

Annual Accounts 2020-21



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Tuath

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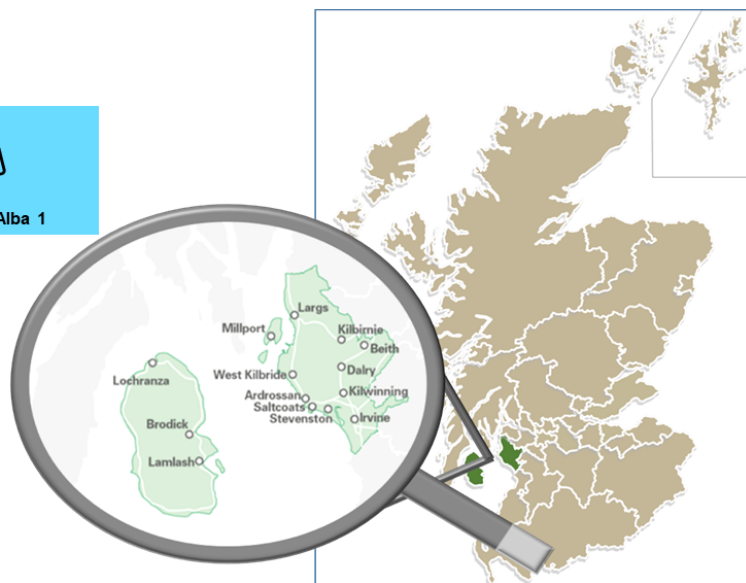
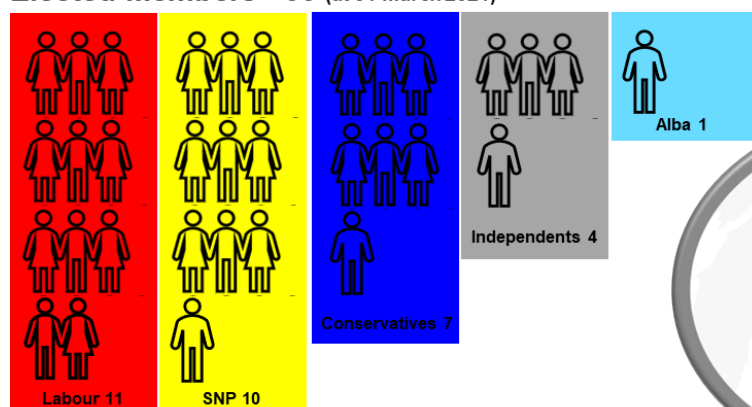
The Management Commentary sets out the key messages on the Council's financial and service performance for 2020/21 and looks ahead to the challenges and risks which we will face as we endeavour to meet the needs of the people of North Ayrshire.

The Annual Accounts present the financial position and performance of the Council demonstrating the stewardship of the public funds that support the Council's vision and key priorities. The financial position of the wider Council group is also presented.

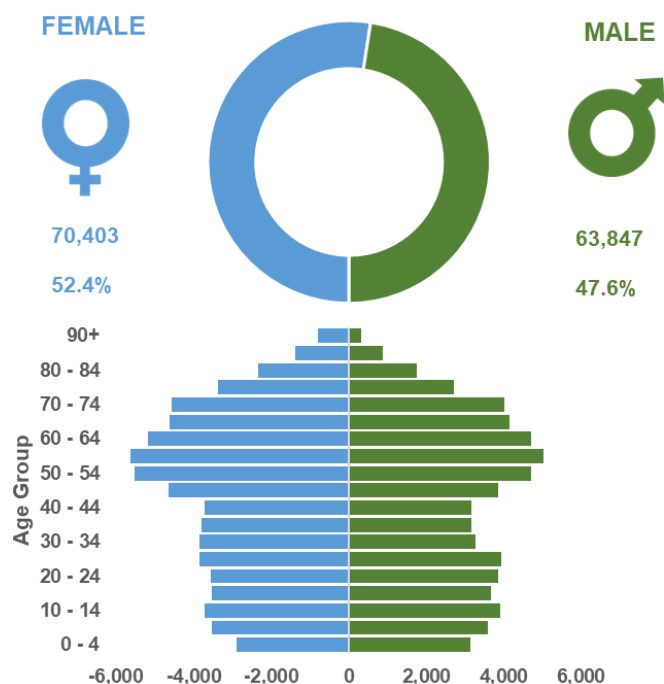
The format and content of the Annual Accounts accord with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom.

North Ayrshire by Numbers

Elected Members - 33 (at 31 March 2021)



Population - 134,250

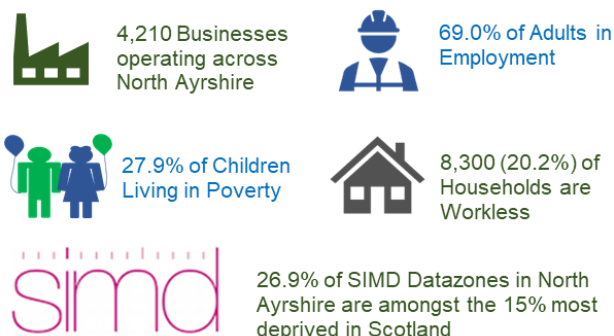


Life Expectancy

Scotland	81.1	77.2
North Ayrshire	80.0	76.1

	Islands	Mainland
Area	50%	50%
Pop.	5%	95%

Economic Activity



Staff - 6,038 Full Time Equivalents

Modern Apprentices	36	14
Temporary Staff	570	221
Permanent Staff	3,757	1,440
Total	4,363	1,675

Vision and Mission

Our Priorities

Aspiring Communities

- ▶ Active and strong communities
- ▶ Children and young people experience the best start in life
- ▶ Inclusive, growing and enterprising local economy
- ▶ Residents and communities enjoy good life-long health and well-being
- ▶ Residents and communities are safe

Inspiring Place

- ▶ Well connected with effective infrastructure
- ▶ Homes that meet residents' needs
- ▶ Vibrant, welcoming and attractive environment
- ▶ A sustainable environment

A Council for the Future

- ▶ An accessible Council that puts residents and communities at the heart of what we do
- ▶ An efficient Council that maximises resources and provides value for money
- ▶ A valued workforce that delivers high quality services
- ▶ A powerful and respected voice

Our Vision

A North Ayrshire
that is 'Fair For All'

Our Mission

Working together to
improve well-being,
prosperity and
equality in
North Ayrshire



How are we doing?

The Council continues to develop its approach to performance management to ensure it is robust and continues to embrace best practice. The reporting of performance to Elected Members, the public and stakeholders ensures accountability for the services we deliver.

The Council's Performance Management Strategy 2021-24 outlines how the Council's performance management supports a culture of continuous improvement in order to provide the best outcomes for the people of North Ayrshire.

<https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/Documents/CorporateServices/ChiefExecutive/PolicyandPerformance/performance-management-strategy-2021-24.pdf>

Performance Management Strategy - Key Objectives



National Performance Framework

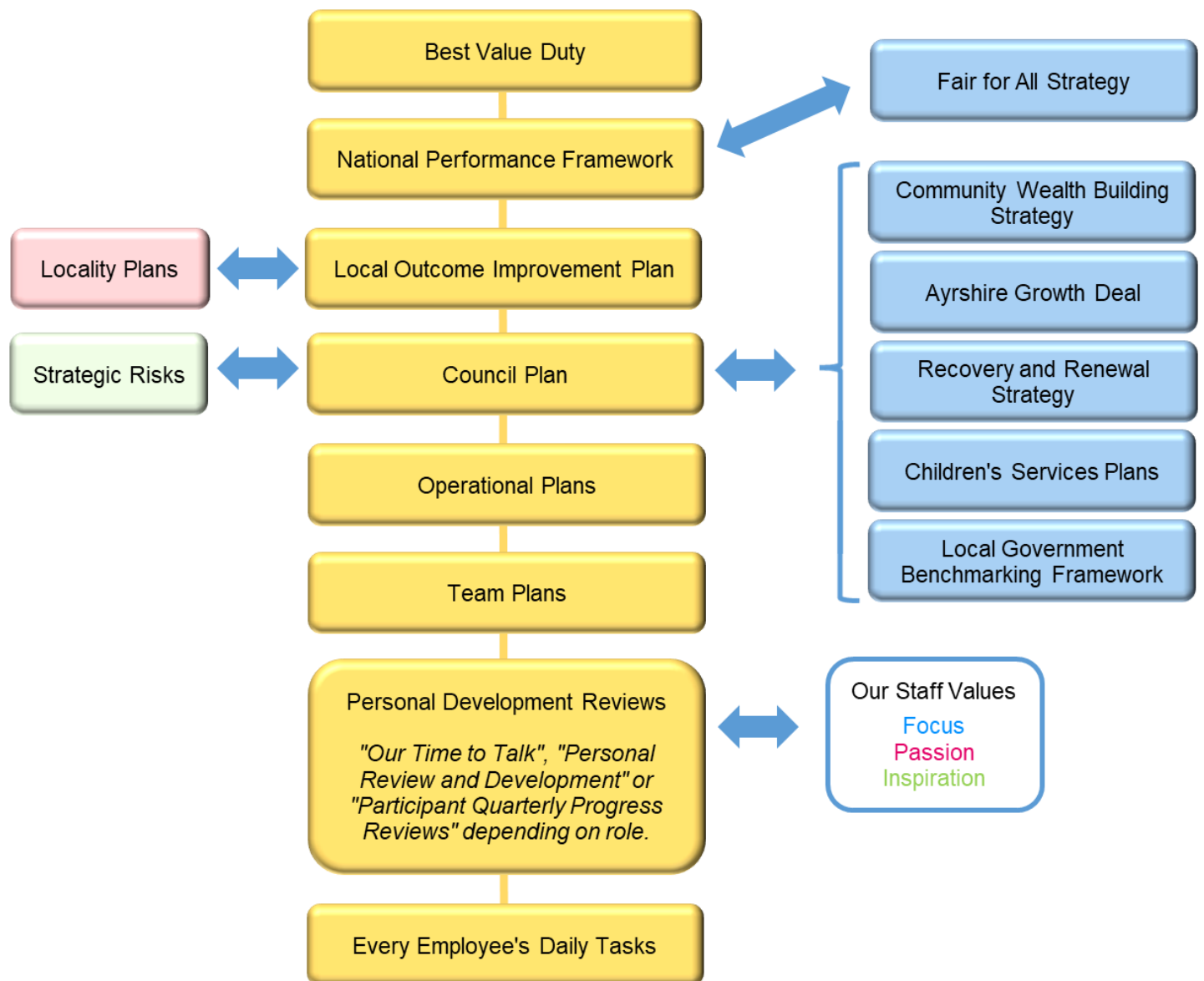
The priorities and outcomes in the North Ayrshire Council Plan and Community Planning Partnership Local Outcomes Improvement Plan are directly influenced by the **National Performance Framework**.

This sets out the Scottish Government's aim to create a more successful country, give opportunities to all people living in Scotland, increase the wellbeing of people living in Scotland, create sustainable and inclusive growth, reduce inequalities and give equal importance to economic, environmental and social progress.



The Golden Thread

Every task of every employee within our Council contributes to achieving better outcomes for the people of North Ayrshire. This link is referred to as the “Golden Thread”. An overview is shown below:



Planned Improvements

The Performance Management Strategy includes plans for the review and improvement of Performance Management and Reporting within North Ayrshire, including:

- Refreshing the Council Plan Performance Framework annually and ensuring timescales reflect the Ayrshire Growth Deal, Education performance and key actions, rather than only financial years;
- Introduction of a “Tell Us Once” approach to minimise duplication of requests from teams; and
- Ensuring our reports are engaging and as accessible as possible through a magazine format supported by our new [North Ayrshire Performance Dashboard](#).

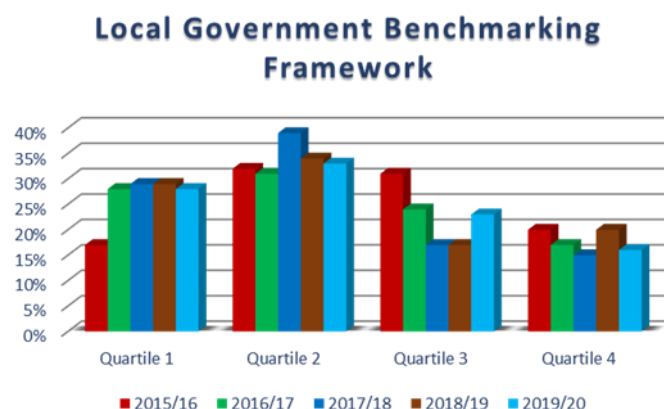
Council Plan Performance Progress Reports

The Council's Executive Leadership Team and Elected Members scrutinise our performance through six monthly reports which detail progress against our Council Plan Performance Framework and Delivery Plan. During 2020/21 we produced detailed reports on our joint response with partners to the Coronavirus pandemic called "Supporting North Ayrshire Together" to highlight the exceptional partnership working and further support scrutiny. Information on all our performance reporting, including detailed information on our response with partners to the pandemic, can be viewed at www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/performance.

Local Government Benchmarking Framework

Comprehensive scrutiny of performance is undertaken using the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF). This National Framework brings together performance information from each of Scotland's 32 Councils and provides benchmarking data on a variety of indicators covering a wide range of key service areas.

61 of these indicators can be directly compared against 2019/20 performance – 24 (39%) indicators have improved and 20 (33%) have declined relative to other local authorities, with 17 (28%) remaining unchanged. Further information on how we compare can be viewed at the mylocalcouncil portal.



Best Value Assurance Audit 2020

We are continuing to develop our approach to performance management following an extremely positive Best Value Assurance Audit in 2020. Key findings were:

- We have a strong culture of continuous improvement. We have significantly improved and continued to make progress since the last Best Value report in 2011. Council priorities, plans, actions, and outcomes are clearly linked. Employees play an active role in identifying and driving improvement and we are delivering improvements for communities and residents.
- There is a strong culture of collaborative working. Elected Members and officers work well together, and we work effectively with a wide range of partners including the Community Planning Partnership (CPP), the Integrated Joint Board (IJB) and private business. There is joint ownership of, and commitment to, delivering agreed strategic priorities. The Council Plan, the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plans are all clearly aligned and focussed on addressing North Ayrshire's key challenges.
- Our financial planning and management arrangements are good overall and we have significantly improved our asset management and procurement arrangements since the last Best Value Report. While we have made clear progress with our transformation agenda, including setting aside money to fund projects, our savings plans fall short of the estimated funding gap.
- We are committed to community empowerment and are recognised as a sector leader. Our approach is focused on embedding community empowerment in every-day business. We work well with a wide number of communities and groups including young people and tenants.

The four recommendations are either complete or on target to be complete by the end of this year. They are:

- Accelerate the scale and pace of transformation ensuring the right resources and skills mix support this and that benefits are tracked;
- Fully embed workforce planning;
- Clarify intended impacts across all Locality Plans; and
- Improve North Ayrshire Performs, the online performance data portal, to make it more user friendly and accessible

Looking back at 2020/21

When the history of 2020/21 is written it will be dominated by the impact of the global Covid-19 pandemic and it is no different for North Ayrshire Council and its residents.

Working together with our communities, volunteers, local businesses, the third sector and our Community Planning Partners, North Ayrshire Council responded to the pandemic by supporting our residents, businesses and visitors through practical measures designed to protect the most vulnerable in society, support key workers across the authority and help businesses weather the worst impact of the lockdown restrictions.

Examples of the key supports offered include:

Support for Communities

Community Hubs

The Council established six Community Hubs across North Ayrshire providing essential services such as a prescription delivery service, hot meals, befriending and foodbank distribution for those impacted by shielding, self-isolation or financial issues.

Working with over 600 volunteers, as well as the third and private sectors and colleagues from NHS Ayrshire and Arran, over the past year, the Community Hubs have received 33,152 calls, made 96,465 food deliveries, collected 13,713 prescriptions and directed 3,746 enquiries to other services. Each team has worked tirelessly to support their communities, including some of our most vulnerable residents.



Education and Childcare

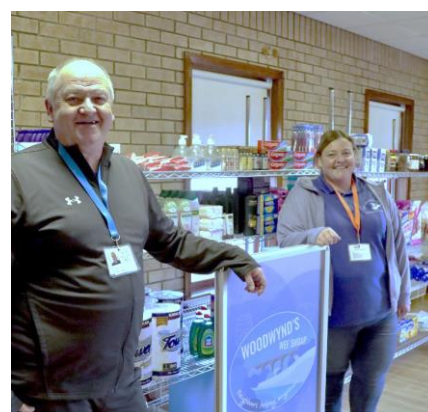
Operated by volunteers from across our Education and Libraries services, Childcare Hubs were established across the authority to provide essential support to allow key frontline workers to remain at work.

For those young people who required home learning support, over 2,300 laptops and tablets have been provided to those in greatest need with online resources and virtual classrooms established through GLOW, Show My Homework and Microsoft Teams. While those who were unable to access digital platforms were provided with paper based learning packs.

Food Poverty and Financial Support

The extended closure of schools highlighted the issue of food poverty and over 4,800 eligible households received support in the form of food parcels, providing fresh local produce, and vouchers which could be redeemed at local shops. Our Food Hubs delivered the equivalent of 1.26 million meals to families across North Ayrshire.

To support those facing financial hardships due to the pandemic, all debt recovery activity within the Council was suspended, flexible Council Tax payments were introduced and Council House evictions were suspended, with the exception of those related to anti-social behaviour.



Support for Businesses

**Support for
Business
Grant Fund
£24.2m**

**Strategic
Framework
Business Fund
£13.1m**

**Other
Business
Support Funds
£2.9m**

**Additional Non
Domestic
Rates Relief
£14.8m**

Services across North Ayrshire came together to administer a wide range of grant schemes, supporting businesses and the self-employed who were most impacted by the pandemic restrictions.

Over £40m in grants has been distributed to over 5,000 businesses and individuals in key sectors such as Retail, Hospitality, Leisure, Taxi Operators and the Self Employed with a further £14.8m of support through additional Non-Domestic Rates reliefs.

We have also continued to support our Early Learning and Childcare, Health and Social Care and School Transport partners throughout the pandemic to maintain capacity and protect the availability of services.

Impact on Council Services

Our Digital Evolution

Due to our investment in rolling out Office 365 during recent years, the majority of our office based workforce could immediately work from home with access to almost all of our systems. This ensured we could help and support our residents and businesses quickly and effectively during the pandemic.

In addition, we maintained our telephone Contact Centre to ensure our most vulnerable residents or those without internet access could still access services and support.



Services to Communities

Throughout the pandemic we have prioritised our household waste services and were one of the few local authorities to continue to deliver uninterrupted services to our communities.

While many services were focused on the delivery of essential services during the initial lockdown period, non-essential services within communities were restarted when it was safe to do so and our colleagues across the Council have worked tirelessly to address any backlog of repairs and maintenance work which built up during this period.



Leisure and Tourism

Throughout the year Eglinton Country Park and Irvine Beach Park remained open and we worked with partners to support the reopening of our outdoor recreational spaces to assist residents to participate in exercise while socially distancing. However, our play parks, tourist car parks and public toilets were closed during the lockdown period to discourage visitors from outwith the area.

Due to the closure of the majority of KA Leisure's facilities, subscriptions and fees were suspended throughout the lockdown. However, some free exercise classes were provided online for everyone to use.



Our Response at a Glance



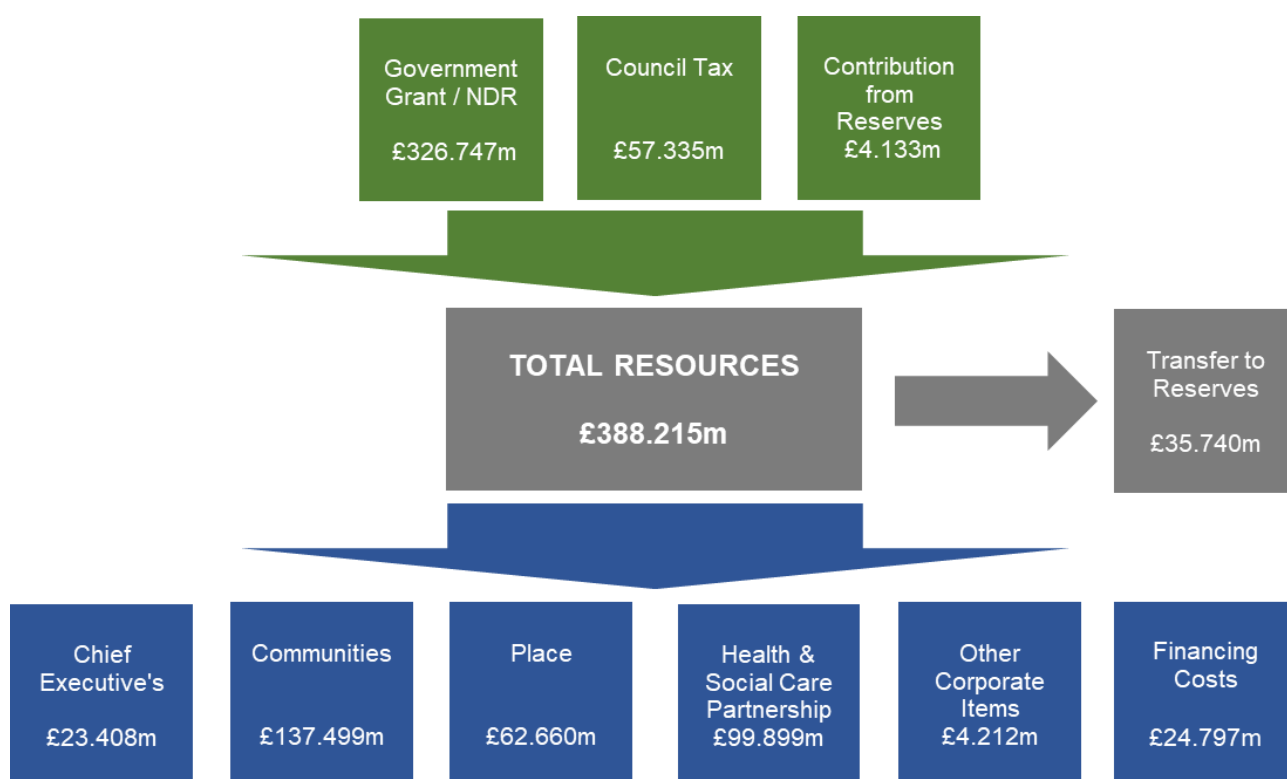
Financial Performance

Financial information is part of the Council's Performance Management Framework with General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) financial performance regularly reported to Cabinet. The financial performance of the Health and Social Care Partnership is regularly reported to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee, reflecting the historic challenges and financial risks presented by the delivery of these services.

This section summarises our financial performance for 2020/21.

A) General Fund Revenue Expenditure 2020/21

For 2020/21 the final spend on General Fund Services was £352.475m against a budget of £389.102m. The flow of actual income and expenditure during 2020/21 is highlighted below, as detailed in Note 1 on page 51. After earmarking £34.084m to meet future year expenditure requirements, a final in-year underspend of £1.656m is reported.



Overall, services underspent by 8.2% of the available budget. However, this is primarily related to additional Scottish Government Grants received in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic. Additional grant funding was made available to local authorities throughout the financial year with a significant proportion being allocated during February and March 2021 in order to address the ongoing Renewal and Recovery activity which will continue into future financial years. This included funding in relation to the ongoing impact of the pandemic on income recovery, Education recovery and support for learning, and the Health and Social Care Partnership's Covid-19 mobilisation plan.

Excluding the additional Covid-related funding, the overall service underspend for the year was 3.0%. The underspend was primarily driven by the effects of the Covid-19 restrictions which impacted across all services, including the delayed implementation of the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare to 1,140 hours, reduced operational costs across a range of Council facilities, vacancy management savings and lower than anticipated employee severance costs. The underspends have been partly offset by significantly reduced income levels across all services and an associated increase in the provision for bad debts arising from the deferral of debt recovery activity during the lockdown period.

In addition to a planned contribution to the Loans Fund Reserve of £3.5m and a commitment of £0.7m to support the 2021/22 Medium Term Financial Plan, the transfers to reserves total of £35.7m includes:

- £9.6m of earmarked grants in relation to service activity deferred as a result of the Covid-19 restrictions;
- £7.0m in relation to a Renewal Fund to support the Council's Recovery and Renewal Strategy;
- £4.4m to support Education Recovery activity;
- £2.5m to address the ongoing impact of the pandemic on Council income;
- £2.0m provision for the potential impact of ongoing national pay negotiations;
- £1.8m of funding to support the Discretionary Business Support Grants scheme;
- £1.5m of additional funding in relation to specific Covid related activities;
- £1.0m of additional contribution to the Council's Investment Fund; and
- £1.7m which will increase the level of unearmarked reserves held by the Council to 2.9% of budgeted expenditure. This will help address and mitigate the ongoing impact of the pandemic across North Ayrshire.

The Council's contribution to the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) includes an additional £1.5m which has been drawn down to facilitate the partial repayment of the HSCP's outstanding deficit. The HSCP's cumulative deficit now stands at £3.8m. Repayment of the balance of this amount is anticipated over the period 2021/22 to 2024/25.

For 2020/21 in-year council tax collection was 92.1% (94.0% in 2019/20). The reduction in in-year collection reflects the temporary deferral of debt recovery activity during the Covid-19 lockdown period.

B) General Fund Reserves

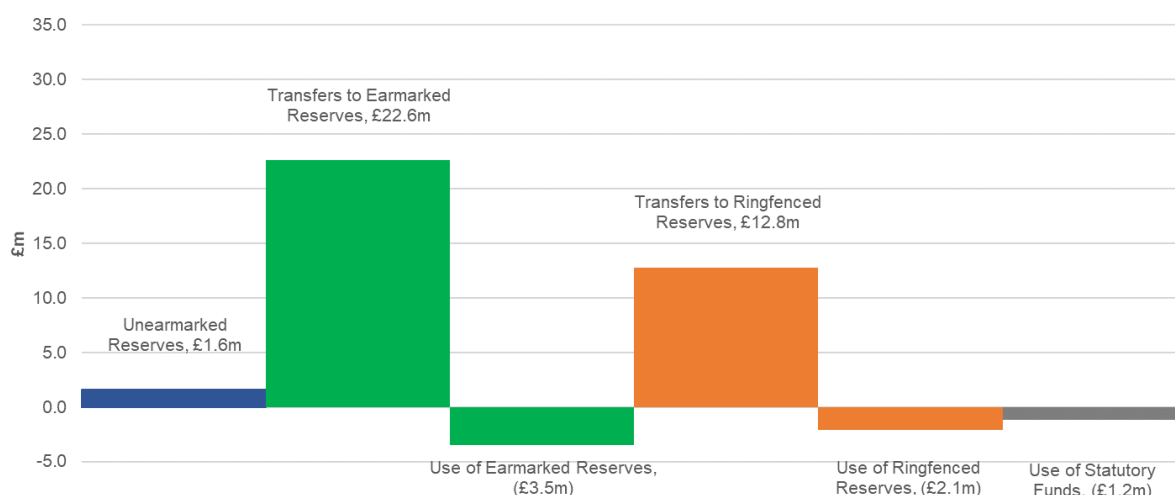
Reserves are an important component of our Financial Framework, supporting financial stability and providing flexibility to deliver change and transformation.

Unearmarked reserves ensure we can manage any unexpected financial demands without disrupting delivery of Council services. The level of unearmarked reserves reflects the current financial environment and degree of risk and uncertainty faced.

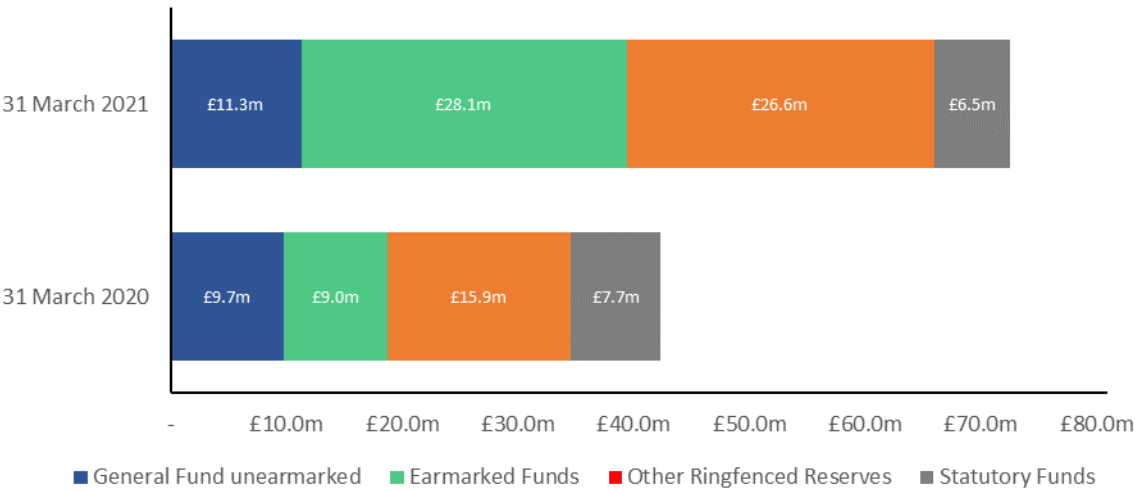
At 31 March 2020, the Council had unearmarked reserves of £9.7m, equivalent to 2.7% of budgeted expenditure. The net in-year underspend for 2020/21 has been added to the General Fund Unearmarked Balance, resulting in an unearmarked balance at 31 March 2021 of £11.3m, or 2.9% of budgeted expenditure, which is available to help mitigate the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and support recovery and renewal activities.

The unearmarked reserve continues to be at the lower end of the recommended range of 2% - 4% for general reserves.

Full details of the Council's General Fund Reserves are shown in Note 12 on page 59, along with information on future commitments. The diagram below summarises the movements on the General Fund Reserves for 2020/21:



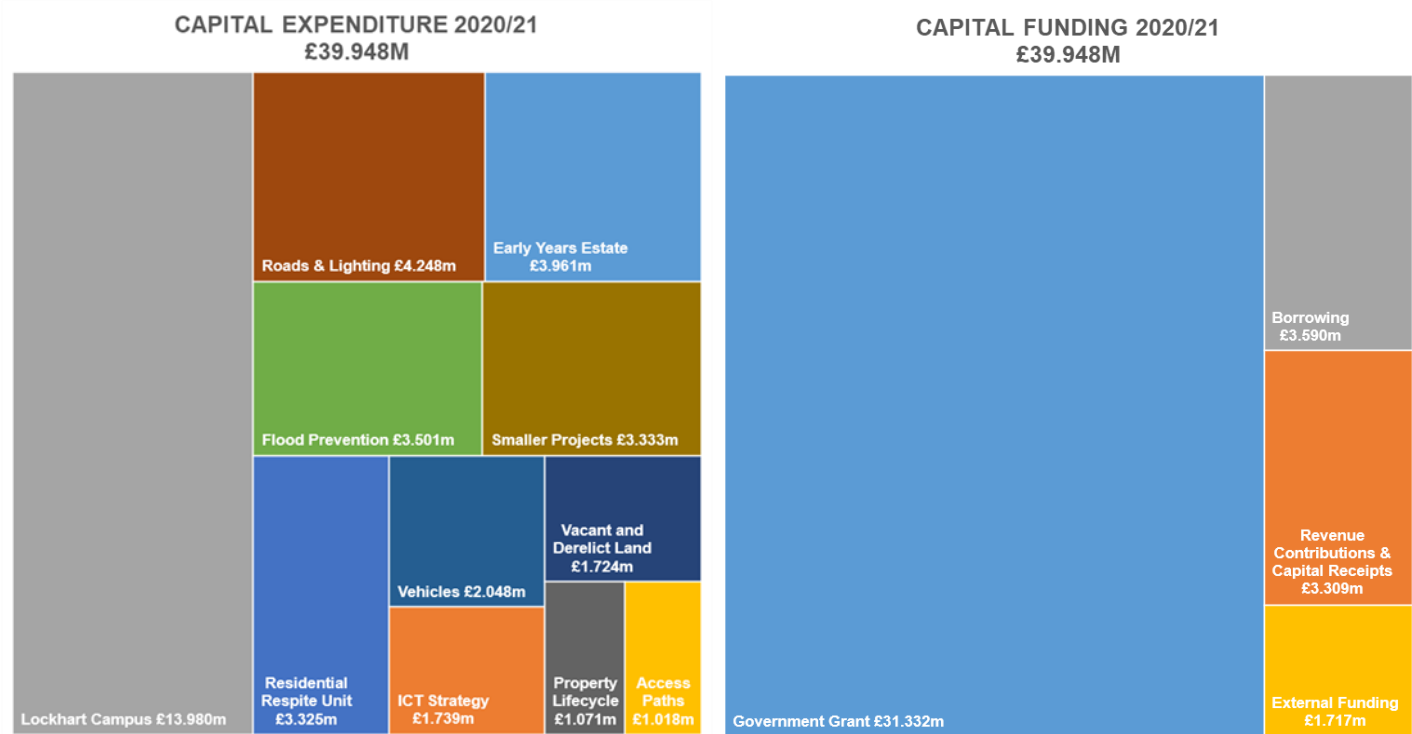
The available balances on the General Fund Reserves are as follows:



C) General Fund Capital Expenditure 2020/21

In 2020/21 the final spend for capital investment was £39.948m against a budget of £39.991m. Further details, including comparative figures for 2019/20 are provided in Note 18 on page 64.

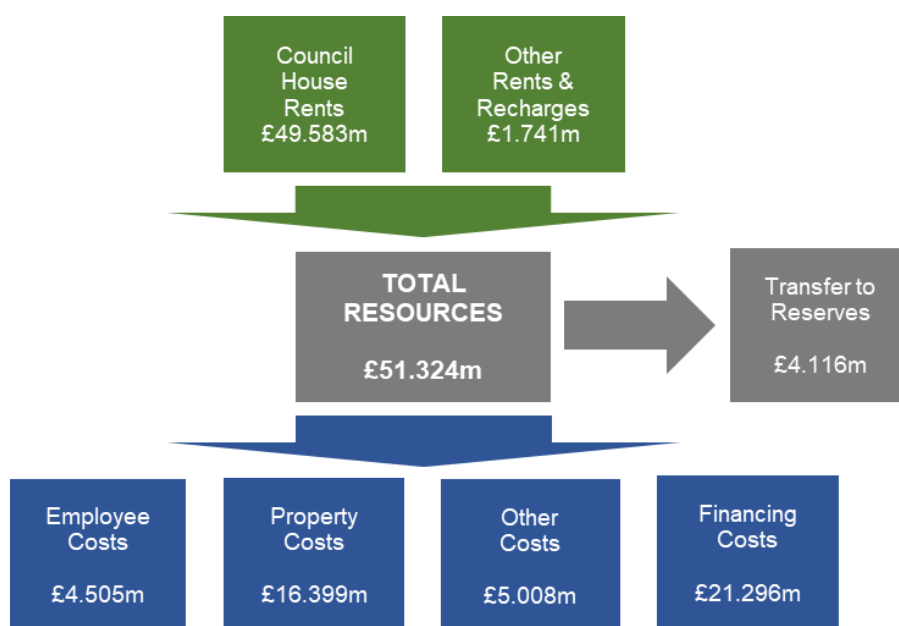
The exhibit below identifies the key projects and summarises how the programme was funded:



D) Housing Revenue Account 2020/21

For 2020/21 the final expenditure on the Housing Revenue Account services was £47.208m against a budget of £51.356m. An analysis of actual funding and expenditure is provided below. Full details are provided in the Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure statement on page 44.

The Housing Revenue Account performance for 2020/21 delivered an underspend of £4.116m against a budgeted break-even position. The reported underspend has been added to the HRA reserves to support future Housing expenditure including the Council House building programme.

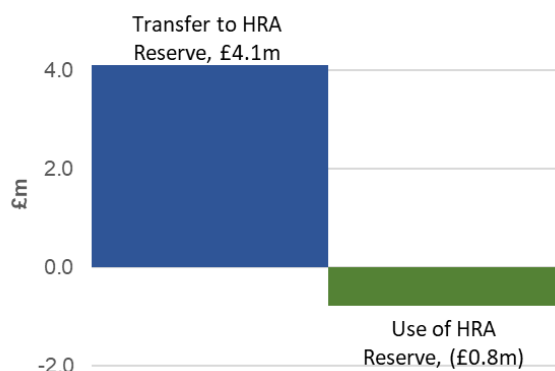


The main factors contributing to this position were lower than anticipated expenditure across the services as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. This included vacancy management (£0.3m), reduced expenditure on planned maintenance and Aids and Adaptations (£2.5m), delayed expenditure on disturbance allowances (£0.4m) and lower than anticipated expenditure on capital financing costs related to the impact of the pandemic on the progress of the HRA capital programme, (£0.9m).

The transfer to reserves includes the earmarking of funds in relation to the delayed disturbance allowance payments, £0.4m, additional funding for Sheltered Housing Unit refurbishments, £0.4m, funding in relation to responsive repairs, £0.1m, and the creation of an HRA Sustainability Fund, £3.2m.

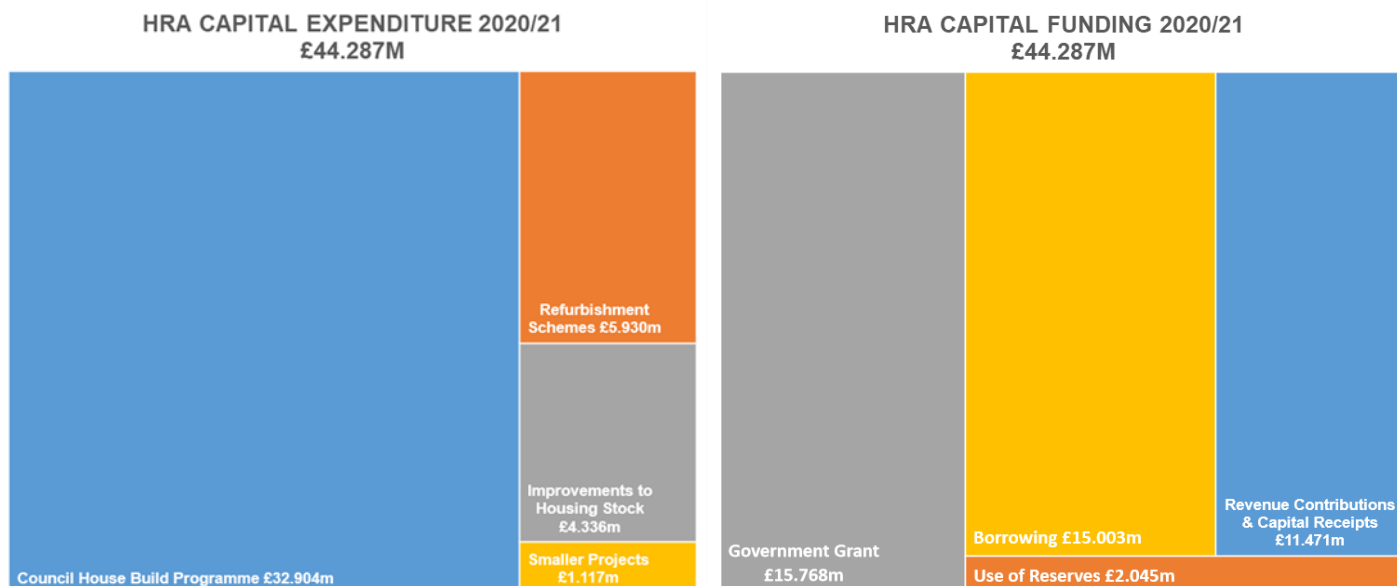
The application of £0.8m of HRA balances for capital projects, partly offset by the contribution to reserves (£4.1m) noted above, has resulted in an accumulated HRA reserve at 31 March 2021 of £14.2m.

The diagram below summarises the movements on the HRA Reserves for 2020/21:



E) HRA Capital Expenditure 2020/21

In 2020/21 the final HRA expenditure on capital investment was £44.287m against a budget of £43.981m. The chart below identifies the key projects and how the programme was funded. Further details, including comparative figures for 2019/20, are provided in Note 18 on Page 64.



F) Treasury Management and Investment

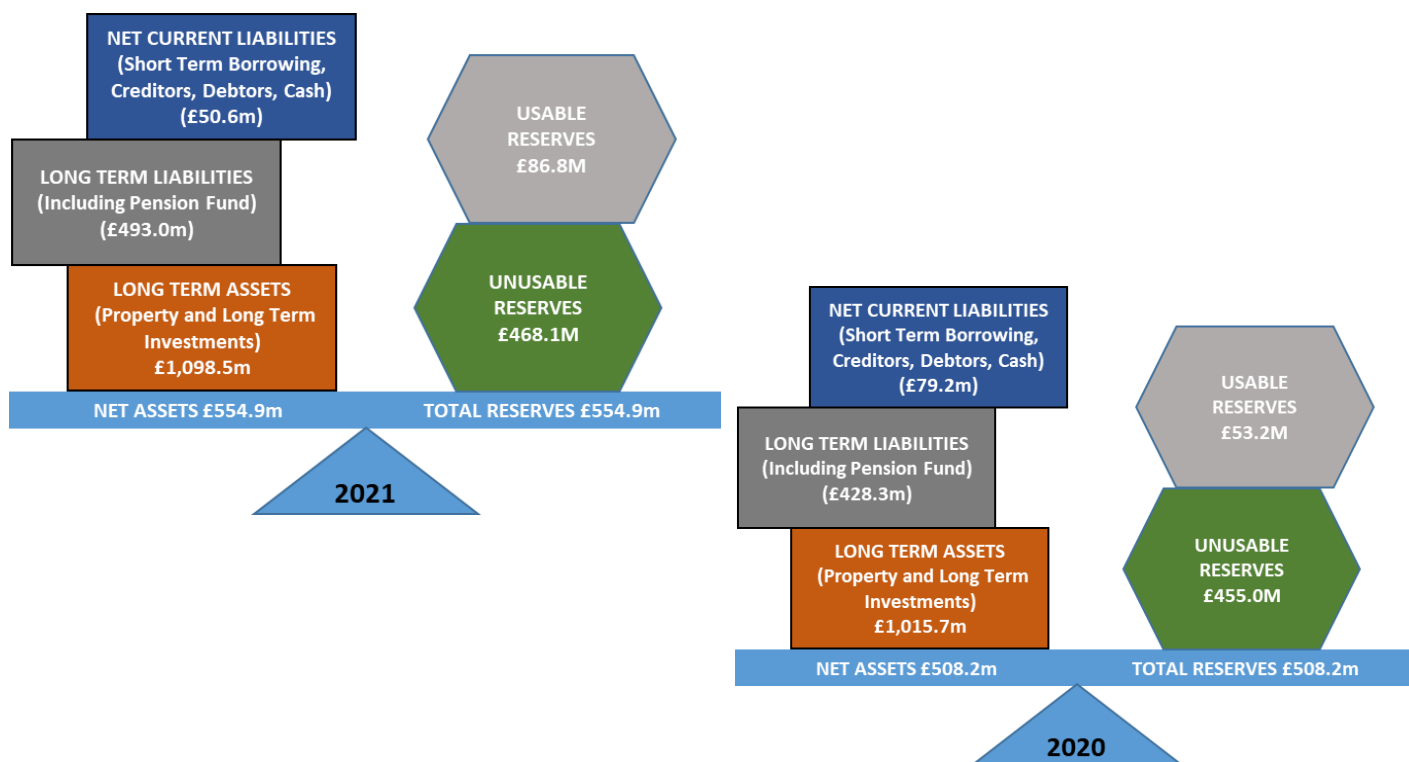
The Treasury Management and Investment Strategy outlines our approach to the management of our investments and cash flows in accordance with the relevant professional codes and regulations. The Strategy balances security and liquidity alongside the risks and returns from investments to ensure that sufficient cash is available to support service activity. The Strategy sets out key prudential indicators over a 10 year period offering assurances in relation to the affordability and sustainability of our Capital Investment Strategy, managing our borrowing requirements to minimise revenue costs. The key indicators are noted below with full details provided on the Council's website:

<https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/Documents/CorporateServices/Finance/tmis-2020-21.pdf>

Financial Indicator	2020/21	2019/20	Commentary
Capital Financing Requirement	£319.5m	£309.4m	Gross External Debt is required to be within our overall Capital Financing Requirement. This is clearly demonstrated by the current under borrowed position, due to our strategy of utilising internal funds.
Gross External Debt	£251.5m	£279.5m	
(Over) / Under Borrowed	£68.0m	£29.9m	
Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream – General Fund	3.0%	4.5%	We are required to consider the affordability of our capital investment plans in terms of their impact on our revenue stream, demonstrating prudence and ensuring that our investments are sustainable in the long term. The rising ratio within the HRA is indicative of the significant capital investment programme and the level of loan charges is deemed prudent and affordable within the framework of the 30 year Housing Business Plan.
Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream – HRA	17.7%	17.1%	
Loans Fund Interest Rate	3.8%	4.0%	Our effectiveness in managing our debt portfolio is demonstrated by our low average rate of interest which is benchmarked against other local authorities.

G) The Balance Sheet

The diagram below summarises the Council's Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2021, with comparative information provided for last financial year. The Balance Sheet brings together assets and liabilities, year end balances, money owed to and by the Council and reserves. More information on the balance sheet is provided on page 42.



The Balance Sheet on page 42 summarises the Assets and Liabilities and shows a net worth of £554.9m. This is an increase from last year due to an increased value of Assets of £97.8m and an increase in Liabilities of £51.1m. The main changes to the Council's Balance Sheet are explained below:

Long Term Assets have increased in value by £82.8m, mainly due to the valuation of our Council Housing stock, driven by the changes in the local housing market, and the investment in new assets across the Council. The Council's main asset groups are revalued on a five year rolling programme.

Current Assets have increased by £15.0m due to an increase in cash and liquid investments, reflecting the additional Scottish Government Grants received during March 2021 and the resultant increase in liquid holdings to mitigate the immediate financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Reductions in Short and Long Term Borrowing of £7.4m reflect the scheduled repayments of debt which matured during the financial year. New borrowing undertaken during the year has been lower than anticipated reflecting the reduced level of activity in delivering the Council's Capital Investment Strategy resulting from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions and the ongoing strategy of using internal resources and temporary borrowing to minimise costs.

The Council's share of Strathclyde Pension Fund's net long term liability as at 31 March 2021 is £180.6m, an increase of £58.5m primarily driven by reduced inflation assumptions, resulting in an increase in the value of pension liabilities, partly offset by an increase in the return on Scheme assets, resulting in the change in the value of the pension assets. Following the latest triennial valuation of the Fund, the current employers' contribution rate of 19.3% has been retained.

The current funding level is 106% providing sufficient security and income to meet future pension liabilities.

Outlook and Risks

Outlook

A) Transformation and Renewal

A programme of projects and activities, which will deliver positive outcomes in accordance with the Council Plan priorities and build sustainable financial savings which will help address the projected funding gaps over the short, medium and long terms, are under development. These are aligned to the Council's Transformation themes, which include:

- Caring for People (Health and Social Care Partnership);
- Land and Property Assets;
- Service Delivery Models;
- Transport and Travel;
- Charging for Services / Funding; and
- Children, Young People and Communities.

Influenced by the experiences from the pandemic response, including lessons learned and recognising good practice, the Council has developed a Recovery and Renewal Strategy which sets out key principles to help shape and influence service delivery and ensure that communities remain at the heart of any activity.

Allied to the feedback from community engagement sessions, carried out in late 2020, the key emerging renewal themes include:

- The needs of vulnerable citizens and families are best served through a locality based model which brings together key council services as well as community associations, the third sector and other agencies in an integrated model of support;
- The pandemic response and in particular the food response to citizens reinforced the requirement for North Ayrshire to develop a sustainable model and network of food support;
- The specific impact of the pandemic on children and young people and the need for a cross Directorate, Multi-agency support network to be put in place;
- The importance of the outdoors to health and well-being and having a sustainable physical environment; and
- New ways of working for Council staff and service delivery, including digital support.

The programme of projects and activities incorporates recent developments in renewal activity and has been consolidated into a Transformation and Renewal Programme which will be supported by a revised governance framework, including programme development and monitoring through the Council's Transformation Board and Executive Leadership Team.

Following their announcement by the Scottish Government, £500 bonus payments to all Health and Social Care workers will be made during 2021/22 to recognise their efforts throughout the pandemic.

B) The Economy

Economic performance has a significant impact on the availability of funding and demand for public services. The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Report for May 2021 noted that Covid-19 and the actions taken to contain it have continued to have a dramatic and rapidly changing impact on the United Kingdom and countries around the world.

Economic activity is expected to rise sharply in the second quarter of 2021, although it is still well below pre-pandemic levels reflecting the impact of Covid-related restrictions on both demand and supply. The unemployment rate has risen markedly since the beginning of 2020. However, short term predictions have been complicated by the extension of the UK Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme with the unemployment rate predicted to increase further as this scheme comes to an end.

The Consumer Price Index of inflation is currently below the Monetary Policy Committee's target of 2%, reflecting the direct and indirect effects of the pandemic. However, this is projected to rise in the near term as some of those effects fade, with inflation rising above the target by the end of 2021 before returning to around the 2% mark over the medium term. These projections are based on the assumed easing of Covid-related restrictions in line with government plans.

The longer-term consequences of the current situation on the funding of local government services is uncertain and North Ayrshire Council is working closely with relevant partners and other local authorities to ensure that the potential impact on the demand for local government services and other sources of local government income is taken into consideration by the UK and Scottish Governments.

C) North Ayrshire Council's Plans

Our Financial Plans

In recognising the financial uncertainty impacted by the pandemic throughout 2020/21, a Finance Recovery Plan was developed and approved by the Council's Cabinet in September 2020. The Plan included an assessment of the financial pressures faced by the Council, the funding support from the Scottish Government and the actions necessary to return a balanced budget position by 31 March 2021. The plan has provided a vital short term financial management framework which has supported and guided our financial monitoring throughout the year.

During 2020/21 North Ayrshire Council also refreshed its Long Term Financial Outlook (LTFO). This recognised that the Council continues to operate in a complex, challenging and uncertain environment with public sector funding failing to keep pace with increasing costs and demand for services. The LTFO highlighted the significant funding pressure that the Council faces and identified an estimated funding shortfall of £120m over the next ten years.

In March 2021 the Council agreed its Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2021/22 to 2023/24, with an indicative funding gap of £12.8m remaining in relation to the later years. The plan recognises a likely reduction in government grant and increasing expenditure requirements around inflationary pressures, including pay inflation and significant socio economic and demographic pressures. In addition, the Scottish Government announced a range of additional funding streams to support vulnerable families, meet costs of the education recovery and help address financial pressures associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. Elements of this funding will be utilised over the short and medium terms to help further address the uncertain financial impact of the pandemic and provide support for the recovery and renewal activities included within the Council's Transformation and Renewal Programme.

The Council has also approved a 10 year Capital Investment Programme covering the period up to 2030/31 which will result in total investment of over £373m aligned to the Council's key priorities, as set out in the Council Plan 2019-2024, core asset management plans and our refreshed Capital Investment Strategy. The investment programme has been developed within the context of the pandemic and will support an economic and green recovery and create employment opportunities through a Community Wealth Building approach. The principal elements of the programme include delivery of new education facilities, such as the new Ardrossan Community Campus and Montgomerie Park Primary School; investment in our core assets and infrastructure; significant investments in relation to the Ayrshire Growth Deal and the development of a Solar Photo Voltaic farm which will make a positive contribution to the Council's carbon reduction commitment through the provision of a clean, renewable energy supply.

Climate Change

North Ayrshire Council's Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy for the period 2021 to 2023 takes account of emerging intelligence and new technology opportunities to develop a roadmap of actions to achieve net-zero carbon status across North Ayrshire by 2030 with the aims of:

- Inspiring positive low carbon behaviour, raising awareness of the sustainability and climate change agenda;
- Maximising access to affordable renewable energy technology;
- Supporting sustainable transport;
- Designing and utilising our natural and built assets sustainably; and
- Supporting local businesses to deliver services sustainably through our Community Wealth Building Strategy.

The Strategy details seven workstreams, each with specific priority actions designed to achieve net-zero carbon status. These include:

- **Affordable Warmth** - We continue to invest in energy efficiency measures for housing, raising awareness of fuel switching support and income maximisation actions which have been developed;
- **A Green Economy** - We will prioritise capital and climate investment projects which create fair and green jobs and supporting the local supply chain;
- **Transport and Travel** - Our Local Transport Strategy will identify our priorities for active and sustainable travel including our commitment to promoting the uptake of electric vehicles and developing a robust charging infrastructure;
- **Natural Environment** - Our Local Biodiversity Action Plan responds to local challenges and details the actions that the North Ayrshire Biodiversity Partnership intends to achieve;
- **Sustainable Operations** - We will act on reducing carbon emissions from across all sectors, utilising renewable energy, removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and maintaining low carbon behaviours;
- **Carbon Absorption** - We will develop our tree planting initiative and identify carbon capture and storage opportunities; and
- **Climate Change Adaptation** - We will seek to adapt to the impacts of climate change and take action to ensure that vital public assets, infrastructure and services are fit for current and future generations.

In support of these ambitious targets, North Ayrshire Council has increased the level of its Investment Fund to £11.2m with £5m of the Fund already allocated to support specific Climate Change projects including Tree Planting and the development of a Solar PV farm to provide a clean, renewable energy supply.

EU Withdrawal

North Ayrshire Council continues to carefully monitor the impact of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union on the local economy and the Council's medium and long term financial plans.

The agreement of a trade deal between the UK and the EU has resulted in the reduction or removal of many of the potential short-term risks, particularly those arising from the imposition of tariffs, port congestion and supply chain difficulties, which could have resulted in business failure and higher unemployment.

While it is anticipated that greater certainty about the UK's relationship with the EU is likely to release delayed investment, the Office for Budget Responsibility has indicated that the longer term impact could result in a 4% reduction in GDP. The impact of this potential contraction in economic activity on the local and national economy will continue to be monitored.

Levelling Up and Community Renewal Funding

As part of its 2021 Budget the UK Government announced the Levelling Up Fund, to invest in infrastructure that improves everyday life across the UK, including regenerating town centres and high streets, upgrading local transport, and investing in cultural and heritage assets; and the Community Renewal Fund, which aims to support people and communities most in need across the UK to pilot programmes and new approaches and will invest in skills, community and place, local business and supporting people into employment.

In terms of the Community Renewal Fund, North Ayrshire has been identified as one of 100 'priority areas' across the UK and we will work with communities, businesses and third sector organisations across North Ayrshire to identify suitable projects to maximise investment and benefits for the local economy.

Risks

North Ayrshire Council is committed to ensuring that it is proactive in identifying and managing the risks impacting on the authority. The Council recognises that a certain amount of risk is inevitable if the organisation is to achieve its objectives.

The most significant risks are identified through the Council's Strategic Risk Register (SRR), recognising the challenges facing the Council and demonstrating the arrangements in place to manage these risks.

The Council reviews and updates the Strategic Risk Register on an annual basis. During March 2021 the Council identified 8 risks which were classified as either High or Very High. Those risks classified as Very High were as follows:

Risk and Impact	<u>Financial Environment</u>	<u>Inequalities</u>	<u>Covid-19 Impact</u>
	The level of funding for local government will require North Ayrshire Council to take increasingly difficult and challenging decisions to ensure that service delivery and investment is aligned to available resources. The continuation of single year settlements makes effective medium and long term financial planning challenging.	Residents of North Ayrshire, and in particular certain excluded groups, will experience increasing levels of poverty and its effects as a result of the economic situation and Covid-19. Health inequality is closely linked to poverty, employment and people's earliest experiences as children, and will increase.	Further waves or strains of the virus could result in reductions in service provision to prioritise activities, resulting in delays to key plans, objectives and projects with consequences including financial loss, backlogs, socioeconomic, health and mental health impacts on staff and communities.
Mitigations and Controls	<u>Financial Environment</u>	<u>Inequalities</u>	<u>Covid-19 Impact</u>
	Robust monitoring of the Revenue and Capital budgets. Development of the Long Term Financial Outlook to 2030/31. Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2023/24. Further development of the Transformation and Renewal Programme 2021/22 to 2030/31. Anticipated IJB outturn reducing balance of outstanding debt.	Tackling inequalities is a strategic priority of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP), the Council and the HSCP with strategies including Fair for All, the Children's Services Plan, the Child Poverty Action Plan, the Economic Renewal Strategy, Community Wealth Building and the Ayrshire Growth Deal.	Strategic, tactical and operational response groups formed. Effective internal and external digital communication strategy. Hub model adopted by North Ayrshire and Community Partners. North Ayrshire Food System developed to enhance resilience. Identification of recovery, renewal and transformation opportunities.

A full copy of the strategic risk register can be found at: [Strategic Risk Register](#)

Supplementary Information and Conclusion

Supplementary Information

A) Common Good and Trust Funds

The Council administers six Common Good Funds for the former burgh areas of Ardrossan, Irvine, Largs, Millport, Saltcoats and Stevenston. Overall the Common Good Funds achieved an in-year surplus of £0.013m resulting in an accumulated surplus as at 31 March 2021 of £2.082m. Details of income and expenditure accounts and balance sheets can be found on page 46 of these accounts.

The Council administers several Trust Funds, some of which are registered charities. Details of income and expenditure accounts and balance sheets can be found on page 47 of these accounts. Overall the Trust Funds reported an in year surplus of £0.008m resulting in an accumulated surplus as at 31 March 2021 of £0.372m. Separate annual accounts and a Trustees' Annual Report have been prepared for the charitable trusts. These are subject to separate external audit and are available on the Council's website at

<https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/council/performance-and-spending/budgets-and-finance.aspx>

B) Group Accounts

The Council has a material interest in a number of other organisations and is therefore required to produce Group Accounts. The Group results are presented alongside the results for the Council on all the main statements. The effect of including the Group entities along with the Council Accounts is an increase in both Reserves and Net Assets of £42.392m. This represents the Council's share of the net assets in these entities. Further details of the associated entities that have been incorporated into the financial statements can be found in Note 39 on page 86.

Conclusion

2020/21 has without doubt been the most challenging year in recent memory. The Council has responded, and continues to respond, to the challenges presented by the pandemic. From a financial management perspective, the year-end outturn position is as a consequence of robust financial recovery planning and actions throughout the year, whilst also recognising the level of funding support from the Scottish Government. The financial impact will continue through 2021/22 and beyond and it is therefore vital that the Council continues to progress its change agenda through the Transformation and Renewal programme to help deliver sustainable financial savings.

The range of supports delivered to citizens, communities and businesses in responding to the pandemic has helped shape the Council's Renewal programme through the Recovery and Renewal Strategy and also strengthened the key priorities in the Council Plan. The learning experience has also helped identify areas of strategic recovery and renewal investment and this is an area which will be progressed further in 2021/22.

During the last year the Council has managed to maintain and even improve performance across a range of areas as well as maintaining key operational and support services. This is against the backdrop of large numbers of Council staff working remotely from home and supported with the technology to enable this.

We have again concluded the year in a period of unprecedented uncertainty and further challenges remain. However, with the progress and achievements to date, and underpinned by sound financial management, we can address the challenges with confidence whilst remaining firmly focussed on the vision for North Ayrshire which is Fair for All.

Where to Find More Information

If you would like more information, our Council website holds detailed information on the Council's strategies, plans and policies and our performance and spending.

These can be found at:

www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/council/strategies-plans-and-policies

www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/council/performance-and-spending



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Craig Hatton
Chief Executive
27 September 2021

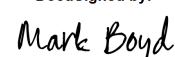


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Councillor Joe Cullinane
Leader of the Council
27 September 2021



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Mark Boyd
Head of Finance
27 September 2021

Statement of Responsibilities

Responsibilities of the Council

The Council is required:

- To make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that the proper officer of the authority has responsibility for the administration of those affairs (section 95 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973). In this authority, that officer is the Head of Finance;
- To manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets;
- Ensure the Annual Accounts are prepared in accordance with legislation (The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014), and, so far as is compatible with that legislation, in accordance with proper accounting practices (section 12 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003); and
- To approve the Statement of Accounts.

I confirm that these Annual Accounts were approved for signature at a meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee on xx September 2021.



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Joe Cullinane
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Councillor Joe Cullinane
Leader of the Council
27 September 2021

Responsibilities of the Chief Financial Officer

The Head of Finance is responsible for the preparation of the authority's Annual Accounts in accordance with proper practices as required by legislation and as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Accounting Code).

In preparing these annual accounts, the Head of Finance has:

- Selected appropriate accounting policies and applied them consistently;
- Made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent;
- Complied with legislation;
- Complied with the local authority Accounting Code (in so far as it is compatible with legislation);
- Kept adequate accounting records that were up to date; and
- Taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

I certify that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of North Ayrshire Council and its group at the reporting date and the transactions of North Ayrshire Council and its group for the year ended 31 March 2021.



DocuSigned by:
Mark Boyd
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Mark Boyd
Head of Service, Finance
27 September 2021

Remuneration Report

Introduction

The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014 (SSI No. 2014/200) require local authorities in Scotland to prepare a Remuneration Report as part of the annual statutory accounts.

The following report details North Ayrshire Council's remuneration policy for its senior Councillors and senior employees, providing full details of the remuneration and pension benefits they receive. This report also provides information on the number of employees whose annual remuneration was £50,000 or more, as well as summary information in relation to employees' exit packages agreed during the year.

All of the information disclosed in the tables within this Remuneration Report, with the exception of tables 3 and 4 and the Facility Time Statement, are subject to independent audit. The other sections of the Remuneration Report are reviewed by our Auditor to ensure that they are consistent with the Financial Statements.

Remuneration of Councillors

The remuneration of Councillors is regulated by the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Regulations 2007 (SSI No. 2007/183), as amended. The Regulations provide for the grading of Councillors, for the purposes of remuneration arrangements, as Leader of the Council, Provost, Senior Councillors and Councillor. The Leader of the Council and the Provost cannot be the same person for remuneration purposes. A Senior Councillor is a Councillor who holds a significant position of responsibility in the Council's political structure.

The salary that is to be paid to the Leader of the Council is set out in the Regulations. For 2020/21 the salary for the Leader of North Ayrshire Council was set at £35,713 (2019/20: £34,944) and the salary for the Provost was set at £26,785 (2019/20: £26,208), the maximum level.

The Regulations also set out the remuneration that may be paid to Senior Councillors and the total number of Senior Councillors the Council may have. For 2020/21, the maximum salary which could be paid to a Senior Councillor was £26,785 (2019/20: £26,208) with the maximum number of Senior Councillors set at 14. The total remuneration for Senior Councillors (excluding the Provost and Leader) should not exceed £312,473 (2019/20: £305,746).

As at 31 March 2021 the Council had 9 Senior Councillors (2019/20: 9). The annual salaries for the Depute Leader and the Leader of largest minority party were set at £26,785 (2019/20: £26,208), the maximum level. The remaining Senior Councillors received an annual salary of £22,320 (2019/20: £21,839), and total remuneration of £209,810 (2019/20: £205,289).

In line with Regulations the Council pays contributions to the Local Government Pension Scheme for those Councillors who elect to become Councillor Members of the pension scheme. Glasgow City Council administers the Local Government Pension Scheme on behalf of 12 unitary local authorities including North Ayrshire Council. Information on the scheme is available at <http://www.spfo.org.uk>.

Details of the Remuneration of Senior Councillors are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Remuneration of Senior Councillors

Councillor Name and Responsibility	Date From	Date To	Total Remuneration 2020/21 £	Total Remuneration 2019/20 £
Alex Gallagher Cabinet Member	April 2020	March 2021	22,320	21,839
Ian Clarkson Provost	April 2020	March 2021	26,785	26,208
James Montgomerie Cabinet Member	April 2020	March 2021	22,320	21,839
Joe Cullinane Leader of the Council	April 2020	March 2021	35,713	34,944
John Bell Depute Leader of the Council	April 2020	March 2021	26,785	26,208
Louise McPhater Cabinet Member	April 2020	March 2021	22,320	21,839
Marie Burns Leader of the Largest Minority & Chair, Audit and Scrutiny Committee	April 2020	March 2021	26,785	26,208
Robert Barr Depute Provost	April 2020	March 2021	22,320	21,839
Robert Foster Cabinet Member	April 2020	March 2021	22,320	21,839
Ronnie McNicol Chair, Licensing Committee	April 2020	March 2021	22,320	21,839
Tom Marshall Chair, Planning Committee	April 2020	March 2021	22,320	21,839
Total			272,308	266,441

Remuneration paid to the Provost and Leader of the Council in 2020/21 is £62,498 (2019/20: £61,152). Total remuneration to the remaining 9 Senior Councillors is £209,810 (2019/20: £205,289).

Note: Total remuneration consists of salaries and allowances only.

Remuneration of Employees

The salary of senior employees is set by reference to national arrangements. The Scottish Joint Negotiating Committee (SJNC) for Local Authority Services sets the salaries for the Chief Executives of Scottish local authorities. Circular CO/150 sets the salary for the Chief Executive of North Ayrshire Council for the period 2020/21. The salaries of the Directors are based on a fixed percentage of the Chief Executive's salary. Senior employees do not receive any other benefits. Details of the Remuneration of Senior Employees are shown in Table 2.

During 2020/21, the Chief Executive and the Executive Director (Communities) held positions of Director in North Ayrshire Ventures Trust. The Director (Growth & Investment) held a position of Director of Ardrossan North Shore LLP. There was no remuneration associated with these positions.

Table 2: Remuneration of Senior Employees of the Council

Name and Post Title	Date From	Date To	Salary and Allowances 2020/21 £	Compensation for loss of employment 2020/21 £	Total Remuneration 2020/21 £	Total Remuneration 2019/20 £
Craig Hatton Chief Executive	April 2020	March 2021	143,553	-	143,553	139,372
Craig Hatton Returning Officer/Counting Officer	April 2020	March 2021	1,331	-	1,331	6,633
Audrey Sutton Executive Director, Communities	April 2020	March 2021	115,114	-	115,114	83,871
Karen Yeomans Director, Growth & Investment	April 2020	March 2021	115,114	-	115,114	111,761
Laura Friel Executive Director, Finance & Corporate Support (Full Year Equivalent £115,114)	April 2020	June 2020	28,778	88,210	116,988	111,761
Russell McCutcheon Executive Director, Place	April 2020	March 2021	115,114	-	115,114	107,769
Andrew Fraser Monitoring Officer	April 2020	March 2021	93,415	-	93,415	90,847
David MacRitchie Chief Social Work Officer	April 2020	March 2021	79,283	-	79,283	71,364
James Miller Chief Planning Officer (Full Year Equivalent £66,765)	June 2020	March 2021	55,638	-	55,638	
Mark Boyd Section 95 Officer	April 2020	March 2021	93,415	-	93,415	
Total			840,755	88,210	928,965	723,378

Note: Total remuneration consists of salaries and allowances only.

Pension Benefits

Pension benefits for Councillors and local government employees are provided through the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

Councillors' pension benefits are based on career average pay. Pay for pension purposes for each year or part year ending 31 March (other than the pay in the final year commencing 1 April) is increased by the cost of living, as measured by the appropriate index (or indices) between the end of that year and the last day of the month in which their membership of the scheme ends. The total of the revalued pay is then divided by the period of membership to calculate the career average pay. This is the value used to calculate the pension benefits.

Local government employees had a final salary pension scheme prior to 1 April 2015. This means that pension benefits are based on the final year's pay and the number of years that person has been a member of the scheme up to 31 March 2015. From 1 April 2015, benefits for local government employees are based on career average pay. Benefits are based on the pay received for each year in the scheme, revalued for inflation until retirement. All benefits accumulated prior to 1 April 2015 are protected.

A five-tier contribution system is in place with contributions from scheme members based on how much pay falls into each tier. This is designed to give more equality between the costs and benefits of scheme membership.

The tiers and member contribution rates for 2019/20 and 2020/21 are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Tier and Member Contribution Rates

Whole time pay bandings 2019/20	Employee Contribution rate	Whole time pay bandings 2020/21
On earnings up to and including £21,800	5.50%	On earnings up to and including £22,200
On earnings above £21,800 and up to £26,700	7.25%	On earnings above £22,201 and up to £27,100
On earnings above £26,700 and up to £36,600	8.50%	On earnings above £27,101 and up to £37,200
On earnings above £36,600 and up to £48,800	9.50%	On earnings above £37,201 and up to £49,600
On earnings above £48,800	12.00%	On earnings above £49,601

The rate and basis at which employees accrue their pension benefits has changed over time. This is shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Employee Benefit Calculation Rates

Time Period	Pension Benefit		Lump Sum Basis
	Accrual Basis	Accrual Rate	
From 1 April 2015	Career Average	1/49th pensionable pay each year	n/a
From 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2015	Final Salary	1/60th pensionable pay each year	n/a
Prior To 1 April 2009	Final Salary	1/80th pensionable pay each year	3/80th final pensionable salary and years of pensionable service

There is no automatic entitlement to a lump sum. Members may opt to give up (commute) pension for lump sum up to the limit set by the Finance Act 2004.

The value of the pension benefits of senior councillors is outlined in Table 5. They have been calculated without exercising any option to commute pension entitlement into a lump sum and without any adjustment for the effects of future inflation.

The pension entitlements for Senior Councillors for the year to 31 March 2021 are shown in Table 5, together with the contribution made by the Council to each Senior Councillor's pension during the year.

Table 5: Pension Benefits of Senior Councillors

Name	In-year pension contributions		Accrued pension benefits			
	For year to 31 March 2021 £	For year to 31 March 2020 £	As at 31 March 2021		Difference from 31 March 2020	
			Pension £	Lump Sum £	Pension £	Lump Sum £
Alex Gallagher	4,308	4,399	5,208	1,509	520	17
Ian Clarkson	5,169	5,279	5,908	1,619	648	35
James Montgomerie	4,308	4,399	3,825	-	512	-
Joe Cullinane	6,893	7,039	5,203	-	840	-
John Bell	5,169	5,279	5,994	1,712	636	27
Louise McPhater	4,308	4,399	2,092	-	483	-
Robert Barr	4,308	4,399	3,896	-	485	-
Robert Foster	4,308	4,399	1,773	-	478	-
Ronnie McNicol	4,308	4,399	5,269	1,049	502	5
	43,079	43,991				

Councillor Burns and Councillor Marshall are not members of the pension scheme.

Pension Contributions and Accrued Pension Benefits relate to all duties and not just those of the posts shown.

Pension entitlements for senior employees for the year to 31 March 2021 are shown below in Table 6, together with the contribution made by the Council to each senior employee's pension during the year.

Table 6: Pension Benefits of Senior Employees of the Council

Name and Post Title	In-year pension contributions		Accrued pension benefits			
	For year to 31 March 2021	For year to 31 March 2020	As at 31 March 2021		Difference from 31 March 2020	
	£	£	Pension £	Lump Sum £	Pension £	Lump Sum £
Craig Hatton Chief Executive	27,706	26,899	87,572	-	5,240	-
Audrey Sutton Executive Director, Communities (from 01/07/2019)	22,217	20,317	38,181	45,107	4,775	3,857
Karen Yeomans Director, Growth & Investment	22,217	21,570	19,300	-	2,699	-
Laura Friel Executive Director, Finance & Corporate Support	5,554	21,570	57,971	103,510	1,120	766
Russell McCutcheon Executive Director, Place	22,217	20,800	56,750	100,338	5,375	6,401
Andrew Fraser Monitoring Officer	18,029	17,533	50,374	89,112	3,138	2,450
David MacRitchie Chief Social Work Officer	14,540	13,209	44,481	86,047	4,969	7,887
James Miller Chief Planning Officer	12,717		39,624	76,352	4,749	8,051
Mark Boyd Section 95 Officer	18,029		28,493	29,560	2,947	1,412
Total	163,226	141,898				

Pension Contributions and Accrued Pension Benefits relate to all duties and not just those of the posts shown.

Remuneration paid to Councillors

Salaries, allowances and expenses paid to all Councillors within North Ayrshire Council (including the Senior Councillors previously listed) during the year are shown in Table 7. There were no non-cash expenses or benefits in kind paid during 2020-21.

Table 7: Total Remuneration Paid to Councillors

Type of Remuneration	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Salaries	663,902	679,193
Expenses	4,870	47,160
Total	668,772	726,353

The annual return of Councillors' salaries and expenses for 2020/21 is available for any member of the public to view at all Council libraries and public offices during normal working hours, and is also available on the Council's website at

<https://north-ayrshire.cmis.uk.com/north-ayrshire/Councillors/MembersExpensesAllowances.aspx>

General Disclosure by Pay Bands

The Regulations require the Remuneration Report to provide information on the number of persons whose remuneration was £50,000 or above. Remuneration consists of all payments made to individuals, including salaries (including arrears of pay), expenses and any payments made to an individual in respect of termination costs. Table 8 provides this information in bands of £5,000.

Table 8: General Disclosure by Pay Bands

Remuneration Bands	Number of Employees	
	As at 31 March 2021	As at 31 March 2020
£50,000-£54,999	129	136
£55,000-£59,999	65	84
£60,000-£64,999	68	58
£65,000-£69,999	26	17
£70,000-£74,999	5	8
£75,000-£79,999	6	6
£80,000-£84,999	4	2
£85,000-£89,999	8	8
£90,000-£94,999	5	3
£95,000-£99,999	-	-
£100,000-£104,999	-	-
£105,000-£109,999	2	3
£110,000-£114,999	-	2
£115,000-£119,999	4	1
£120,000-£124,999	-	1
£125,000-£129,999	-	-
£130,000-£134,999	-	-
£135,000-£139,999	-	1
£140,000-£144,999	1	-
Total	323	330

Exit Packages

The Council has set aside funding to support a voluntary early release scheme for employees as part of the agreed savings package and to facilitate service redesign. As a result, a number of staff left the Council during 2020/21, either through the voluntary early release scheme or voluntary redundancy. There were no compulsory redundancies.

For the purposes of this note, Exit Packages in Table 9 include:

- Redundancy payment;
- Strain on the fund cost (the amount which the Council is required to pay to the pension fund because the employee has retired before the assumed retirement age);
- Added Years Lump Sum (the amount which the Council pays to the individual in a one-off lump sum, according to the compensatory added years awarded - maximum three years); and
- A capitalised value of the recurring Compensatory Added Years payment. This represents the amount which the Council has to pay to the pension fund because the employee has retired with enhanced service (maximum three years). This amount is paid on an annual basis once a person has left employment with the Council and is therefore a notional cost at 31 March 2021. Following approval of the revised Local Government and Teachers early release schemes in August 2018, Compensatory Added Years is no longer paid for any severances after 31 March 2019.

The figures include employees who have committed to leave during 2020/21, although their actual leaving date may be later than 31 March 2021.

Table 9: Exit Packages

Band	2020/21		2019/20	
	Number of Employees	Value £	Number of Employees	Value £
£0-£20,000	6	58,062	9	92,169
£20,001-£40,000	2	47,020	5	143,623
£40,001-£60,000	3	163,914	3	140,270
£60,001-£80,000	1	60,326	2	155,385
£80,001+	2	231,804	3	516,424
	14	561,126	22	1,047,871

Facility Time Statement

Under the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulation 2017, the Council is required to collect and publish data in relation to its usage and spend of trade union facility time in respect of employees who are trade union representatives. Facility time is time off from an employee's job, granted by the Council, to enable the employee to carry out their trade union role.

For the reporting year 2020/21, 129 employees (2019/20: 145) were relevant trade union officials and 53 of these employees (2019/20: 53) spent a proportion of their working hours on facility time:

Number of Employees who were relevant union official during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent (FTE) employee number
129	122.65

Percentage of Time	Number of Employees (Headcount)
0%	76
1% - 50%	50
51% - 99%	2
100%	1

The percentage of the total paybill spent on facility time was 0.06% (2019/20: 0.07%).

Total Pay Bill spent on Facility Time	
Total cost of Facility Time	158,233
Total Pay Bill	248,972,192
Percentage of Total Pay bill spent on Facility Time	0.06%

For those employees who were trade union officials, the time spent on paid trades union activities as percentage of their total paid facility time hours was 1.2% (2019/20: 4.75%).

Time spent on Trade Union Activities	
Time spent on Trade Union Activities as a percentage of Total paid Facility Time hours	1.2%

The Trade Union Facility Time Statement for 2020/21 is available for any member of the public to view on the Council's website at:

<https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/council/council-information/workforce-facts.aspx>



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Craig Hatton
Chief Executive
27 September 2021



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Councillor Joe Cullinane
Leader of the Council
27 September 2021

Scope of Responsibility

North Ayrshire Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently, and effectively to achieve Best Value.

The Council is also responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs and facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, which includes arrangements for the management of risk.

The Council has approved and adopted a Local Code of Corporate Governance, which is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government' (2016). A copy of the local code is available on the Council's website, or a copy can be obtained from the Chief Executive's Service, North Ayrshire Council, Cunninghame House, Irvine KA12 8EE.

This statement explains how North Ayrshire Council complies with the Code of Corporate Governance and meets the requirements of the 'Code of Practice for Local Authority Accounting in the UK: A Statement of Recommended Practice', in relation to the Statement on the System of Internal Financial Control.

The Purpose of the Governance Framework

The governance framework comprises the systems and processes, and culture and values by which the authority is directed and controlled. It enables the authority to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate, cost-effective services and the achievement of key outcomes.

The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Council's objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them effectively.

The Governance Framework

The main features of the governance framework that was in place during 2020/21 are below:

- The Cabinet was the key decision-making Committee, comprising the Leader of the Council, the Depute Leader and four members of the Administration, each with a specific portfolio of duties. An Education Cabinet comprised the same members and also included church and teaching profession representatives. The Audit and Scrutiny Committee, which is chaired by the Leader of the Main Opposition, was in place to consider all matters in relation to Internal and External Audit, Risk Management, Scrutiny and Performance, as well as receiving reports on the findings of external scrutiny bodies. A 'Policy Advisory Panel' consisting of all elected members assisted in the preparation of policy proposals for consideration and approval by Cabinet.
- Strategic decision-making is governed by the Council's key constitutional documents including standing orders, scheme of administration, scheme of delegation to officers and financial regulations and associated codes of financial practice. These were refreshed and approved by the Council in December 2020.
- The Council has six Locality Partnerships, covering Irvine, Kilwinning, the Three Towns, Arran, the North Coast and the Garnock Valley. Chaired by a local Elected Member, the Partnerships provide the opportunity for Elected Members, Community Planning Partners and local community representatives to consider the priorities for each area.
- The Council, together with NHS Ayrshire and Arran, established an integrated Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP), which has been in place since April 2015. The HSCP has established a governance framework and an integrated senior management structure to support delivery of its key objectives.

- The Council's mission and vision and key priorities are outlined in the Council Plan 2019-2024 which is underpinned by a delivery plan and a range of performance indicators.
- A 'People Strategy' entitled 'Our People Connect' is in place to support the delivery of the Council Plan and its strategic priorities by focussing on developing the right culture and helping the Council transform to be a leaner, more efficient and higher performing organisation where people can develop and thrive.
- The Performance Management Strategy focuses very firmly on embedding a performance management culture throughout the Council. Regular reporting to Elected Members takes place and a wide range of performance information is available on the 'North Ayrshire Performs' website.
- The Council has adopted a 'Code of Conduct' for all of its employees. Elected Members adhere to the national 'Code of Conduct for Councillors' and a register of interests is in place.
- The approach to risk management is set out in the Risk Management Strategy. The Council's strategic risk register is refreshed annually and for 2020/21 was approved by Cabinet in March 2020.
- Each Head of Service has a Workforce Plan in place for their portfolio of services which considers challenges and issues, the transformation agenda and to support career development and succession planning.
- The Council has in place a development programme for all Elected Members. Leadership and Development programmes are also established for strategic leaders and first line and middle managers across the Council, through the Leadership Academy approach.
- The 'Our Time to Talk' approach is in place to ensure that managers and employees take time to discuss how each employee is getting on at work; this focusses on the employee's contribution to the team, their wellbeing and any development needs that contribute towards meeting the team's objectives or the employee's career aspirations;
- In order to ensure its asset management arrangements are robust, the Council has established the Corporate Asset Strategy. A Technology Strategy and a Digital Strategy are in place to support the ICT asset management plan and the transformation agenda. This asset management approach is underpinned by 6 themed asset management plans, in line with categories recommended by CIPFA: property, housing, ICT, open spaces, road and fleet. These asset management plans were last refreshed during 2019/20.
- A Capital Programme and Assets Group (CPAG), consisting of senior officers from across Council services and chaired by the Head of Finance, is in place. This group monitors the delivery of the Council's capital programme, helping to ensure that projects are delivered on time and within budget. The work of this group is supported by Service Project Boards.
- The Council has a long-term financial outlook, which was updated during the year to cover the period to 2030/31. This sets out the scale of the potential financial challenge and the approach to pro-actively address it, ensuring financial sustainability of the Council.
- The Council has Internal Audit and Corporate Fraud teams to carry out independent and objective reviews of governance and internal control arrangements and investigate allegations of fraud and error both within and against the authority.
- An Information Governance framework is in place which complies with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), supported by a central team of staff within Democratic Services.
- The Council has a robust Corporate Health, Safety and Wellbeing Policy to help ensure it complies with health and safety legislation.
- An annual report is prepared for Cabinet by the Council's statutory Chief Social Work Officer.
- The Council has a two-stage Complaints Procedure, which provides a transparent and standardised process for customers who wish to complain and enables the Council to manage complaints more effectively and to identify any service improvements which may be required.

Although the governance framework has been in place at North Ayrshire Council throughout the year ended 31 March 2021, there has been a period of disruption due to the impact of the pandemic, most notably the suspension of North Ayrshire Council committees through April, May until early June 2020. Since this time committees have been delivered in a virtual setting.

The System of Internal Financial Control

The system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information, financial regulations, administrative procedures (including segregation of duties), management supervision, and a system of delegation and accountability. Development and maintenance of the system is undertaken by Chief Officers within the Council. In particular, the system includes:

- Financial regulations and codes of financial practice.
- Comprehensive budgeting systems.
- Regular reviews of periodic and annual financial reports that indicate financial performance against the forecasts.
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance.
- Clearly defined capital expenditure guidelines.
- Formal project management disciplines.

The Council's financial management arrangements conform to the governance requirements of the CIPFA statement: 'The Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government (2016)'.

With regard to the entities incorporated into the Group Accounts, the Council is not aware of any weaknesses within their internal control systems and has placed reliance on the individual Statements of Internal Financial Control where appropriate.

Review of Effectiveness of the Governance Framework

North Ayrshire Council has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control. The review of the effectiveness of the framework is informed by the work of the Executive Leadership Team who have responsibility for development and maintenance of the governance environment, the annual report by the Senior Manager (Audit, Fraud, Safety and Insurance) and reports from the Council's external auditor Deloitte LLP, Audit Scotland and other review agencies.

The Section 95 Officer has overall responsibility for Internal Audit in North Ayrshire Council. The Senior Manager (Audit, Fraud, Safety and Insurance) is responsible for the management of the section and reports directly to the Section 95 Officer on all audit matters, with the right of access to the Chief Executive and Chair of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee. The Internal Audit section is fully resourced to deliver its 5-year audit plan and complies with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) in carrying out its audit work. Regular reports were made to the Council's Audit and Scrutiny Committee throughout 2020/21.

As detailed in the 'Internal Audit Charter' that has been adopted by the Council, the Internal Audit function has independent responsibility for examining, evaluating, and reporting on the adequacy of internal control. The Senior Manager (Audit, Fraud, Safety and Insurance) prepares an annual report, including an assurance statement containing a view on the adequacy and effectiveness of the governance, risk management and internal control frameworks. This was reported to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee on 1 June 2021.

The Internal Audit Annual Report 2020/21 highlights a number of findings by the Council's Internal Audit section which indicate some weaknesses in the internal control environment. Action plans are put in place to address control weaknesses on conclusion of each audit and implementation of audit actions is tracked on a quarterly basis by the Council's Audit and Scrutiny Committee. None of these are considered material enough to have a significant impact on the overall control environment and it is the opinion of the Senior Manager (Audit, Fraud, Safety and Insurance) that the Council's systems of internal control continue to provide reasonable assurance against loss.

Significant Governance Developments during 2020/21

A Best Value Audit Review was carried out by Audit Scotland and Deloitte LLP in January and February 2020. The report was presented to the Accounts Commission in June 2020 and to the meeting of North Ayrshire Council in September 2020; it is extremely positive and demonstrates significant improvement since the previous review in 2011, providing significant assurance that the Council complies with its statutory duty to secure Best Value. The key messages from the report include the following:

- The Council has a strong culture of continuous improvement.
- There is a strong culture of collaborative working.
- Despite significant economic and demographic challenges, the Council is performing well and is a frequent award winner and early adopter of national pilots.
- The Council's arrangements for financial planning and management are good overall and it has significantly improved its asset management and procurement arrangements.
- The Council is committed to community empowerment and is recognised by the Scottish Government and COSLA as a sector leader.

A new Long-term Financial Outlook (covering the period 2021/22 to 2030/31) and Medium-term Financial Outlook (covering 2021/22 to 2023/24) were approved by the Council in December 2020. These documents note the scale of the financial challenge which the Council faces and underpin the development of a balanced budget. The Revenue Estimates 2021/22 to 2023/24 and Capital Investment Programme 2021/22 to 2030/31 were approved by Council in March 2021.

To ensure ongoing compliance with Section 95 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the Council appointed the Head of Finance as its statutory officer with responsibility for financial matters, following the retirement of the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support), who previously held this role. The Senior Manager (Planning Services) was appointed as the statutory Chief Planning Officer to comply with the new requirements of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019.

The Council created a new temporary post of Head of Service (Recovery and Renewal) in May 2020 in order to provide additional capacity at Chief Officer level to respond to the pandemic and to co-ordinate the emergence from lockdown and the transformation of service delivery. A Recovery and Renewal Strategy was approved by Cabinet in September alongside a Covid-19 Financial Recovery Plan.

2020/21 was a 'shadow year' for the implementation of the new CIPFA Financial Management Code 2019, a key goal of which is to improve the financial resilience of organisations by embedding enhanced standards of financial management. The Council undertook an initial assessment of compliance with the FM Code and is satisfied that its governance and processes satisfy the principles of good financial management as outlined in the Code.

Covid-19 Governance Arrangements

On 11 March 2020 the World Health Organisation declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as a global pandemic and on 23 March 2020 the United Kingdom entered a first period of lockdown. Further periods of lockdown were imposed during 2020/21.

From a general governance perspective, at the commencement of the first period of lockdown the Chief Executive formed an Emergency Management Team (EMT) which included the Leader of the Council, Executive Directors and Heads of Service. The meetings were initially held on a daily basis and all pandemic response decisions were considered, actioned and minuted.

The pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on the governance and operations of the Council. Meetings of the Council and its committees were suspended during April, May and June 2020. The Council's Scheme of Delegation to Officers allows the Chief Executive to consider and deal with any urgent issues, howsoever arising, subject to reporting back to the Cabinet for information at the first available opportunity, with this power exercised in consultation with the relevant Chief Officer and the relevant Elected Members. During the period that meetings were suspended, the Chief Executive undertook the following consultation prior to making a decision:

- Matters that would normally be considered by Council – consultation with the Group Leaders of the Labour, SNP and Conservative Groups and one of the Independent Members..
- Matters that would normally be considered by Cabinet or another Committee of the Council – consultation with the Leader (for Cabinet), Committee Chair (other Committees) and Portfolio Holder (if different).
- Controversial Council matters – consultation with all Elected Members to understand whether there is likely to be support. 'Controversial' is as defined in the Scheme of Delegation.

In the interests of transparency, decision notices in respect of matters determined under the emergency governance arrangements are published on the Council's website on a fortnightly basis, together with the relevant officer report. Reports were made to Cabinet on 30 June 2020 and 8 September 2020 on all decisions made by the Chief Executive under emergency delegated powers.

Meetings resumed at the end of June 2020 and were held virtually for the remainder of 2020/21. These are either broadcast live or recorded and uploaded to allow the public to view proceedings while Covid restrictions prevent physical meetings with public attendance.

The impact on the Council's operations during the period of emergency included the following:

- Impact on the delivery of business as usual services
- New areas of activity as part of the national and local response to the emergency
- The funding and logistical consequences of delivering the response
- Assessment of the long-term disruption and consequences arising from the pandemic
- Planning for recovery and renewal of service delivery for the future

Planned Actions for 2021/22

The Council has a number of planned actions for 2021-22 which will help to further strengthen the governance framework:

- Building on the existing governance structure in place for the Transformation and Renewal Programme, which includes a Transformation Board and the Executive Leadership Team, work is being finalised to fully embed a corporate monitoring framework which will underpin the programme.
- Further strengthening of governance and monitoring arrangements across programme boards and the Executive Leadership Team, due to the scale and complexity of the Growth and Investment portfolio.
- Revising and relaunching the Whistleblowing Policy
- Revising the Locality Partnership Standing Orders
- Developing and implementing processes and software which will enable 'hybrid' Committee meetings to be held utilising both physical and remote attendance.

Assurance

Subject to the above, and on the basis of the assurances provided, we consider the governance and internal control environment operating during 2020/21 to provide reasonable and objective assurance that any significant risks impacting on the achievement of our actions will be identified and actions taken to avoid or mitigate their impact. Systems are in place to continually review and improve the governance and internal control environment and action plans are in place to address identified areas for improvement.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in unprecedented impacts on the governance and operations of the Council throughout 2020/21.



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Craig Hatton
Chief Executive
27 September 2021



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Councillor Joe Cullinane
Leader of the Council
27 September 2021

Independent Auditor's Report to the members of North Ayrshire Council and the Accounts Commission

Reporting on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion on financial statements

We certify that we have audited the financial statements in the annual accounts of North Ayrshire Council and its group for the year ended 31 March 2021 under Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. The financial statements comprise the group and council-only Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, Movement in Reserves Statement, Balance Sheet, and Cash-Flow Statement, the council-only Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement, the Common Good Funds and Trusts, the Non-domestic Rate Account, and the Council Tax Income Account, and any other disclosures presented as financial statements and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) as adopted by the European Union, and as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21 (the 2020/21 Code).

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements:

- give a true and fair view in accordance with applicable law and the 2020/21 Code of the state of affairs of the council and its group as at 31 March 2021 and of the income and expenditure of the council and its group for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with IFRSs as adopted by the European Union, as interpreted and adapted by the 2020/21 Code; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, and the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)), as required by the Code of Audit Practice approved by the Accounts Commission for Scotland. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We were appointed by the Accounts Commission on 31 May 2016. The period of total uninterrupted appointment is 5 years. We are independent of the council and its group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. Non-audit services prohibited by the Ethical Standard were not provided to the council. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern basis of accounting

We have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

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

Risks of material misstatement

We report in a separate Annual Audit Report, available from the Audit Scotland website, the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement that we identified and our judgements thereon.

Responsibilities of the Head of Finance and North Ayrshire Council for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities, the Head of Finance is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting framework, and for such internal control as the Head of Finance determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Head of Finance 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.

The North Ayrshire Council is responsible for overseeing the financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our 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 our 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 our auditor's report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

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

- considering the nature of the council's control environment and reviewing the council's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to fraud and compliance with laws and regulations. We also enquired with management, internal audit and those charged with governance about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- obtaining an understanding of the applicable legal and regulatory framework and how the council is complying with that framework;
- identifying which laws and regulations are significant in the context of the council;
- assessing the susceptibility of the financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur; and
- considering whether the audit team collectively has the appropriate competence and capabilities to identify or recognise non-compliance with laws and regulations.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the body operates in, and identified the key laws and regulations that:

- had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. This included the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 and the Public Bodies (Joint Working) Scotland Act 2014.
- do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the body's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included the Data Protection Act 2018 and relevant employment legislation.

We discussed among the audit engagement team regarding the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements.

As a result of the performing the above, we identified the greatest potential for fraud was in relation to the recognition of COVID-19 related income. The risks are that the COVID-19 related income is incorrectly recorded where grant conditions exist and has not been correctly assessed and disclosed as either a principal or agency relationship. In response to this risk, we tested a sample of COVID-19 funding to confirm that it has been recognised in accordance with any conditions applicable. In addition, we have tested the agency arrangement disclosures to confirm that they have been correctly assessed and disclosed.

In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluated the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

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

- reviewing financial statement disclosures by testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- enquiring of management, internal audit and internal legal counsel concerning actual and potential litigation and claims, and instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing internal audit reports.

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

Irregularities that result from fraud are inherently more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error as fraud may involve collusion, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. The capability of the audit to detect fraud and other irregularities depends on factors such as the skilfulness of the perpetrator, the frequency and extent of manipulation, the degree of collusion involved, the relative size of individual amounts manipulated, and the seniority of those individuals involved.

Reporting on other requirements

Opinion prescribed by the Accounts Commission on the audited part of the Remuneration Report

We have audited the part of the Remuneration Report described as audited. In our opinion, the audited part of the Remuneration Report has been properly prepared in accordance with The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014.

Statutory other information

The Head of Finance is responsible for the statutory other information in the annual accounts. The statutory other information comprises the Management Commentary, Annual Governance Statement, Statement of Responsibilities and the unaudited part of the Remuneration Report.

Our responsibility is to read all the statutory other information and, in doing so, consider whether the statutory other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this statutory other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the statutory other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon except on the Management Commentary and Annual Governance Statement to the extent explicitly stated in the following opinions prescribed by the Accounts Commission.

Opinions prescribed by the Accounts Commission on Management Commentary and Annual Governance Statement

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

- the information given in the Management Commentary for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with statutory guidance issued under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003; 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 that report has been prepared in accordance with the Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016).

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We are required by the Accounts Commission to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements and the audited part of the Remuneration Report are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- there has been a failure to achieve a prescribed financial objective.

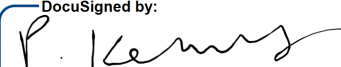
We have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

Conclusions on wider scope responsibilities

In addition to our responsibilities for the annual accounts, our conclusions on the wider scope responsibilities specified in the Code of Audit Practice, including those in respect of Best Value, are set out in our Annual Audit Report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the parties to whom it is addressed in accordance with Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and for no other purpose. In accordance with paragraph 120 of the Code of Audit Practice, we do not undertake to have responsibilities to members or officers, in their individual capacities, or to third parties.

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Pat Kenny, CPFA (for and on behalf of Deloitte LLP)
110 Queen Street
Glasgow
G1 3BX
United Kingdom
27 September 2021

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

The **Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)** shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation or rents. North Ayrshire Council raises taxation and rents to cover expenditure in accordance with statutory requirements, this may be different from the accounting costs. The taxation position is shown in both the Expenditure and Funding Analysis and the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The 2019/20 figures have been restated to reflect changes in the service structure, which do not change the Net Cost of Services reported for the year, and an adjustment in relation to the Clyde Valley Waste service concession arrangement as detailed in Note 3 on page 53.

	Notes	North Ayrshire Council 2020/21			Group	North Ayrshire Council 2019/20 (Restated)			Group
		Gross Expend £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expend £m	Net Expend £m	Gross Expend £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expend £m	Net Expend £m
Chief Executive		69.307	(43.012)	26.295	26.295	71.180	(45.397)	25.783	25.783
Communities		155.559	(27.524)	128.035	128.019	147.616	(22.164)	125.452	126.057
Place		136.736	(31.417)	105.319	105.319	142.993	(38.325)	104.668	104.668
Health and Social Care Partnership		250.149	(145.338)	104.811	104.811	233.626	(129.309)	104.317	104.317
Other Corporate Items		6.164	(2.022)	4.142	4.142	0.668	(0.802)	(0.134)	(0.134)
Cost Of General Fund Services		617.915	(249.313)	368.602	368.586	596.083	(235.997)	360.086	360.691
Housing Revenue Account		41.459	(50.531)	(9.072)	(9.072)	41.532	(49.524)	(7.992)	(7.992)
Net Cost of Services		659.374	(299.844)	359.530	359.514	637.615	(285.521)	352.094	352.699
Associates and joint ventures accounted for on an equity basis		-	-	-	(5.525)	-	-	-	(3.119)
Other Operating Expenditure and Income	4	0.001	-	0.001	0.001	-	(0.139)	(0.139)	(0.139)
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	5	44.046	(21.677)	22.369	22.366	48.110	(23.607)	24.503	24.466
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	8	-	(413.966)	(413.966)	(413.966)	-	(370.811)	(370.811)	(370.811)
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services		703.421	(735.487)	(32.066)	(37.610)	685.725	(680.078)	5.647	3.096
(Surplus) / Deficit on revaluation of fixed assets	31			(52.264)	(52.315)			(9.031)	(8.140)
Actuarial (gains)/losses on pension assets/liabilities	31			37.620	37.620			(102.295)	(102.295)
Share of other comprehensive expenditure and income of associates and joint ventures				-	0.440			-	(3.147)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				(14.644)	(14.255)			(111.326)	(113.582)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				(46.710)	(51.865)			(105.679)	(110.486)

Movement in Reserves Statement

The **Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRS)** shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into 'usable' reserves i.e. those which can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation and 'unusable' reserves.

The Statement shows how the movements of the Council's reserves in the year are broken down between gains and losses incurred in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices and the statutory adjustments required to return the amounts chargeable to Council Tax or rents for the year. The Net Increase/(Decrease) line shows the statutory General Fund Balance and Housing Revenue Account Balance movements in the year, following those adjustments.

The 2019/20 figures have been restated in relation to the adjustments for the Clyde Valley Waste service concession arrangement as detailed in Note 3 on page 53.

	Notes	General Fund Balance £m	Statutory Housing Revenue Account £m	Capital and Other Reserves £m	Total Usable Reserves £m	Unusable Reserves (Restated) £m	Total Authority Reserves £m	Council's Share of Group Entity Reserves £m	Total Group Reserves £m
Balance at 1 April 2019		31.863	12.413	9.251	53.527	348.955	402.482	32.430	434.912
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income		(23.085)	17.438	-	(5.647)	111.326	105.679	4.807	110.486
<i>Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations</i>	11	26.276	(18.953)	(1.991)	5.332	(5.332)	-	-	-
Net increase/(decrease) before transfers to other statutory reserves		3.191	(1.515)	(1.991)	(0.315)	105.994	105.679	4.807	110.486
Transfers to/(from) other statutory reserves		(0.472)	-	0.472	-	-	-	-	-
Net Increase/(Decrease)	12	2.719	(1.515)	(1.519)	(0.315)	105.994	105.679	4.807	110.486
Balance at 31 March 2020	12, 31	34.582	10.898	7.732	53.212	454.949	508.161	37.237	545.398
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income		11.077	20.989	-	32.066	14.644	46.710	5.155	51.865
<i>Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations</i>	11	20.564	(17.666)	(1.411)	1.487	(1.487)	-	-	-
Net increase/(decrease) before transfers to other statutory reserves		31.641	3.323	(1.411)	33.553	13.157	46.710	5.155	51.865
Transfers to/(from) other statutory reserves		(0.179)	-	0.179	-	-	-	-	-
Net Increase/(Decrease)	11	31.462	3.323	(1.232)	33.553	13.157	46.710	5.155	51.865
Balance at 31 March 2021	12, 31	66.044	14.221	6.500	86.765	468.106	554.871	42.392	597.263

Balance Sheet

The **Balance Sheet** is a snapshot of the value at the reporting date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council. The net assets of the Council (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Council.

Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves are usable reserves, i.e. those reserves that the Council may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use (for example the Capital Reserve may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay loan charges). The second category of reserves is those that the Council is not able to use to provide services. This category of reserve includes those that hold unrealised gains or losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold, and reserves that hold differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line 'Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'.

The balances as at 31 March 2020 have been restated in relation to the adjustments for the Clyde Valley Waste service concession arrangement as detailed in Note 3 on page 53.

	Notes	As at 31 March 2021 £m	Group 31 March 2021 £m	As at 31 March 2020 (Restated) £m	Group 31 March 2020 £m
Property, Plant & Equipment	13	1,095.421	1,099.448	1,012.078	1,016.148
Heritage Assets	16	1.327	1.327	1.327	1.327
Intangible Assets	17	0.265	0.265	0.537	0.537
Assets Held for Sale	15	1.002	1.002	0.740	0.740
Long Term Investments		-	0.154	0.350	0.504
Investment in Associates and Joint Ventures		-	31.413	-	27.571
Long Term Debtors	20	0.439	0.147	0.649	0.147
Long Term Assets		1,098.454	1,133.756	1,015.681	1,046.974
Inventories	23	1.451	1.451	1.140	1.140
Short Term Investments	20	10.025	10.025	30.031	30.031
Short Term Debtors	24	53.491	53.536	42.913	42.952
Cash and Cash Equivalents	38	29.912	29.912	5.777	5.777
Current Assets		94.879	94.924	79.861	79.900
Short Term Borrowing	26	(52.661)	(52.661)	(90.719)	(90.719)
Short Term Creditors	27	(91.502)	(82.870)	(65.641)	(56.867)
Short Term Provisions	28	(1.322)	(1.322)	(2.699)	(2.699)
Current Liabilities		(145.485)	(136.853)	(159.059)	(150.285)
Long Term Borrowing	21	(208.417)	(208.417)	(198.392)	(198.392)
Long Term Creditors	21	(103.983)	(103.983)	(107.814)	(107.814)
Other Long Term Liabilities	30	(180.577)	(180.577)	(122.116)	(122.116)
Liabilities in Associates and Joint Ventures	39	-	(1.587)	-	(2.869)
Long Term Liabilities		(492.977)	(494.564)	(428.322)	(431.191)
Net Assets		554.871	597.263	508.161	545.398
Usable Reserves	12	86.765	86.765	53.212	53.212
Unusable Reserves	31	468.106	468.106	454.949	454.949
Group Reserves	39	-	42.392	-	37.237
Total Reserves		554.871	597.263	508.161	545.398



The unaudited accounts were issued on 23 June 2021 and the audited accounts were authorised for issue on 27 September 2021.

DocuSigned by:

Mark Boyd
Mark Boyd-477...

Head of Finance
27 September 2021

Cash Flow Statement

The **Cash Flow Statement** shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Council during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Council generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities.

The amount of net cash flows arising from operating activities is a key indicator of the extent to which the operations of the Council are funded by way of taxation and grant income or from the recipients of services provided by the Council.

Investing activities represent the extent to which cash outflows have been made for resources which are intended to contribute to the Council's future service delivery. This includes expenditure on capital investment and income from capital receipts and grants.

Cash flows arising from financing activities are useful in predicting claims on future cash flows by providers of capital (i.e. borrowing) to the Council and include any repayment of borrowing or new borrowing made during the year.

	Notes	NAC 2020/21 £m	Group 2020/21 £m	NAC 2019/20 (Restated) £m	Group 2019/20 £m
Net (Surplus)/Deficit on the provision of services		(32.066)	(37.610)	5.647	3.096
Adjust net surplus on the provision of services for non-cash movements	35	(89.478)	(83.934)	(71.336)	(68.539)
Adjust for items included in the net deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	35	50.337	50.337	39.973	39.973
Net cash flows from Operating Activities		(71.207)	(71.207)	(25.716)	(25.470)
Investing Activities	36	13.543	13.543	60.358	60.358
Financing Activities	37	33.529	33.529	(25.867)	(25.867)
Net (increase) or decrease in Cash and Cash Equivalents		(24.135)	(24.135)	8.775	9.021
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		(5.777)	(5.777)	(14.552)	(14.798)
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the reporting period	38	(29.912)	(29.912)	(5.777)	(5.777)

Housing Revenue Account

The **Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Income and Expenditure Statement** shows the cost in the year of providing housing services after making the necessary accounting entries in line with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from rents and government grants.

Councils charge rents to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may differ from the accounting cost. The increase or decrease in the year, on the basis of which rents are raised, is shown in the Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement.

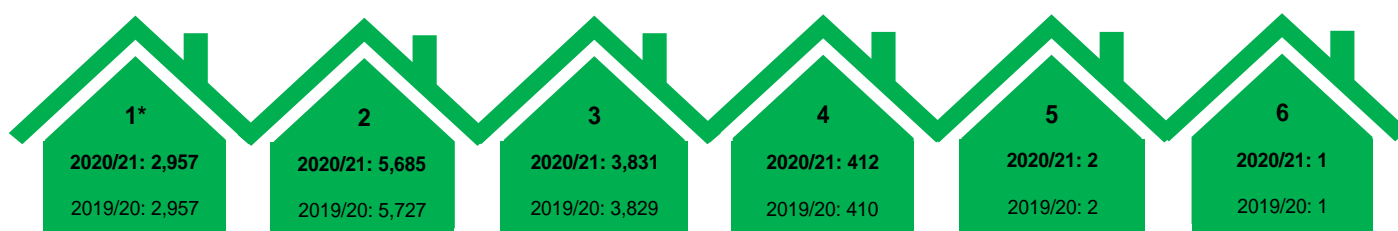
	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Income		
Dwelling Rents	(49.657)	(48.096)
Non-dwelling Rents	(0.282)	(0.306)
Other Income	(0.397)	(0.806)
Total Income	(50.336)	(49.208)
Expenditure		
Repairs and Maintenance	16.027	16.645
Supervision and Management	9.219	10.051
Depreciation and Impairment on Non-Current Assets	15.046	14.000
Bad Debts and movement in Bad Debt Provision	0.829	0.456
Rent, Rates, Taxes and Other Charges	0.038	0.044
Sums directed by Scottish Government Ministers that are expenditure in accordance with IFRS	0.105	0.020
Total Expenditure	41.264	41.216
Net Income of Services as included in the CIES	(9.072)	(7.992)
Corporate & Democratic Core	0.137	0.166
Net Income for HRA Services	(8.935)	(7.826)
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income and Expenditure	(17.020)	(14.623)
(Gain)/Loss on Sale of HRA Non-Current Assets	(0.014)	(0.026)
Interest Payable and Similar Charges	4.924	4.981
Interest and Investment Income	(0.035)	(0.093)
Pension Interest Cost and Expected Return on Pension Assets	0.091	0.149
Surplus for the Year on HRA Services	(20.989)	(17.438)

Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Surplus for the Year on HRA Income and Expenditure Statement	(20.989)	(17.438)
Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under statute	17.666	18.953
Reduction in Year on the HRA	(3.323)	1.515
Balance on the HRA at 1 April 2020	(10.898)	(12.413)
Balance on the HRA at 31 March 2021	(14.221)	(10.898)

Housing Stock

The Council's total housing stock at 31 March 2021 was 12,888 (12,926 at 31 March 2020) in the following categories:



*Includes Studio and One bedroom

Statutory Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Gain / (Loss) on sale of HRA non-current assets	0.014	0.026
Capital expenditure funded by the HRA	12.252	15.516
Transfer (to)/from the Capital Adjustment Account:		
Depreciation and Impairment	(15.046)	(14.000)
Repayment of Debt	3.832	3.269
Capital grants and contributions that have been applied to capital financing	17.020	14.623
HRA share of contributions to the Pensions Reserve	(0.651)	(0.802)
HRA share of transfer to the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	0.324	0.315
Difference between any other item of income and expenditure determined in accordance with the Code and determined in accordance with statutory HRA requirements	(0.079)	0.006
Total Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under statute	17.666	18.953

Other Information

	2020/21	2019/20
Average weekly rent (52 weeks)	£74.45	£72.29
Bad debts written off in respect of former tenants	£0.221m	£0.319m
Total Rent Arrears	£3.957m	£2.368m
Bad Debt Provision - housing rents	£1.844m	£1.333m
Bad Debt Provision - other debtors	£0.789m	£0.690m
Void Rent Loss	£0.252m	£0.292m

Common Good and Trusts

The Common Good Funds administered by the Council are for the general benefit of its communities. They were established either by Royal Charter or by former authorities.

In North Ayrshire, six funds exist for the former burghs of Ardrossan, Irvine, Largs, Millport, Saltcoats and Stevenston.

The balances reported below do not represent assets available to the Council. As such, these balances have been included in the Council's balance sheet under creditors.

None of the Common Good Funds are registered charities.

Movement in Reserves Statement	Ardrossan £m	Irvine £m	Largs £m	Millport £m	Saltcoats £m	Stevenston £m	Total £m
Balance at 1 April 2020	0.532	2.512	0.664	0.167	0.017	0.249	4.141
Surplus/(Deficit) For the Year	0.038	(0.024)	(0.017)	-	-	0.014	0.011
Surplus on the Disposal of Assets	-	0.002	-	-	-	-	0.002
Surplus/(Deficit) on the Revaluation of Fixed Assets	(0.010)	(0.050)	0.051	(0.008)	-	(0.010)	(0.027)
Balance at 31 March 2021	0.560	2.440	0.698	0.159	0.017	0.253	4.127

Income and Expenditure Account	Ardrossan £m	Irvine £m	Largs £m	Millport £m	Saltcoats £m	Stevenston £m	Total £m
Income	(0.039)	(0.054)	(0.013)	-	-	(0.015)	(0.121)
Expenditure	0.001	0.078	0.030	-	-	0.001	0.110
(Surplus)/Deficit For the Year	(0.038)	0.024	0.017	-	-	(0.014)	(0.011)
Capital Receipts	-	(0.002)	-	-	-	-	(0.002)
Surplus Brought Forward	(0.242)	(1.124)	(0.460)	(0.067)	(0.017)	(0.159)	(2.069)
Accumulated Surplus as at 31 March 2021	(0.280)	(1.102)	(0.443)	(0.067)	(0.017)	(0.173)	(2.082)

Balance Sheet at 31 March 2021	Ardrossan £m	Irvine £m	Largs £m	Millport £m	Saltcoats £m	Stevenston £m	Total £m
Investment Properties	0.280	1.338	0.255	0.092	-	0.080	2.045
Cash invested in NAC on behalf of the funds	0.280	1.102	0.443	0.067	0.017	0.173	2.082
	0.560	2.440	0.698	0.159	0.017	0.253	4.127
Capital Adjustments Account	-	(1.025)	(0.093)	-	-	(0.066)	(1.184)
Revaluation Reserve	(0.280)	(0.313)	(0.162)	(0.092)	-	(0.014)	(0.861)
Common Good Balance	(0.280)	(1.102)	(0.443)	(0.067)	(0.017)	(0.173)	(2.082)
	(0.560)	(2.440)	(0.698)	(0.159)	(0.017)	(0.253)	(4.127)

The Trusts administered by the Council do not represent assets available to the Council. As such, these cash balances have been included in the Council's balance sheet under creditors. The Trust statement below is prepared on an accruals basis. This differs from the Trustees' Annual Reports, required by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) where the Council is sole trustee, which are prepared on a receipts and payments basis. A Trustees' Annual Report has been prepared for all trusts except 'Other Bequests', which are not registered with OSCR.

Income and Expenditure Account	North Ayrshire Charitable Trust £m	Town Trusts £m	Douglas Sellers Trust £m	Anderson Park Trust £m	Margaret Archibald Trust £m	Other Bequests £m	Total £m
Surplus at 1 April 2020	(0.086)	(0.050)	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.184)	(0.042)	(0.364)
Income	(0.006)	-	-	-	(0.007)	-	(0.013)
Expenditure	0.001	0.001	-	-	0.003	-	0.005
(Surplus) / Deficit at 31 March 2021	(0.005)	0.001	-	-	(0.004)	-	(0.008)
Accumulated (surplus) / deficit at 31 March 2021	(0.091)	(0.049)	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.188)	(0.042)	(0.372)

Balance Sheet at 31 March 2021	North Ayrshire Charitable Trust £m	Town Trusts £m	Douglas Sellers Trust £m	Anderson Park Trust £m	Margaret Archibald Trust £m	Other Bequests £m	Total £m
Investment Properties	0.145	-	-	-	-	-	0.145
Investments	0.013	-	-	-	0.140	0.001	0.154
Cash invested in NAC on behalf of the Funds	0.078	0.049	0.001	0.001	0.048	0.041	0.218
	0.236	0.049	0.001	0.001	0.188	0.042	0.517
Capital Adjustments Account	(0.026)	-	-	-	-	-	(0.026)
Revaluation Reserve	(0.119)	-	-	-	-	-	(0.119)
Trust Fund Balance	(0.091)	(0.049)	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.188)	(0.042)	(0.372)
	(0.236)	(0.049)	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.188)	(0.042)	(0.517)

Trust	Purpose of funds
North Ayrshire Charitable Trust	For the prevention or relief of poverty, the provision of recreational facilities, or the organisation of recreational activities, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the persons for whom the facilities or activities are primarily intended and the relief of those in need by reason of age, ill health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage; and for the upkeep of war memorials and for the encouragement and promotion of education.
Town Trusts	For the prevention or relief of poverty, the provision of recreational facilities, or the organisation of recreational activities, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the persons for whom the facilities or activities are primarily intended and the relief of those in need by reason of age, ill health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.
Douglas Sellers Trust	For the provision of recreational facilities, or the organisation of recreational activities in the Burgh of Irvine.
Anderson Park Trust	For the provision of recreational facilities, or the organisation of recreational activities in the Burgh of Largs.
Margaret Archibald Trust	For the relief of those in need aged 65 years and over and who reside in the Parish of Dalry.
Other Bequests	For the provision of school prizes at designated schools (Education Bequests); or for the maintenance of specific lairs within cemeteries (Burial Trusts); or other sundry purposes.

Non-Domestic Rates Account

The Non-Domestic Rates Account is a statement that shows the gross income from rates and deductions made under statute.

The net income is paid to the Scottish Government as a contribution to the National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) pool.

The table below details the actual levels of NNDR collected by North Ayrshire Council, and the overall difference between the rates collected and the amount that the Council is entitled to receive under the national pooling arrangement.

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Gross rates levied	57.612	57.132
Less:		
Reliefs and other deductions	(29.408)	(14.066)
Write-offs of Uncollectable debts and allowance for impairment	(0.458)	(0.608)
Net Non-Domestic Rate Income	27.746	42.458
Adjustment for years prior to the introduction of the pool	(2.310)	(1.490)
Net contribution (to) / from National Non-Domestic Rate pool	(0.419)	0.156
Net NDR Income	25.017	41.124
Non Domestic Rates Income Retained (BRIS)	-	-
Net NDR Income transferred to General Fund	25.017	41.124

Net Rateable Value Calculation

The amount paid for NNDR is determined by the rateable value placed on the property by the Assessor multiplied by the rate per £, which is determined each year by the Scottish Government.

The NNDR poundage rate set by the Scottish Government for 2020/21 was 52.4p for subjects with a rateable value more than £95,000, 51.1p for subjects with a rateable value of more than £51,000 but equal to or less than £95,000 and 49.8p for subjects with a rateable value equal to or less than £51,000.

North Ayrshire Council Rateable Values at 1 April 2020	£m
Commercial	76.796
Industrial and Freight Transport	31.640
Public Undertakings	4.153
Others	1.690
Less: Part Residential and Fishing Rights rateable values not billed for	(0.227)
Total	114.052

Analysis of Rateable Values	2020/21 £m
Rateable Value at 1 April 2020	114.052
Adjustments (Full Year Rateable Value)	(0.814)
Rateable Value at 31 March 2021	113.238
Less: Wholly Exempt Subjects	(1.075)
Net Rateable Value at 31 March 2021	112.163

Council Tax Account

The Council Tax Account shows the gross income raised from council taxes levied and deductions made under Statute.

The resultant net income is transferred to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement of the Council.

Local authorities raise taxes from their residents through Council Tax, which is a tax linked to property values. Each dwelling in a local Council area is placed into one of eight valuation bands (A to H).

The Council determines the annual tax for a band D property and all other properties are charged a proportion of this, with lower valued properties (bands A to C) paying less and higher valued properties (bands E to H) paying more.

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Gross Council Tax levied and contributions in lieu	85.052	80.671
Adjustment for prior years Council Tax	(0.677)	0.757
	84.375	81.428
Adjusted for:		
Council Tax Reduction	(12.877)	(11.609)
Other discounts and reductions	(11.069)	(10.729)
Provision for Non-collection	(3.094)	(2.079)
	(27.040)	(24.417)
Net Council Tax Income transferred to General Fund	57.335	57.011

North Ayrshire Council Tax per Band

Based on the Council Tax base available to North Ayrshire Council, the band D charge for 2020/21 was £1,342.69.

2019/20 £	Band	2020/21 £
853.80	A	895.12
996.10	B	1,044.31
1,138.40	C	1,193.49
1,280.70	D	1,342.69
1,682.69	E	1,764.14
2,081.13	F	2,181.86
2,508.03	G	2,629.42
3,137.71	H	3,289.58

Calculation of Council Tax Base

Properties can be exempt if they are unoccupied or occupied by certain categories of resident.

A reduction may be applied if a resident is disabled.

A discount of 25% is available for properties occupied by one liable person aged 18 or over.

	Number of Dwellings	Number of Exempt Dwellings	Disabled Relief	Discounts	Council Tax Reduction	Total Number of Dwellings	Ratio to Band D	2020/21 Band D Equivalent Dwellings	2019/20 Band D Equivalent Dwellings
Band A*			(45)	6	29	10	56%	6	7
Band A	21,723	1,136	(46)	3,420	6,706	10,507	67%	7,005	7,166
Band B	18,483	456	58	2,171	4,089	11,709	78%	9,107	9,186
Band C	7,254	187	(8)	939	951	5,185	89%	4,609	4,616
Band D	7,071	139	(48)	738	489	5,753	100%	5,753	5,737
Band E	8,997	140	52	736	308	7,761	131%	10,197	10,218
Band F	4,039	61	26	254	84	3,614	163%	5,873	5,857
Band G	1,218	19	9	69	26	1,095	196%	2,144	2,148
Band H	58	-	2	7	-	49	245%	120	123
Contributions in respect of classes 17 and 24 dwellings: Band D equivalent								4	4
Sub-total						45,683		44,818	45,062
Less Bad Debt Provision at 3.5%								(1,569)	(1,577)
Council Tax Base								43,249	43,485

* Band A* relates to Band A properties subject to disabled relief.

Note 1: Expenditure and Funding Analysis

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

The 2019/20 figures have been restated to reflect changes in the service structure, which do not change the Net Cost of Services reported for the year, and an adjustment in relation to the Clyde Valley Waste service concession arrangement as detailed in Note 3 on page 53.

	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA balances £m	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis £m	Net Expenditure in the CIES £m	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA balances £m	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis £m	Net Expenditure in the CIES £m
Chief Executive	23.408	2.887	26.295	21.615	4.168	25.783
Communities	137.499	(9.464)	128.035	129.664	(4.212)	125.452
Place	62.660	42.659	105.319	60.867	43.801	104.668
Health and Social Care Partnership	99.899	4.912	104.811	97.973	6.344	104.317
Other Corporate Items	4.212	(0.070)	4.142	5.642	(5.776)	(0.134)
Cost Of General Fund Services	327.678	40.924	368.602	315.761	44.325	360.086
Housing Revenue Account	8.732	(17.804)	(9.072)	11.128	(19.120)	(7.992)
Net Cost of Services	336.410	23.120	359.530	326.889	25.205	352.094
Other Income and Expenditure	(371.374)	(20.222)	(391.596)	(328.565)	(17.882)	(346.447)
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	(34.964)	2.898	(32.066)	(1.676)	7.323	5.647
General Fund and HRA Balance at 1 April	(45.480)			(44.276)		
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	(34.964)			(1.676)		
Transfers to/from Other Statutory Reserves	0.179			0.472		
General Fund and HRA Balance at 31 March (Note 12)	(80.265)			(45.480)		

For statutory accounting purposes, the undernoted adjustments are required to be included within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. These adjustments are not charged to the Council for Council Tax or Rent setting purposes and are excluded from the General Fund and HRA Balances available to support services.

Adjustments from the General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	2020/21			
	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (Note A) £m	Net Change for Pension Adjustments (Note B) £m	Other Differences (Note C) £m	Total Adjustments £m
Chief Executive	1.536	1.974	(0.623)	2.887
Communities	0.126	4.436	(14.026)	(9.464)
Place	36.109	5.924	0.626	42.659
Health and Social Care Partnership	0.101	6.440	(1.629)	4.912
Other Corporate Items	(0.019)	(1.667)	1.616	(0.070)
Cost Of General Fund Services	37.853	17.107	(14.036)	40.924
Housing Revenue Account	(18.073)	0.651	(0.382)	(17.804)
Net Cost of Services	19.780	17.758	(14.418)	23.120
Other Income and Expenditure from the Funding Analysis	(43.043)	3.083	19.738	(20.222)
Difference between the General Fund surplus and the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit	(23.263)	20.841	5.320	2.898

Adjustments from the General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	2019/20 (Restated)			
	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (Note A) £m	Net Change for Pension Adjustments (Note B) £m	Other Differences (Note C) £m	Total Adjustments £m
Chief Executive	1.208	2.877	0.083	4.168
Communities	0.580	6.405	(11.197)	(4.212)
Place	35.909	8.810	(0.918)	43.801
Health and Social Care Partnership	0.029	9.144	(2.829)	6.344
Other Corporate Items	0.237	(7.487)	1.474	(5.776)
Cost Of General Fund Services	37.963	19.749	(13.387)	44.325
Housing Revenue Account	(19.434)	0.801	(0.487)	(19.120)
Net Cost of Services	18.529	20.550	(13.874)	25.205
Other Income and Expenditure from the Funding Analysis	(36.919)	4.919	14.118	(17.882)
Difference between the General Fund surplus and the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit	(18.390)	25.469	0.244	7.323

Note A Adjustments for Capital Purposes

This column includes depreciation and impairment of non-current assets, amortisation of intangible assets, capital grants and contributions which have been applied to capital financing, gains and losses on the disposal of non-current assets, statutory charges for the financing of capital investment, capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances and any adjustments involving the Capital Fund.

Note B Pensions Adjustments

Net change for the removal of pension contributions and the addition of IAS 19 *Employee Benefits* pension related expenditure and income. 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; and the net interest on the defined benefit liability charged to the CIES.

Note C Other Differences

Other differences between amounts debited/credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and amounts payable/receivable to be recognised under statute include the amount by which finance costs charged to the CIES are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements, the amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CIES on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements and the removal of the impact of internal recharges and Agency transactions in accordance with Code requirements.

Note 2: Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature

This note details the subjective analysis of the Gross Income and Expenditure reported on the Comprehensive income and Expenditure Statement.

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m (Restated)
Expenditure		
Employee Benefits Expenses	277.070	263.517
Other Service Expenses	329.406	322.110
Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	52.898	51.988
Interest Payments	44.046	48.110
Losses on Disposal of Assets	0.001	-
Total Expenditure	703.421	685.725
Income		
Fees, Charges and Other Service Income	(299.844)	(285.521)
Gains on Disposal of Assets	-	(0.139)
Interest and Investment Income	(21.677)	(23.607)
Council Tax	(57.335)	(57.011)
Government Grants and Contributions	(356.631)	(313.800)
Total Income	(735.487)	(680.078)
Deficit on the Provision of Services	(32.066)	5.647

Revenue from Contracts with Service Recipients

Income from service recipients is recognised as performance obligations are satisfied, normally as services are rendered or goods are provided. North Ayrshire Council has examined the revenue received from contracts with service recipients and has determined that the disclosure of Fees, Charges and Other Service Income provides sufficient information and there are no other material income factors requiring further disclosures. New income streams will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Note 3: Restatement of Opening Balances

During 2019/20 North Ayrshire Council entered into a 25 year contract for the operation of a waste recycling facility under the Clyde Valley Waste project. This contract has been identified as containing a service concession arrangement. To recognise the proper accounting arrangements for this contract, the balances at 31 March 2020 have been restated to include the value of the asset and liabilities, including:

Property Plant and Equipment	£4.530m	Short Term Creditors	(£0.122m)
Long Term Creditors	(£4.383m)	Unusable Reserves	(£0.025m)

Full details of the contract are included at Note 19: Private Finance Initiatives, Non Profit Distributing Models and Similar Contracts.

Note 4: Other Operating Expenditure and Income

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
(Gains)/losses on the disposal of non current assets	0.001	(0.139)
Total	0.001	(0.139)

Note 5: Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Interest payable and similar charges	19.284	19.667
Pensions interest cost and expected return on pensions assets	3.171	5.067
Interest receivable and similar income	(0.086)	(0.231)
Total	22.369	24.503

Note 6: Material Items

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) includes material items in relation to actuarial losses on the net pension liability, £37.6m as detailed in Note 30, related to reduced inflation assumptions, resulting in an increase in the value of pension liabilities, partly offset by an increase in the return on Scheme assets, and additional Scottish Government grants to support the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic, (£31.3m).

Note 7: Agency Services

The Council has received the following fee income in relation to the collection of water rates on behalf of Scottish Water:

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Agency income from Scottish Water	(0.514)	(0.515)
Cost of Collection associated with Scottish Water income	0.078	0.125

Additional fee income has been recognised in relation to other agency payments made on behalf of the Scottish Government to support businesses and individuals as follows:

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Agency income from Business Grants	(0.255)	-
Agency income from Other Grants	(0.065)	-

These grants related to the payments to businesses and individuals in relation to the following schemes:

	£m	£m
Business Grants Paid to Third Parties	39.244	-
Hardship Grants	1.048	-
Early Learning & Childcare Grants	0.200	-
Self-isolation Grants	0.101	-
Transport and Employability Grants	0.047	-

The Council also bills and collects Non-Domestic Rates on behalf of the Scottish Government. During 2020/21 the Council collected £25.436m which was reduced by (£0.419m) from the National Non-Domestic Rates Pool. (2019/20: £40.968m and increase of £0.156m).

Note 8: Grant Income

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

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income		
General Revenue Grant	(281.545)	(233.566)
Council Tax	(57.335)	(57.011)
Capital Grants and Contributions	(50.069)	(39.110)
Non-Domestic Rates	(25.017)	(41.124)
Total	(413.966)	(370.811)
Credited to Services		
Housing Benefit Funding	(39.030)	(41.895)
Health Resource Transfer	(24.082)	(23.381)
Early Years	(12.440)	(7.294)
COVID-19 HSCP Grant	(6.536)	-
Attainment Grant	(5.497)	(5.730)
Pupil Equity Fund	(3.935)	(4.657)
Criminal Justice Grant	(3.439)	(3.385)
Schools for the Future	(3.369)	(3.367)
Adult Social Care Winter Plan	(3.248)	-
Further Integration Authority Support	(2.831)	-
Additional Teachers & Support Staff	(1.439)	-
EMA & Activity Agreements	(0.786)	(0.647)
Better Off North Ayrshire	(0.661)	(0.145)
Benefit Admin Subsidy	(0.657)	(0.605)
Syrian Relocation Grant	(0.635)	(0.724)
Vulnerable Children & Young People	(0.553)	-
Free School Meals	(0.525)	-
Pipeline Grant	(0.516)	(0.566)
Care Experienced Children & Young People	(0.515)	(0.268)
Community Living Change Fund	(0.513)	-
COVID-19 Discretionary Fund	(0.462)	-
Support for People at Risk	(0.455)	-
Sports Facilities Grant	(0.422)	(0.372)
General Capital Grant	(0.362)	(0.612)
No-One Left Behind	(0.300)	(0.100)
Additional Discretionary Housing	(0.288)	-
Parental Employability Support	(0.256)	-
Equalities Unit Funding	(0.210)	(0.210)
Paths for All	(0.203)	(0.247)
Creative Scotland Grants	(0.173)	(0.176)
European Regional Development Fund	(0.173)	(0.147)
Skills Development Scotland	(0.125)	(0.253)
Making Waves Tourism Grant	(0.101)	(0.395)
Other Minor Grants	(2.121)	(1.762)
Total	(116.858)	(96.938)

Note 9: External Audit Costs

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

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Fees payable with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year	0.310	0.303
Total	0.310	0.303

Note 10: Leases

Council as Lessee

Operating Leases

The Council has acquired a suite of fitness equipment and a fleet of electric vehicles by entering into operating leases, with typical lives of between three and five years.

The future minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable leases in future years are:

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Not later than one year	0.147	0.099
Later than one year and not later than five years	0.337	0.046
	0.484	0.145

The expenditure charged to the CIES during the year in relation to these leases was:

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Minimum Lease Payments	0.131	0.120

Finance Leases

North Ayrshire Council has no finance leases where the Council is the lessee.

Council as Lessor

Finance Leases

North Ayrshire Council has no finance leases where the Council is the lessor.

Operating Leases

The Council leases out property and equipment under cancellable operating leases for the following purposes:

- for the provision of community services, such as leisure facilities; and
- for economic development purposes to provide suitable affordable premises for local businesses.

All Council operating leases are cancellable; therefore, no lease payments are receivable under non-cancellable leases.

Note 11: Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations

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

Movements in 2020/21	General Fund Balance	Statutory Housing Revenue Account	Capital and Other Reserves	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves
Reversal of items debited or credited to the CIES	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Charges for depreciation of non-current assets	32.244	15.016	-	47.260	(47.260)
Amortisation of intangible assets	0.272	-	-	0.272	(0.272)
Impairment of non-current assets	5.336	0.030	-	5.366	(5.366)
Capital grants and contributions that have been applied to capital financing	(33.049)	(17.020)	-	(50.069)	50.069
(Gains)/losses on the disposal of non-current assets	0.015	(0.014)	-	0.001	(0.001)
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	(8.366)	(3.832)	-	(12.198)	12.198
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	(1.643)	(12.252)	-	(13.895)	13.895
Adjustments involving the Capital Fund	-	-	(1.411)	(1.411)	1.411
Amount by which finance costs charged to the CIES are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(0.458)	(0.324)	-	(0.782)	0.782
Reversal of items relating to post employment benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the CIES	20.190	0.651	-	20.841	(20.841)
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CIES on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	6.023	0.079	-	6.102	(6.102)
Total Adjustments	20.564	(17.666)	(1.411)	1.487	(1.487)

Comparable Movements in 2019/20

Movements in 2019/20	General Fund Balance	Statutory Housing Revenue Account	Capital and Other Reserves	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves
Reversal of items debited or credited to the CIES	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Charges for depreciation of non current assets	31.584	15.024	-	46.608	(46.608)
Amortisation of intangible assets	0.385	-	-	0.385	(0.385)
Impairment of non-current assets	6.019	(1.024)	-	4.995	(4.995)
Capital grants and contributions that have been applied to capital financing	(24.487)	(14.623)	-	(39.110)	39.110
(Gain)/loss on the disposal of non-current assets	(0.113)	(0.026)	-	(0.139)	0.139
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	(12.319)	(3.268)	-	(15.587)	15.587
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	(0.025)	(15.517)	-	(15.542)	15.542
Adjustments involving the Capital Fund	-	-	(1.991)	(1.991)	1.991
Amount by which finance costs charged to the CIES are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(0.467)	(0.315)	-	(0.782)	0.782
Reversal of items relating to post employment benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the CIES	24.667	0.802	-	25.469	(25.469)
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CIES on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	1.032	(0.006)	-	1.026	(1.026)
Total Adjustments	26.276	(18.953)	(1.991)	5.332	(5.332)

Note 12: Transfers to/(from) Funds

	31 March 2020 £m	Income £m	Expenditure £m	31 March 2021 £m	Purpose of Reserve
General Fund Balance unearmarked	9.659	1.656	-	11.315	The balance represents 2.9% of budgeted expenditure.
Education DMR	0.341	0.014	(0.341)	0.014	Enables schools to carry forward balances to be utilised in future years.
Affordable Housing	3.081	1.093	(1.252)	2.922	Contributes towards the provision of new build social housing.
Loans Fund Reserve	9.389	3.676	(8.800)	4.265	Supports borrowing linked to the Capital Investment Programme.
Investment Fund	-	9.825	(0.250)	9.575	Supports environmental projects, infrastructure investment and Community Wealth Building activity
Renewal Fund	-	6.974	-	6.974	Supports delivery of the Council's Renewal and Recovery Strategy.
Change & Service Redesign Fund	3.144	-	(0.300)	2.844	This sum is earmarked for delivery of the Council's Change Programme.
Earmarked Funds	8.968	22.672	(3.505)	28.135	Various specific projects for which funds have been identified prior to 31 March 2021, but spending plans exist relating to 2021/22 or beyond.
General Fund Balance	34.582	45.910	(14.448)	66.044	
Housing Revenue Account	10.898	4.116	(0.793)	14.221	The balance on the HRA includes £5.6m earmarked for new house building and £1.5m retained as contingency.
HRA Balance	10.898	4.116	(0.793)	14.221	
Total General Fund and HRA Balances	45.480	50.026	(15.241)	80.265	
Insurance Fund	3.214	0.167	-	3.381	This fund meets the Council's share of outstanding claims against the Council and its predecessors and is subject to actuarial valuation on a triennial basis.
Capital Fund	4.518	0.012	(1.411)	3.119	Funds earmarked to support the 2021-2031 capital programme.
Other Reserves	7.732	0.179	(1.411)	6.500	
Total Usable Reserves	53.212	50.205	(16.652)	86.765	

Note 13: Property, Plant and Equipment

Movements in 2020/21:

	Council Dwellings £m	Other Land and Buildings £m	Vehicles, Plant, Equip £m	Infra- structure Assets £m	Comm- unity Assets £m	Surplus Assets £m	Assets under Const- ruction £m	Total £m	PPP/NPD Assets Included in P,P&E £m
Cost or Valuation									
Balance at 1 April 2020	447.254	450.231	40.653	131.628	4.001	5.757	66.040	1,145.564	114.046
Reclassification of Assets	8.440	11.072	1.363	4.607	0.017	0.085	(25.584)	-	-
Additions	9.588	0.834	3.552	5.675	0.170	-	64.417	84.236	0.001
Revaluations recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	37.700	(0.755)	-	-	-	0.025	-	36.970	-
Impairments recognised in the Net Cost of Services	-	(6.214)	-	-	-	-	-	(6.214)	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	(0.096)	(1.519)	-	-	(0.085)	-	(1.700)	-
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	-	(0.152)	-	-	-	-	-	(0.152)	-
Balance at 31 March 2021	502.982	454.920	44.049	141.910	4.188	5.782	104.873	1,258.704	114.047
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment									
Balance at 1 April 2020	-	44.593	33.711	54.283	0.899	-	-	133.486	10.688
Reclassification of Assets	0.009	(0.009)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation Charge	14.919	23.600	3.842	4.694	0.202	0.003	-	47.260	5.506
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	(14.928)	(0.257)	-	-	-	(0.003)	-	(15.188)	-
Depreciation written out to the Net Cost of Services	-	(0.822)	-	-	-	-	-	(0.822)	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	(0.011)	(1.442)	-	-	-	-	(1.453)	-
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31 March 2021	-	67.094	36.111	58.977	1.101	-	-	163.283	16.194
Net Book Value									
Balance at 31 March 2021	502.982	387.826	7.938	82.933	3.087	5.782	104.873	1,095.421	97.853
Balance at 31 March 2020	447.254	405.638	6.942	77.345	3.102	5.757	66.040	1,012.078	103.358

Comparative Movements in 2019/20:

The 2019/20 figures have been restated in relation to the adjustments for the Clyde Valley Waste service concession arrangement as detailed in Note 3 on page 53.

	Council Dwellings £m	Other Land and Buildings £m	Vehicles, Plant, Equip £m	Infra- structure Assets £m	Comm- unity Assets £m	Surplus Assets £m	Assets under Const- ruction £m	Total £m	PPP/NPD Assets Included in P,P&E £m
Cost or Valuation									
Balance at 1 April 2019	438.356	447.187	40.819	131.584	2.978	6.953	45.594	1,113.471	109.474
Reclassification of Assets	12.615	8.131	0.498	-	0.404	(1.076)	(20.572)	-	-
Additions	24.165	8.399	1.126	0.044	0.619	-	41.018	75.371	4.572
Revaluations recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	(27.882)	(3.918)	-	-	-	0.044	-	(31.756)	-
Impairments recognised in the Net Cost of Services	-	(8.485)	-	-	-	(0.160)	-	(8.645)	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	(0.788)	(1.790)	-	-	(0.004)	-	(2.582)	-
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	-	(0.295)	-	-	-	-	-	(0.295)	-
Balance at 31 March 2020	447.254	450.231	40.653	131.628	4.001	5.757	66.040	1,145.564	114.046
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment									
Balance at 1 April 2019	14.820	35.606	32.214	49.887	0.706	-	-	133.233	5.323
Reclassification of Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation Charge	14.928	23.869	3.262	4.396	0.193	0.003	-	46.651	5.365
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	(28.724)	(12.037)	-	-	-	(0.003)	-	(40.764)	-
Depreciation written out to the Net Cost of Services	(1.024)	(2.696)	-	-	-	-	-	(3.720)	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	(0.136)	(1.765)	-	-	-	-	(1.901)	-
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	-	(0.013)	-	-	-	-	-	(0.013)	-
Balance at 31 March 2020	-	44.593	33.711	54.283	0.899	-	-	133.486	10.688
Net Book Value									
Balance at 31 March 2020	447.254	405.638	6.942	77.345	3.102	5.757	66.040	1,012.078	103.358
Balance at 31 March 2019	423.536	411.581	8.605	81.697	2.272	6.953	45.594	980.238	104.151

Note 14: Fair Values

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

Fair values for the Council's Surplus Properties as at 31 March 2021 are as follows:

North Ayrshire Council	Fair Value as at 31 March 2021 £m	Fair Value as at 31 March 2020 £m
Land	5.705	5.680
Offices	0.077	0.077
Total	5.782	5.757

Fair values for the Investment Properties held by the Common Good and Trust Funds as at 31 March 2021 are as follows:

Common Good / Trusts	Fair Value as at 31 March 2021 £m	Fair Value as at 31 March 2020 £m
Land	1.150	1.168
Offices	0.712	0.770
Community use	0.273	0.279
Total	2.135	2.217

Note 15: Assets Held for Sale

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Balance at 1 April	0.740	0.548
Assets newly classified as held for sale:		
Property, Plant and Equipment	0.152	0.282
Revaluations	0.132	(0.047)
Assets disposed of during the year	(0.022)	(0.043)
Balance at 31 March	1.002	0.740

Note 16: Heritage Assets

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom defines a heritage asset as 'a tangible asset with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that is held and maintained principally for its contribution to knowledge and culture'.

All items are deemed to have indefinite lives and reasonably high residual values. Therefore, there is no depreciation charge associated with the Council's identified Heritage Assets.

North Ayrshire Council holds title to other Heritage Assets, whose value is not recognised in the Balance Sheet. This is either because the value is not material, or it has not been deemed practicable to obtain valuations, or there is no apparent market for their disposal.

Such assets can be grouped as follows:

- Castles
- Monuments
- War Memorials
- Museum and Gallery items valued at less than £10,000

The valuation of the assets has been undertaken by a combination of external and internal valuers including the valuation of Fine Art by Shapes Auctioneers and Valuers, 2009, and items of Fine Art, Silverware and Historic Artefacts valued by Bonhams, 2016. A valuation of the assets was partly carried out in 20/21 but could not be concluded without the presence of on-site specialists. This will be planned during 21/22 whenever it is practical to do so.

Reconciliation of the carrying value of Heritage Assets held by North Ayrshire Council:

Valuation	Civic Regalia and Silverware £m	Fine Art £m	Historical Artefacts £m	Public Artworks £m	Total £m
Balance at 1 April 2020	0.591	0.139	0.420	0.177	1.327
Movement in Year	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31 March 2021	0.591	0.139	0.420	0.177	1.327

Valuation	Civic Regalia and Silverware £m	Fine Art £m	Historical Artefacts £m	Public Artworks £m	Total £m
Balance at 1 April 2019	0.591	0.139	0.420	0.177	1.327
Movement in Year:	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31 March 2020	0.591	0.139	0.420	0.177	1.327

Note 17: Intangible Assets

The Council accounts for its software as intangible assets, to the extent that the software is not an integral part of a particular IT system and accounted for as part of the hardware item of Property, Plant and Equipment. The intangible assets are in respect of purchased licenses.

All software is given a finite useful life, based on assessments of the period that the software is expected to be of use to the Council. The useful lives assigned to the major software suites used by the Council are 5 to 6 years. The carrying amount of intangible assets is amortised on a straight-line basis. The movement on Intangible Asset balances during the year is as follows:

Long Term Intangible Assets	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Balance at start of year:		
Gross carrying amounts	4.627	4.627
Accumulated amortisation	(4.090)	(3.705)
Net carrying amount at start of year	0.537	0.922
Amortisation for the period	(0.272)	(0.385)
Net carrying amount at end of year	0.265	0.537
Comprising:		
Gross carrying amounts	4.627	4.627
Accumulated amortisation	(4.362)	(4.090)
	0.265	0.537

Note 18: Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

The total amount of capital expenditure incurred in the year is shown in the following table, together with the resources that have been used to finance it. Where capital expenditure is to be financed in future years by charges to revenue as assets are used by the Council, the expenditure results in an increase in the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), a measure of the capital expenditure incurred historically by the Council that has yet to be financed. The table below excludes those assets acquired under PFI or similar contracts (see Note 19).

	2020/21		2019/20	
	General Fund £m	HRA £m	General Fund £m	HRA £m
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	184.896	124.554	187.368	120.312
Capital investment				
Property, Plant and Equipment	39.948	-	33.039	-
Intangible Assets	-	-	-	-
Council Dwellings	-	44.287	-	37.759
	39.948	44.287	33.039	37.759
Sources of finance				
Sale of other Assets	0.255	0.013	0.754	0.109
Grants and other contributions	33.049	17.020	24.487	14.623
Contribution from Reserves	1.411	-	1.991	-
Direct revenue contributions	1.643	12.252	-	15.517
Loans Fund Principal	4.662	3.832	8.279	3.268
	41.020	33.117	35.511	33.517
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	183.824	135.724	184.896	124.554

Depreciation

As highlighted in Note 43: Accounting Policies, under Property, Plant and Equipment on pages 96 to 98, depreciation is provided for on a straight-line basis inclusive of the year of acquisition. The period for each applicable category is shown in the following table:

Category	Useful Life (Years)	Valuer	Basis of Valuation	Date of last full valuation
Council Dwellings	25	District Valuer	Existing Use Value for Social Housing 'Beacon Principle'	31/03/2020*
Other Land and Buildings	50-60	Internal RICS Valuer	Open Market Value Existing Use or Depreciated Replacement Cost Existing Use (Specialised Operational Properties)	Valued on a 5 year rolling programme
Other Land & Buildings - Schools	50-60	Internal RICS Valuer	Depreciated Replacement Cost Existing Use	Valued on a 5 year rolling programme
Surplus	50	Internal RICS Valuer	Fair Value (Market Value) Highest and Best Use	31/03/2021
Vehicles	4-7	n/a	Historical Cost	n/a
Infrastructure Assets	30	n/a	Historical Cost	n/a
Plant and Equipment	5-20	n/a	Historical Cost	n/a
Community Assets	20	n/a	Historical Cost	n/a

* a desktop review was carried out during 2020/21 which resulted in a revaluation adjustment for Council Dwellings, this adjustment is reported in Note 13, above.

Commitments under capital contracts

At 31 March 2021, the Council has approved capital investment programmes for both General Services and the Housing Revenue Account, for construction or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment. Contractual commitments in place at 31 March 2021 totalled £66.244m as follows (2019/20 : £75.535m):

Capital Commitments	At 31 March 2021
General Services Programme - Major Projects	£m
Flood Protection Scheme	10.342
New Build ASN School and Residential & Respite Unit	4.433
Lochshore	3.944
Marress House - Refurbishment (Early Years / Housing)	2.268
Town Centre Regeneration	1.405
IT Projects	1.391
Other General Services Capital Commitments	3.199
Total General Services Contractual Commitment	26.982

HRA Programme	£m
New Build Sheltered Housing, Harbourside, Irvine	11.883
Lot D St Michaels Wynd	7.680
Lot A St Colms, Largs	3.961
Dalrymple Place, Irvine	2.693
Lot B Towerlands, Irvine	2.464
Lot A Flatt Road, Largs	2.386
Lot B Brathwic, Isle of Arran	2.057
Replacement Central Heating	1.752
Lot B Springvale, Saltcoats	1.363
Other HRA Capital Commitments	3.023
Total HRA Contractual Commitment	39.262

Note 19: Private Finance Initiatives, Non Profit Distributing Models and Similar Contracts

North Ayrshire Council Schools PPP Contract

2020/21 was the fourteenth year of a 30-year PPP contract for the construction, maintenance and operation of four schools: Stanley Primary, Arran High, Greenwood Academy and St Matthew's Academy. The schools provide leisure facilities to the community outwith the school day. These are run by North Ayrshire Leisure Limited. The contract specifies minimum standards for the services to be provided by the contractor, with deductions from the fee payable being made if facilities are unavailable or performance is below the minimum standards.

The contractor took on the obligation to construct the schools and maintain them in a minimum acceptable condition and to procure and maintain the plant and equipment needed to operate the schools.

The buildings, and any plant and equipment installed in them, will be transferred to North Ayrshire Council at the end of the contract for nil consideration. The Council only has rights to terminate the contract if it compensates the contractor in full for costs incurred and future profits that would have been generated over the remaining term of the contract.

Largs Campus DBFM Contract

2020/21 was the third year for Largs Campus of a 25 year contract. This campus was procured through a Design, Build, Finance and Maintain (DBFM) contract. This Campus covers a secondary school, two primary schools and one early years centre.

The contract specifies minimum standards for the services to be provided by the contractor, with deductions from the fee payable being made if facilities are unavailable or performance is below the minimum standards.

The buildings, and any plant and equipment installed in them, will be transferred to North Ayrshire Council, for nil consideration at the end of the contract. The Council only has rights to terminate the contract if it compensates the contractor in full for costs incurred and future profits that would have been generated over the remaining term of the contract.

Clyde Valley Waste PFI Contract

2020/21 was the second year of a 25 year contract in relation to the Clyde Valley Waste Recycling Plant. This plant was procured through a PFI contract. The Council has a 17% share in the contract for waste recycling which utilises the waste materials recovery facility at Bargeddie with residual waste then processed at a thermal treatment site in Dunbar.

The contract specifies minimum standards for the services to be provided by the contractor, with deductions from the fee payable being made if facilities are unavailable or performance is below the minimum standards.

The buildings, and any plant and equipment installed in them, will not be transferred to North Ayrshire Council at the end of the contract. The Council only has rights to terminate the contract if it compensates the contractor in full for costs incurred and future profits that would have been generated over the remaining term of the contract.

Property Plant and Equipment

The assets used to provide services are recognised on the Council's Balance Sheet. Movements in their value over the year are detailed in the analysis of the movement on the Property, Plant and Equipment balance in note 13.

Payments

For PPP the Council makes an agreed payment each year which is uplifted each year by 2/3 of the increase in the retail price index (RPI). For DBFM the Council makes an agreed payment each year uplifted by 21% of the increase in RPI. The Clyde Valley Waste contract is uplifted each year by applying CPI to the variable element of the contract. Payments can be reduced if the contractor fails to meet availability and performance standards in any year.

Remaining payments to be made under the PPP, DBFM and Clyde Valley Waste contracts at 31 March 2021 (based on an estimate of the cash amount that will actually be paid and excluding availability / performance deductions) are as follows:

	Service Charges £m	Liability Repayment £m	Interest Repayment £m	Contingent Rentals £m	Total £m
Payable in 2021/22	9.118	3.831	5.975	1.434	20.358
Payable within two to five years	40.018	16.364	21.772	6.807	84.961
Payable within six to ten years	55.521	25.382	21.580	12.379	114.862
Payable within eleven to fifteen years	61.765	32.465	13.563	17.937	125.730
Payable within sixteen to twenty years	41.666	23.839	3.908	13.784	83.197
Payable within twenty one to twenty five years	21.508	5.932	0.431	2.168	30.039
Total	229.596	107.813	67.229	54.509	459.147

Although the payments made to the contractors are described as unitary payments, they have been calculated to compensate the contractor for the fair value of the services they provide, the capital expenditure incurred and interest payable while the capital expenditure remains to be reimbursed. The outstanding liability to pay the contractors for capital expenditure incurred is as follows:

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 (Restated) £m
Balance outstanding at 1 April	111.517	111.053
Payments during the year	(3.704)	(4.041)
Additions	-	4.505
Balance outstanding at 31 March	107.813	111.517

Note 20: Long Term Debtors

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
North Ayrshire Ventures Trust	0.292	0.502
Advances for House Purchases	0.147	0.147
Total	0.439	0.649

Note 21: Financial Instruments

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

	Category:	Long Term		Current		Total	
		31/03/21 £m	31/03/20 (Restated) £m	31/03/21 £m	31/03/20 (Restated) £m	31/03/21 £m	31/03/20 (Restated) £m
Loans and receivables:							
Cash (including bank)	Amortised Cost	-	-	32.258	9.657	32.258	9.657
Bank overdraft	Amortised Cost	-	-	(2.346)	(3.880)	(2.346)	(3.880)
Cash and cash equivalents		-	-	29.912	5.777	29.912	5.777
Short Term Investments	Amortised Cost	-	-	10.025	30.031	10.025	30.031
Investments	Group Entity	-	0.350	-	-	-	0.350
Debtors	Amortised Cost	0.439	0.649	53.491	42.913	53.930	43.562
Total Financial Assets		0.439	0.999	93.428	78.721	93.867	79.720
Loans at amortised cost:							
Principal sums	Amortised Cost	207.578	197.556	51.688	89.565	259.266	287.121
Accrued interest	Amortised Cost	-	-	0.973	1.154	0.973	1.154
Effective Interest Rate adjustment	Amortised Cost	0.839	0.836	-	-	0.839	0.836
Total borrowing		208.417	198.392	52.661	90.719	261.078	289.111
Other Creditors	Amortised Cost	-	-	87.671	61.937	87.671	61.937
PFI and similar liabilities	Amortised Cost	-	-	3.831	3.704	3.831	3.704
Short-term creditors		-	-	91.502	65.641	91.502	65.641
PFI and similar liabilities	Amortised Cost	103.983	107.814	-	-	103.983	107.814
Total Financial Liabilities		312.400	306.206	144.163	156.360	456.563	462.566

Financial Assets

A financial asset is a right to receive cash or another financial instrument. Financial assets held by the Council during the year can be classified as follows:

- Cash in hand and in bank call accounts;
- Bank fixed term deposits (investments);
- Trade receivables (debtors); and
- Loans made for service purposes, including soft loans.

Cash and cash equivalents

The bank overdraft figure reflects total debit balances on the Council's group of bank accounts with the Clydesdale Bank plc. The figure for Cash and Cash Equivalents in the balance sheet offsets the overdraft with cash at bank and in hand, as detailed in Note 38.

Soft Loans

Soft loans are those advanced at below market rates in support of the Council's service priorities. Soft loans are valued by discounting the contractual payments at the market rate of interest for a similar loan.

The Council has one material soft loan, advanced to North Ayrshire Ventures Trust. The loan was granted for a period of 9 years in 2014, for the purpose of furthering the Council's strategic priority of "Growing our economy, increasing employment and regenerating towns".

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Value at 1 April	0.725	0.909
Amounts repaid to the Council	(0.228)	(0.219)
Fair value adjustments	0.023	0.035
Value at 31 March	0.520	0.725

Financial Liabilities

A financial liability is a contractual obligation to deliver cash or another financial asset to another entity. Financial liabilities held by the Council during the year can be classified as follows:

- Loans from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB), commercial lenders and other local authorities;
- Overdraft with the banks;
- Trade payables (creditors);
- Finance leases; and
- Public Private Partnership (PPP), Non Profit Distributing (NPD) and similar contracts.

Fair Values of Assets and Liabilities

Financial liabilities and financial assets represented by loans and receivables are carried on the balance sheet at amortised cost. Their fair value can be assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that take place over the remaining life of the instruments, they have been categorised at Level 2 in the Fair Value hierarchy using the following assumptions:

- Loans borrowed by the Council have been valued by discounting cash flows over the life of the loan at appropriate market rates;
- For loans receivable, prevailing benchmark market rates have been used to provide the fair value;
- The fair values of PPP and NPD liabilities have been calculated by discounting the contractual cash flows (excluding service charge elements) at the appropriate AA-rated corporate bond rate;
- No early repayment or impairment is recognised; and
- The fair value of short-term instruments, including trade payables and receivables, is taken to be the carrying amount or the billed amount.

The calculated fair values are as follows:

	At 31 March 2021		At 31 March 2020 (Restated)	
	Carrying Amount £m	Fair Value £m	Carrying Amount £m	Fair Value £m
PWLB Debt	184.368	304.454	202.365	320.677
Non-PWLB Debt	161.764	255.895	165.567	258.347
Temporary Loans	22.722	22.722	32.696	32.696
Total Debt	368.854	583.071	400.628	611.720
Other Creditors	87.671	87.167	61.937	61.937
Total Liabilities	456.525	670.238	462.565	673.657

	At 31 March 2021		At 31 March 2020	
	Carrying Amount £m	Fair Value £m	Carrying Amount £m	Fair Value £m
Cash and Cash Equivalents	29.912	29.912	5.777	5.777
Short Term Deposits < 1 year	10.025	10.025	30.031	30.031
Other Debtors	53.930	54.068	43.562	43.677
Total Assets	93.867	94.005	79.370	79.485

The fair value is greater than the carrying amount because the Council's portfolio of loans includes a number of loans where the interest rate payable is higher than the current rates available for similar loans in the market at the balance sheet date. This represents a notional future loss attributable to a commitment to pay interest to lenders above current market rates.

The fair value of financial assets held at amortised cost is higher than their balance sheet carrying amount because the interest rate on similar investments is now lower than that obtained when the investment was originally made. This represents a notional future gain attributable to the commitment to receive interest at more than current market rates.

Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

The gains and losses recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in relation to financial instruments are made up as follows:

	2020/21			2019/20		
	Liabilities measured at amortised cost £m	Loans and receivables measured at amortised cost £m	Total £m	Liabilities measured at amortised cost £m	Loans and receivables measured at amortised cost £m	Total £m
Interest expense	(20.066)	-	(20.066)	(20.449)	-	(20.449)
Losses on derecognition	0.782	-	0.782	0.782	-	0.782
Total expense in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(19.284)	-	(19.284)	(19.667)	-	(19.667)
Interest income	-	0.086	0.086	-	0.231	0.231
Total income in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	0.086	0.086	-	0.231	0.231
Net gain/(loss) for the year	(19.284)	0.086	(19.198)	(19.667)	0.231	(19.436)

Note 22: Risks arising from Financial Instruments

The Council has adopted CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management and complies with CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

As part of this, the Council approves a Treasury Management and Investment Strategy before 1 April each financial year. This sets out the Council's exposure to the risks associated with financial instruments and also the measures taken to mitigate such risks. A copy of the Strategy can be found on the Council's website at

www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk under [Council>Performance and Spending>Budgets and Finance](#)

The key risks are:

- Credit risk: the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the Council;
- Liquidity risk: the possibility that the Council might not have cash available to meet its commitments to make payments;
- Refinancing risk: the possibility that the Council may require to renew a financial instrument on maturity at disadvantageous interest rates or terms;
- Market risk: the possibility that financial loss might arise for the Council as a result of changes in market variables, such as interest rates or equity prices.

Credit Risk: Investments

The Council manages credit risk by ensuring that investments are only placed with organisations of high credit quality as set out in the annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy. These include commercial entities with a minimum long-term credit rating of A-, the UK government and other local authorities. In recognition of the fact that credit ratings are not comprehensive indicators of default, the Council has regard to other measures, including:

- credit watches and credit outlooks from credit rating agencies;
- Credit Default Swap (CDS) spreads to give early warning of likely changes in credit ratings; and
- sovereign ratings to select counterparties from only the most creditworthy countries.

The Treasury Management and Investment Strategy for 2020/21 was approved by North Ayrshire Council on 5 March 2020.

The Council's maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to its investments in banks and building societies 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. A risk of irrecoverability applies to all of the Council's deposits, but there was no evidence at 31 March 2021 that this was likely to crystallise.

The Council does not expect any losses from non-performance by any of its counterparties in relation to deposits and bonds.

Allowances for expected credit losses have been determined for trade debtors, using the simplified approach, and the repayment of the HSCP's cumulative deficit, using lifetime expected credit losses based on the risk of delayed or reduced repayments linked to the HSCP's reported financial performance for the year.

The changes in loss allowance for our Debtors held at Amortised Cost during the year are as follows:

	2020/21			2019/20		
	Lifetime expected credit losses - not credit impaired	Lifetime expected credit losses - simplified approach	Total	Lifetime expected credit losses - not credit impaired	Lifetime expected credit losses - simplified approach	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Balance as at 1 April	2.325	5.445	7.770	1.536	5.064	6.600
Changes due to modifications which did not result in derecognition	-	1.072	1.072	0.789	0.381	1.170
As at 31 March	2.325	6.517	8.842	2.325	5.445	7.770

During the year the Council wrote off financial assets with a contractual amount outstanding of £0.291m (£0.060m 2019/20) which are still subject to enforcement activity.

Credit Risk Exposure

The Council has the following exposure to credit risk at 31 March 2021:

	Credit Risk Rating	Gross Carrying Amount at 31 March 2021 £m	Gross Carrying Amount at 31 March 2020 £m
Lifetime expected credit losses	Internal Assessment	3.807	5.293
Simplified approach	Historic Experience	53.526	39.740
		57.333	45.033

Liquidity risk

The Council manages its liquidity position through the setting and approval of prudential indicators, the approval and monitoring of the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy and through a comprehensive cash flow management system, as required by the CIPFA Code of Practice, which seeks to ensure that cash is available when needed.

The Council has ready access to borrowings at favourable rates from the PWLB and other local authorities and at higher rates from banks and building societies. There is no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments.

Refinancing Risk

The Council maintains a significant debt and investment portfolio aligned to its underlying assets and capital investment programme. Whilst the cash flow procedures above are considered alongside refinancing risk procedures, longer-term risk to the Council relates to managing the exposure to replacing financial instruments as they mature. This risk relates to both the maturing of longer-term financial liabilities and longer-term financial assets. The approved treasury indicator limits for the maturity structure of debt and the limits placed on investments placed for greater than one year in duration are the key parameters used to address this risk. The Council's approved treasury and investment strategies address the main risks and the treasury team address the operational risks within the approved parameters. This includes:

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

The maturity analysis of the principal sums borrowed is as follows, with the maximum and minimum limits for fixed interest rates maturing in each period (as approved by the Council in the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy on 5 March 2020):

	At 31 March 2021	At 31 March 2021	Approved Upper Limit	Approved Lower Limit	At 31 March 2020 (Restated) £m
Loans Outstanding	£m	%	%	%	
Less than one year	55.520	15%	50%	0%	93.270
Between one and two years	6.805	2%	50%	0%	6.810
Between two and five years	21.450	6%	50%	0%	20.917
Between five and ten years	51.003	14%	75%	0%	44.885
More than ten years	232.302	63%	90%	25%	232.757
Total	367.080				398.639
Public Works Loan Board	183.943				201.830
Market Debt / LOBOs	52.564				52.663
Temporary borrowing	22.759				32.628
PPP/NPD Liabilities	107.814				111.518
Total	367.080				398.639

All trade and other payables are due to be paid in less than one year.

Market risk

Interest rate risk: The Council is exposed to risk in terms of interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments. Movements in interest rates have a complex impact on the Council; for instance, a rise in interest rates would have the following effects (a fall in interest rates would have the reverse effect):

- Borrowings at variable rates – the interest expense charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services will rise;
- Borrowings at fixed rates – the fair value of the borrowings will fall (no impact on revenue balances);
- Investments at variable rates – the interest income credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services will rise; and
- Investments at fixed rates – the fair value of the assets will fall (no impact on revenue balances).

Borrowings are not carried at fair value, so changes in their fair value will have no impact on Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. However, changes in interest payable and receivable on variable rate borrowings and investments will be charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services and will affect the General Fund balance.

The Council's Treasury Management and Investment Strategy aims to mitigate these risks by setting upper limits on its exposure to fixed and variable interest rates. For 2020/21 these limits were £460.6m of total borrowing on fixed rate borrowing and £60.0m for variable rate borrowing.

At 31 March 2021, £200.6m of principal borrowing was exposed to fixed rates and £51.0m to variable rates. This excludes liabilities in respect of PPP and NPD contracts.

The Council's current portfolio of variable rate borrowing includes commercial loans known as LOBOs (Lender's Option Borrower's Option), taken out between 1985 and 2008. Under these agreements, the lender has an option at certain junctures to increase the interest rate offered. The borrower then has the option to accept the new rate or to repay the loan.

It is likely that lenders will only exercise their options when market rates have risen above the contractual loan rate. Since the average rate of the current LOBO portfolio is 5.3%, the interest rate risk associated with the Council's LOBOs is not deemed to be significant and the potential penalties charges may make the redemption of the loans an uneconomic option.

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

	At 31 March 2021 £m
Impact on tax-payers & rent-payers	
Increase on interest payable on variable rate borrowings	25.950
Increase in interest receivable on variable rate investments	
Impact on Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	25.950
Share of overall impact debited to the HRA	10.794
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate investment assets	(0.003)
Impact on Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(0.003)
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate borrowing liabilities (no impact on the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services or Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure)	(68.971)

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

Price risk: This would only apply where an investment is held as available for sale. The Council currently holds no available for sale investments and, excluding the pension fund, does not currently invest in equity shares or marketable bonds.

Foreign exchange risk: This would apply where funds are held in a foreign currency. At 31 March 2021, the Council held no foreign currency funds.

Note 23: Inventories

	2020/21				2019/20
	Balance at 1 April £m	Purchases £m	Recognised as an expense £m	Balance at 31 March £m	Balance at 31 March £m
Consumables					
Catering	0.122	2.584	(2.577)	0.129	0.122
Streetscene & Waste	0.101	0.074	(0.116)	0.059	0.101
Transport Fuel	0.096	1.396	(1.373)	0.119	0.096
Donated Covid Consumables	-	1.409	(0.905)	0.504	-
Other	0.001	-	-	0.001	0.001
Maintenance Materials					
Building Services	0.599	2.255	(2.375)	0.479	0.599
Roads	0.221	0.331	(0.392)	0.160	0.221
Total	1.140	8.049	(7.738)	1.451	1.140

During 2020/21 the Council received donations of Personal Protective Equipment and Covid Testing Kits from NHS Scotland. The value of these donations has been recognised during the year, as noted above.

Note 24: Short Term Debtors

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Trade Receivables	15.637	12.148
Prepayments	1.986	2.763
Other Receivable Amounts	35.868	28.002
Total	53.491	42.913

Note 25: Debtors for Local Taxation

	2020/21		2019/20	
	Council Tax £m	NDR £m	Council Tax £m	NDR £m
Less than 1 year	2.566	-	2.606	0.043
1 to 2 years	1.009	-	1.392	0.020
2 to 5 years	1.421	-	1.486	-
More than 5 years	0.170	-	0.104	-
Total	5.166	-	5.588	0.063

Note 26: Short Term Borrowing

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
North Ayrshire Municipal Bank Ltd	(0.038)	(0.038)
PWLB	(3.313)	(18.423)
Market Debt / LOBOs / Other Local Authorities	(49.310)	(72.258)
Total	(52.661)	(90.719)

Note 27: Short Term Creditors

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 (Restated) £m
Trade Payables	(32.224)	(23.903)
Other Payables	(59.278)	(41.738)
Total	(91.502)	(65.641)

Note 28: Provisions

	Equal Pay / Single Status £m	Termination Benefits £m	Landfill Site Restoration £m	Employee Costs - Paid Absences £m	Teachers Maternity £m	Former Authorities £m	Develop- ment Costs £m	Total £m
Balance at 1 April 2020	(0.147)	(0.545)	(0.695)	(0.172)	(0.122)	(0.133)	(0.885)	(2.699)
Additional provisions made in 2020/21	-	(0.262)	(0.019)	0.047	(0.011)	-	-	(0.245)
Amounts written off in 2020/21	-	-	0.181	-	-	-	0.885	1.066
Amounts used in 2020/21	0.011	0.545	-	-	-	-	-	0.556
Balance at 31 March 2021	(0.136)	(0.262)	(0.533)	(0.125)	(0.133)	(0.133)	-	(1.322)

Equal Pay/Single Status

In 2014/15 a provision of £2.867m was made in respect of Equal Pay and Single Status. During 2020/21 £0.011m of the provision was utilised. As at 31 March 2021 the level of provision required is £0.136m. The timing of the settlement of these claims is uncertain.

Termination Benefits

In 2020/21 a provision of £0.262m was required in relation to employee retiral commitments the Council had in place at 31 March 2021. These liabilities are expected to be discharged during 2021/22.

Landfill Site Restoration

This provision relates to the Council's landfill site at Shewalton in Irvine. During 2020/21 £0.181m was released for aftercare costs. The increase in the provision for the unwinding of the discount was also recognised as an interest charge of £0.019m. These liabilities are expected to be discharged over the period to 2023/24.

Employee Costs - Paid Absences

In accordance with IAS19 Employee Benefits provision has been made of £0.125m for the costs of paid employee absences arising from Flexi Time earned but not taken prior to 31 March 2021. These liabilities are expected to be discharged during 2021/22.

Teachers Maternity

The Council holds a provision of £0.133m in respect of teacher's holidays accrued while on maternity leave, which is an increase of £0.011m from the opening balance of £0.122m. These liabilities are expected to be discharged during 2021/22.

Former Authorities: Potential Claims

The Council has a potential liability to meet expenditure incurred in respect of the former Cunninghame District Council and Strathclyde Regional Council. This includes shared liability in connection with estimated payments made by Municipal Mutual Insurance Limited (MMI) in respect of known claims against the former Councils. The timing of the settlement of these claims is uncertain.

Development Costs

This provision relates to estimated abnormal development costs in relation to Council House development sites. The provision relating to Harbourside, Irvine development has been released and offset against the costs which have been incurred in 2020/21.

Note 29: Pensions Schemes Accounted for as Defined Contribution Schemes

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

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

In 2020/21, the Council recognised £14.130m in respect of teachers' retirement benefits, representing 22.21% of pensionable pay. The figures for 2019/20 were £12.207m and 20.17%. There were no contributions remaining payable at the year-end. The estimated contribution for 2021/22 is £13.079m. As a proportion of the total contributions into the Scheme during the year to 31 March 2021, North Ayrshire Council's contribution equates to approximately 2.53%.

The Council is responsible for the costs of any additional benefits awarded upon early retirement outside of the terms of the teachers' scheme. These costs are accounted for on a defined benefit basis and detailed in note 30. There were additional costs of £0.060m included for 2020/21.

Note 30: Defined Benefit Pension Schemes

Participation in pension schemes

North Ayrshire Council participates in the Local Government (Scotland) Superannuation Scheme, administered by Glasgow City Council through the Strathclyde Pensions Fund. This is a funded defined benefits scheme, with both employer and employee making contributions, intended to balance the pension liabilities with investment assets.

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

The principal risks to the authority of the scheme are the longevity assumptions, statutory changes to the scheme, structural changes to the scheme (i.e. large scale withdrawals from the scheme), changes to inflation, bond yields and the performance of the equity investments held by the scheme. These are mitigated to a certain extent by the statutory requirements to charge to the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account the amounts required by statute as described in the accounting policy note.

Transactions relating to post-employment benefits

The cost of retirement benefits is recognised in the cost of services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge against Council tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of post-employment / retirement benefits is reversed out of the General Fund via the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The following transactions have been made in the CIES and the General Fund Balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement during the year:

Local Government Pension Scheme Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Cost of Services:		
Current service cost	42.426	49.921
Past service cost (including curtailments)	0.161	(5.859)
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure:		
Net interest expense	3.171	5.067
Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	45.758	49.129
Other Post Employment Benefit Charged to the CIES:		
Expected return on pension fund assets (excluding amounts included in net interest)	(189.344)	64.908
Actuarial (gains) / losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	226.964	(167.203)
Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the CIES	83.378	(53.166)
Movement in Reserves Statement :		
Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit for the Provision of Services for post employment benefits in accordance with the Code	(20.841)	(25.469)
Actuarial (gains)/losses on pension assets/liabilities	(37.620)	102.295
Contributions from employer payable to scheme	24.917	23.660

Pension Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

The amount included in the Balance Sheet arising from the Council's obligation in respect of its defined benefit plan is as follows:

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Present value of the defined benefit obligation	(1,331.515)	(1,059.492)
Fair value of plan assets	1,150.938	937.376
Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation	(180.577)	(122.116)

Assets and Liabilities in Post-Employment Benefits

A reconciliation of the Council's share of the present value of Strathclyde Pension Fund's defined benefit obligation (liabilities) is as follows:

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Balance as at 1 April	(1,059.492)	(1,172.940)
Current service cost	(42.426)	(49.921)
Interest cost	(24.761)	(28.443)
Contributions by scheme participants	(7.109)	(6.745)
Re-measurement (gains) and losses:		
Actuarial (gains) / losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	(277.438)	121.927
Changes in demographic assumptions	25.706	39.402
Other experience	24.768	5.874
Past service cost (including curtailments)	(0.161)	5.859
Benefits paid	29.398	25.495
Balance as at 31 March	(1,331.515)	(1,059.492)

Reconciliation of Fair Value of Scheme Assets

A reconciliation of the movements in the Council's share of the fair value of Strathclyde Pension Fund's assets is as follows:

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Balance as at 1 April	937.376	973.998
Interest income	21.590	23.376
Re-measurement gains and (losses):		
Return on plan assets excluding amounts included in net interest	213.769	(64.908)
Other experience	(24.425)	-
Contributions from employer payable to the scheme	24.917	23.660
Contributions by scheme participants	7.109	6.745
Benefits paid	(29.398)	(25.495)
Balance as at 31 March	1,150.938	937.376

Analysis of Pension Fund's Assets

North Ayrshire Council's share of the Pension Fund assets as at 31 March 2021 comprised:

Portfolio Composition	2020/21				2019/20			
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets £m	Quoted Prices not in Active Markets £m	Total £m	%	Quoted Prices in Active Markets £m	Quoted Prices not in Active Markets £m	Total £m	%
Equity Investments	279.642	552.658	832.300	72%	523.921	92.378	616.299	66%
Debt Instruments	-	205.858	205.858	18%	29.412	112.013	141.425	15%
Property	-	93.251	93.251	8%	-	84.871	84.871	9%
Derivatives	0.207	-	0.207	0%	0.019	-	0.019	0%
Cash	18.542	0.780	19.322	2%	48.256	46.506	94.762	10%
Balance as at 31 March	298.391	852.547	1,150.938	100%	601.608	335.768	937.376	100%

Asset and Liability Matching (ALM) Strategy

The main fund (Fund 1) of Strathclyde Pension Fund does not have an asset and liability matching strategy (ALM) as this is used mainly by mature funds. The fund does match, to the extent possible, the types of assets invested to the liabilities in the defined benefit obligation. As is required by the pensions and investment regulations, the suitability of various types of investment has been considered, as has the need to diversify investments to reduce the risk being invested into too narrow a range. The Fund invests in equities, bonds, property and in cash.

Impact on the Council's Cash Flow

The objectives of the fund are to keep employers' contributions at as constant a rate as possible. The Fund has agreed a strategy to achieve a funding rate of 100% in the longer term. The scheme is a multi-employer defined benefit plan and employers' contributions have been determined so that employee and employer rates are standard across all participating local authorities. Employer's contributions have been set at 19.3% for 2021/22.

The actuary has estimated the total amount of contributions expected to be made by the Council to Strathclyde Pension Fund in the year to 31 March 2022 at £22.619m, compared to estimated contributions for 2020/21 of £21.456m.

The assumed weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation is 19 years.

Basis for estimating assets and liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method, which estimates the pensions that will be payable in future years dependent upon assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels, etc. The Local Government Pension Scheme has been assessed by Hymans Robertson, an independent firm of actuaries, based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2020. The valuation results have been projected forward to 31 March 2021 based on a range of assumptions.

The significant assumptions used by the actuary were:

Local Government Pension Scheme Assumptions	At 31 March 2021	At 31 March 2020
Long term expected rate of return on assets in the scheme:		
Equity investments	2.0%	2.3%
Bonds	2.0%	2.3%
Other	2.0%	2.3%
Cash	2.0%	2.3%
Mortality assumptions (years):		
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners:		
Men	19.8	20.7
Women	22.6	22.9
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners:		
Men	21.2	22.2
Women	24.7	24.6
Rate of inflation	2.9%	1.9%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.6%	3.0%
Rate of increase in pensions	2.9%	1.9%
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	2.0%	2.3%
Take up of option to convert annual pension into retirement lump sum		
- for pre April 2009 service	50%	50%
- for post April 2009 service	75%	75%

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. The following sensitivity analyses have been based on possible changes to the assumptions which could reasonably occur at the end of the reporting period. For each change they assume that the assumption being analysed changes while all other assumptions remain constant.

The estimations in the sensitivity analysis have followed the accounting policies for the scheme, i.e. on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method. The methods and types of assumptions used in preparing the sensitivity analysis did not change from those used in the previous period.

Impact on the Defined Benefit Obligation in the Scheme	Increase in Employer Liability	
	£m	%
0.5% decrease in Real Discount Rate	136.279	10.0%
0.5% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	19.148	1.0%
0.5% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	113.786	9.0%

The impact of a decrease in these assumptions would be as above but with the movements reversed.

Court of Appeal ruling and regulatory changes

As part of the actuarial valuation of Strathclyde Pension Scheme, carried out at 31 March 2020, the Scheme's actuaries, Hymans Robertson, included the impact of recent Court of Appeal rulings and other regulatory changes in their assessment of the Scheme's liabilities. This included the impact of a recent Court of Appeal in relation to transitional protection, consideration of the cost cap mechanism, regulatory changes in relation to Guaranteed Minimum Pension provision and a recent employment tribunal decision in relation to survivor benefit, known as the Goodwin ruling.

When the LGPS Scotland benefit structure was reformed in 2015, transitional protections were applied to certain older members close to normal retirement age. Following a Court of Appeal ruling that similar transitional protections in other Schemes were unlawful on the grounds of age discrimination, there was a clear expectation that restitution would see many more members receiving enhanced benefits. Members in service in 2012 and remaining in active service at the time of the scheme change in 2015, are subject to an 'underpin' which ensures that these members do not lose out from the introduction of the new scheme. The Scheme's liabilities have been valued to include the impact of this ruling, in line with the instructions issued by the Scottish Public Pensions Agency.

The planned implementation of a Cost Cap mechanism, designed to protect employers from significant increases in future pension costs, has been deferred pending resolution of the McCloud judgement and no adjustments to contributions rates or liabilities have been included at this time.

Following the introduction of the new Single State Pension in April 2016, regulations in relation to the Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) were revised to make pensions schemes responsible for ensuring that the GMP for members reaching state pension age after 6 April 2016 keep pace with inflation. Strathclyde Pension Fund's actuary revised their assumptions on the basis that all increases will be paid for by employers. This has served to increase the value placed on the Scheme's liabilities.

Following a Supreme Court ruling in 2017, all public service pension schemes were required to provide equal survivor benefits for same-sex couples to that provided for widows. Following a recent employment tribunal decision, a Written Ministerial Statement has concluded that female members in opposite sex marriages are treated less favourably than female members in same sex marriage or civil partnership and it is anticipated that regulatory amendments will now need to be made to extend equal survivor benefits to male survivors of female members resulting in additional liabilities for female members who died on or after 5 December 2005. Although no allowance was included in the actuarial valuation in relation to this, the estimated liabilities for 2020/21 been updated to include the potential impact of this ruling.

Note 31: Unusable Reserves

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 (Restated) £m
Revaluation Reserve	161.834	118.216
Capital Adjustment Account	508.478	475.158
Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	(6.769)	(7.551)
Pensions Reserve	(180.577)	(122.116)
Accumulated Absences Account	(14.860)	(8.758)
Total Unusable Reserves	468.106	454.949

Revaluation Reserve

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

- Re-valued 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.

Only revaluation gains accumulated since 1 April 2007, the date that the Reserve was created, are contained here. Accumulated gains arising before that date are consolidated into the balance on the Capital Adjustment Account.

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Balance at 1 April	118.216	117.993
Surplus or (deficit) on revaluation of non-current assets posted to the CIES	52.264	9.031
Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	(8.570)	(8.484)
Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	(0.076)	(0.324)
Balance at 31 March	161.834	118.216

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 CIES (with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert fair value figures to a historical cost basis).

The account is credited with the amounts set aside by the Council as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement. 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.

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 (Restated) £m
Balance at 1 April	475.158	445.969
Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the CIES:		
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non current assets	(52.898)	(51.988)
Gains/(losses) on the disposal of non current assets	(0.001)	0.139
Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	8.646	8.808
Capital financing applied in the year:		
Adjustments involving the Capital Fund	1.411	1.991
Capital grants and contributions credited to the CIES that have been applied to capital financing	50.069	39.110
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	12.198	15.587
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	13.895	15.542
Balance at 31 March	508.478	475.158

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.

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Balance at 1 April	(7.551)	(8.333)
Premiums incurred in previous financial years to be charged against the General Fund Balance in accordance with statutory requirements	0.777	0.777
Amount by which finance costs charged to the CIES are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	0.005	0.005
Balance at 31 March	(6.769)	(7.551)

Pensions Reserve

The Pensions Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post-employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. The Council accounts for post-employment benefits in the CIES as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs. However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed as the Council makes employer's contributions to pensions funds or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible.

The debit balance on the Pensions Reserve therefore shows a substantial shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the Council has set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid.

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Balance at 1 April	(122.116)	(198.942)
Actuarial gains/(losses) on pensions assets and liabilities	(37.620)	102.295
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the CIES	(20.841)	(25.469)
Balance at 31 March	(180.577)	(122.116)

Accumulated Absences Account

The Accumulated Absences Account absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise on the General Fund Balance from accruing for compensated absences earned but not taken in the year. Statutory arrangements require that the impact on the General Fund Balance is neutralised by transfers to or from the Account.

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Balance at 1 April	(8.758)	(7.732)
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CIES on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(6.102)	(1.026)
Balance at 31 March	(14.860)	(8.758)

Note 32: Related Parties

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

Central Government

Central government has effective control over the general operations of the Council – it is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Council operates, provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties (e.g. council tax bills, housing benefits). Grants received from government departments are set out in Note 8.

Members

Elected Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. The total of members' allowances paid in 2020/21 is shown in the Remuneration Report. During 2020/21 payment to voluntary organisations/charities to the value of £0.042m were made in which 2 members had an interest. Details of all member interests are recorded in the Register of Members' Interest, available on the Council's website.

Officers

The Chief Executive of North Ayrshire Council and the Executive Director of Communities are Directors in North Ayrshire Ventures Trust. There is no remuneration associated with these positions. Details of the Council's interests in these organisations are outlined in the Group Accounts at Note 39 on page 86.

North Ayrshire Integration Joint Board

The North Ayrshire Integration Joint Board was established on 1 April 2015 as a partnership between North Ayrshire Council and NHS Ayrshire and Arran and is responsible for planning and overseeing the delivery of a full range of community health and social work/social care services, including those for older people, adults, children and families, people in the Criminal Justice System and allied health professions. In the year 2020/21 the following North Ayrshire Council financial transactions were made with North Ayrshire Integration Joint Board relating to the integrated and social care functions:

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Contribution made to North Ayrshire IJB	99.897	97.973
Commissioning income received from North Ayrshire IJB	127.027	122.113
North Ayrshire IJB balance due (to)/from the Council	(1.486)	0.154

The balance due (to)/from the Council reflects the year end variance on health and social care activities before the earmarking of reserves, less the balance of the outstanding IJB debtor. For 2020/21 income exceeded expenditure by £1.486m which has been deducted from the outstanding IJB deficit, which now stands at £3.807m.

Other Public Bodies

The Council has substantial interests in other public bodies, details of which are disclosed in the Group Balance Sheet.

In addition, the Council received grants and income from other public bodies in 2020/21 as follows:

- Ayrshire & Arran Health Board (Health Resource Transfer) – grants and income of £23.979m

Other entities controlled or significantly influenced by the Council

Details of all other public bodies in which the Council has a significant interest are explained in the Group Accounts at Note 39.

Note 33: Contingent Liabilities

At 31 March 2021, the Council had identified a number of material contingent liabilities:

1. In March 2012 the Supreme Court judgement in the Employers' Liability Policy Trigger Litigation ruled that Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI) will be held liable for asbestos related cases up to 30 September 1992 when they ceased writing employee liability business and went into run off. Although the company is still considering the overall liability position, it has now been confirmed that 'clawback' arrangements will be activated in relation to claims paid. The Council has an earmarked balance of £0.584m in the Insurance Fund to accommodate known claims and actual and estimated settlement costs in this respect. However, there is the possibility that further claims may emerge resulting in a future liability.
2. The Council has provided a letter of financial guarantee in relation to the Scottish Maritime Museum Trust future pension fund liability for £0.287m (with the potential for this to rise to £0.510m). The guarantee avoids the Scottish Maritime Museum Trust's pension fund liability becoming due when the two remaining active members of the pension scheme within the Trust leave or retire. While the Trust continues to trade it will make annual payments to the Pension Fund to reduce this debt over a number of years. There is no direct additional cost to the Council through this guarantee, although the Council is exposed to a potential risk that could increase its overall pension liability by any pension deficit sum not cleared by the Trust.
3. The Limitation (Childhood Abuse) (Scotland) Act 2017 received royal assent on 28 July 2017. The principal effect of the legislation is to remove the three year time bar on survivors of abuse bringing forward claims for compensation. This would apply for all claims from 1964 onwards and there is a potential cost to the Council in respect of claims which may arise under the legislation.
4. Following significant progress in the settlement of Equal Pay claims, the Council has been notified of a number of new claims in relation to the validity and implementation of the Job Evaluation Scheme within North Ayrshire Council. Although there is a potential for significant costs associated with the settlement of such claims, it is not currently possible to determine either the probability of any liability being upheld by an Employment Tribunal or the potential costs of a successful claim.
5. Within these financial statements, North Ayrshire Council has recognised a debtor owed by the Scottish Government of £3.1m in respect of income for European Structural Fund (ESF) projects. On 24 May 2019 the Council was notified that all current payments under the ESF programme in Scotland had been suspended by the European Commission due to audit concerns. No further information on the compliance or audit issues has been made available. However, it is estimated that North Ayrshire Council's risk exposure in relation to these claims is low.
6. The second phase of EU funded programmes runs from 2019 to 2022 and the Council has already committed resources to support these programmes. The potential curtailment of funding would put these programmes at risk.
7. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions on the construction industry, combined with supply and inflation issues across the industry, has resulted in significant pressures for contractors who entered into fixed price contracts prior to 2020/21. The Council is not contractually liable for any additional payments; however, this may be subject to challenge. The level of volatility may also impact on current and future projects as contractors may be less willing to enter into further fixed price contracts.

Note 34: Events after the Balance Sheet Date

The unaudited accounts were authorised for issuing on 23 June 2021 by the Head of Finance. Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31 March 2021, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information.

On 14 May 2021 Councillor Joy Brahim, representing the Dalry & West Kilbride ward, resigned from the Council. Following a local by election on 12 August 2021, Councillor Ronnie Stalker was elected. There was no change in the administration of the Council as a result of this election.

Note 35: Cash Flow – Operating Activities

Net cash flow from Operating Activities	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Net cash inflow from revenue activities	(90.320)	(44.896)
Interest received	(0.086)	(0.231)
Interest paid	19.199	19.436
Total	(71.207)	(25.691)

The net deficit on the provision of services has been adjusted for the following movements:

Non-cash Movements	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Depreciation and Impairment	(52.626)	(51.603)
Amortisation	(0.272)	(0.385)
Movement in Pension Liability	(20.841)	(25.469)
(Decrease) / Increase in Inventories	0.311	0.276
(Decrease) / Increase in Debtors	15.204	2.640
Decrease / (Increase) in Bad Debt Provision	(4.836)	(1.843)
Decrease / (Increase) in Creditors	(27.526)	5.403
Carrying amount of non-current assets sold	(0.269)	(0.724)
Other non-cash items charged to the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services	1.377	0.369
Total	(89.478)	(71.336)

Investing and Financing activities	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Proceeds from sale of non-current assets	0.268	0.863
Capital Grants	50.069	39.110
Total	50.337	39.973

Note 36: Cash Flow – Investing Activities

Net cash flow from Investing Activities	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	84.236	75.328
Purchase of Short Term and Long Term Investments	(20.356)	25.003
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(0.268)	(0.863)
Other receipts from investing activities	(50.069)	(39.110)
Total	13.543	60.358

Note 37: Cash Flow – Financing Activities

Net cash flow from Financing Activities	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Cash receipts of short term and long term borrowing	(20.000)	(92.005)
Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liabilities relating to PPP/NPD contracts	5.496	2.553
Repayments of short and long term borrowing	48.033	63.585
Total	33.529	(25.867)

Note 38: Cash Flow – Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Cash held by officers	0.007	0.007
Bank current accounts	(2.346)	(3.880)
Short-term deposits	32.251	9.650
Total	29.912	5.777

Note 39: Notes to the Group Accounts

The Code of Practice on Local Council Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21 (The Code) requires local authorities to consider their interests in all types of entity. This includes other local authorities or similar bodies defined in section 106 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 e.g. statutory bodies such as transport authorities and Valuation Boards. Authorities are required to prepare a full set of group accounts in addition to their own Council's accounts where they have a material interest in such entities. The financial statements in the Group Accounts of North Ayrshire Council are prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 43, with the additions and exceptions shown below.

The Group Accounts consolidate the results of the Council with eight other entities. These organisations are entirely independent of the Council under law and for taxation.

Retirement Benefits

North Ayrshire Leisure Limited (NALL), an associate of the Council, also participates in the Strathclyde Pension Scheme. In the accounts of NALL, however, the cost of retirement benefits is not reversed out after the Surplus/Deficit on provision of services.

Changes in its net pension liability are included within its share of the overall deficit on the Group CIES.

Valuation of Property, Plant and Equipment

The basis of valuation across the combining entities is in accordance with the Code and there are no material inconsistencies with the policies adopted by North Ayrshire Council. The Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Board has no Property, Plant or Equipment.

	Common Good £m	Trust Funds £m	NAVT £m	2020/21 £m	Common Good £m	Trust Funds £m	NAVT £m	2019/20 £m
Cost or Valuation								
Balance at 1st April	2.072	0.145	1.853	4.070	2.235	0.150	2.596	4.981
Revaluations increases / decreases recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	(0.027)	-	0.054	0.027	(0.163)	(0.005)	(0.723)	(0.891)
Impairments recognised in the Net Cost of Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	-	(0.070)	(0.070)	-	-	(0.020)	(0.020)
Balance at 31 March	2.045	0.145	1.837	4.027	2.072	0.145	1.853	4.070

Depreciation

The useful lives and categories of assets for the Group are:

Buildings	1-100 years
Infrastructure	up to 40 years
Plant and Equipment	1-30 years
Vehicles	1-25 years

Inventories

The Council, North Ayrshire Leisure Limited and SPT use the lower of cost or net realisable value. None of the other bodies in the group hold inventories.

Consideration for Acquisition of Associates' Net Assets or Liabilities

The Council has acquired its share of the net assets of its associates for a nil consideration and no goodwill has been included in the Group Balance Sheet.

Basis of Consolidation

Subsidiaries are consolidated on a line-by-line basis. All other entities are accounted for under the accounting conventions of the "acquisition basis" using the equity method – the Council's share of the net assets or liabilities of each entity is incorporated and adjusted each year by the Council's share of the entities' results and its share of other gains and losses (recognised in the Group CIES).

All entities have the same reporting date as the Council.

Restrictions on transfer of funds

The Council's share of the reserves of its associate and joint ventures is unusable i.e. it cannot be used to fund the Council's services or to reduce taxation. The associate, NALL, is entirely independent of the Council under law and for taxation. The Council is unable to access its reserves, whether classified as usable or otherwise in NALL's own accounts.

Combining Entities

Subsidiaries

A subsidiary is a body controlled by North Ayrshire Council. The Common Good Funds, Trust Funds and North Ayrshire Ventures Trust Ltd have been treated as subsidiaries with assets, liabilities, reserves, income and expenses being consolidated on a line by line basis.

The Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on page 40 includes net comprehensive income for the year of £0.031m.

The Group Balance Sheet on page 42 includes net assets of £12.566m in relation to these bodies.

Further details for each entity are as follows:

Subsidiary	Nature of Body	Accounts available from
Common Good Fund	To award community grants across North Ayrshire	North Ayrshire Council, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE
Trust Funds	To provide school prizes at designated schools, maintain specified lairs within cemeteries and for the benefit of the poor	North Ayrshire Council, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE
North Ayrshire Ventures Trust	To award community grants across North Ayrshire	North Ayrshire Council, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE

	% Share	2020/21				2019/20			
		Share of Assets £m	Share of Liabilities £m	Share of Revenues £m	Share of (Profit)/ Loss £m	Share of Assets £m	Share of Liabilities £m	Share of Revenues £m	Share of (Profit)/ Loss £m
Common Good Funds	100%	4.127	-	(0.121)	(0.011)	4.141	-	(0.157)	0.022
Trust Funds	100%	0.517	-	(0.013)	(0.008)	0.509	-	(0.018)	0.008
North Ayrshire Ventures Trust	100%	8.387	(0.465)	(0.413)	-	8.580	(0.695)	(0.506)	0.582

Associates

An associate is a body over which North Ayrshire Council has significant influence. North Ayrshire Leisure Ltd, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Board and the Ayrshire Valuation Joint Board have been treated as associates and have been consolidated on an equity basis with a share of the surplus or deficit and net liabilities included within the group statements. This is based on North Ayrshire Council's contribution to the estimated running costs of each body.

During 2020/21 North Ayrshire Council approved the provision of additional cashflow management support to North Ayrshire Leisure Ltd to ensure that they could continue to operate as a going concern and meet their cash liabilities during the period of Covid-related operating restrictions. This resulted in additional support of £1.249m being provided during the year.

The Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on page 40 includes net comprehensive income for the year of £0.254m.

The Group Balance Sheet on page 42 includes net assets of £26.570m in relation to these bodies.

Further details for each entity are as follows:

Associate	Nature of Body	Accounts available from
North Ayrshire Leisure Ltd	Provide facilities for recreation, sport, cultural and other leisure activities for the benefit of the community in North Ayrshire. North Ayrshire Council have an agreement in place whereby they will pay for any redundancy or early retirement costs incurred by NALL. 44.95% of NALL's income is received from the customers who use the Leisure facilities	North Ayrshire Leisure Limited, 22 Quarry Road, Irvine, KA12 0TH
Strathclyde Partnership for Transport	Regional transport partnership for the West of Scotland	Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, 131 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5JF
Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Board	Oversees the operation of the Concessionary Fares scheme for public transport in the West of Scotland	Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme, Strathclyde Passenger Transport, 131 St Vincent Street, Glasgow,
Ayrshire Valuation Joint Board	Maintains the electoral, council tax and non-domestic rates registers for the three councils of North Ayrshire, East Ayrshire and South Ayrshire	Ayrshire Valuation Joint Board, 9 Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1HL

	% Share	2020/21				2019/20			
		Share of Assets £m	Share of Liabilities £m	Share of Revenues £m	Share of (Profit)/ Loss £m	Share of Assets £m	Share of Liabilities £m	Share of Revenues £m	Share of (Profit)/ Loss £m
North Ayrshire Leisure Ltd	55.1%	0.978	(2.565)	(3.954)	0.317	0.558	(0.884)	(2.965)	0.460
Strathclyde Partnership for Transport	6.1%	28.186	(1.360)	(3.535)	(0.527)	27.477	(1.474)	(7.264)	(3.838)
Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Board	7.1%	0.258	(0.014)	(0.286)	(0.193)	0.130	(0.079)	(0.287)	0.038
Ayrshire Valuation Joint Board	36.3%	1.156	(0.069)	(1.086)	(0.066)	0.638	(0.050)	(0.884)	0.108

Joint Ventures

A joint venture is a body in which two or more parties have contractually agreed to share control. North Ayrshire Council is a partner in one joint venture, the North Ayrshire Integration Joint Board. Ardrossan North Shore LLP, which was previously reported as a joint venture, was fully bought out by North Ayrshire Council and a petition was made to wind the company up before 31st March 2021. Prior year comparators for 2019/20 are included in the group statements. The joint ventures have been consolidated on an equity basis with a share of the surplus or deficit and net assets included within the group statements.

The Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on page 40 includes net comprehensive income for the year of £4.870m. In addition, the Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement includes a 50% share of the reported surplus of the North Ayrshire Integration Joint Board based on the agreed share of control.

The Group Balance Sheet on page 42 includes net assets of £3.256m in relation to these bodies.

Further details for each entity are as follows:

Joint Venture	Nature of Body	Accounts available from
North Ayrshire Integration Joint Board	Its purpose is to improve the well being of families, our communities and of people who use health and social care services. The Integration Scheme determines when the Council will have shared responsibility for additional funding with NHS Ayrshire and Arran and is linked to demographic shifts and demand volumes linked to service delivery. There is an agreement that any over or underspends are shared between the controlling entities. The % splits vary depending on which service is involved.	North Ayrshire Council, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE

	% Share	2020/21				2019/20			
		Share of Assets £m	Share of Liabilities £m	Share of Revenues £m	Share of (Profit)/ Loss £m	Share of Assets £m	Share of Liabilities £m	Share of Revenues £m	Share of (Profit)/ Loss £m
North Ayrshire Integration Joint Board	50%	5.160	(1.904)	(154.458)	(5.056)	0.104	(2.647)	(142.615)	0.112
Ardrossan North Shore LLP	50%	-	-	-	-	0.939	(0.010)	(0.001)	0.001

The net investments and liabilities included within the Group Balance Sheet for each Associate or Joint Venture are as follows:

	North Ayrshire Leisure Limited £m	Strathclyde Partnership for Transport £m	Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Board £m	Ayrshire Valuation Joint Board £m	North Ayrshire Integration Joint Board £m	Total £m
Investment in Associates and Joint Ventures	-	26.826	0.244	1.087	3.256	31.413
Liability in Associates and Joint Ventures	(1.587)	-	-	-	-	(1.587)

Non-material interests in other entities

The Council does not have any other material interest in any entity not mentioned above.

Note 40: Assumptions Made About the Future and Other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

The financial statements contain estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the Council about which there is a degree of uncertainty. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates. The items in the Council's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2021 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are outlined in the table that follows.

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
Pensions Liability	Pensions Liability Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Pension Fund with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.	The effects on the net pensions liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured. For instance, a 0.5% increase in the pension increase rate assumption would result in an increase in the pension liability of £113.786m. However, the assumptions interact in complex ways.
Collection Levels of Arrears	At 31 March 2021, the Council had a balance of trade debtors of £22.059m. A review of significant balances suggested that an allowance for potential impairment losses of 29% (£6.422m) was appropriate. However, in the current economic climate, it is not certain that such an allowance would be sufficient.	If collection rates were to deteriorate, a 10% increase in the amount of potential impairment losses would require an additional amount of £0.642m to be set aside as an allowance.
Property, Plant and Equipment	Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about the level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual assets. Any reduction in the current spend on repairs and maintenance may reduce the useful lives assigned to assets.	If the useful life of an asset is reduced, depreciation increases and the carrying value of the asset falls. It is estimated that the annual depreciation charge for properties including Council houses would increase by £2.946m if useful lives were reduced by one year.

Note 41: Accounting Standards issued, not yet Adopted

The Code requires the Council to disclose information about accounting changes that will be required by new accounting standards in the 2021/22 Code due to be adopted in future years and the possible impact.

For the 2020/21 accounts, the accounting policy changes that require to be reported are covered by the following accounting standards:

Definition of a Business: Amendments to IFRS 3 Business Combinations – The amendments improve the definition of a business and are intended to help determine whether an acquisition is of a business or a group of assets.

Interest Rate Benchmark Reform: Amendments to IFRS 9, IAS 39 and IFRS 7 – This makes amendments to three current standards with an aim to provide relief for hedging relationships.

Interest Rate Benchmark Reform – Phase 2: Amendments to IFRS 9, IAS 39, IFRS 7, IFRS 4 and IFRS 16 – The amendment address issues arising during the reform of benchmark interest rates including the replacement of one benchmark rate with an alternative one.

In all cases detailed above, implementation is required from 1 April 2021 or beyond, meaning that there is no impact on the 2020/21 financial statements.

Note 42: Critical judgements in applying accounting policies

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 43, the Council has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. The critical judgements made in the financial statements are:

- There is a high degree of uncertainty about future levels of funding for local government. However, the Council has determined that this uncertainty is not yet sufficient to provide an indication that the assets of the Council might be impaired as a result of a need to close facilities and reduce levels of service provision.
- The Council has up to a maximum of 4 trustees out of 9 in total for North Ayrshire Leisure Limited, a charitable organisation that operates the leisure facilities owned by the Council. It has been determined that the Council does not have control of the Trust and it is not a subsidiary of the Council. The Trust is, however, incorporated as an Associate within the Group Accounts presented on pages 40-43.
- The Council has considered its exposure to possible losses and made adequate provision where it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required and can be measured reliably. Where it has not been possible to measure the obligation material contingent liabilities have been disclosed in Note 33.
- The impact of the UK's withdrawal from the EU provides a degree of uncertainty around future funding levels and the economic development of North Ayrshire. However, the Council has determined that this uncertainty is not yet sufficient to provide an indication of the likely impact on the provision of services or the valuation of the Council's assets.

Note 43: Accounting Policies

General Principles

The Accounts summarise the Council's transactions for the 2020-21 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2021. The Council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014 and Section 12 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 requires that they are prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices under Section 21 of the 2003 Act primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and statutory guidance under Section 12 of the 2003 Act.

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

A Accruals of Income and Expenditure

Activity is accounted for in the year that it takes place, not simply when cash payments are made or received. In particular:

- Revenue from contracts with service recipients, whether for services or the provision of goods, is recognised when (or as) the goods or services are transferred to the service recipient in accordance with the performance obligations of the contract.
- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed. Where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption, they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.
- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.
- Interest payable on borrowings and receivable on investments is accounted for on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.
- Suppliers' invoices paid in the two weeks following the year-end have been included together with specific accruals in respect of further material items, provided the goods and services were received prior to 31 March.
- Where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. The de minimis level for recognition of such transactions has been agreed at £5,000, therefore all known transactions of £5,000 or above have been included.
- Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.

B Allocation of Central Support Costs and Recharges to Capital

A proportion of net central support services is allocated to services outwith the general fund. The balance of the net central support services is reported on the basis of how the services are structured and how the Council operates, monitors and manages financial performance.

C 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 mature in three months or less from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

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

D Prior Period Adjustments, Changes in Accounting Policies and Estimates and Errors

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

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

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

E Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

Services are charged with the following amounts to record the cost of holding non-current assets during the year:

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

- Amortisation of intangible fixed assets attributable to the service.

The Council is not required to raise council tax to cover depreciation, revaluation and impairments losses or amortisation. However, it is required to make an annual contribution from revenue towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement, equal to an amount calculated on a prudent basis determined by the Council in accordance with the Statutory Repayment of Loans Fund Advances. This is known as the Loans Fund Principal Repayment. Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisation are replaced by the Loans Fund Principal Repayments in the General Fund Balance by way of an adjusting transaction within the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

F Employee Benefits

Benefits Payable during Employment

Short-term employee benefits are those due to be settled wholly within 12 months of the year end. They include such benefits as salaries, wages, overtime and paid annual leave for current employees and are recognised as an expense in the year in which employees render service to the Council. All salaries and wages earned up to 31 March are included in the financial statements irrespective of when the payment was made. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements earned by employees but not taken before the year-end and which employees can carry forward into the next financial year. The accrual is made at the wage and salary rates applicable in the following year, being the period in which the benefits will be taken. Such accruals are required, under statute, to be reversed out of the General Fund Balance by a credit to the Accumulating Compensated Absences Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Termination Benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Council to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy. They are charged on an accruals basis to the relevant services line in the CIES at the point when the offer of termination can no longer be withdrawn by the Council. Where termination benefits include the enhancement of pensions, the General Fund balance is charged with the amount payable by the Council to the pension fund or pensioner in the year.

Post-Employment Benefits

The Council participates in two separate pension schemes:

- The Scottish Teachers' Pension Scheme administered by the Scottish Government; and
- The Local Government (Scotland) Pension Scheme administered by the Strathclyde Pension Fund.

Both schemes provide defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned while employees work for the Council. However, the arrangements for the teachers' scheme mean that liabilities for these benefits cannot be identified specifically to the Council. The scheme is therefore accounted for as if it were a defined contributions scheme. No liability for future payments of benefits is recognised in the Balance Sheet and the Education and Youth Employment services line in the CIES is charged with the employer's contributions payable to the Teachers' Pension Scheme in the year.

The Local Government Pension Scheme

The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) is accounted for as a defined benefits scheme.

The liabilities of Strathclyde Pension Fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the 'projected credit 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 projected earnings for current employees.

Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate as advised by the actuaries, Hymans Robertson.

The assets of Strathclyde Pension Fund attributable to North Ayrshire Council are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:

- Quoted securities – current bid price;
- Unquoted securities – professional estimate;
- Unlisted securities – current bid price; and
- Property – market value.

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

Service Costs:

- Current service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of service earned by employees this year. This is allocated in the CIES to the services for which the employees worked.
- Past service cost (including curtailments) – the increase in liabilities as a result changes to the scheme, including amendments or curtailments, where the changes impact on the service earned by employees in previous years. These costs are

charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the CIES.

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

Remeasurements:

- Return on plan assets – excludes amounts included in net interest on the net defined liability (asset). This is charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
- Actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions. This is charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
- Contributions paid to the Strathclyde Pension Fund – cash paid as employer's contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities. This is not accounted for as an expense.

Statutory provisions require the General Fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the pension fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means that there are transfers to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement or pension enhancement termination benefits and replace them with charges 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 on the General Fund of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits earned by employees.

Discretionary Benefits

The Council also has restricted powers to make discretionary awards to 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.

G Events After the Reporting Period

These are events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the reporting period (31 March) and the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

The Statement of Accounts are adjusted to reflect events where they provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period.

Where events indicate conditions, which arose after the reporting period, which would have had a material effect, the Statement of Accounts are not adjusted but a disclosure is made in the notes of the nature of the event and the estimated financial effect.

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

H Financial Instruments

Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are recognised on the balance sheet when the Council becomes party to the contractual provisions of a financial liability. Liabilities are initially measured at fair value and then carried at amortised cost. Annual charges to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES for interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective interest rate of the instrument. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments over the life of the instrument to the amount at which it was originally recognised.

For most of the borrowings that the Council has, this means that the amount presented in the balance sheet is the outstanding principal repayable (plus accrued interest) and interest charged to the CIES is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement.

Costs associated with debt restructuring (premiums and discounts) are charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES in the year of repayment of the original debt in accordance with accounting regulations.

Where premiums and discounts have been charged to the CIES, regulations permit the costs of restructuring to be released to revenue over the period of the replacement loan. The reconciliation of amounts charged to the CIES to the net charge required against the General Fund balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Financial Assets

Financial assets are classified and measured based on the reasons, or business model, for holding the financial assets and the characteristics of the anticipated cash flows. There are three main classes of financial assets measured at:

- Amortised cost;
- Fair value through profit or loss (FVPL); and
- Fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI).

The Council's business model is to hold assets to collect contractual cash flows and our financial assets are therefore classified as amortised cost.

Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost

Financial assets measured at amortised costs are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes party to the contractual provisions of a financial asset and are initially measured at fair value and then carried at amortised cost. Annual credits to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES for interest receivable are based on the carrying amount of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. For most of the financial assets held by the Council, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal receivable (plus accrued interest) and interest credited to the CIES is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement.

However, the Council has made a loan to a charitable body at less than market rates (soft loan). When a soft loan is made, a loss is recorded in the CIES (charged to the appropriate service) for the present value of the interest that will be foregone over the life of the loan, resulting in a lower amortised cost than the outstanding principal. The value of the interest foregone is then added back to the amortised cost of the loan on the Balance Sheet and credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES on an annual basis until the loan is repaid.

Any gains or losses which arise on the derecognition of an asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES.

Expected Credit Loss Model

Potential impairment losses on Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost are determined using the Expected Credit Loss Model.

Impairment losses are calculated to reflect the expectation that the future cash flows may not take place because the borrower may default on their obligations. Credit risk plays a crucial part in assessing the potential

losses. Where risk has increased significantly since an asset was recognised, losses are assessed on a lifetime basis. Where risk has not increased significantly or remains low, losses are assessed on the basis of 12-month expected losses.

The Council recognises expected credit losses on all of its financial assets held at amortised cost, either on a 12-month or lifetime basis. Only lifetime losses are recognised for trade receivables (debtors).

For any identified impairment losses, a charge is made to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES.

Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Profit and Loss

Financial Assets that are measured at FVPL are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes party to the contractual provisions of a financial asset and are initially measured and carried at fair value. Fair value gains and losses are recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services as they emerge.

Fair value measurements of the financial assets are based on the following techniques:

- Instrument with quoted market process – the market price; and
- Other instruments with fixed and determinable payments – discounted cash flow analysis.

Any gains and losses which arise on the derecognition of the asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES.

The Council does not currently have any Financial Assets measured at Fair value through Profit and Loss.

I Government Grants and Contributions

Whether paid on account, by instalments or in arrears, government grants and third party contributions and donations are recognised as due to the Council when there is reasonable assurance that:

- The Council will comply with the conditions attached to the payments, and
- The grants or contributions will be received.

Amounts recognised as due to the Council are not credited to the CIES until conditions attached to the grant have been satisfied.

Monies advanced as grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried in the Balance Sheet as creditors. When conditions are satisfied, the grant or contribution is credited to the

relevant service line (for revenue grants) or Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income (for non-ring-fenced revenue grants and all capital grants).

Capital grants are then reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Where the grant has yet to be used to finance capital expenditure, it is posted to the Capital Grants Unapplied Account.

Capital grants which are used and amounts previously posted to the Capital Grants Unapplied Account which have now been applied, are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

J Heritage Assets

A heritage asset is defined as a tangible asset with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that is held and maintained principally for its contribution to knowledge and culture.

The Council holds heritage assets consisting of civic regalia and silverware, historical artefacts, fine art and public artworks. The assets are held at valuation and no depreciation is charged on the assets. Expenditure to maintain the assets is written off to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) in the year of expenditure. Donated heritage assets are reflected in the balance sheet at valuation with a gain equivalent to the value of the asset reported in the CIES in the year of donation.

Measurement

The Council's heritage assets are recognised on the Balance Sheet at values determined by specialist external valuers and by experienced officers within the Connected Communities service. Valuations have been largely undertaken on an insurance basis at retail level. Only items deemed to have a value of £10,000 and above have been disclosed in the Balance Sheet.

Disclosure

Not all of the Council's identified heritage assets will be disclosed in the Balance Sheet. It is not deemed practicable to obtain external valuations for all items defined as heritage assets. These include: Museum and Gallery items with a value of less than £10,000; Castles; Monuments and War Memorials.

K Intangible Assets

Expenditure on non-monetary assets that do not have physical substance but are controlled by the Council as a result of past events (e.g. software licences) is capitalised when it is expected that it will bring benefits to the Council for more than twelve months. Intangible assets are measured initially at cost. Amounts are not revalued, as the fair value of the assets held by the

Council cannot be determined by reference to an active market. The depreciable amount of an intangible asset is amortised over its useful life (generally between 5 and 10 years) to the relevant service line(s) in the CIES.

L Interest in Companies and Other Entities

The Council has interests in companies and other entities which have the nature of subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures and require it to prepare group accounts. In the Council's single entity accounts, these interests are recorded as financial assets at cost, less any provision for losses.

M Internal Transactions

Internal transactions between operational segments of the Council are included within the management accounts for budgetary control purposes only. All internal transactions between services have been excluded from the service expenditure analysis within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement resulting in reductions in both the gross expenditure and gross income reported, with no overall net impact.

N Inventories

Inventories include consumable stock and work-in-progress and are recognised in the Balance Sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value. The valuation of work-in-progress has been made at cost plus an appropriate proportion of overheads, together with attributable profits and allowances for foreseeable losses.

O Investment Properties

Investment properties are those that are used solely to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation. Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value, being the price that would be received to sell such an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. As a non-financial asset, investment properties are measured at highest and best use. Properties are not depreciated but reviewed annually and revalued regularly to ensure their carrying value reflects market conditions at the year-end.

P Leases

Leases are classified as finance leases where the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the property from the lessor to the lessee. All other leases are classified as operating leases. Where a lease covers both land and buildings, the land and buildings elements are considered separately for classification.

The Council as Lessee

North Ayrshire Council currently has no finance leases where the Council is the lessee.

Rentals paid under operating leases, for vehicles and plant, are charged to the appropriate service account in the CIES as an expense of the services benefiting for use of the leased equipment.

The Council as Lessor

North Ayrshire Council has no finance leases where the Council is the lessor.

The Council rents out property on cancellable operating leases only. Where the Council grants an operating lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the asset is retained in the Balance Sheet.

Q Property, Plant and Equipment

Assets that have physical substance and are held for use in the supply of 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.

All valuations of land and buildings are carried out by Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) qualified valuers, with the exception of valuations of council dwellings which are based on beacon values calculated by the District Valuer. Both valuations are in accordance with the methodologies and bases of estimation as set out in the professional standards of RICS.

Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment is capitalised on an accruals basis. Expenditure that merely maintains the condition of an asset (i.e. repairs and maintenance) is charged as an expense when it is incurred.

The Council has a de minimis level of £10,000 for expenditure to be classed as capital. Land and Buildings with a valuation below £10,000 are not recognised on the Council Balance Sheet.

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

- The purchase price; and
- Any costs attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended.

The Council 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.

Assets are carried on the Balance Sheet using the following measurement bases:

- Council Dwellings - Fair value, determined using the basis of existing use value for social housing (EUV-SH);
- Other Land and Buildings - Fair value, determined by the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value - EUV).
- Vehicles, Plant and Equipment - depreciated historical cost
- Infrastructure Assets - depreciated historical cost
- Community Assets - depreciated historical cost
- Surplus Assets - fair value based on market value in highest and best use
- Assets Under Construction - historical cost
- Investment Properties (Common Good and Trusts only) - fair value based on market value in highest and best use

Where there is no market-based evidence of fair value because of the specialist nature of an asset, depreciated replacement cost is used as an estimate of fair value. Assets included in the Balance Sheet at fair value are revalued on a rolling 5-year programme, with the exception of Surplus Assets and Investment Properties which are revalued annually. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains.

Where decreases in value are identified, the revaluation loss is accounted for as follows:

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

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

Impairment

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

Where impairment losses are identified, they are accounted for as follows:

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

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

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided for on all Property, Plant and Equipment assets. 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). Investment Properties and Assets Held for Sale are not subject to depreciation.

Depreciation is charged on a straight-line basis over the useful life of the assets (as advised by a suitably qualified officer). Depreciation is charged in the year of acquisition but not in the year of sale.

Where a 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. For the purposes of component accounting the Council considers significant components being those with a cost that is at least 20% of the overall cost of the asset. Individual assets shall be disregarded for component accounting where their carrying value is below £2m.

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.

Disposals

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 CIES. Gains in fair value are recognised only up to the amount of any

previously recognised losses. Depreciation is not charged on Assets Held for Sale.

Property, land and buildings are classified as 'held for sale' when the following criteria are met:

- The property is available for sale in its present condition;
- The sale is highly probable;
- The asset is being actively marketed for sale at a price that is reasonable in relation to its current fair value;
- The sale is expected to qualify for recognition as a completed sale within one year.

When an asset is disposed of or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the CIES as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals are credited to the same line in the CIES as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Any revaluation gains accumulated for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

To comply with statutory guidance, this gain or loss is excluded when determining the General Fund balance within the Movement in Reserves Statement.

R Public Private Partnership (PPP) / NPD and similar contracts

PPP / NPD and similar contracts are agreements to receive services, where the responsibility for making available the property, plant and equipment needed to provide the services passes to the PPP / NPD contractor. As the Council is deemed to control the services that are provided under its PPP / NPD schemes and as ownership of the property, plant and equipment will pass to the Council at the end of the contracts for no additional charge, the Council carries the assets used under the contracts on its Balance Sheet as part of Property, Plant and Equipment.

The original recognition of these assets at fair value (based on the cost to purchase the property, plant and equipment) was balanced by the recognition of a liability for amounts due to the scheme operator to pay for the capital investment. For North Ayrshire Council Schools PPP contract, the liability was written down by an initial capital contribution of £1.743 million.

The amounts payable to the PPP/ NPD operators each year are analysed into four elements:

- Service charges and lifecycle replacement costs – value of services including cleaning and janitorial services, repairs and maintenance, energy, non-

domestic rates and insurances debited to the relevant service in the CIES;

- Interest payments – the interest charge on the outstanding Balance Sheet liability, debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES;
- Contingent rent – increases in the amount to be paid for the property arising during the contract, debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES; and
- Liability repayment– repayment of the principal owed to the PPP operator, applied to write down the Balance Sheet liability.

S Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Provisions

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Council a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefits or service potential, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. For instance, the Council may be involved in a court case that could eventually result in the making of a settlement or the payment of compensation.

Provisions are charged as an expense to the appropriate service line in the CIES in the year that the Council becomes aware of the obligation, and 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 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 Council settles the obligation.

Contingent Liabilities

A contingent liability arises where an event has taken place that gives the Council a possible obligation, whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council. Contingent liabilities also arise in circumstances where a provision would otherwise be made but either it is not definite that an outflow of

resources will be required, or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably.

Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the balance sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts.

Contingent Assets

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

Contingent assets are not recognised in the balance sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts where it is probable that there will be an inflow of economic benefits or service potential.

T Reserves

Reserves are created by appropriating amounts out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service in that year to score against the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services in the CIES. The reserve is then appropriated back into the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement so that there is no net charge against council tax for the expenditure.

Certain reserves are kept to manage the accounting processes for non-current assets, financial instruments and retirement benefits and do not represent usable resources for the Council; these reserves are explained in the relevant notes.

U Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute

Expenditure incurred during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provisions but does not result in the creation of a non-current asset is charged as expenditure to the relevant service in the CIES in the year. Where the Council has determined to meet the cost of this expenditure from existing capital resources or by borrowing, a transfer in the Movement in Reserves Statement from the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account then reverses out the amounts charged so that there is no impact on the level of council tax.

V VAT

All income and expenditure excludes amounts relating to VAT, as all VAT collected is payable to HM Revenue and Customs and net VAT paid is fully recoverable by the Council.

W Fair Value Measurement

The Council values some of its non-financial assets, such as Surplus Assets and Investment Properties (Common Good Funds and Trusts only), and some of its financial instruments at Fair Value. Fair Value is the price that would be received either on the sale of an asset or to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The Fair Value measurement assumes that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability takes place either:

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

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

When measuring the Fair Value of a non-financial asset, the Council takes into account a market participant's ability to generate economic benefits by using the asset in its highest and best use or by selling it to another market participant that would use the asset in its highest and best use. The Council uses valuation techniques that are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data is available, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising the use of unobservable inputs.

Inputs to the valuation techniques in respect of assets and liabilities for which Fair Value is measured or disclosed in the Council'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 Council 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; or
- Level 3 – unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

Glossary of Terms

Although the majority of the terminology used throughout the accounts is self-explanatory or defined within the relevant sections, the following additional definitions and interpretations are provided to assist readers' understanding.

Actuarial Gains or Losses

Actuarial Gains or Losses represent the movements in pension scheme liabilities which have arisen because actual events have not coincided with the actuarial assumptions made at the last valuation. These result in unforeseen movements in the net pension liability recognised by the Council.

Amortisation

Amortisation is the cost of reducing the value of an intangible asset over its useful economic life. A charge is made against services for the value of the assets they have used during the year.

Assets

An asset is any item which has value including cash, investments, properties, vehicles, etc. Assets are classified as short term, which will be consumed within the current year, or long term, which will be used to provide services over more than one year.

Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditure is expenditure on assets of lasting value whose useful life exceeds the current year. This includes schools, roads, community facilities, council housing, etc. and is financed from grants, receipts from the sale of assets, revenue contributions and borrowing.

Community Assets

Long term assets which have no determinable useful economic life and are held in perpetuity by the Council, including parks and open spaces.

Contingent Assets / Liabilities

Contingent Assets or Liabilities are where an asset or liability is either uncertain and will only arise if an event outwith the Council's control occurs or where the amount of the potential asset or liability cannot be reliably measured, e.g. the potential outcome of future court proceedings or insurance claims.

Creditors

Creditors are a kind of liability. They represent payments owed by the Council to another person or organisation for past events.

Debt Instruments

Debt instruments represent the value of investments in certificates of debt issued by companies or governments including bonds, debentures, certificates and mortgages.

Debtors

Debtors are a kind of asset. They represent payments owed to the Council by another person or organisation for past events.

Defined Benefit Pension Scheme

A Defined Benefit Pension Scheme is a scheme where the benefits due to participants are predetermined based on earnings, length of service and age and are not directly dependant on the contributions paid or investment returns realised.

Depreciation

Depreciation is the measure of the cost of wearing out, consuming or reducing the useful life of the Council's assets. A charge is made against services for the value of the assets they have used during the year.

Equity Investments

Equity investments represent the value of stocks and shares held in companies.

Fair Value

The fair value of an asset or liability is the price at which it could be exchanged or settled in an arm's length transaction between two willing, knowledgeable parties.

Financial Instrument

A financial instrument is any contract which gives rise to a financial asset or liability or an equity instrument in another entity, this includes cash, debtors, creditors, loans, borrowings and shares in other companies.

General Fund

The General Fund is the principal usable reserve of the Council. The activities financed from this include all revenue and capital income and expenditure not related to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

Group Accounts

The Council's Group includes its interest in any subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

The Housing Revenue Account includes all revenue and capital income and expenditure related to the provision of social housing services.

Infrastructure Assets

Long term assets which cannot be transferred or sold, including roads, bridges and footpaths.

Inventories

Inventories are raw materials or goods which have been purchased but which have not yet been consumed in the delivery of Council services.

Liabilities

A liability represents a payment owed to another person or organisation including loans, outstanding invoices, provisions, contributions owed to third parties, etc. Short term liabilities are due to be paid within the current year. Long term liabilities are amounts which will not be paid until a later year.

Pension Scheme Liabilities

The Pension Scheme Liabilities are the benefits to be paid to members after the valuation date of the scheme. The cost of the liabilities is recognised as a long term liability of the Council, net of its share of any pension scheme assets.

Provisions

A provision is a kind of liability. Where a payment for a liability is certain or very likely to occur but the exact amount and timing is not known, an amount must be put aside to meet the estimated future costs.

Reserves

Reserves are the accumulated surpluses or deficits generated from the General Fund or Housing Revenue Account activities of the Council. Reserves are classified as either Usable, i.e. available to fund Council services, or Unusable, which hold unrealised gains or losses which will only become available to use in the provision of services once assets have been sold.

Revaluation / Impairment

Revaluations and impairments are adjustments to the value of an asset, either positively or negatively, to align the carrying value of an asset to an independent assessment of the asset's fair value.

Revenue Expenditure

Revenue expenditure includes the day to day costs of providing services including salaries and wages, property costs, transport costs and supplies and services. It also includes the costs of the repayment of loans used to finance capital expenditure.