpaid (in whole or part) by the admitted body in the event of insolvency, winding up, liquidation, default in payment or termination of the admission agreement. It is not possible to place an estimate on the level of these potential liabilities which are dependent on the occurrence of future events.
- As a result of decisions of the courts allowing the release of documentation in relation to specific past actions of the Authority, it is possible that obligations may arise to settle specific liabilities. However, no such obligations have presented to date and the possibility of any doing so is judged to be decreasing over time. Given the inherent complexity of these liabilities, none of which is yet to materialise, it has not been possible to provide an estimate of the settlement costs, if any.
- In 2018, the High Court ruled that UK defined benefit pension schemes must compensate members for differences attributable to Guaranteed Minimum Pensions (GMPs). The 'interim' solution implemented by the Government involved the LGPS fund paying for both initial pension and all increases for members reaching State Pension Age (SPA) between 6 April 2016 and 5 April 2021, with a stated preferred long term option of converting GMP to scheme benefit (subject to further consultation). This proposed long-term solution will lead to an increase in pension fund liabilities as a result of the scheme paying full GMP increases for all members with a SPA after 2016. Effectively this passes the cost from the State to LGPS funds (and therefore employers). There has been no indication of additional funding to cover this extra cost. As at 31 March 2020, the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund actuary has not supplied figures in relation to this increased liability/cost, but has indicated that a typical fund could see an increase in liabilities of 0.5% (approximately £2.872m for Blaenau Gwent, if typical).

33. Other Long-Term Liabilities

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

Other Long-Term Liabilities	31 March 2020 £000	31 March 2019 £000
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Non-Current Creditor	(2,123)	(1,433)
Deferred Liabilities	(68)	(217)
Net Pensions Liability	(267,258)	(325,993)
Total	(269,449)	(327,643)

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

34. Financial Instruments

Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities carried at Amortised Cost

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

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

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

Financial Liabilities	Fair Value Level	31 March 2020		31 March 2019	
		Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000
Public Works Loan Board	2	(78,856)	(95,327)	(72,081)	(91,778)
Lenders Option Borrowers Option (LOBO)	2	(4,043)	(5,826)	(4,044)	(6,149)
Market Loans	2	(14,000)	(14,100)	(19,000)	(19,264)
Temporary Loans	n/a	(60,699)	(60,626)	(61,649)	(61,803)
Other Loans	n/a	(1,429)	0	(768)	(768)
Total		(159,027)	(175,879)	(157,542)	(179,762)

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

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

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

Financial Instrument Balances

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

Financial Instruments	31 March 2020			31 March 2019		
	Non-Current £000	Current £000	Total £000	Non-Current £000	Current £000	Total £000
Financial Liabilities						
Financial liabilities at amortised cost	(89,548)	(69,479)	(159,027)	(84,439)	(73,103)	(157,542)
Total Borrowings	(89,548)	(69,479)	(159,027)	(84,439)	(73,103)	(157,542)
Financial Assets						
Available for Sale - Unquoted equity investment at cost	250	0	250	250	0	250
Total Investments	250	0	250	250	0	250

Note: Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd.:

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

Financial Instrument Gains/Losses

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

Financial Instrument Gains/Losses	2019/2020			2018/2019		
	Financial Liabilities measured at amortised cost £000	Financial Assets: Loans & Receivables £000	Total 2019/2020 £000	Financial Liabilities measured at amortised cost £000	Financial Assets: Loans & Receivables £000	Total 2018/2019 £000
Interest payable and similar charges:						
Interest expense	4,274	0	4,274	4,368	0	4,368
Interest and investment income:						
Interest income	0	(74)	(74)	0	(48)	(48)
Net (gain)/loss for the year:	4,274	(74)	4,200	4,368	(48)	4,320

Soft Loans

Car loans are classified as soft loans and should be included in the Balance Sheet at fair value. However, car loans have been included at their carrying amount, as the difference between the fair value and carrying amount is considered to be immaterial. As at 31 March 2020, 100 car loans were outstanding with a total value of £0.520m (31 March 2019: 117 loans with a value of £0.591m).

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

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

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

Overall Procedures for Managing Risk

The economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic presents challenges to the financial services industry and its institutions. The main risk to the Council is credit risk, its ability to raise finance and to a limited degree the interest rate payable and receivable on new loans and investments. However, these risks are mitigated as described in this note.

The Authority's overall risk management procedures focus on the unpredictability of financial markets, and are structured to implement suitable controls to minimise these risks. The procedures for risk management are defined through a legal framework set out in the Local Government Act 2003 and associated regulations and are managed by the Authority's Accountancy Division. These require compliance with the CIPFA Prudential Code of Practice, the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice and investment guidance issued under the Local Government Act 2003. Overall, these procedures require the Authority to manage risk in the following ways:

- by formally adopting the requirements of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice;
- by the adoption of a Treasury Policy Statement and treasury management clauses within its financial regulations/standing orders/constitution;
- by approving an Investment Strategy for the forthcoming year, setting out its criteria for both investing and selecting investment counterparties in compliance with government guidance; and
- by approving annually in advance Prudential and Treasury Indicators for the following three years limiting:
 - the Authority's overall borrowing;
 - its maximum and minimum exposures to fixed and variable rates;
 - its maximum and minimum exposures to the maturity structure of its debt; and
 - its maximum annual exposures to investments maturing beyond a year.

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

The annual Treasury Management Strategy, Investment Strategy and MRP Policy statement, which incorporates the Prudential Indicators, was approved by Council on 21 March 2019 and is available on the Authority's website:

<http://democracy.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/Data/Ordinary Meeting of the Council/201903211030/Agenda/att10226.pdf>

<http://democracy.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/Data/Ordinary Meeting of the Council/201903211030/Agenda/att10227.pdf>

<http://democracy.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/Data/Ordinary Meeting of the Council/201903211030/Agenda/att10228.pdf>

Credit Risk

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

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

The full Investment Strategy for 2019/2020 was approved by Council on 21 March 2019.

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

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

Liquidity Risk

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

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

The source analysis of financial liabilities is as follows:

Financial Instruments	31 March 2020		31 March 2019	
	£000	%	£000	%
Source of Loan				
Public Works Loan Board	(79,430)	49.78	(72,700)	45.98
Lenders Option Borrowers Option (LOBO)	(4,000)	2.51	(4,000)	2.53
Market Loans	(14,000)	8.77	(19,000)	12.02
Temporary Loans	(60,699)	38.04	(61,649)	38.99
Other Loans	(1,429)	0.90	(768)	0.48
Total:	(159,558)	100.00	(158,117)	100.00

The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is as follows:

Maturity of Loan	31 March 2020		31 March 2019	
	£000	%	£000	%
Maturing in less than 1 year	(69,479)	43.54	(73,103)	46.23
Maturing in 1-2 years	(5,848)	3.67	(8,802)	5.57
Maturing in 2-5 years	(25,124)	15.75	(13,538)	8.56
Maturing in 5-10 years	(25,962)	16.27	(21,998)	13.91
Maturing in more than 10 years	(33,145)	20.77	(40,676)	25.73
Total:	(159,558)	100.00	(158,117)	100.00

Market Risk

Interest Rate Risk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Interest Rate Risk	2019/2020	2018/2019
	£000	£000
Increase in interest payable on current variable rate borrowings	694	667
Increase in interest receivable on current variable rate investments	(79)	(51)
Increase in interest payable on non-current variable rate borrowings	40	40
Net impact upon Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement:	655	656

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

Price Risk

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

Foreign Exchange Risk

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

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

The Teachers' Pension Scheme is an unfunded scheme, in which pension benefit payments from the scheme are funded by current employee and employer contributions. The difference between these contributions and scheme expenditure are financed by the Exchequer. As an indication of the scale of the fund and the sums involved, the net cash requirement for 2018/2019 was £3.577bn and total net scheme liabilities amounted to £359.8bn.

Employer contributions are set by the Secretary of State, on the advice of the fund actuary. Following the recommendations of Lord Hutton on public sector pensions, a valuation as at 31 March 2012 has been undertaken by the Government Actuary's Department in line with the revised valuation directions determined by Her Majesty's Treasury. As a result of this valuation, the standard contribution rate (SCR) was assessed at 20.4% and the supplementary contribution rate (which funds the accumulated shortfall of liabilities within a period of up to 15 years) was set at 5.6% (a total contribution rate of 26.0%). The actuarial valuation based on scheme data for the period ending 31 March 2016 had been progressing and was expected to be implemented in 2019, with subsequent valuations to be undertaken on a four-yearly basis. However, the actuarial valuation was suspended following the Court of Appeal ruling against the government in respect of changes to the judges and firefighters pension schemes. The employers rate increased to 23.6% from September 2019, with no change to the average employee contribution of 9.5%.

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

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

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

The TPS is a multi-employer scheme which, for 2018/2019, comprised 11,128 contributing employers that administered over 1.25 million active/deferred members and made payments to 729,471 pensioners. Given the complexities involved in administering pension arrangements for this volume of employees, it is not possible to disaggregate the scheme liabilities for each employer. Consequently, there is insufficient information available to account for the TPS as a defined benefit plan and as a result it has been accounted for as a defined contribution scheme.

In 2019/2020, the Authority paid employers contributions of £4.016 million to Capita Teachers' Pensions in respect of teachers' pension costs, representing 16.5% of teachers' pensionable pay (2018/2019: £3.188 million, representing 16.5%). At 31 March 2020, £0.387 million remained payable to the Teachers' Pension Scheme relating to employers contributions arising in the March payroll (31 March 2019: £0.263m).

The total employers contributions to be made by the Authority to the Teachers' Pension Scheme in the year to 31 March 2021 is estimated at £4.650m.

The Authority made total contributions (employees and employers) to the TPS amounting to £5.868m in 2019/2020, which would have represented approximately 0.09% of the total contributions receivable by the TPS in 2018/2019.

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

37. Post-Employment Benefits - Defined Benefit Plans

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

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

With effect from 1 April 2014, the Local Government Scheme is a funded defined benefit Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) scheme, in which the Authority and employees make contributions calculated at a level intended to balance pension liabilities arising with investment assets. The contribution rate is determined by the Fund's Actuary based on triennial valuations, the last completed review being 31 March 2019.

Pension benefits under the LGPS are summarised below:

	Service pre 1 April 2008	Service between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2014	Service after 31 March 2014
Pension	Each year worked is worth 1/80th of final pensionable salary.	Each year worked is worth 1/60th of final pensionable salary.	Each year worked is worth 1/49th of career average revalued earnings.
Lump Sum	Automatic lump sum of 3x annual pension. In addition, part of the annual pension can be exchanged for a one-off tax-free cash payment. A lump sum of £12 is paid for each £1 of pension given up.	No automatic lump sum. Part of the annual pension can be exchanged for a one-off tax-free cash payment. A lump sum of £12 is paid for each £1 of pension given up.	No automatic lump sum. Part of the annual pension can be exchanged for a one-off tax-free cash payment. A lump sum of £12 is paid for each £1 of pension given up.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The 2019 Actuarial Valuation reported the level of total fund assets compared to liabilities (the funding level) as 86% (2016 Valuation: 72%). As a result, employer contribution levels have been calculated for implementation from 1 April 2020 that will, subject to future revaluations, eliminate this deficit in 20 years. Scheme changes implemented under the Public Pensions Service Act 2013, including calculating pension and other benefits on the basis of career average re-valued earnings, will also need to be considered in meeting the future funding objectives.

As an indication of the level of the Authority's participation in the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund compared with other participating entities, Blaenau Gwent contributed 11.1% of the total employee and employer contributions receivable by the Fund as disclosed in the most recently available annual accounts (2019/2020).

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

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

Welsh Pension Partnership (WPP)

The Greater Gwent Pension Fund is one of eight Local Government Pension Scheme funds in Wales that since 2017 have collaborated in the Wales Pension Partnership (WPP). Pooling of the eight schemes' assets is undertaken in order to benefit from economies of scale and reduced administrative costs. As host authority, Carmarthenshire County Council is responsible for running the pooled fund. In 2019/2020, 47% of the Constituent Authorities' pension fund assets were pooled.

Discretionary Benefits

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

Accounting Treatment of Defined Benefit Transactions

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

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

	2019/2020			2018/2019		
	Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Teachers' Unfunded Discretionary Pensions £000	Total £000	Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Teachers' Unfunded Discretionary Pensions £000	Total £000
Pension Scheme Transactions - Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement						
Cost of Services:						
Current Service Costs	21,462	0	21,462	18,066	0	18,066
Past Service Costs and Curtailments	1,524	0	1,524	270	0	270
Administration Expenses	228	0	228	222	0	222
Total Service Cost:	23,214	0	23,214	18,558	0	18,558
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure:						
Interest on plan assets	(9,079)	0	(9,079)	(9,664)	0	(9,664)
Interest on defined benefit liabilities	16,138	884	17,022	16,133	937	17,070
Net Interest:	7,059	884	7,943	6,469	937	7,406
Total Charged to the Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services:	30,273	884	31,157	25,027	937	25,964
Remeasurement of the Net Defined Liability, comprising:						
Return on plan assets (excluding amounts included in Net Interest)	46,037	0	46,037	(11,308)	0	(11,308)
Actuarial (Gains)/Losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	(26,026)	(1,850)	(27,876)	0	0	0
Actuarial (Gains)/Losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	(57,195)	(2,035)	(59,230)	51,354	1,447	52,801
Experience (Gains)/Losses on defined benefit liabilities	(34,634)	(365)	(34,999)	44	346	390
Total remeasurements recognised in Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure:	(71,818)	(4,250)	(76,068)	40,090	1,793	41,883
Total Charged to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement:	(41,545)	(3,366)	(44,911)	65,117	2,730	67,847

At 31 March 2020, £0.982m remained payable to the LGPS relating to contributions arising in the March payroll (31 March 2019: £0.927m). This amount has been excluded from the Pensions Asset in the Balance Sheet.

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

	2019/2020			2018/2019		
	Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Teachers' Unfunded Discretionary Pensions £000	Total £000	Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Teachers' Unfunded Discretionary Pensions £000	Total £000
Pension Scheme Transactions - Movement in Reserves Statement						
Reversal of net charges for post employment benefits included in <i>'Total Charged to the Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services'</i>	(30,273)	(884)	(31,157)	(25,027)	(937)	(25,964)
Actual Amount Charged Against Council Tax for Pensions in year:						
Employers' Contributions Payable to Scheme	11,983	0	11,983	11,610	0	11,610
Retirement Benefits Payable to Pensioners	0	1,943	1,943	0	1,898	1,898
Total amounts charged against Council Tax:	11,983	1,943	13,926	11,610	1,898	13,508
Net adjustment between accounting basis and funding basis for pension transactions:	(18,290)	1,059	(17,231)	(13,417)	961	(12,456)

Assets and Liabilities in Relation to Post-Employment Benefits

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

	2019/2020			2018/2019		
	Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Teachers' Unfunded Discretionary Pensions £000	Total £000	Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Teachers' Unfunded Discretionary Pensions £000	Total £000
Reconciliation of the Movements in Fair Value of Scheme Assets						
Balance at 1 April:	378,786	0	378,786	359,245	0	359,245
Employer Contributions	11,881	1,943	13,824	11,555	1,898	13,453
Member Contributions	2,879	0	2,879	2,831	0	2,831
Benefits Paid	(16,870)	(1,943)	(18,813)	(15,817)	(1,898)	(17,715)
Interest on Plan Assets	9,079	0	9,079	9,664	0	9,664
Remeasurement Gains/(Losses):						
Return on Plan Assets (excluding amounts included in Interest)	(46,037)	0	(46,037)	11,308	0	11,308
Balance at 31 March:	339,718	0	339,718	378,786	0	378,786

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

Reconciliation of the Movements in Present Value of Scheme Liabilities	2019/2020			2018/2019		
	Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Teachers' Unfunded Discretionary Pensions £000	Total £000	Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Teachers' Unfunded Discretionary Pensions £000	Total £000
Balance at 1 April:	(666,977)	(37,802)	(704,779)	(593,874)	(36,970)	(630,844)
Current Service Cost	(21,462)	0	(21,462)	(18,066)	0	(18,066)
Past Service Cost and Curtailments	(1,524)	0	(1,524)	(270)	0	(270)
Administration Expenses	(228)	0	(228)	(222)	0	(222)
Interest Cost	(16,138)	(884)	(17,022)	(16,133)	(937)	(17,070)
Member Contributions	(2,879)	0	(2,879)	(2,831)	0	(2,831)
Benefits Paid	16,870	1,943	18,813	15,817	1,898	17,715
Remeasurement Gains/(Losses):						
Experience Gains/(Losses)	34,634	365	34,999	(44)	(346)	(390)
Actuarial Gains/(Losses) arising from changes in demographic assumptions	26,026	1,850	27,876	0	0	0
Actuarial Gains/(Losses) arising from changes in financial assumptions	57,195	2,035	59,230	(51,354)	(1,447)	(52,801)
Balance at 31 March:	(574,483)	(32,493)	(606,976)	(666,977)	(37,802)	(704,779)

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

Pension Assets & Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet	31 March 2020			31 March 2019		
	Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Teachers' Unfunded Discretionary Pensions £000	Total £000	Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Teachers' Unfunded Discretionary Pensions £000	Total £000
Fair Value of Scheme Assets	339,718	0	339,718	378,786	0	378,786
Present Value of Scheme Liabilities	(574,483)	(32,493)	(606,976)	(666,977)	(37,802)	(704,779)
Net Liability:	(234,765)	(32,493)	(267,258)	(288,191)	(37,802)	(325,993)

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme Asset Categorisation	31 March 2020				31 March 2019			
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets	Quoted Prices not in Active Markets	Total		Quoted Prices in Active Markets	Quoted Prices not in Active Markets	Total	
	£000	£000	£000	%	£000	£000	£000	%
Quoted Equity Securities:	50,248	0	50,248	14.79	55,945	0	55,945	14.77
Investment Funds and Unit Trusts:								
Equities	0	196,255	196,255	57.76	0	216,245	216,245	57.09
Bonds	0	56,998	56,998	16.78	0	65,812	65,812	17.37
Other	0	24,682	24,682	7.27	0	28,703	28,703	7.58
Real Estate: UK Property Funds	0	8,550	8,550	2.52	0	10,243	10,243	2.70
Cash and Cash Equivalents:	0	2,985	2,985	0.88	0	1,838	1,838	0.49
Total:	50,248	289,470	339,718	100.00	55,945	322,841	378,786	100.00

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

Sensitivity Analysis

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

Sensitivity Analysis: Impact of Change in Assumptions	31 March 2020		31 March 2019	
	Increase in Employer Liabilities		Increase in Employer Liabilities	
	£000	%	£000	%
0.5% decrease in Real Discount Rate	57,616	9.49	73,233	10.39
0.5% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	7,266	1.20	12,315	1.75
0.5% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	49,751	8.20	59,550	8.45
1 year increase in Member Life Expectancy	18,209	3.00	21,143	3.00

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

Sensitivity Analysis	31 March 2020					31 March 2019				
		Discount	Salary	Pension	Life		Discount	Salary	Pension	Life
	Base	Rate:	Increase:	Increase:	Expectancy:	Base	Rate:	Increase:	Increase:	Expectancy:
	£000	-0.5% p.a.	+0.5% p.a.	+0.5% p.a.	+1 Year	£000	-0.5% p.a.	+0.5% p.a.	+0.5% p.a.	+1 Year
Liabilities	(606,976)	(664,592)	(614,242)	(656,727)	(625,185)	(704,779)	(778,012)	(717,094)	(764,329)	(725,922)
Assets	339,718	339,718	339,718	339,718	339,718	378,786	378,786	378,786	378,786	378,786
Net Deficit	(267,258)	(324,874)	(274,524)	(317,009)	(285,467)	(325,993)	(399,226)	(338,308)	(385,543)	(347,136)

The sensitivity analysis figures provided by the Actuary are approximate only. It has been assumed that there have been no changes in accounting policies, Scheme benefits, the age/sex/service profile of employees, levels of pay and contributions made. The Actuary has also indicated that the impact of an increase in member life expectancy would be in the range of 3-5%, subject to varying factors. These figures should not therefore be construed as providing accurate outturn figures for future accounting periods. No allowance has been made for the impact of Covid-19 on the pension fund, as the long term impact on the fund was not known in March 2020.

Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

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

Principal Assumptions	31 March 2020	31 March 2019
Financial Assumptions:		
Rate of Increase in Salaries	2.2%	2.9%
Rate of Increase in Pensions	1.9%	2.5%
Discount Rate	2.3%	2.4%
Mortality Assumptions:		
Current Pensioners:	CMI 2018 model assuming an allowance for smoothing of recent mortality experience and long term rates of 1.25%p.a.	CMI 2013 model assuming the current rate of improvements has peaked and will converge to a long term rate of 1.25%p.a.
Future Pensioners:	CMI 2018 model assuming an allowance for smoothing of recent mortality experience and long term rates of 1.25%p.a.	CMI 2013 model assuming the current rate of improvements has peaked and will converge to a long term rate of 1.25%p.a.

Principal Assumptions (Continued)	31 March 2020	31 March 2019
Life Expectancy:		
Longevity of current pensioners aged 65:		
Males	20.6	21.5
Females	22.9	23.6
Longevity of future pensioners aged 65 in 20 years' time:		
Males	21.6	23.9
Females	24.6	26.1

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

The date of the last full actuarial valuation was 31 March 2019.

Impact on future cash flows

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

The scheme is financed by contributions paid by the employees, their employers and earnings from the investment of the Fund's money. The type of investment is decided by legislation and not by the local authorities. Contributions are made by active members of the Fund in accordance with the LGPS Regulations 2013. Contributions are additionally made by Fund employers which are set by the Fund's triennial actuarial valuations. The last such formal valuation was at 31 March 2019.

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

To meet the requirements of the Regulations the Administering Authority's long term funding objective is for the Fund to achieve and then maintain sufficient assets to cover 100% of projected accrued liabilities (the "funding target") assessed on an ongoing basis including allowance for projected final pay. The funding objective as set out in the FSS (Funding Strategy Statement) is to achieve and maintain a funding level of 100% of liabilities (the Funding Target). In line with the FSS, where a shortfall exists at the effective date of the actuarial valuation (31 March 2019), a deficit recovery plan will be put in place which requires additional contributions to correct the shortfall. The maximum deficit recovery period has been set as 20 years.

The 2019 Actuarial Valuation reported the level of total fund assets compared to liabilities (the funding level) as 86% (2016 Valuation: 72%). As a result, employer contribution levels have been calculated for implementation from 1 April 2020 that will, subject to future revaluations, eliminate this deficit in the next 20 years.

The Authority holds total usable reserves of £22.023m at 31 March 2020 (£19.888m at 31 March 2019). The effect of applying the net superannuation fund deficit of £267.258m to the Authority's usable reserves would be a deficit of £245.235m (2018/2019: the superannuation deficit of £325.993m exceeded usable reserves by £306.105m).

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

The total contributions expected to be made by the Authority to the Local Government Pension Scheme in the year to 31 March 2021 are estimated by the Fund Actuary as £10.708m.

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

Potential Liabilities Arising From The McCloud/Sargeant Ruling

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

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

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

In the 2019/2020 accounts, the Fund actuary has included an increase in liabilities related to the McCloud judgement based on the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) estimates, adjusted where appropriate to better reflect the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund's local assumptions, particularly salary increases and withdrawal rates. This amounts to £1.227m and has been charged to the CIES as Past Service Cost.

However, in July 2020 a consultation was issued by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on the proposed remedy for the McCloud issue. This has provided a clearer indication of the benefit changes arising from the McCloud judgement, and significantly it limits its eligibility to members who were active at 31 March 2012. The increase in liabilities that has been included as past service costs in 2019/2020, assumed that this would apply to all members in the scheme and the Fund Actuary has advised that should the pension scheme be amended in line with the consultation proposals, this will reduce the allowance made within our 2019/2020 accounts by approximately half. As the estimated value of this adjustment is not considered to be material and is subject to confirmation by the conclusion of the consultation and subsequent amendment to the LGPS, the 2019/2020 accounts have not been amended.

Impact of Covid 19 on the Greater Gwent Pension Fund

The Greater Gwent Pension Fund, of which Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council is an admitted body, holds investments in Pooled Property Funds. The Pension Fund Annual Report and Accounts for 2019/2020 include the following statement on uncertainty around the valuation of pooled property funds:

Market activity is being impacted in many sectors by Covid-19. At the March 2020 reporting date, property fund managers consider that they can attach less weight to previous market evidence for comparison purposes. They are faced with an unprecedented set of circumstances on which to base a judgement. The fall in transactions and lack of clarity on pricing means that all major industry valuers have now added Material Uncertainty clauses to their property fund valuations.

Indicative net asset statements for property funds are subject to uncertainty at the reporting date and the £73.02m valuation for pooled property funds is less reliable than usual. The 1 year expected volatility of 14.2% could decrease the valuation to £62.6m or increase it to £83.4m.

The Local Government Pension Scheme pooled property assets attributable to Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council account for £9.121m, being 2.7% of total attributable assets. Given the reported level of volatility, these assets could be revalued between £7.826m and £10.417m.

Contingent Liabilities (see also note 32.3, page 87)

Aneurin Leisure Trust

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

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

Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) Equalisation/Indexation

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

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

It is expected that this increase in liabilities will be accounted for as a 'past service cost'. Further to discussions between pension fund actuaries and the National Audit Office, it has been assumed that a 'trigger event' is yet to occur in the LGPS and therefore the default approach has been to ignore any GMP impact in the 2019/2020 accounts.

38. Reserves

38.1 Usable Reserves

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

Fund Balances:

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

Budget Contingency Fund / Invest to Save	To provide initial assistance in meeting new and emerging budget pressures and to establish an invest to save fund to provide one-off funding for initiatives that will generate financial and efficiency savings in the medium to long term.
Budget Implementation	To provide the investment required to deliver business transformation projects.
Building Control Fees	To hold surpluses generated for future re-investment to improve the quality and performance of the Building Control Service.
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRCDD)	The Authority's apportioned share of surpluses or deficits arising on the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal joint arrangement.
Corporate Services Portfolio	To provide for a variety of specific costs falling to the Corporate Services Portfolio, including: Additional future costs of elections; supply of training/ skills to Business Support Staff; funding the Digital Inclusion project; implementation of payroll system functionality; holding deposits & bonds; meeting taxation liabilities and to fund the Authority's contribution to the Citizens Advice Bureau.
Downsizing, Redundancy & Transitional Costs	To fund specific identified salary, pension strain and redundancy costs arising from the Authority's service transformation and downsizing projects, on a short-term (transitional) basis.
Economy Portfolio	To provide for a variety of specific costs falling to the Economy Portfolio, including: Utilisation of income generated from town centre commercial bookings; review of the Authority's asset management systems and maintenance of retaining walls across the County Borough.
Education Portfolio	To provide for costs falling within the Education Portfolio, including: the provision of home to school transport for pupils and licenses and supply cover across the region in relation to Person Centred Practice.
Environment Portfolio	To provide for a variety of specific costs falling to the Environment Portfolio including: maintaining a stable transport oncost rate; future costs associated with preparing assets for community asset transfer; future planned repairs and maintenance of Aneurin Leisure Trust buildings; and specialist legal and financial advice in relation to Silent Valley.
Future Interest Rate	To provide protection against cost pressures arising from forecast rises in interest rates on the replacement of maturing debt and new borrowings to fund capital expenditure.
ICT	To meet the anticipated increase in capacity required for ICT in relation to staffing resources, licenses, equipment and training required to future-proof the service.
Individual Schools Budget (ISB)	To fund cost pressures relating to school expenditure including insurance and school reorganisation.
Infrastructure Portfolio	To provide for a variety of specific costs falling to the Infrastructure Portfolio including: costs associated with clearing the highways network in adverse winter weather.
Insurance Liabilities	To protect against liabilities incurred but not settled. Such liabilities include insurance claims where an excess remains to be borne by the Authority and claims where no insurance cover exists.
Land & Property Charges (Social Services)	To mitigate the impact of establishing Land & Property charge debtors for adult residential care, the actual income for which will not be received until indeterminate points in the future.

Usable Earmarked Revenue Reserves (Continued):

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

Usable Reserves Earmarked for Capital Purposes:

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

Capital Accounting Reserves:

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

Movements on fund balances and reserves were as follows:

	Balance at 1 April 2018 £000	Transfers to Fund Balances £000	Transfers from Fund Balances £000	Balance at 31 March 2019 £000	Adjustments £000	Transfers to Fund Balances £000	Transfers from Fund Balances £000	Balance at 31 March 2020 £000
Fund Balances								
Council Fund	(5,500)	(394)	0	(5,894)	0	(505)	0	(6,399)
Total: Fund Balances	(5,500)	(394)	0	(5,894)	0	(505)	0	(6,399)

	Balance at 1 April 2018 £000	Transfers to Reserves £000	Transfers from Reserves £000	Balance at 31 March 2019 £000	Adjustments £000	Transfers to Reserves £000	Transfers from Reserves £000	Balance at 31 March 2020 £000
Usable Earmarked Revenue Reserves								
Budget Contingency Fund / Invest to Save	(553)	(260)	742	(71)	0	0	7	(64)
Budget Implementation	(86)	0	86	0	0	0	0	0
Building Control Fees	(154)	(41)	112	(83)	0	(18)	14	(87)
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal	(73)	(114)	0	(187)	0	(107)	0	(294)
Corporate Services Portfolio	(135)	(191)	53	(273)	0	(53)	49	(277)
Downsizing, Redundancy & Transitional Costs	(119)	(341)	243	(217)	0	(171)	187	(201)
Economy Portfolio	(72)	0	59	(13)	0	0	0	(13)
Education Portfolio	(71)	0	63	(8)	0	0	8	0
Environment Portfolio	(126)	(25)	85	(66)	0	(28)	42	(52)
Future Interest Rate	0	(106)	0	(106)	0	0	106	0
I.C.T	(231)	(41)	0	(272)	0	(164)	102	(334)
Individual Schools Budget (ISB)	(197)	0	11	(186)	0	0	159	(27)
Infrastructure Portfolio	(46)	(200)	46	(200)	0	0	0	(200)
Insurance Liabilities	(352)	(770)	200	(922)	0	(1,016)	0	(1,938)
Land & Property Charges (Social Services)	(94)	(65)	60	(99)	0	(29)	0	(128)
Leisure Termination Costs	0	(200)	35	(165)	0	0	165	0
LMS Balances	(247)	(1,008)	245	(1,010)	0	(414)	200	(1,224)
Local / Strategic Development Plan	(125)	(67)	0	(192)	0	0	43	(149)
Members Local Grants	(37)	0	3	(34)	0	(7)	0	(41)
Prudential Borrowing	(200)	(200)	200	(200)	0	0	200	0
Revenue Grants & Contributions Unapplied	(1,150)	(233)	461	(922)	0	(913)	285	(1,550)
Social Services Portfolio	(32)	0	32	0	0	0	0	0
Specialist Commercial Advice (ALT Review)	0	(110)	45	(65)	0	0	45	(20)
Strategic Business Reviews	0	(250)	0	(250)	0	0	57	(193)
Superannuation	(501)	(75)	75	(501)	0	0	0	(501)
Technology Park Feasibility Study	0	(80)	0	(80)	0	(200)	80	(200)
Waste Services	(194)	0	74	(120)	0	0	0	(120)
Total: Usable Earmarked Revenue Reserves	(4,795)	(4,377)	2,930	(6,242)	0	(3,120)	1,749	(7,613)

	Balance at 1 April 2018 £000	Transfers to Reserves £000	Transfers from Reserves £000	Balance at 31 March 2019 £000	Adjustments £000	Transfers to Reserves £000	Transfers from Reserves £000	Balance at 31 March 2020 £000
Usable Revenue Reserves Earmarked for Capital Purposes								
Deminimis Capital Works	(73)	(38)	23	(88)	0	(42)	53	(77)
Facilities	(42)	(80)	0	(122)	0	0	0	(122)
Energy Centre	(50)	(6)	0	(56)	0	(3)	0	(59)
Industrial Units	0	0	0	0	0	(50)	0	(50)
IT Infrastructure	(151)	(10)	26	(135)	0	(100)	4	(231)
Land at Blaenant Road	0	(136)	0	(136)	0	0	136	0
WRAP Regional Vehicles	0	(52)	0	(52)	0	(71)	0	(123)
Total: Usable Reserves Earmarked for Capital Purposes	(316)	(322)	49	(589)	0	(266)	193	(662)

	Balance at 1 April 2018 £000	Transfers to Reserves £000	Transfers from Reserves £000	Balance at 31 March 2019 £000	Adjustments £000	Transfers to Reserves £000	Transfers from Reserves £000	Balance at 31 March 2020 £000
Usable Capital Reserves								
Capital Grants Unapplied	(668)	(3,001)	3,010	(659)	0	(2,714)	2,824	(549)
Usable Capital Receipts	(8,326)	(546)	2,368	(6,504)	0	(655)	359	(6,800)
Total: Usable Capital Reserves	(8,994)	(3,547)	5,378	(7,163)	0	(3,369)	3,183	(7,349)

	Balance at 1 April 2018 £000	Transfers to Funds & Reserves £000	Transfers from Funds & Reserves £000	Balance at 31 March 2019 £000	Adjustments £000	Transfers to Funds & Reserves £000	Transfers from Funds & Reserves £000	Balance at 31 March 2020 £000
Summary: Usable Reserves								
Fund Balances	(5,500)	(394)	0	(5,894)	0	(505)	0	(6,399)
Earmarked Revenue Reserves	(4,795)	(4,377)	2,930	(6,242)	0	(3,120)	1,749	(7,613)
Revenue Reserves Earmarked for Capital Purposes	(316)	(322)	49	(589)	0	(266)	193	(662)
Capital Reserves	(8,994)	(3,547)	5,378	(7,163)	0	(3,369)	3,183	(7,349)
Total: Usable Reserves	(19,605)	(8,640)	8,357	(19,888)	0	(7,260)	5,125	(22,023)

38.2 Unusable Reserves

38.2.1 Capital Adjustment Account

The Capital Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of non-current assets and for financing the acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions. The Account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert fair value figures to an historical cost basis). The Account is credited with the amounts set aside by the Authority as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement. The Account contains revaluation gains accumulated on Property, Plant and Equipment before 1 April 2007, the date that the Revaluation Reserve was created to hold such gains.

Capital Adjustment Account	2019/2020		2018/2019	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April		(85,180)		(88,068)
Adjustments to Opening Balance		13*		(15)*
Revised Balance at 1 April		(85,167)		(88,083)
Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the CIES:				
Charges for depreciation & impairment of non-current assets	13,012		11,299	
Revaluation losses on Property, Plant & Equipment	6,023		55	
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	2,388		1,678	
Non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal	469		489	
Capital grants and contributions applied to capital financing	(10,055)		(3,919)	
Sub-Total: Capital Adjustment Transactions included in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement:		11,837		9,602
Items not debited or credited to the CIES:				
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the Council Fund	(689)		(620)	
Capital expenditure charged against the Council Fund	(293)		(44)	
		(982)		(664)
Capital financing applied in the year:				
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	(299)		(2,312)	
Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	(2,824)		(3,010)	
		(3,123)		(5,322)
Sub-Total: Capital Adjustment Transactions included in the Movement in Reserves Statement:		7,732		3,616
Adjusting Amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve:				
Charges for depreciation & impairment of non-current assets	(697)		(504)	
Non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal	(56)		(209)	
		(753)		(713)
Balance at 31 March		(78,188)		(85,180)

*: Reserve balances at 1 April 2018 and 1 April 2019 were amended to reflect adjustments in the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal accounts, increasing the Blaenau Gwent share by £0.015m in 2018/2019 and decreasing the Blaenau Gwent share by £0.013m in 2019/2020.

38.2.2 Revaluation Reserve

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

Revaluation Reserve	2019/2020		2018/2019	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April		(15,678)		(15,853)
Upward revaluation of assets	(7,587)		(636)	
Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	2,488		253	
Depreciation - write back revaluation reserve	(4,139)		(155)	
Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services		(9,238)		(538)
Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	697		504	
Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	56		209	
Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account		753		713
Balance at 31 March		(24,163)		(15,678)

The Reserve was created on 1 April 2007 and contains only revaluation gains accumulated since that date. Accumulated gains arising before that date are consolidated into the balance on the Capital Adjustment Account. The balance on the reserve is reduced when assets with accumulated gains are revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost; used in the provision of services and the gains are consumed through depreciation; or disposed of and the gains are realised.

38.2.3 Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

The Financial Instruments Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for income and expenses relating to certain financial instruments and for bearing losses or benefiting from gains per statutory provisions.

Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	2019/2020		2018/2019	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April		3,778		3,849
Proportion of premiums incurred in previous financial years to be charged against the Council Fund Balance in accordance with statutory requirements	(104)		(71)	
Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements		(104)		(71)
Balance at 31 March		3,674		3,778

38.2.4 Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve

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

Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve	2019/2020 £000	2018/2019 £000
Balance at 1 April	(4,223)	(4,356)
Transfer to the Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash	60	133
Adjustment to Deferred Receipts on Revaluation of Asset Leased to Third Party	1,169	0
Balance at 31 March	(2,994)	(4,223)

38.2.5 Pensions Reserve

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

Pensions Reserve	2019/2020 £000	2018/2019 £000
Balance at 1 April	324,980	270,641
Remeasurement of pensions assets & liabilities	(76,068)	41,883
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	31,157	25,964
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(13,926)	(13,508)
Balance at 31 March	266,143	324,980

38.2.6 Unequal Pay Back Pay Account

The Unequal Pay Back Pay Account compensates for the differences between the rate at which the Authority provides for the potential costs of back pay settlements in relation to Equal Pay cases and the ability under statutory provisions to defer the impact on the Council Fund Balance until such time as cash might be paid out to claimants. There were no transactions in this account during 2019/2020 (2018/2019: £0) and the balance on the account remains at £0.146m.

38.2.7 Accumulated Absences Account

The Accumulated Absences Account absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise on the Council Fund Balance from accruing for compensated absences earned but not taken in the year, e.g. annual leave entitlement carried forward at 31 March. Statutory arrangements require that the impact on the Council Fund Balance is neutralised by transfers to or from this Account. In 2019/2020, £1.432m of accruals for the preceding year were settled or cancelled and £1.730m was accrued at 31 March 2020 (2018/2019: £1.708m of accruals for the preceding year were settled or cancelled and £1.432m was accrued at year end).

38.2.8 Summary of Unusable Reserves

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

Unusable Reserves	01 April 2018 £000	Net transfers (to)/ from Reserves £000	31 March 2019 £000	Adjustments £000	Net transfers (to)/ from Reserves £000	31 March 2020 £000
Capital Adjustment Account	(88,083)	2,903	(85,180)	13*	6,979	(78,188)
Revaluation Reserve	(15,853)	175	(15,678)	0	(8,485)	(24,163)
Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	3,849	(71)	3,778	0	(104)	3,674
Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve	(4,356)	133	(4,223)	0	1,229	(2,994)
Pensions Reserve	270,641	54,339	324,980	0	(58,837)	266,143
Unequal Pay Back Pay Account	146	0	146	0	0	146
Accumulated Absences Account	1,708	(276)	1,432	0	298	1,730
Total Unusable Reserves:	168,052	57,203	225,255	13	(58,920)	166,348

*: Changes in the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Accounts resulted in a decrease in the Capital Adjustment Account balance at 1 April 2019 of £0.013m.

Cash Flow Notes

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

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

39.1 Non-Cash Movements

Cash Flow - Adjustments for Non-Cash Movements	2019/2020		2018/2019	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Depreciation & Impairment	19,035		11,354	
REFCUS (deferred charges)	2,388		1,678	
Effective interest adjustment	44		42	
Net IAS19 charges made for Retirement Benefits	31,157		25,964	
IAS19 Employers Contributions Paid to Pension Fund	(13,926)		(13,508)	
		38,698		25,530
Increase/(Decrease) in Provisions		(695)		(2,100)
(Increase)/Decrease in Inventories		65		258
(Increase)/Decrease in Revenue Debtors		(5,977)		107
Increase/(Decrease) in Revenue Creditors		2,181		(19)
Total		34,272		23,776

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

Cash Flow - Adjustments for Investing & Financing Activities	2019/2020	2018/2019
	£000	£000
(Gain)/Loss on Disposal of fixed assets	(126)	76
Capital Grants credited to CIES	(12,770)	(6,920)
Total	(12,896)	(6,844)

39.3 Receipts or Payments of Interest included in Operating Activities

Cash Flow - Interest included in Operating Activities	2019/2020	2018/2019
	£000	£000
Interest Received	(83)	(68)
Interest Paid	4,230	4,327
Net Total	4,147	4,259

40. Analysis of the Amounts of Major Classes of Gross Cash Receipts and Gross Cash Payments**40.1 Investing Activities**

The cash flows for investing activities consist of the following:

Cash Flow - Investing Activities	2019/2020			2018/2019		
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cash Outflows						
Purchase of Non-Current Assets	(14,684)			(13,510)		
		(14,684)			(13,510)	
Cash Inflows						
Sale of Non-Current Assets	595			413		
Other Receipts from Investing Activities	10,677			6,150		
		11,272			6,563	
Total			(3,412)			(6,947)

40.2 Financing Activities

The cash flows for financing activities consist of the following:

Cash Flow - Financing Activities	2019/2020			2018/2019		
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cash Outflows						
Repayments of Amounts Borrowed	(134,955)			(129,027)		
Capital Element of Finance Lease Rental Payments	(154)			(154)		
		(135,109)			(129,181)	
Cash Inflows						
New Loans Raised	13,845			8,448		
New Short-Term Loans	122,550			129,500		
		136,395			137,948	
Total			1,286			8,767

40.3 Financing Activities

Movement in liabilities arising from financing activities are as follows:

Cash Flow - Liabilities arising from Financing Activities	2019/2020			2018/2019		
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Opening Liabilities arising from Financing Activities			157,759			148,864
Cash inflows relating to borrowing and investments	136,395			137,948		
Repayments of Amounts Borrowed	(134,955)			(129,027)		
Capital Element of Finance Lease Rental Payments	(154)			(154)		
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities		1,286		8,767		
Adjustments for Non-Cash and Other Financing Activities						
Effective Interest Adjustment	44			42		
Finance Lease Additions	5			86		
		49		128		
Closing Liabilities arising from Financing Activities			159,094			157,759

41. Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

Cash and Cash Equivalents	2019/2020	2018/2019
	£000	£000
Cash Held by the Authority	53	47
Bank Accounts	5,520	4,527
Short Term Investments	0	6,000
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents	5,573	10,574

Other Notes

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

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

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

The CCRCD Investment Fund comprises two distinct elements:-

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

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

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

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

42.1 CCRCD - Summary Group Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement

	2019/2020		2018/2019	
Summary CCRCD Group Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	CCRCD Group £000	Blaenau Gwent Apportionment £000	CCRCD Group £000	Blaenau Gwent Apportionment £000
Cost of Services				
Operating Expenditure	2,440	113	1,340	62
Operating Income	(5,017)	(232)	(4,251)	(197)
Net Cost of Services	(2,577)	(119)	(2,911)	(135)
Financing and Investment Income & Expenditure	(283)	(13)	(113)	(5)
Taxation & Non-Specific Grant Income	0	0	(12,308)	(568)
Tax Expenses	543	25	551	25
(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services	(2,317)	(107)	(14,781)	(683)

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

Summary CCRCD Group Movement in Reserves Statement	CCRCD Group			Blaenau Gwent Apportionment		
	Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Reserves £000	Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Reserves £000
Balance at 1 April 2018	410	(24,207)	(23,797)	19	(1,118)	(1,099)
Adjustment to Opening Balance	(1,958)	(333)	(2,291)	(91)	(16)	(107)
Revised Balance at 1 April 2018	(1,548)	(24,540)	(26,088)	(72)	(1,134)	(1,206)
(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services	(14,781)	0	(14,781)	(683)	0	(683)
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis	12,308	(12,308)	0	569	(569)	0
Transfers to/(from) earmarked reserves	(46)	0	(46)	(2)	0	(2)
Net(Increase)/Decrease	(2,519)	(12,308)	(14,827)	(116)	(569)	(685)
Balance at 31 March 2019	(4,067)	(36,848)	(40,915)	(188)	(1,703)	(1,891)
Balance at 1 April 2019	(4,067)	(36,848)	(40,915)	(188)	(1,703)	(1,891)
Adjustment to Opening Balance	4	330	334	0	16	16
Revised Balance at 1 April 2019	(4,063)	(36,518)	(40,581)	(188)	(1,687)	(1,875)
(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services	(2,317)	0	(2,317)	(107)	0	(107)
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers to/(from) earmarked reserves	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net(Increase)/Decrease	(2,317)	0	(2,317)	(107)	0	(107)
Balance at 31 March 2020	(6,380)	(36,518)	(42,898)	(295)	(1,687)	(1,982)

42.3 Cardiff Capital Region City Deal - Summary Group Balance Sheet

Summary CCRCD Group Balance Sheet	2019/2020		2018/2019	
	CCRCD Group £000	Blaenau Gwent Apportionment £000	CCRCD Group £000	Blaenau Gwent Apportionment £000
Non-Current Assets	36,443	1,684	35,224	1,627
Current Assets	55,006	2,541	38,742	1,790
Current Liabilities	(2,600)	(120)	(2,041)	(94)
Non-Current Liabilities	(45,951)	(2,123)	(31,010)	(1,432)
Total Net Assets	42,898	1,982	40,915	1,891
Usable Reserve	(6,380)	(295)	(4,067)	(188)
Unusable Reserve	(36,518)	(1,687)	(36,848)	(1,703)
Total Reserves	(42,898)	(1,982)	(40,915)	(1,891)

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

Summary CCRCD Group Cash Flow Statement	2019/2020		2018/2019	
	CCRCD Group £000	Blaenau Gwent Apportionment £000	CCRCD Group £000	Blaenau Gwent Apportionment £000
Net Surplus/(Deficit) on the provision of services	(2,317)	(107)	(14,781)	(683)
Adjustments to the provision of Services for non-cash movements	3,294	152	14,109	651
Net Cash Inflows/(Outflows) from Operating Activities	977	45	(672)	(32)
Investing Activities	(227)	(10)	14,836	685
Financing Activities	(15,000)	(693)	(22,308)	(1,030)
Net increase or (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(14,250)	(658)	(8,144)	(377)
Cash and Cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	(33,349)	(1,541)	(24,942)	(1,152)
Adjustment to Cash and Cash equivalents opening balance	0	0	(263)	(12)
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	(47,599)	(2,199)	(33,349)	(1,541)

43. Joint Arrangements - Other

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

Joint Arrangements	2019/2020			2018/2019		
	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Greater Gwent Cremation Joint Committee	0	(134)	(134)	0	(378)	(378)
Gwent Joint Records Committee	143	0	143	143	0	143
Gwent Transport Unit	1,117	0	1,117	1,162	0	1,162
South East Wales Strategic Planning Group	1	0	1	1	0	1
Total	1,261	(134)	1,127	1,306	(378)	928

43.1 Greater Gwent Cremation Joint Committee (GGCJC)

The Cremation Joint Committee provides cremation services to the residents of the Greater Gwent area through a facility based at Croesyceiliog, Cwmbran. Further details of the arrangement can be obtained from the lead Authority for the joint committee, Newport City Council. In 2018/2019, the Cremation Joint Committee agreed to return £1.4m of accumulated surpluses to constituent authorities. Blaenau Gwent's portion of this surplus amounted to £0.246m. No accumulated surpluses were returned to constituent authorities in 2019/2020.

43.2 Gwent Joint Records Committee (GJRC)

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

43.3 Gwent Transport Unit (GTU)

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

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

43.4 South East Wales Strategic Planning Group (SEWSPG)

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

The financial arrangements for the group are provided by the participating authorities on a rota basis - for 2019/2020, Blaenau Gwent was the host Authority, overseeing the following transactions:

South East Wales Strategic Planning Group	2019/2020 £000	2018/2019 £000
Balance at 1 April	(42)	(41)
Receipts (Member Subscriptions)	(5)	(5)
Payments	10	4
Balance at 31 March	(37)	(42)

44. Charitable Trusts

The Authority acts as trustee for the following charitable trusts:

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

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

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

The summarised transactions for these charitable trusts are as follows:

Summary Statement of Financial Activities	2019/2020					2018/2019				
	Bedwellty House & Park £000	Cwm Recreation Ground £000	Ebbw Vale Recreation Ground £000	Tredegar Recreation Ground £000	Total £000	Bedwellty House & Park £000	Cwm Recreation Ground £000	Ebbw Vale Recreation Ground £000	Tredegar Recreation Ground £000	Total £000
Income										
Donations & Legacies	(104)	(7)	(41)	(15)	(167)	(104)	(7)	(47)	(13)	(171)
Other	0	0	(2)	0	(2)	0	0	(2)	0	(2)
Total Income	(104)	(7)	(43)	(15)	(169)	(104)	(7)	(49)	(13)	(173)
Expenditure										
Charitable Activities	117	7	43	15	182	117	7	49	13	186
Other	104	0	0	0	104	104	0	0	0	104
Total Resources Expended	221	7	43	15	286	221	7	49	13	290
Net Expenditure	117	0	0	0	117	117	0	0	0	117
Transfers between funds	(117)	0	0	0	(117)	(117)	0	0	0	(117)
Net Movement in Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

Charitable Trusts - Property, Plant & Equipment	2019/2020			2018/2019		
	Gross Book Value	Accumulated Depreciation	Net Book Value	Gross Book Value	Accumulated Depreciation	Net Book Value
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Bedwellty House and Park	5,571	(685)	4,886	5,571	(569)	5,002
Cwm Recreation Ground	15	(15)	0	15	(15)	0
Ebbw Vale Recreation Ground	298	(67)	231	298	(54)	244
Tredeggar Recreation Ground	86	(57)	29	86	(50)	36
Total	5,970	(824)	5,146	5,970	(688)	5,282

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

Education Trust Funds	2019/2020	2018/2019
	£000	£000
Cash	56	56
Balance at 31 March	56	56

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



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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council

Contents - Group Accounts

Page Number

The Statement of Group Accounts

The Group Financial Statements

Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	124
Group Movement in Reserves Statement	125
Group Balance Sheet	126
Group Cash Flow Statement	127

The Notes to the Group Financial Statements

G1. Group Accounting Policies	128
G2. Notes to the Group Financial Statements	130

Notes to the Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

G3. Group Expenditure and Funding Analysis	131
G4. Other Operating Expenditure	132
G5. Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	132
G6. External Audit Fees	133

Notes to the Group Movements in Reserves Statement

G7. Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	133
G8. Adjustments between Parent and Group Movement in Reserves Statements	134

Notes to the Group Balance Sheet

G9. Property Plant and Equipment	134
G10. Current Debtors	137
G11. Current Creditors	137
G12. Provisions	138
G13. Other Long-Term Liabilities	139
G14. Post-Employment Benefits	139
G15. Reserves	142

Notes to the Group Cash Flow

G16. Reconciliation of the Deficit on the Provision of Services to Net Cash Flows From Operating Activities	143
G17. Analysis of the Amounts of Major Classes of Gross Cash Receipts and Gross Cash Payments	144
G18. Cash and Cash Equivalents	144

Other Group Notes

G19. Deferred Taxation	144
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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council

Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

The Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (GCIES) shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation.

Group Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	2019/2020			2018/2019			Note:	Page:
	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure		
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000		
Continuing Operations								
Corporate Services	50,637	(25,246)	25,391	52,527	(28,436)	24,091	G6	133
Education	25,121	(6,054)	19,067	17,706	(5,404)	12,302		
Education - Schools	47,443	(5,289)	42,154	45,984	(4,749)	41,235		
Environment	35,260	(7,314)	27,946	32,807	(8,358)	24,449		
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal	113	(232)	(119)	62	(196)	(134)		
Regeneration & Economic Development	5,764	(3,647)	2,117	5,519	(3,339)	2,180		
Social Services	68,602	(22,927)	45,675	63,460	(18,748)	44,712		
Licensing	209	(130)	79	197	(133)	64		
Planning	1,412	(457)	955	1,610	(651)	959		
Silent Valley	1,117	(105)	1,012	1,213	(131)	1,082	G6	133
Total Deficit on Continuing Services	235,678	(71,401)	164,277	221,085	(70,145)	150,940	G3	131
Other Operating Expenditure	10,698	(681)	10,017	9,042	(497)	8,545	G4	132
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	21,756	(9,366)	12,390	21,293	(9,938)	11,355	G5	132
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	0	(162,171)	(162,171)	0	(154,987)	(154,987)		
(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services	268,132	(243,619)	24,513	251,420	(235,567)	15,853	G3	131
Tax Expenses			25			25	42	117
Group (Surplus)/Deficit			24,538			15,878	G3	131
(Surplus)/Deficit Arising on the Revaluation of Non-Current Assets			(9,238)			(538)	G14.2	140
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit pension liability			(76,133)			41,968		
Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure			(85,371)			41,430	G7	133
Total Group Comprehensive Income & Expenditure			(60,833)			57,308	GMiRS	125

Group Movement in Reserves Statement

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

Group Movement in Reserves Statement	2019/2020			2018/2019			Note	Page
	Total Authority Reserves £000	Authority's share of Reserves of Subsidiary £000	Total Group Reserves £000	Total Authority Reserves £000	Authority's share of Reserves of Subsidiary £000	Total Group Reserves £000		
Opening balance at 1 April	205,054	(2,034)	203,020	147,935	(2,116)	145,819		
Adjustments to brought forward balances	13*	0	13	(107)**	0	(107)		
Revised balance at 1 April	205,067	(2,034)	203,033	147,828	(2,116)	145,712		
Total Group Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	(61,055)	222	(60,833)	56,920	388	57,308	GCIES	124
Adjustments between Group Accounts and Authority Accounts	319	(319)	0	306	(306)	0	G8	134
(Increase)/Decrease in year	(60,736)	(97)	(60,833)	57,226	82	57,308		
Balance at 31 March	144,331	(2,131)	142,200	205,054	(2,034)	203,020	GBS, G15	126, 142

*: Reserve balances at 1 April 2019 were amended to reflect adjustments in the audited Cardiff Capital Region City Deal accounts for 2018/2019 (decreasing the Blaenau Gwent share by £0.013m).

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

Group Balance Sheet

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

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

Group Balance Sheet	31 March 2020		31 March 2019		Note:	Page:
	£000	£000	£000	£000		
Property, Plant & Equipment	267,376		264,409		G9	134-136
Heritage Assets	531		413			
Non-Current Debtors	3,220		4,490			
Sub Total: Long Term Assets		271,127		269,312		
Assets Held for Sale	590		880		G10	137
Inventories	396		461			
Current Debtors	25,705		16,976			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	10,128		15,650		G18	144
Sub Total: Current Assets		36,819		33,967		
Current Borrowing	(69,479)		(73,103)		G11	137
Current Creditors	(13,339)		(11,507)			
Current Grants Receipts in Advance	(1,964)		(2,301)			
Current Provisions	(2,227)		(3,140)		G12	138
Sub Total: Current Liabilities		(87,009)		(90,051)		
Non-Current Borrowing	(89,548)		(84,439)		G12	138
Non-Current Provisions	(3,868)		(3,853)			
Other Long-Term Liabilities	(269,721)		(327,956)			
Sub Total: Long-Term Liabilities		(363,137)		(416,248)	G13-G14	139-142
Total Net Assets/(Liabilities)		(142,200)		(203,020)		
Usable Reserves	(24,148)		(22,235)		G15	142
Unusable Reserves	166,348		225,255		G15	142
Total Reserves		142,200		203,020		

Group Cash Flow Statement

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

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

Group Cash Flow Statement	2019/2020		2018/2019		Note:	Page:
	£000	£000	£000	£000		
Net surplus/(deficit) on the provision of services less tax expenses	(24,538)		(15,878)		GCIES	124
Adjustments to the provision of services for non-cash movements	34,025		23,706		G16.1	143
Adjustments for items included in the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	(12,896)		(6,844)		G16.2	143
Interest received	33		36			
Net Cash Inflows from Operating Activities		(3,376)		1,020		
Investing activities		(3,432)		(6,960)	G17	144
Financing activities		1,286		8,767	40.2	115
Net increase or (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(5,522)		2,827		
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		15,650		12,823	GBS, G18	126, 144
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		10,128		15,650	GBS, G18	126, 144



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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council

Notes to the Group Accounts

G1. Group Accounting Policies

G1.1 General Principles

The Group Accounts summarise the transactions of the Authority and its Subsidiaries for the 2019/2020 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2020. The Accounts have been prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices as required by the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.

These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/2020 and the Service Reporting Code of Practice 2019/2020, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). Where there is no relevant IFRS or International Accounting Standard (IAS), reference is made to International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSASs); if there is no relevant IPSAS, domestic Financial Reporting Standards (FRSs) are applied.

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

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

G1.2 Intra Group Transactions and Balances

To the extent that balances and transactions have been identified and agreed between Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd. and Blaenau Gwent CBC, these have been eliminated as part of the consolidation process. As total transactions between the parties amount to £0.800m (2018/2019: £0.751m) and are therefore not considered to be material, any differences between identified and actual sums are therefore also not material.

G1.3 Acquisitions and Discontinued Operations

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

All operations were classified as continuing in 2019/2020 and there were no acquisitions or discontinuations of service (or transfers under machinery of government arrangements) during the financial year.

G1.4 Employee Benefits

G1.4.1 Benefits Payable During Employment

The annual leave entitlement year for staff at SVWS Ltd. ends on 31 March with limited opportunity to carry forward unused balances. No staff carried forward leave at the end of 2019/2020 and consequently no short term compensated absences accrual has been calculated.

G1.4.2 Post Employment Benefits

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

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

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

The required accounting treatments are as follows:

The Local Government Pension Scheme

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

Silent Valley Defined Contribution Scheme

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

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

G1.5 Property, Plant and Equipment

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

G1.5.1 Recognition

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

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

G1.5.2 Measurement

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

G1.5.3 Depreciation

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

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

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

G1.6 Aftercare and Capping Provisions

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

G2. Notes to the Group Financial Statements

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

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

Group Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement Notes

G3. Group Expenditure and Funding Analysis

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

Group Expenditure & Funding Analysis	2019/2020					2018/2019				
	Management Account Net Expenditure	Accounting Code Adjustments	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the Council Fund	Funding & Accounting Basis Adjustments	Group CIES Net Expenditure	Management Account Net Expenditure	Accounting Code Adjustments	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the Council Fund	Funding & Accounting Basis Adjustments	Group CIES Net Expenditure
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Corporate Services	14,727	7,787	22,514	2,877	25,391	14,601	8,063	22,664	1,427	24,091
Education	55,348	(46,073)	9,275	9,792	19,067	55,075	(45,816)	9,259	3,043	12,302
Education - Schools	(1,325)	43,223	41,898	256	42,154	(1,054)	42,505	41,451	(216)	41,235
Environment	28,967	(11,738)	17,229	10,717	27,946	28,639	(13,431)	15,208	9,241	24,449
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal	0	(119)	(119)	0	(119)	0	(134)	(134)	0	(134)
Regeneration & Economic Development	1,516	(862)	654	1,463	2,117	1,457	(892)	565	1,615	2,180
Social Services	44,526	(3,182)	41,344	4,331	45,675	43,924	(2,128)	41,796	2,916	44,712
Licensing	74	(19)	55	24	79	71	(28)	43	21	64
Planning	1,024	(225)	799	156	955	1,029	(194)	835	124	959
Capital Adjustments	0	(5)	(5)	5	0	0	(1)	(1)	1	0
Pension Adjustments	0	554	554	(554)	0	0	1,008	1,008	(1,008)	0
Silent Valley	1,012	0	1,012	0	1,012	1,082	0	1,082	0	1,082
Net Expenditure on Continuing Operations	145,869	(10,659)	135,210	29,067	164,277	144,824	(11,048)	133,776	17,164	150,940
Other Operating Expenditure	(86)	9,060	8,974	1,043	10,017	(84)	8,549	8,465	80	8,545
Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure	(26)	5,266	5,240	7,150	12,390	(30)	4,672	4,642	6,713	11,355
Taxation & Non-Specific Grant Income	0	(151,111)	(151,111)	(11,060)	(162,171)	0	(148,719)	(148,719)	(6,268)	(154,987)
(Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services	145,757	(147,444)	(1,687)	26,200	24,513	144,710	(146,546)	(1,836)	17,689	15,853
Tax expenses	25	0	25	0	25	25	0	25	0	25
Group (Surplus)/Deficit	145,782	(147,444)	(1,662)	26,200	24,538	144,735	(146,546)	(1,811)	17,689	15,878
Transfers to/(from) earmarked reserves			1,476					1,723		
(Increase)/Decrease in year			(186)					(88)		
Opening Group Balances as at 1 April			(6,207)					(6,119)		
Closing Group Balances as at 31 March			(6,393)					(6,207)		

G4. Other Operating Expenditure

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

	2019/2020			2018/2019		
	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000
Other Operating Expenditure						
Parent:						
(Gains)/losses on the Disposal of Non-Current Assets	1,639	(595)	1,044	489	(413)	76
Precepts & Levies	9,059	0	9,059	8,553	0	8,553
Subsidiary:						
Income from energy generation	0	(86)	(86)	0	(84)	(84)
Total	10,698	(681)	10,017	9,042	(497)	8,545

G5. Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

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

	2019/2020			2018/2019		
	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure						
Impairment *	446	0	446	(158)	0	(158)
Interest payable and similar charges - Financial Instruments	4,274	0	4,274	4,368	0	4,368
Interest payable and similar charges - Other **	7	0	7	7	0	7
Interest receivable and similar income - Financial Instruments	0	(74)	(74)	0	(48)	(48)
Interest receivable and similar income - Other ***	0	(213)	(213)	0	(226)	(226)
Net Pensions Interest	17,029	(9,079)	7,950	17,076	(9,664)	7,412
Total	21,756	(9,366)	12,390	21,293	(9,938)	11,355

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

**: Interest on finance leases and school balances.

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

G6. External Audit Fees

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

External Audit Fees	2019/2020 £000	2018/2019 £000
Fees payable in respect of:		
External audit services - Final Accounts	251	191
Silent Valley external audit services - Final Accounts	10	10
External audit services - Local Government Measures	105	105
Certification of grant claims and returns	40	70
Other services	38	0
Total Audit Fees	444	376

External Audit services for Blaenau Gwent CBC are provided by the Audit Wales (formerly the Wales Audit Office); for Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd. by Baldwins Audit Services Limited. Other Services in 2019/2020 consists of charges for the statutory audit of charitable trust accounts required for Bedwellty House and Park, of which the Authority is the sole trustee.

Group Movements in Reserves Notes

G7. Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure

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

Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	2019/2020 £000	2018/2019 £000
(Surplus)/Deficit arising on the revaluation of Non-Current Assets	(9,238)	(538)
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit pension liability	(76,133)	41,968
Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	(85,371)	41,430

G8. Adjustments between Parent and Group Movement in Reserves Statements

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

	31 March 2020		31 March 2019	
	Total Authority Reserves £000	Authority's share of Reserves of Subsidiary £000	Total Authority Reserves £000	Authority's share of Reserves of Subsidiary £000
Adjustments between Single Entity and Group Movement in Reserves Statements				
Adjustments between Group Accounts and Authority Accounts:				
Expenditure	(800)	800	(751)	751
Income	148	(148)	22	(22)
Debtors & Creditors	39	(39)	64	(64)
Retained Profits	(106)	106	(373)	373
Accumulating Dividend	725	(725)	725	(725)
Less cumulative adjustments brought forward	313	(313)	619	(619)
Total intra-group adjustments	319	(319)	306	(306)

Group Balance Sheet Notes

G9. Property Plant & Equipment

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

	31 March 2020 £000	31 March 2019 £000
Property, Plant & Equipment		
Gross Carrying Amount	331,135	325,164
Accumulated Depreciation	(63,759)	(60,755)
Net Book Value	267,376	264,409

Movements in 2019/2020:

Property, Plant & Equipment Movements	Operational Assets						Total Property, Plant & Equipment £000
	Other Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment £000	Infrastructure Assets £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets Under Construction £000	
Cost or Valuation as at 1 April 2019	164,808	15,072	129,453	120	4,331	11,380	325,164
Appropriations	10,849	0	0	0	(218)	(10,631)	0
Assets reclassified to/from held for sale	(85)	0	0	0	(45)	0	(130)
Additions	0	414	1,335	0	0	3,295	5,044
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	5,456	0	0	0	13	0	5,469
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Provision of Services	(9,698)	0	0	0	615	0	(9,083)
Capital expenditure written off	(3,040)	(40)	(59)	(66)	0	0	(3,205)
Derecognition - disposals	(49)	0	0	0	0	0	(49)
Other movements in cost or valuation *	3,040	447	450	66	0	3,922	7,925
Cost or Valuation as at 31 March 2020	171,281	15,893	131,179	120	4,696	7,966	331,135
Property, Plant & Equipment Depreciation & Impairment	Operational Assets						Total Property, Plant & Equipment £000
	Other Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment £000	Infrastructure Assets £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets Under Construction £000	
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment as at 1 April 2019	(16,635)	(10,093)	(33,987)	(12)	(28)	0	(60,755)
Depreciation Charge & Appropriations	(5,417)	(1,362)	(3,370)	(1)	(7)	0	(10,157)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	4,139	0	0	0	0	0	4,139
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	3,061	0	0	0	0	0	3,061
Derecognition - disposals	(9)	(38)	0	0	0	0	(47)
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment as at 31 March 2020	(14,861)	(11,493)	(37,357)	(13)	(35)	0	(63,759)
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2020	156,420	4,400	93,822	107	4,661	7,966	267,376
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2019	148,173	4,979	95,466	108	4,303	11,380	264,409
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2018	151,749	4,895	96,587	109	4,500	5,910	263,750

Movements in 2018/2019:

Property, Plant & Equipment Movements	Operational Assets						Total
	Other Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment £000	Infrastructure Assets £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets Under Construction £000	Property, Plant & Equipment £000
Cost or Valuation as at 1 April 2018	163,960	13,709	127,306	120	4,521	5,910	315,526
Appropriations	684	0	94	0	10	(788)	0
Assets reclassified to/from held for sale	(356)	0	0	0	(295)	0	(651)
Additions	713	1,514	2,026	0	0	935	5,188
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	325	0	0	0	57	0	382
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Provision of Services	(396)	0	0	0	38	0	(358)
Capital expenditure written off	(1,783)	(125)	(3)	0	0	0	(1,911)
Derecognition - disposals	(126)	(154)	0	0	0	0	(280)
Other movements in cost or valuation **	1,787	128	30	0	0	5,323	7,268
Cost or Valuation as at 31 March 2019	164,808	15,072	129,453	120	4,331	11,380	325,164

Property, Plant & Equipment Depreciation & Impairment	Operational Assets						Total
	Other Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment £000	Infrastructure Assets £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets Under Construction £000	Property, Plant & Equipment £000
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment as at 1 April 2018	(12,211)	(8,814)	(30,719)	(11)	(21)	0	(51,776)
Depreciation Charge & Appropriations	(4,707)	(1,396)	(3,268)	(1)	(7)	0	(9,379)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	155	0	0	0	0	0	155
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	104	0	0	0	0	0	104
Derecognition - disposals	24	117	0	0	0	0	141
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment as at 31 March 2019	(16,635)	(10,093)	(33,987)	(12)	(28)	0	(60,755)

Notes * & **: Amounts included in 'Other movements in cost or valuation' relates to capital expenditure incurred during the year, £4.720 million of which has been added to the asset base and £3.205 million of which has been written off as there has been no increase to the asset value in 2019/2020(*); £5.36 million of which has been added to the asset base and £1.91million of which has been written off as no increase to the asset value resulted in 2018/2019(**).

G10. Current Debtors

Amounts owing to the Group were as follows:

Current Debtors	31 March 2020				31 March 2019			
	Gross Debtors	Impairment	Prepayments	Total Net Current Debtors	Gross Debtors	Impairment	Prepayments	Total Net Current Debtors
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Welsh Government	10,092	0	0	10,092	5,473	0	0	5,473
Other Central Government	2,120	0	0	2,120	1,099	0	0	1,099
Local Authorities	2,804	(19)	0	2,785	2,379	(1)	32	2,410
NHS	2,286	(20)	22	2,288	929	(5)	0	924
Council Tax Arrears	5,046	(2,102)	0	2,944	4,546	(1,867)	0	2,679
Other Entities & Individuals	5,362	(1,409)	923	4,876	4,449	(2,295)	1,372	3,526
Trade	827	(227)	0	600	951	(86)	0	865
Total Current Debtors:	28,537	(3,777)	945	25,705	19,826	(4,254)	1,404	16,976

G11. Current Creditors

Amounts owed by the Group were as follows:

Current Creditors	31 March 2020			31 March 2019		
	Creditors	Receipts in Advance	Total Current Creditors	Creditors	Receipts in Advance	Total Current Creditors
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Welsh Government	(80)	0	(80)	(226)	0	(226)
Other Central Government	(679)	0	(679)	(810)	0	(810)
Local Authorities	(1,309)	(5)	(1,314)	(1,335)	(3)	(1,338)
NHS	(290)	0	(290)	(407)	0	(407)
Capital Creditors	(1,511)	0	(1,511)	(226)	0	(226)
Council Tax Credits	(876)	0	(876)	(835)	0	(835)
Other Entities and Individuals	(6,904)	(275)	(7,179)	(6,021)	(225)	(6,246)
Trade	(1,410)	0	(1,410)	(1,419)	0	(1,419)
Total Current Creditors:	(13,059)	(280)	(13,339)	(11,279)	(228)	(11,507)

G12. Provisions

Details of the purposes of the Authority's provisions can be found in notes 32.1-32.2, pages 84-86. Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd. hold a provision for Aftercare to provide for estimated costs of maintaining the landfill site after capping works have been completed. The timescale for utilisation of the provision is over a period of 60 years following closure of the site. Due to the timescales involved there are inherent uncertainties regarding the level and value of aftercare works required. Movements in the Group provisions during 2019/2020 were as follows:

	Balance at 1 April 2019 £000	Amounts Used in 2019/2020 £000	Unused Amounts Reversed in 2019/2020 £000	Unwinding of Discount in 2019/2020 £000	Additional Provisions made in 2019/2020 £000	Reclassification of Provisions 2019/2020 £000	Balance at 31 March 2020 £000
Provision Movements							
Current Provisions							
Employee Provisions:							
Parent's Employee Provisions	(512)	366	0	0	(40)	0	(186)
Other Provisions:							
Parent's Other Provisions	(2,458)	275	565	0	(536)	283	(1,871)
Silent Valley Aftercare	(170)	203	0	0	(203)	0	(170)
	(3,140)	844	565	0	(779)	283	(2,227)
Non-Current Provisions							
Parent's Provisions	(1,816)	126	567	0	(628)	(283)	(2,034)
Silent Valley Aftercare	(2,037)	0	203	0	0	0	(1,834)
	(3,853)	126	770	0	(628)	(283)	(3,868)
Total Provisions:	(6,993)	970	1,335	0	(1,407)	0	(6,095)

G13. Other Long-Term Liabilities

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

Other Long-Term Liabilities	31 March 2020 £000	31 March 2019 £000
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Non-Current Creditor	(2,123)	(1,433)
Deferred Liabilities	(68)	(217)
Net Pensions Liability	(267,530)	(326,306)
Total	(269,721)	(327,956)

G14. Post-Employment Benefits

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

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

G14.1 Defined Contribution Schemes***Silent Valley***

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

In 2019/2020, the total defined contribution scheme charge to the Group CIES was £0.072m (2018/2019: £0.071m). There were no outstanding contributions to the scheme at 31 March 2019 or 31 March 2020.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

G14.2 Defined Benefit Scheme

The Local Government Scheme is a funded defined benefit Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) scheme, in which the Group and employees make contributions calculated at a level intended to balance pension liabilities arising with investment assets. The contribution rate is determined by the Fund's Actuary based on triennial valuations, the last review being 31 March 2019.

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

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

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

	2019/2020			2018/2019		
	Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Teachers' Unfunded Discretionary Pensions £000	Total £000	Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Teachers' Unfunded Discretionary Pensions £000	Total £000
Group Pension Scheme Transactions						
Group Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement:						
Cost of Services:						
Current Service Costs	21,516	0	21,516	18,109	0	18,109
Other Service Costs	1,752	0	1,752	492	0	492
Total Service Cost:	23,268	0	23,268	18,601	0	18,601
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure:						
Interest on Plan Assets	(9,072)	0	(9,072)	(9,658)	0	(9,658)
Interest on Defined Benefit Liabilities	16,138	884	17,022	16,133	937	17,070
Net Interest:	7,066	884	7,950	6,475	937	7,412
Total Charged to the Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services:	30,334	884	31,218	25,076	937	26,013
Other Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:						
Return on plan assets (excluding amounts included in Net Interest)	46,037	0	46,037	(11,308)	0	(11,308)
Actuarial (Gains)/Losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	(26,026)	(1,850)	(27,876)	0	0	0
Actuarial (Gains)/Losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	(57,195)	(2,035)	(59,230)	51,354	1,447	52,801
Experience (Gains)/Losses on defined benefit liabilities	(34,699)	(365)	(35,064)	129	346	475
Total remeasurement recognised in Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	(71,883)	(4,250)	(76,133)	40,175	1,793	41,968
Total Charged to the Group Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement:	(41,549)	(3,366)	(44,915)	65,251	2,730	67,981

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

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

	2019/2020			2018/2019		
	Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Teachers' Unfunded Discretionary Pensions £000	Total £000	Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Teachers' Unfunded Discretionary Pensions £000	Total £000
Pension Scheme Assets						
Balance at 1 April:	380,303	0	380,303	360,666	0	360,666
Employer Contributions	11,918	1,943	13,861	11,589	1,898	13,487
Member Contributions	2,888	0	2,888	2,838	0	2,838
Benefits Paid	(16,900)	(1,943)	(18,843)	(15,847)	(1,898)	(17,745)
Interest on Plan Assets	9,116	0	9,116	9,702	0	9,702
Remeasurement Gains/(Losses):						
Return on Plan Assets (excluding amounts included in Interest)	(46,193)	0	(46,193)	11,355	0	11,355
Balance at 31 March:	341,132	0	341,132	380,303	0	380,303
Reconciliation of the Movements in Present Value of Scheme Liabilities						
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April:	(668,807)	(37,802)	(706,609)	(595,508)	(36,970)	(632,478)
Current Service Cost	(21,516)	0	(21,516)	(18,109)	0	(18,109)
Past Service Cost and Curtailments	(1,524)	0	(1,524)	(270)	0	(270)
Administration Expenses	(228)	0	(228)	(222)	0	(222)
Interest Cost	(16,182)	(884)	(17,066)	(16,177)	(937)	(17,114)
Member Contributions	(2,888)	0	(2,888)	(2,838)	0	(2,838)
Benefits Paid	16,900	1,943	18,843	15,847	1,898	17,745
Experience Gains/(Losses)	34,634	365	34,999	(44)	(346)	(390)
Actuarial Gains/(Losses) arising from changes in demographic assumptions	26,026	1,850	27,876	0	0	0
Actuarial Gains/(Losses) arising from changes in financial assumptions	57,416	2,035	59,451	(51,486)	(1,447)	(52,933)
Balance at 31 March:	(576,169)	(32,493)	(608,662)	(668,807)	(37,802)	(706,609)

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

	31 March 2020			31 March 2019		
	Local Government Pension Scheme	Teachers' Unfunded Discretionary Pensions	Total	Local Government Pension Scheme	Teachers' Unfunded Discretionary Pensions	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Pension Assets & Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet						
Fair Value of Scheme Assets	341,132	0	341,132	380,303	0	380,303
Present Value of Scheme Liabilities	(576,169)	(32,493)	(608,662)	(668,807)	(37,802)	(706,609)
Net Liability:	(235,037)	(32,493)	(267,530)	(288,504)	(37,802)	(326,306)

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

The Group holds total usable reserves of £24.148m at 31 March 2020 (£22.235m at 31 March 2019). The effect of applying the net superannuation fund deficit of £267.530m to the Group's usable reserves would be a deficit of £243.382m (2018/2019: the superannuation deficit of £326.306m exceeded usable reserves by £304.071m).

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

G15. Reserves

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

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

Summary: Group Reserves	Net Transfers			Net Transfers		
	1 April 2018	2018/2019	31 March 2019	Adjustments	2019/2020	31 March 2020
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Council Fund	(6,119)	(88)	(6,207)	0	(186)	(6,393)
Silent Valley Profit & Loss Reserve	(2,116)	82	(2,034)	0	(97)	(2,131)
Parent's Usable Earmarked Reserves	(14,105)	111	(13,994)	0	(1,630)	(15,624)
	(22,340)	105	(22,235)	0	(1,913)	(24,148)
Parent's Unusable Reserves	168,052	57,203	225,255	13*	(58,920)	166,348
Total: Reserves	145,712	57,308	203,020	13	(60,833)	142,200

*: Adjustments in the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal accounts resulted in a decrease in the Blaenau Gwent share of unusable reserves of £0.013m.

Group Cash Flow Notes

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

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

G16.1 Non-Cash Movements

Cash Flow - Adjustments for Non-Cash Movements	2019/2020		2018/2019	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Depreciation & Impairment	19,082		11,400	
REFCUS (deferred charges)	2,388		1,678	
Effective interest adjustment	44		42	
Net IAS19 charges made for Retirement Benefits	31,157		25,964	
IAS19 Employers Contributions Paid to Pension Fund	(13,909)		(13,499)	
		38,762		25,585
Increase/(Decrease) in Provisions		(920)		(2,353)
(Increase) / Decrease in Inventories		65		258
(Increase) / Decrease in Revenue Debtors		(6,061)		197
Increase / (Decrease) in Revenue Creditors		2,179		19
Total		34,025		23,706

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

Cash Flow - Adjustments for Investing & Financing Activities	2019/2020	2018/2019
	£000	£000
(Gain)/Loss on Disposal of fixed assets	(126)	76
Capital Grants credited to CIES	(12,770)	(6,920)
Total	(12,896)	(6,844)

G16.3 Receipts or Payments of Interest included in Operating Activities

Cash Flow - Interest included in Operating Activities	2019/2020	2018/2019
	£000	£000
Interest Received	(90)	(74)
Interest Paid	4,230	4,327
Net Total	4,140	4,253

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

Investing Activities

The cash flows for investing activities consist of the following:

Cash Flow - Investing Activities	2019/2020			2018/2019		
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cash Outflows						
Purchase of Non-Current Assets	(14,704)			(13,523)		
		(14,704)		(13,523)		
Cash Inflows						
Sale of Non-Current Assets	595			413		
Other Receipts from Investing Activities	10,677			6,150		
		11,272		6,563		
Total		(3,432)		(6,960)		

G18. Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

Cash and Cash Equivalents	2019/2020	2018/2019
	£000	£000
Cash Held by the Authority	53	47
Bank Accounts	10,075	9,603
Short-term investments	0	6,000
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents	10,128	15,650

Other Group Notes

G19. Deferred Taxation

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset where Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd. has a legally enforceable right to do so. There were no deferred tax movements in the year. There has been no deferred tax asset recognised in respect of losses available for carrying forward which would be available to set against future trading profits, chargeable to corporation tax. There is an unrecognised deferred tax asset of £0.317m (2018/2019: £0.238m) in respect of losses for the year.



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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council

a better place to live and work - lle gwell i fyw a gweithio

Agenda Item 8

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer:

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer:

Committee: **Audit Committee**

Date of meeting: **2nd March 2021**

Report Subject: **Audit Wales - Blaenau Gwent CBC 2019-20 Audit of Accounts report**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr N Daniels, Leader / Executive Member Corporate Services**

Report Submitted by: **Audit Wales**

Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
	25.02.21		02.03.21					

1. **Purpose of the Report**
- 1.1 To consider the attached report from the Council's External Auditors, Wales Audit Office.

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Audit of Accounts Report – Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Audit year: 2019-2020

Date issued: February 2021

Document reference: 2282A2021-22

This document has been prepared as part of work performed in accordance with statutory functions.

In the event of receiving a request for information to which this document may be relevant, attention is drawn to the Code of Practice issued under section 45 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The section 45 code sets out the practice in the handling of requests that is expected of public authorities, including consultation with relevant third parties. In relation to this document, the Auditor General for Wales and the Wales Audit Office are relevant third parties. Any enquiries regarding disclosure or re-use of this document should be sent to the Wales Audit Office at infoofficer@audit.wales.

We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh and English. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay. Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

Contents

We intend to issue an unqualified audit report on your Accounts. There are some issues to report to you prior to their approval.

Audit of Accounts Report

Introduction	4
Impact of COVID-19 on this year's audit	4
Proposed audit opinion	6
Significant issues arising from the audit	6
Recommendations	8
Appendices	
Appendix 1 – Final Letter of Representation	9
Appendix 2 – Proposed audit report	12
Appendix 3 – Summary of corrections made	16
Appendix 4 – Recommendations	18

Audit of Accounts Report

Introduction

- 1 We summarise the main findings from our audit of your 2019-20 accounts in this report.
- 2 We have already discussed these issues with the Chief Officer – Resources.
- 3 Auditors can never give complete assurance that accounts are correctly stated. Instead, we work to a level of ‘materiality’. This level of materiality is set to try to identify and correct misstatements that might otherwise cause a user of the accounts into being misled.
- 4 We set this level at £2.66 million for this year’s audit.
- 5 There are some areas of the accounts that may be of more importance to the reader and we have set a lower materiality level for these:
 - Senior Officer pay £1,000
 - Related Parties £100,000
- 6 We have now largely completed this year’s audit.
- 7 In our professional view, we have complied with the ethical standards that apply to our work; remain independent of yourselves; and our objectivity has not been compromised in any way. There are no relationships between ourselves and yourselves that we believe could undermine our objectivity and independence.

Impact of COVID-19 on this year’s audit

- 8 The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on all aspects of our society and continues to do so. As detailed in this section, this resulted in the draft accounts being complete for audit by 23 September 2020, some three months after your original timetable. We are, however, grateful to the individuals in the finance team for their support during the audit.
- 9 The pandemic has unsurprisingly affected our audit and we summarise in **Exhibit 1** the main impacts. Other than where we specifically make recommendations, the detail in **Exhibit 1** is provided for information purposes only to help you understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on this year’s audit process.

Exhibit 1 – impact of COVID-19 on this year's audit

Timetable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The deadline for the preparation of the draft accounts was extended by Welsh Government in light of the difficulties posed by COVID-19 to 31 August 2020.• We received the draft accounts on 23 September 2020.• We expect your audit report to be signed on 3 March 2021.
Electronic signatures	Due to the restrictions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, Audit Wales have accepted electronic signatures supported by e-mail confirmations from the relevant officers.
Audit evidence	<p>In previous years, the audit team would have accessed both paper and electronic working papers and supporting audit evidence whilst working at the Council offices. However, due to the working restrictions arising from COVID-19, we have devised alternative audit methodologies to obtain and confirm the validity of appropriate audit evidence. This has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• officers provided electronic working papers in accordance with our agreed Audit Deliverables Report using Objective Connect;• officers provided audit evidence to the audit team via secured e-mail;• officers were available by video conferencing for discussions, and for the sharing of on-screen information/evidence; and• officers secured remote read-only access to the Financials ledger and Northgate system which enabled the audit team to run reports and view evidence.

- 10 We will be reviewing what we have learned for our audit process from the COVID-19 pandemic and whether there are innovative practices that we might adopt in the future to enhance that process.

Proposed Audit Opinion

- 11 We intend to issue an unqualified audit opinion on this year's accounts once you have provided us with a Letter of Representation based on that set out in **Appendix 1**.
- 12 We issue a 'qualified' audit opinion where we have material concerns about some aspects of your accounts; otherwise we issue an unqualified opinion.
- 13 The Letter of Representation contains certain confirmations we are required to obtain from you under auditing standards.
- 14 Our proposed audit report is set out in **Appendix 2**.
- 15 As with all Welsh Local Government bodies, this audit report includes an emphasis of matter paragraph. The aim of this paragraph is to draw the attention of the reader of the accounts to Note 5 in the financial statements. This describes the impact of material uncertainty, highlighted by independent valuers, on the Council's property, and the Greater Gwent Pension Fund's pooled pension fund assets. These arose from circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council has disclosed this material uncertainty and the audit opinion is not modified in respect of these matters.

Significant issues arising from the audit

Uncorrected misstatements

- 16 Other than the misstatement described below, the remaining uncorrected misstatements in the accounts are both individually and cumulatively below our trivial level. These misstatements have been discussed with management, but the Council have chosen to not amend the financial statements.

Creditor Overstatement not fully corrected

- 17 Our initial audit testing of creditor balances identified a number of errors which led to a £723,000 overstatement of the balance. The Council committed to undertaking a wider review of year-end creditor balances, and this review identified a further £387,000 of overstated balances, giving a total overstatement of £1,110,000.
- 18 The Council has corrected £822,000 of this overstatement, leaving an uncorrected non-material misstatement of £288,000 within the financial statements. Whilst the Council are satisfied that these items should not be in the creditor balance, further work is required to ascertain the exact corrective entries in the financial ledger, as some of the balances go back several years. The intention is to correct these for the 2020-21 financial statements.
- 19 These misstatements were a mixture of longstanding creditors which had not been reviewed over time, and accounting errors. The Council should strengthen their

review arrangements of year-end creditor balances to ensure the accounts are not misstated.

- 20 The reversal of this £822,000 overstatement of creditors led to an increase in Useable Reserves of £628,000. The remaining £194,000 being a corresponding decrease in debtor balances.

Corrected misstatements

- 21 There were initially misstatements in the draft accounts that have now been corrected by management. These are set out with explanations in **Appendix 3**.

Other significant issues arising from the audit

- 22 In the course of the audit, we consider a number of matters relating to the accounts and report any significant issues arising to you. Whilst we recognise the impact and challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic on the Council, the need for improvement in key areas remains. Recommendations with respect to these issues have been outlined in **Appendix 4**.

Exhibit 2 - significant issues arising from the audit

Significant issues arising from the audit	
Quality of the financial statements	The Council provided draft financial statements on 10 September 2020, however these were incomplete and contained several significant errors. A second set of draft accounts was produced for audit on 23 September 2020. The Council should ensure that their quality control procedures ensure that draft accounts presented for audit are complete and of a good standard.
Quality and availability of audit evidence and working papers	<p>During the audit we identified the following issues with the quality and availability of evidence required to support entries within the financial statements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">the Council frequently could not provide suitable evidence and working papers in a timely manner;in some instances, the Council were unable to provide suitable evidence to back up entries in the accounts, leading to misstatements which required correction;where evidence and working papers were provided, they were often unclear and required further

Significant issues arising from the audit

explanation or supplementary documentation from council officers; and

- historic cost of some assets is held incorrectly within the fixed asset register.

The Council should improve the quality of audit evidence and working papers which will help reduce the number of audit queries, releasing time for the finance team to complete other tasks.

Recommendations

- 23 The recommendations arising from our audit are set out in **Appendix 4**. Management has responded to them and we will follow up progress against them during next year's audit. Where any actions are outstanding, we will continue to monitor progress and report it to you in next year's report.

Appendix 1

Final Letter of Representation

Auditor General for Wales
Audit Wales
24 Cathedral Road
Cardiff
CF11 9LJ

2 March 2021

Representations regarding the 2019-20 financial statements

This letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements (including that part of the Remuneration Report that is subject to audit) of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2020 for the purpose of expressing an opinion on their truth and fairness and their proper preparation.

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made enquiries as we consider sufficient, we can make the following representations to you.

Management representations

Responsibilities

We have fulfilled our responsibilities for:

- the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with legislative requirements; in particular the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance therewith; and
- the design, implementation, maintenance and review of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error.

Information provided

We have provided you with:

- Full access to:
 - all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as books of account and supporting documentation, minutes of meetings and other matters;
 - additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and

- unrestricted access to staff from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- The results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
- Our knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects the Council and involves:
 - management;
 - employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
 - others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
- Our knowledge of any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, regulators or others.
- Our knowledge of all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.
- The identity of all related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.

Financial statement representations

All transactions, assets and liabilities have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.

Significant assumptions used in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.

Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed.

All events occurring subsequent to the reporting date which require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted for or disclosed.

All known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements have been disclosed to the auditor and accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions. The effects of uncorrected misstatements identified during the audit are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole. A summary of these items is set out below:

Uncorrected creditor overstatement

During the audit an overstatement of the year-end creditor balance, totalling £1,110,000, was identified. The Council corrected £822,000 but chose not to correct the remaining £288,000, as it considers this not material to the accounts.

Representations by [insert name of those charged with governance]

We acknowledge that the representations made by management, above, have been discussed with us.

We acknowledge our responsibility for the preparation of true and fair financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. The financial statements were approved by the audit committee on 2 March 2021.

We confirm that we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to you. We confirm that, as far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which you are unaware.

Signed by:

[Officer who signs on behalf of management]

Date:

Signed by:

[Officer or Member who signs on behalf of those charged with governance (director only for companies)]

Date:

Appendix 2

Proposed Audit Report

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

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of:

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

for the year ended 31 March 2020 under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

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

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

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019-20 based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

In my opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council as at 31 March 2020 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with legislative requirements and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019-20.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing in the UK (ISAs (UK)). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report. I am independent of the Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and I

have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – effects of COVID-19 on the Council's assets and property pension fund valuations

I draw attention to Note 5 to the financial statements which describes the impact of material uncertainty clauses included within the year end valuations of the Council's property and the Greater Gwent Pension Fund's pooled pension fund assets, for which a proportion is attributable to the Council, arising from circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council has disclosed this material uncertainty and my audit opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Conclusions relating to going concern

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require me to report to you where:

- the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the responsible financial officer has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Council's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least 12 months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The responsible financial officer is responsible for the other information in the annual report and accounts. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated later in my report, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by me in the course of performing the audit. If I become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies, I consider the implications for my report.

Report on other requirements

Opinion on other matters

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

- the information contained in the Narrative Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and the Narrative Report has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019-20; and
- the information given in the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and the Annual Governance Statement has been prepared in accordance with guidance.

Matters on which I report by exception

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

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

- proper accounting records have not been kept;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit.

Certificate of completion of audit

I am unable to certify that I have completed the audit of the accounts of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, as I have ongoing work in relation to concerns raised in correspondence in respect of Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd.

Responsibilities

Responsibilities of the responsible financial officer for the financial statements

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Adrian Crompton
Auditor General for Wales
3 March 2021

24 Cathedral Road
Cardiff
CF11 9LJ

Appendix 3

Summary of corrections made

During our audit we identified the following misstatements that have been corrected by management, but which we consider should be drawn to your attention due to their relevance to your responsibilities over the financial reporting process.

Exhibit 3: summary of corrections made

Value of correction (£'000)	Nature of correction
822	As detailed in the main report (paragraph 16) this relates to correction made to the creditors' balances.
102	We identified that some provisions made in-year for early termination payments did not meet the requirements of IAS37 (the relevant Accounting Standard), as there was no constructive obligation at the year-end. Therefore, the value of provisions made in-year was overstated by £102,000 which was corrected by the Council.
51	We identified that some of the 'amounts paid out in-year' against the insurance provisions included the VAT element of the invoice. Provisions are accounted for on a net basis and therefore payments made against them should not include any VAT. This error was corrected by the Council but had no impact on the value of provisions at year-end due to compensating adjustments.
840	We identified that the 'Unused amounts reversed in 19/20' for the insurance provision were incorrectly increased by £840,000. This error was corrected by the Council but had no impact on the value of provisions at year-end due to compensating adjustments.
5,512	Cash Flow disclosures in the first draft of the accounts had 'Opening Liabilities arising from Financing' as £152,247,000. However, as per the latest version of the 2018-19 accounts, the brought forward figure should be £157,759,000. This led

Value of correction (£'000)	Nature of correction
	to an understatement of £5,512,000 which has been corrected by the Council.
185	<p>We identified that the calculation of 'Repayments of Amounts Borrowed' in the Cash Flow disclosures does not include £184,679.74 repaid during 2019-20.</p> <p>Therefore, the total 'Repayments of Amounts Borrowed' figure shown in Note 40.2 is overstated by £185,000 which the Council has corrected.</p>

Appendix 4

Recommendations

We set out all the recommendations arising from our audit with management's response to them. We will follow up these next year and include any outstanding issues in next year's audit report:

Exhibit 4: matter arising 1

Matter arising 1 – Quality of the financial statements	
Findings	The initial draft of 2019-2020 financial statements submitted for audit contained a number of issues and were incomplete.
Priority	High
Recommendation	The Council should ensure the first draft of the accounts are complete and free from significant error.
Benefits of implementing the recommendation	By implementing our recommendations, the Council will need to produce fewer drafts of the statements and will require fewer audit queries of officers. In both cases this will lead to efficiencies in council officers and auditors' time.
Accepted in full by management	Yes
Management response	The Council intends to prepare a complete draft set of Accounts for 2020/2021 in accordance with the statutory timetable. An internal timetable has been prepared to facilitate this.
Implementation date	31 May 2021

Exhibit 5: matter arising 2

Matter arising 2 – Quality and availability of audit evidence and working papers	
Findings	In some instances, we found audit evidence to be of poor quality and took significant time to be provided for audit. In some cases, evidence could not be provided or required additional explanation or supporting documentation.
Priority	High
Recommendation	The Council should ensure appropriate audit evidence and working papers are available to support the transactions and balances within the financial statements and should be provided in a timely manner for audit.
Benefits of implementing the recommendation	By implementing our recommendations, the audit process will be more efficient and require less time of council officers. There should be audit evidence to support all transactions included within the financial statements.
Accepted in full by management	Yes
Management response	The Council has undertaken a series of review sessions with staff involved in the final accounts process and is holding workshops with the aim of improving the quality of working papers produced. In addition, the Quality Assurance elements of the final accounts process are being enhanced by a peer review to identify areas where working papers need improvement prior to submission to Audit Wales.

Matter arising 2 – Quality and availability of audit evidence and working papers

Implementation date	Review sessions and workshops by 31 March 2021. Quality assurance of working papers as part of preparation of final accounts and during audit process – ongoing to completion of audit.
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Exhibit 6: matter arising 3

Matter arising 3 – Overstatement of creditor balances

Findings	We found that review of longstanding creditors where no liability still exists has been limited and not rigorously evidenced.
Priority	High
Recommendation	The Council should undertake a thorough review of creditor balances to ensure those which are no longer required are written off. In addition, the Council should ensure that creditors are accounted for correctly in the first instance to ensure the financial statements and the Council's financial position are accurate.
Benefits of implementing the recommendation	By implementing our recommendation, the Council will ensure an accurate liability is reflected at the year-end and reduce the number of queries raised by audit leading to a more efficient audit process. In addition, by strengthening their review, both within the year and at the year-end, the Council will have improved financial management information which will give a more accurate reflection of the financial position.
Accepted in full by management	Yes

Matter arising 3 – Overstatement of creditor balances

Management response	<p>The Council has commenced a review of Creditor balances to ensure liabilities exist and can be appropriately evidenced.</p> <p>Workshops are scheduled to clarify the proper accounting treatment and transactions to be reflected in the financial systems.</p> <p>Moving forward, review of Creditors is included within enhanced quality assurance arrangements.</p>
Implementation date	By 31 March 2021.

Exhibit 7- matter arising 4**Matter arising 4 – Historic cost values within the fixed asset register**

Findings	We found that some assets were held at the incorrect historic cost value within the fixed asset register.
Priority	High
Recommendation	The Council should identify the cause of the incorrect values in the fixed asset register and correct any values affected by the issue.
Benefits of implementing the recommendation	By implementing our recommendation, the Council will ensure accurate records are kept for all assets.
Accepted in full by management	Yes

Matter arising 4 – Historic cost values within the fixed asset register

Management response	The Council has undertaken a review of entries in the asset register and identified those assets where Historic Cost balances are incorrect. A planned approach to action appropriate amendments to these system accounting errors has been implemented.
Implementation date	By 30 April 2021.



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We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh and English.
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