

East Cambridgeshire District Council



Statement of Accounts 2023/24

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Narrative Report**By the Director, Finance**

As the Council's Responsible Financial Officer, I am pleased to present the Council's 2023/24 Annual Financial Report which outlines the Council's financial performance for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The purpose of this foreword is to provide a guide to the most significant matters reported in the Council's accounts and is in three sections.

- Commentary and review of 2023/24.
- The Financial Statements
- Technical information

Commentary and Review of 2023/24**Review of the Year**

Within the Corporate Plan 2023 to 2027, there are three priority areas;

- (1) Sound Financial Management
- (2) Cleaner, greener East Cambridgeshire
- (3) Sustainable communities

The following information details the outcomes against the promises over the past twelve months:

Sound Financial Management

Priorities

Ensure the Council is financially sustainable.

Minimise the financial (cost) impact of the Council on its residents.

Be more commercial, but within reason - 'commercial for community'.

2023/24 Actions	Results
Council to approve the 2024/25 budget and Medium Term Financial Plan in February 2024 only increasing Council Tax as a last resort.	The 2024/25 budget was approved in February 2024 including a balanced budget for 2024/25 and 2025/26 with no increase in Council Tax in 2024/25.
Provide loan financing to ECTC to enable it to deliver the Eden Square development from the £7.5m agreed by Council.	Loan financing is in place and Eden Square, Ely has commenced development. Sales are expected to launch in May / June 2024.
Undertake a review of the Planning Service to improve the customer journey, identify efficiencies to mitigate service	A Review Team was set up in October 2023 and the review findings were finalised in February 2024. The recommendations from

demand and increased costs and increase timely decision making.	the review will now be implemented over the next 12 -18 months
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Cleaner, greener East Cambridgeshire

Priorities

Improve the public realm.

Reduce environmental crime across the district.

Enhance the natural environment and build on our sustainability goals.

Design a resilient waste and street cleansing service fit for the future.

2023/24 Actions	Results
Run a 'Love your Street' campaign, with improved cleansing schedules.	The campaign launched in quarter two and included a chewing gum campaign, a competition to name new vehicles and general comms / awareness raising. The campaign will continue through the next year focussing more on community litter picks and awareness comms.
Improve the look and feel of the city and town centres, including replacement street furniture.	Action plans have been agreed and work is underway.
Approve an Environmental Crime Action Plan by December 2023.	Approved in November 2023
Deliver the top 20 actions in the Council's 2023 Environment Plan, including Pride of Place Grant Scheme, solar investment and increased community engagement on the natural environment.	The actions are expected to be completed in full. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 Pride of Place grants have been awarded to local organisations. • Sport England funding has been secured to enable the installation of solar panels at the Hive district leisure centre • Draft Hedgehog Recovery Supplementary Planning Document approved for public consultation in Spring / Summer 2024
Approve the 2024 Environment Plan.	The 2024 Environment Plan is scheduled to be presented to the Council's Finance and Assets Committee for approval in June 2024.
Commence preliminary work and consultation on a new 'climate' chapter for the new Local Plan and include a Local	Preliminary work commenced, however, the publication of Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) "Planning – Local Energy Efficiency

Plan funding allocation in the Council's 2024/25 budget.	<p>Standards Update" - 13 December 2023, introduced considerable risk that any planning policy seeking an uplift to energy efficiency standards or seeking on-site renewables (such as solar panels on roofs) would not pass independent examination (i.e. it would be found 'unsound').</p> <p>Therefore, at its meeting in March 2024, the Finance and Assets Committee agreed to delay consultation on a draft Climate Change and Nature Recovery Chapter of a future Local Plan until greater clarity emerges on Government expectations for climate policies intended to be included in such a chapter.</p> <p>Funding is included in the Council's budget to prepare a new Local Plan during the MTFS period, including £100,000 in 2024/25 and £300,000 in 2025/26.</p>
Meet the milestones of the Street Smart Project, including implementation of a new digital service for waste.	Waste digital software launched in December 2023 has been deployed to all vehicles. Next phase is customer services integrations. Project Street Smart milestones met. Ahead of schedule on the overall programme and of the longer term actions carry into 2024/25.
Bring forward proposals for the waste collection service to prepare for the introduction of the Environment Act 2021.	Member Waste Working Party established, and Waste collection methodologies modelled and shortlisted. Timetable for final proposals to come forward in September 2024.

Sustainable communities

Priorities

Support our residents to live happy and healthy lives.

Support our businesses to thrive in East Cambridgeshire.

Improve our roads and local transport.

Deliver genuinely affordable housing that enables people to live and work locally.

Invest in community infrastructure.

2023/24 Actions	Results
Spend up to £2 million investing in energy efficiency measures for non-gas homes in East Cambridgeshire, as part of a wider £10 million Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership (CERP).	CERP reduced the year 1 numbers quite significantly in December (as agreed with DESNEZ) and therefore a proportion of funding was removed from the Partnership's overall allocation. However, the expectation remains that ECDC spend will be in the ballpark of the original £2 million (over the period of the project, ending in March 2026) given we have £750,000 already invoiced or allocated and we still have eight months left to submit batches in an environment where the contractors are now ramped up to deliver.
Bring forward a health and wellbeing strategy and action plan to dovetail with the priorities of the Integrated care systems (ICS) and regional health strategies.	Approved in March 2024
Support local businesses via the Shared Prosperity Fund Business Growth Fund and Local Enterprise Support Scheme.	Business Growth Fund grant scheme launched April 2024. The Local Enterprise Support Scheme funding has been awarded to the Business & IP Centre (BIPC) to deliver the Get Set and Grow programme which is aimed at startup businesses. Regular engagement sessions are being held and a number of events are planned for the summer focussing on business development.
Work with Sustrans to produce a further 5 route feasibility studies and further develop existing studies.	Route feasibility studies produced for the following routes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ely – Stuntey – Soham • Mepal – Sutton – Witcham – Witchford • Isleham - Fordham • Sutton – Earith • Wilburton - Cottenham Extra design work and drawings produced for reports originally produced in 2022/23.
Engage with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) Bus Network Review.	The Council is meeting with the CPCA regularly through the Review process to protect and improve bus services in East Cambridgeshire.

	<p>The Council is working with the CPCA to deliver a DRT (Demand Responsive Transport) pilot in the district.</p>
<p>Work with CPCA and partners to deliver improvements to road and rail infrastructure, including support for the A14/A142 junction upgrade at Exning and A10 Ely to A14 improvements scheme, support local rail improvements including Soham Railway Station phase 2 and champion improvements and repairs to East Cambridgeshire roads.</p>	<p>The Council continues to work with stakeholders to deliver improvements to road and rail infrastructure and is represented on the A10 Ely to A14 improvements Project Board, the BP Roundabout A10 Non-Motorised User Crossing Project Board and the Ely Area Capacity Enhancement project Task Force.</p>
<p>Oppose the introduction of congestion charging in Cambridge to protect our residents.</p>	<p>In July 2023 East Cambridgeshire District Council passed a motion urging the Greater Cambridge Partnership, together with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and Cambridgeshire County Council to cease work on the implementation of road charging.</p> <p>Instead, it urged all partner organisations, MPs, businesses and organisations across Cambridgeshire to work together to develop alternative proposals that demonstrate public support and focus on the early delivery of multiple small improvements as well as accelerating work on larger projects that can and will encourage people away from private vehicle use.</p>
<p>Support Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Road Safety Police Volunteer scheme.</p>	<p>The Council continued to work with the Police to develop an innovative scheme to use volunteers to reduce anti-social parking.</p> <p>Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Change Board met at the end of November and an agreement was reached that a pilot would be explored to establish the Road Safety Police Support Volunteer (RSPSV) role, but initially their remit (and delegated powers) be limited to road-safety issues, i.e. speeding and dangerous parking. Should the pilot be successful, proposals for expanding their role (and powers) will be considered, which can include parking enforcement.</p> <p>Further meetings have been set up with Police Support Volunteer (PSV) co-ordinator and the Specials lead, to utilise Specials who are not currently operational, to open various deployment possibilities as</p>

	they retain full powers (including all road traffic powers). The aim is to launch the pilot in 2024.
Continue to support existing Community Land Trusts (CLTs) across the district and work with communities to establish and develop new CLTs.	<p>The Council's Community Led Development Advisor continues to provide advice and grant support to Community Land Trusts.</p> <p>In March 2024 Kennett CLT was awarded a CLT Pre-development Grant to enable the delivery of 60 affordable housing units that will be owned and managed by the CLT in perpetuity, as part of the Kennett Garden Village development</p> <p>In January 2024 Stretham and Wilburton CLT was awarded Growth and Infrastructure Funds and CIL funding towards 'The Link' a new wellbeing community hub comprising GP premises, café and central services, four work units for meetings rooms and to support complementary medicine.</p>
Launch the application process for the Eden Square £100k Homes.	This is due to launch in the summer of 2024.
Consider the full business plan for a crematorium in Mepal.	Full Business Case approved at Council February 2024. Commissioning of Project Manager commenced March 2024 with anticipated appointment in April / May.

Revenue Spending and Sources of Income

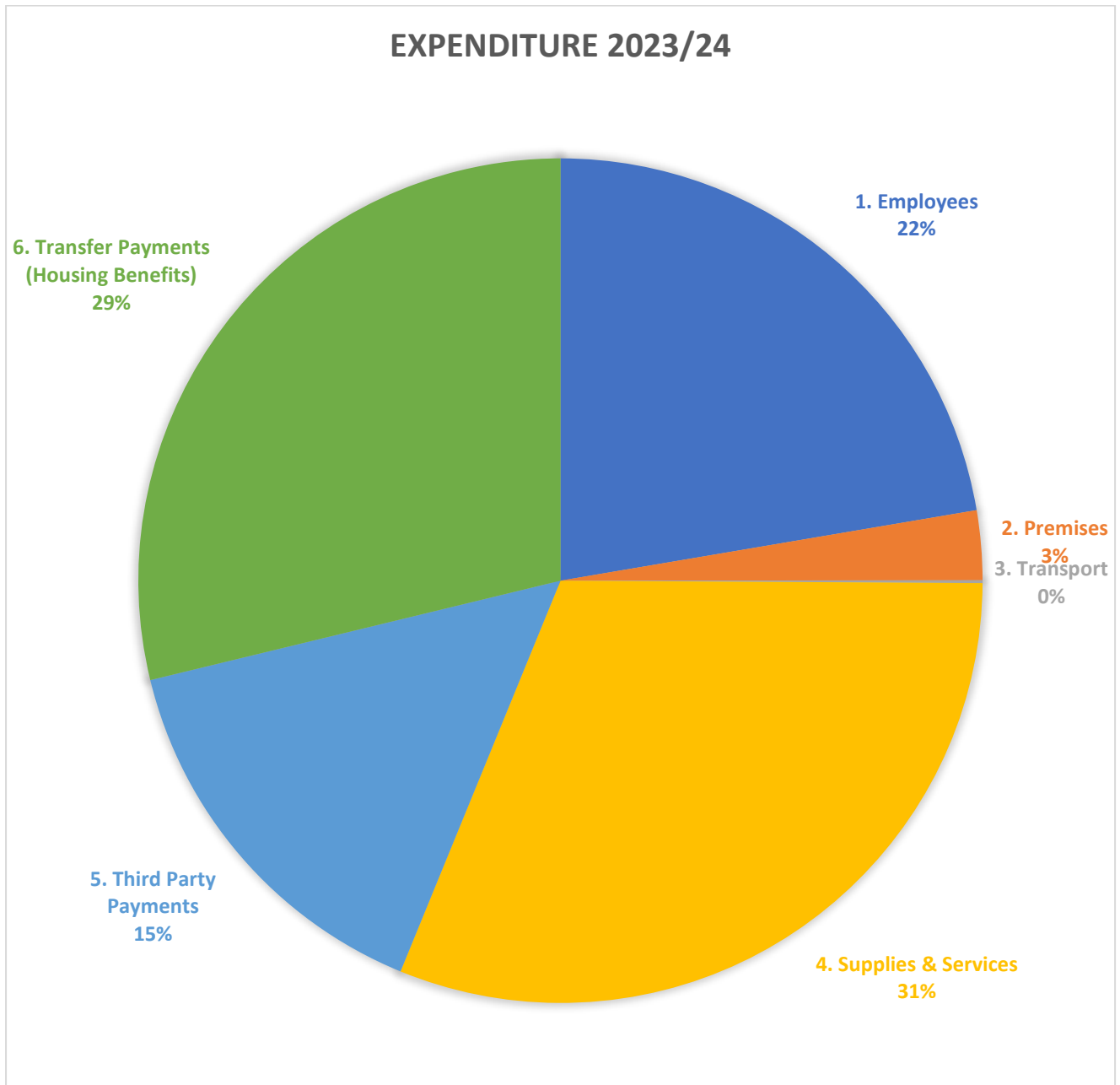
The Table below sets out the Council's budget for 2023/24 and how it performed against this and details out the main sources of income the Council receives to pay for its services.

	Budget	Outturn	Variance
	£000	£000	£000
Service			
Finance & Assets	6,028	4,063	(1,965)
Operational Services	6,907	7,043	136
Service Net Revenue Expenditure	12,935	11,106	(1,829)
Land Drainage	633	572	(61)
Parish Precepts	3,001	3,001	0
Movement in Corporate Reserves	288	335	47
Total Net Revenue Expenditure	16,857	15,014	(1,843)
Financing			
Council Tax	(7,581)	(7,581)	0
Non Domestic Rates	(5,717)	(6,376)	(659)
Revenue Support Grant	(102)	(102)	(0)
Other Government Grants	(1,481)	(1,576)	(95)
Budget - draw from Surplus Savings Reserve	(1,976)	(1,976)	(0)
Total Financing	(16,857)	(17,611)	(754)
Transfer to Surplus Savings Reserve			(2,597)
Net (Increase)/Decrease in Earmarked Reserves			(2,023)
Total Reported General Fund Movements			575
Adjustment between Funding & Accounting Basis			(996)
Reported (Surplus) upon Services in Income & Expenditure Account			(3,019)

The net cost of individual committees in the above table are different to those in the formal Statement of Accounts due to the statutory charges that are applied to the formal Accounts and the treatment of movements to and from reserves. The above table however reflects the structure of the accounts as presented to Council throughout the year and in the Outturn, report that will be reported to Finance and Assets Committee on 27th June 2024. Reasons for yearend variances can be found in this report, for both revenue and capital.

Analysis of Revenue Expenditure

The Council spent £44.606 million (gross) in 2023/24 and the chart below shows the type of expenditure this was spent on.



Reserves

The table below shows the movement in the useable reserves during the year.

Usable Reserves 2023/24	Brought Forward £'000	Contributions		Carried Forward £'000
		To £'000	From £'000	
General Fund	1,063	175		1,238
Surplus Savings & Earmarked	24,810	2,949	(1,099)	26,660
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	25,873	3,124	(1,099)	27,898
Capital Receipts Reserve	1,481	305	0	1,786
Capital Grants Unapplied	404	0	(15)	389
Total Usable Reserves	27,758	3,429	(1,114)	30,073

Capital Spending

The final capital budget for 2023/24 was £7.800 million and the table below shows the movement from the original capital programme approved in February 2024.

Capital Programme	£'000	£'000
Original Approved Capital Programme 2023/24	6,569	
Approved slippage from 2022/23	1,237	
Approved Additions	(5)	
Updated Capital Programme for 2023/24		7,801
Capital outturn		3,200
Underspend against revised budget		4,600

Spend in 2023/24 was as shown below:

2022/23 £'000	Capital Spending	2023/24 £'000
675.6	Housing Grants	666.8
249.1	Vehicle Replacement Programme	168.1
0	Refuse Vehicles	1,947.5
0	Solar Panel Project	49.9
1,250.9	ECDC A14 Contribution	0
6,000.0	Loan to subsidiary company	0
234.6	Loan to EC CLT	0
160.3	Extension of Ely County Park	0
209.3	Depot Improvements	288.6
70.8	Wheelie Bins	50.8
<u>8,850.6</u>	Gross Expenditure	<u>3,171.7</u>
	Funded From	
289.4	Capital Receipts Reserve Applied	158.2
607.3	Grants	623.6
773.9	CIL Earmarked Reserve Contribution	391.3
5,871.0	Internal Borrowing Contributions	1,844.9
1,064.9	Other Revenue Contributions	(28.7)
244.1	Section 106	182.4
<u>8,850.6</u>		<u>3,171.7</u>

Treasury Management

East Cambridgeshire District Council was in cash surplus during the whole of the 2023/24 financial year. The Council invested this “surplus” cash in both fixed, short term investments (with organisations in line with the Council’s Treasury Management Strategy) and in Money Market funds during the year, this to maximise interest receipts, but while ensuring, as its main focus, the security and availability of the invested funds.

Looking to the Future

The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) sets a robust financial framework for the Council's plans over the next four years which support the delivery of the Council's priorities within a context of an annual balanced budget. Specifically, the MTFS:

- Looks to the longer term to help plan sustainable services within an increasingly uncertain external economic and funding environment.
- Maximises the Council's financial resilience and manage risk and volatility, including managing adequate reserves.
- Helps ensure that the Council's financial resources are directed to support delivery of the Council's priorities over the medium term.

The Financial Statements

The Council's financial statements for 2023/24 have been prepared in accordance with the:

- Standard format for local authority accounts recommended by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) for the Statement of Accounts in 2023/24 as prescribed by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 based on International Financial Reporting Standards.
- Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

The primary financial statements are supported by explanatory notes, including details of the accounting policies adopted by the Council.

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)

This statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. Authorities raise taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in the movement in reserves statement.

Movement in Reserves Statement

The CIES differs from the Council's management accounts, as it contains a number of transactions that are required for accounting purposes but disregarded for management reporting purposes as they are deemed not to be covered by Council Tax. A reconciliation is presented at Notes 1 & Note 8 to the accounts.

This statement also shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into 'useable reserves', (i.e., those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and 'unusable' reserves.

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows the value at the 31 March 2024 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 useable 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 Receipts reserve may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt). The second category of reserves are unusable reserves and include unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the asset to which they

relate was sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement at the line entitled 'Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'.

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£'000		£'000
43,019	Long Term Assets	47,288
34,628	Current Assets	35,392
(12,346)	Current Liabilities	(10,777)
(5,532)	Long Term Liabilities	(3,716)
<u>59,769</u>	Net Assets	<u>68,187</u>
27,758	Useable Reserves	30,071
32,011	Unusable Reserves	38,116
<u>59,769</u>	Total Reserves	<u>68,187</u>

The Council's Balance Sheet has moved from a position at 31st March 2023 of £59.769 million to £68.187 million at 31 March 2024. The principal reasons for this movement of £8.048 million is largely attributable to the increase in movement on the pension asset and increase in Cash & cash equivalents. The full Balance Sheet is on page 23 of the Accounts.

At this time, the statutory arrangements for funding the Pension surplus mean that the financial position of the Council continues to remain healthy.

- Any deficit on the local government scheme will be made good by increased contributions over the remaining working life of employees (i.e., before payments fall due), as assessed by the scheme and actuary.
- Finance is only required to be raised to cover discretionary benefits when the pensions are actually paid.
- The overall gain at 31 March 2024 does not result in a return of funds from the Local Government Pension Scheme, therefore a further calculation determines an asset ceiling for which the Council can reflect an asset on the balance sheet. The asset ceiling reduces the overall gain by £0.141M.

The Cash Flow Statement

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

Net Cash Flows from:	31 March 2024 £'000
Operating activities	1,377
Investing activities	5,722
Financing activities	1,502
Net Increase or Decrease in cash and cash equivalents	8,601
Cash and cash equivalents	
At the beginning of the reporting period	13,044
At the end of the reporting period	21,645

The increase in cash and cash equivalents reflects a move to hold more funds as cash as opposed to longer term investments.

The Collection Fund Revenue Accounts

The Collection Fund Accounts are separate accounts into which are paid amounts raised from local taxation. There are two accounts detailing the amounts collected in respect of Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR).

The NNDR amount collected is then distributed subject to a predetermined Government set formulae.

The Council Tax Account is distributed based on the requested value of the preceptors across the District, these preceptors are:

- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Cambridgeshire Fire Authority
- Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner
- East Cambridgeshire District Council
- Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority
- Parish Councils

Technical Information

East Cambridgeshire's financial statements for 2023/24 have been prepared in accordance with the:

- Standard format for local authority accounts recommended by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) for the Statement of Accounts in 2023/24 as prescribed by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 based on International Financial Reporting Standards.
- Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

International Financial Reporting Standards

The Council has reported its financial position based on the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and this is encapsulated within the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24.

Statement of Accounting Policies

The accounting policies applicable to the 2023/24 Statement of Accounts are the same as those that were applied to the 2022/23.

True and Fair View Override

As required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, paragraph 8.2, it is noted that the Responsible Financial Officer has not had to use the "true and fair view override".

Changes to the Statement of Accounts

There are no material changes to the Statement of Accounts.

Material and Unusual Charges or Credits in the Accounts

There are no material and unusual charges or credits in the accounts.

Material Events after the Reporting Date

There have not been any material events after the reporting date.

Material Assets Acquired or Liabilities Incurred

There have not been any material assets acquired or liabilities incurred during the year.

Changes in Statutory Functions

There were no changes in statutory functions in 2023/24.



Ian Smith - CPFA

Director, Finance
20th February 2025



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Disclaimer of Opinion

We were engaged to audit the financial statements of East Cambridgeshire District Council ('the Council') and its subsidiaries (the 'Group') for the year ended 31 March 2024. The financial statements comprise the:

- Authority and Group Movement in Reserves Statement,
- Authority and Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement,
- Authority and Group Balance Sheet,
- Authority and Group Cash Flow Statement
- the related notes 1 to 32 to the Authority financial statements and the related notes G1 to G4 to the Group financial statements including material accounting policy information, and
- the Collection Fund and the related notes 1 to 7.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24.

We do not express an opinion on the accompanying financial statements of the Authority. Because of the significance of the matter described in the basis for disclaimer of opinion section of our report, we have not been able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Basis for disclaimer of opinion

The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (Statutory Instrument 2024/907) which came into force on 30 September 2024 required any outstanding accountability statements for years ended 31 March 2015 to 31 March 2023 to be approved not later than 13 December 2024 and the accountability statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 to be approved not later than 28 February 2025 ('the backstop date').

The audit of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 for East Cambridgeshire District Council was not completed for the reasons set out in our disclaimer of opinion on those financial statements dated 25 November 2024.

Our planned audit work in the current year was focused on transactions in the year and the current year balance sheet.

Due to delays in receiving audit evidence in sufficient time before the backstop date, we did not have the required resource available and, have been unable to complete our audit procedures on:

- Balance Sheet - Grants Received in Advance (23/4 £3.716 million, 22/3 £3.467 million);
- Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement – Finance & Assets (23/4 Net Expenditure £6.348 million, 22/3 Net Expenditure £6.777 million.
- Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement – Operational Services (23/4 Net Expenditure £5.149 million, 22/3 Net Expenditure £4.078 million.
- Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement – Interest Receivable and Investment Income (23/4 Income £2.115 million, 22/3 income £0.809 million.
- Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement – (Surplus) or deficit in the revaluation of non-current assets (23/4 £0.487 million, 22/3 £0.991 million).

As a result of the disclaimer(s) of opinion in the prior year(s) and the scope of our audit work which was impacted by the backstop date, we do not have sufficient appropriate audit evidence over the following:

- in the Group and Authority balance sheet and accompanying notes: the opening balances, closing reserves position and the valuation of property assets held at valuation included in 'Other Land and Buildings' and 'Heritage Assets' that were not revalued in year.
- in the Group and Authority Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account and accompanying notes: comparatives and income and expenditure transactions that are impacted by the opening balances shown in the prior year balance sheet
- in the Group and Authority Cash Flow Statement and accompanying notes: opening balances, comparatives and in-year cash flow movements that are calculated as a movement between the opening and closing balance sheet
- in the Collection Fund and accompanying notes: opening balances, comparatives and in-year movements that are calculated as a movement between the opening and closing balance

Therefore, we are disclaiming our opinion on the financial statements.

Matters on which we report by exception

Notwithstanding our disclaimer of opinion on the financial statements we have nothing to report in respect of whether the annual governance statement is misleading or inconsistent with other information forthcoming from the audit, performed subject to the pervasive limitation described above, or our knowledge of the Group and the Authority.

We report to you if:

- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended)
- we make written recommendations to the audited body under Section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended)
- we make an application to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law under Section 28 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended)
- we issue an advisory notice under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended)
- we make an application for judicial review under Section 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended)
- we are not satisfied that the Group and the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2024.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

Responsibility of the Section 151 Officer

As explained more fully in the 'Statement of Responsibilities' set out on page 20, the Section 151 Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the Group financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority. Accounting in the United Kingdom, 2023/24, for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and for such internal control as the Section 151 Officer 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 Section 151 Officer is responsible for assessing the Group and the Authority'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 the Group and the Authority either intends to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Authority is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, to ensure proper stewardship and governance, and to review regularly the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our responsibility is to conduct an audit of the Group and the Authority's financial statements in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) and to issue an auditor's report.

However, because of the matter described in the basis for disclaimer of opinion section of our report, we were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on these financial statements.

We are independent of the Group and the Authority in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and the Code of Audit Practice 2024 and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Scope of the review of arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources

We have undertaken our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice 2024, having regard to the guidance on the specified reporting criteria issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in November 2024, as to whether East Cambridgeshire District Council had proper arrangements for financial sustainability, governance and improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The Comptroller and Auditor General determined these criteria as those necessary for us to consider under the Code of Audit Practice in satisfying ourselves whether East Cambridgeshire District Council put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2024.

We planned our work in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice. Based on our risk assessment, we undertook such work as we considered necessary to form a view on whether East Cambridgeshire District Council had put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

We are required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended) to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

Certificate

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate until the NAO, as group auditor, has confirmed that no further assurances will be required from us as component auditors of East Cambridgeshire District Council. Until we have completed these procedures, we are unable to certify that we have completed the audit of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended) and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the National Audit Office.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the members of East Cambridgeshire District Council, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended) and for no other purpose, as set out in paragraph 85 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Group and the Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

MARK HODGSON

ERNST & YOUNG LLP

Date: 20th February 2025

Mark Hodgson (Key Audit Partner)
Ernst & Young LLP (Local Auditor)
Cambridge

Statement of Responsibilities

The Authority's Responsibilities

The Authority is required to:

- make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Authority, that officer is the Finance Manager & Section 151 Officer.
- manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient, and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets; and
- approve the Statement of Accounts.

The Section 151 Officer's Responsibilities

The Section 151 Officer is responsible for the preparation of the authority's Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom* (the Code).

In preparing this Statement of Accounts the Section 151 Officer has:

- selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently.
- made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent.
- complied with the local authority Code.

The Section 151 Officer has also:

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

I certify that the Statement of Accounts presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority at 31 March 2024 and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2024.



Ian Smith – CPFA

Director, Finance
20th February 2025



Audit Committee Certificate for the Approval of the Accounts

COUNCIL Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

2022/23				2023/24			
GROSS EXPENDITURE £000	GROSS INCOME £000	NET EXPENDITURE £000		N O T E	GROSS EXPENDITURE £000	GROSS INCOME £000	NET EXPENDITURE £000
23,011	(16,234)	6,777	Finance & Assets		22,690	(16,341)	6,348
15,764	(11,686)	4,078	Operational Services		14,155	(9,007)	5,149
38,775	(27,920)	10,855	Cost of Services	8	36,845	(25,348)	11,497
2,740		2,740	Parish Council Precepts		3,001		3,001
555		555	Internal Drainage Board		572		572
	(4)	(4)	Interest on soft Loans			(4)	(4)
28		28	Loss/(Gain) on disposal of non-current assets		(277)		(277)
3,323	(4)	3,319	Other Operating Expenditure		3,295	(4)	3,291
	(809)	(809)	Interest Receivable & Investment Income	32		(2,115)	(2,115)
580		580	Net Interest on the net Pension Liability		232		232
580	(809)	(229)	Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure	21	232	(2,115)	(1,883)
	(7,271)	(7,271)	Council Tax Income			(7,671)	(7,671)
	(6,928)	(6,928)	Non Domestic Rates income & Expenditure			(6,670)	(6,670)
	(1,578)	(1,578)	Non Ring Fenced Government Grants	8		(1,583)	(1,583)
0	(15,777)	(15,777)	TAXATION & NON SPECIFIC GRANT INCOME		0	(15,924)	(15,924)
42,678	(44,510)	(1,832)	(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of services	8	40,372	(43,391)	(3,019)
	991	991	(Surplus) or deficit in the revaluation of non-current assets			(487)	(487)
	(20,607)	(20,607)	Actuarial losses (Gains) on pension assets & liabilities	21		(4,913)	(4,913)
0	(19,616)	(19,616)	Other comprehensive income & expenditure		0	(5,400)	(5,400)
42,678	(64,126)	(21,448)	TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME & EXPENDITURE		40,372	(48,791)	(8,419)

COUNCIL Movement in Reserves Statement 2022/23

	General Fund	Other Earmarked Reserves	Capital Grants Unapplied	Capital Receipts Reserve	Total Useable Reserves	Total Unusable reserves	TOTAL Council Reserves
Carried Forward at 31 March 2022	(1,051)	(23,415)	(380)	(1,536)	(26,382)	(11,533)	(37,915)
Movement in reserves							
(Surplus) or Deficit on provision of services		(1,256)			(1,256)		(1,256)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(12)	12				(19,616)	(19,616)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(12)	(1,244)			(1,256)	(19,616)	(20,872)
ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS & FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATIONS		(151)	(24)	56	(119)	(861)	(981)
Net Increase/Decrease before Transfers to/from earmarked reserves	(12)	(1,395)	(24)	56	(1,375)	(20,477)	(21,852)
Transfer To/from Earmarked reserves	(12)	(1,395)	(24)	56	(1,375)	(20,477)	(21,852)
Balance at 31 March 2023	(1,063)	(24,810)	(404)	(1,481)	(27,757)	(32,010)	(59,767)

COUNCIL Movement in Reserves Statement 2023/24

	General Fund	Other Earmarked Reserves	Capital Grants Unapplied	Capital Receipts Reserve	Total Useable Reserves		Total Unusable reserves	TOTAL Council Reserves
Carried Forward at 31 March 2023	(1,063)	(24,810)	(404)	(1,481)	(27,757)		(32,010)	(59,767)
Movement in reserves								
(Surplus) or Deficit on provision of services		(3,019)			(3,019)			(3,019)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(175)	175			0		(5,400)	(5,400)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(175)	(2,844)			(3,019)		(5,400)	(8,419)
ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS & FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATIONS		996	15	(305)	706		(706)	0
Net Increase/Decrease before Transfers to/from earmarked reserves	(175)	(1,848)	15	(305)	(2,313)		(6,106)	(8,419)
Balance at 31 March 2024	(1,238)	(26,658)	(389)	(1,786)	(30,071)		(38,116)	(68,187)

Balance Sheet

31 Mar 23 £'000		Note	31 Mar 24 £'000
	LONG TERM ASSETS		
36,357	Property, Plant and Equipment	12	38,779
105	Heritage Assets		105
0	Intangible Assets	14	0
6,557	Long Term Debtors	16	5,513
	Net Pension Asset	21	2,891
43,019	TOTAL LONG TERM ASSETS		47,288
	CURRENT ASSETS		
17,000	Investments (Short Term)		10,000
165	Assets Held for Sale	12	0
4,402	Short Term Debtors	17	3,737
17	Inventories		11
13,044	Cash and Cash Equivalents	18	21,644
34,628	TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		35,392
77,647	TOTAL ASSETS		82,680
	CURRENT LIABILITIES		
(11,296)	Short Term Creditors & Receipts in Advance	19	(9,711)
(1,050)	Provisions	20	(1,066)
(12,346)	TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		(10,777)
22,282	TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS/LIABILITIES		24,615
65,301	TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		71,903
	LONG TERM LIABILITIES		
(3,467)	Capital Grants Received in Advance		(3,716)
(2,065)	Net Pensions Liability	21	0
(5,532)			(3,716)
59,769	NET ASSETS		68,187
	FINANCED BY:		
27,758	USABLE RESERVES	10	30,071
32,011	UNUSABLE RESERVES	11	38,116
59,769	TOTAL RESERVES		68,187



Ian Smith – CPFA
Director, Finance
20th February 2025

Cash Flow Statement

31 March 2023 £'000		31 March 2024 £'000
1,256	Net Surplus/(Deficit) on the Provision of Services	5,135
	Adjustments for Non-cash items:	
(809)	Interest Receivable	(2,115)
1,168	Depreciation & Amortisation, Impairment	550
1,795	Pension Liability/(asset)	(43)
(6,293)	Change in Debtors, Creditors and provisions and inventories (excluding collection Fund)	(2,149)
(4,139)	Total Adjustments	(3,758)
(2,883)	Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	1,377
(662)	Purchase of PPE & Intangibles	(2,323)
(1,338)	Change in Long Term Debtors	1,044
(11,000)	Net Purchase of Investments	7,000
809	Interest Received	0
(12,191)	Investing Activities	5,721
(6)	Net Receipt/(application) of Capital Grants	249
481	Change in Collection Fund agencies, Debtors & Creditors	1,254
475	Financing Activities	1,502
(14,599)	Net surplus / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	8,600
27,643	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	13,044
13,044	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	21,645

Note 1 Expenditure & Funding Analysis

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis is complementary to the Movement in Reserves Statement. The latter defines which of the Authorities Reserves align to the categories of 'General Fund and Earmarked', 'Capital Purposes' and 'Pension and Other Purposes'. The 'General Fund and Earmarked' category reflects the financial outturn of the Council in accordance with statutory reporting requirements. The 'Capital Purposes' and 'Pension and Other Purposes' categories reflect the Movements from the Statutory base of accounting to the Full Accounting base required under IFRS. The 'Total Movement in Year' reflects the latter and equates to the Total Income and Expenditure for the year as reported in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Account. The overall purpose of the Expenditure and Funding Analysis is to analyse the amounts reported in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account as operating reporting segments across specific purpose headings. * Items represent 'Adjustments between Accounting basis and Funding Basis under regulation.'

2022/23	General Fund Core £'000	Earmarked £'000	General Fund and Earmarked £'000	Charges to Capital Reserves £'000	Charges to other non-General Fund £'000	Total Movement in year £'000
Finance & Assets	8,608	(2,031)	6,577	(1,015)	1,215	6,777
Operational Services	1,138	2,863	4,001	653		4,654
NET COST OF SERVICES	9,746	832	10,578	(362)	1,215	11,430
Other Operating Expenditure plus Taxation & Grant Income	(11,057)		(11,057)	256	(1,885)	(12,686)
TOTAL SURPLUS(DEFICIT) upon PROVISION OF SERVICES	(1,311)	832	(479)	(106)	(670)	(1,256)
Other Comprehensive I&E				991	(20,607)	(19,616)
TOTAL	(1,311)	832	(479)	885	(21,277)	(20,872)

2023/24	General Fund Core £'000	Earmarked £'000	General Fund and Earmarked £'000	Charges to Capital Reserves £'000	Charges to other non-General Fund £'000	Total Movement in year £'000
Finance & Assets	4,799	(162)	4,637	1,845	(134)	6,348
Operational Services	7,587	(2,438)	5,149			5,149
NET COST OF SERVICES	12,386	(2,600)	9,786	1,845	(134)	11,497
Other Operating Expenditure plus Taxation & Grant Income	(13,824)		(13,824)	(319)	(372)	(14,516)
TOTAL SURPLUS(DEFICIT) upon PROVISION OF SERVICES	(1,439)	(2,600)	(4,039)	1,526	(506)	(3,019)
Other Comprehensive I&E				(487)	(4,913)	(5,400)
TOTAL	(1,439)	(2,600)	(4,039)	1,039	(5,419)	(8,419)

Note 2. Explanation of order of Notes to the Financial Statements

Following on from the Expenditure & Funding Analysis, the Notes to the main Financial Statements are organised in five distinct groups:

- (i) Introductory Notes explaining current context issues (Notes 2 to 7, Pages 26 to 29).
- (ii) Notes directly supporting the prime Financial Statements (Notes 8 to 21, Pages 31 to 47).
- (iii) Notes containing memorandum notes in support of the Accounts (Notes 22 to 30, Pages 48 to 60).
- (iv) Accounting Policies (Note 31, Pages 60 to 70)
- (v) Going Concern Statement (Note 32, Page 70 to 71).

In relation to section (ii) above, the Notes are organised as follows:

- (a) Note 8 in support of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account.
- (b) Note 9 supplementary information in support of the General Fund Statutory Outturn.
- (c) Notes 10 & 11 in support of the Movement in Reserves Statement and the Reserves section of the Balance Sheet.
- (d) Notes 12 to 21, Pages 39 to 46 in support of the Assets and Liabilities sections of the Balance Sheet.

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

It is not anticipated that the below amendments will have a material impact on the information provided in the financial statements, i.e., there is unlikely to be a change to the reported information in the reported net cost of services or the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services or in upon the Council's retained Reserves.

The following accounting standards have been issued but not yet adopted:

- IFRS 16 Leases issued in January 2016
- Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current (Amendments to IAS 1) issued in January 2020
- Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback (Amendments to IFRS 16) issued in September 2022
- Non-current Liabilities with Covenants (Amendments to IAS 1) issued in October 2022
- International Tax Reform: Pillar Two Model Rules (Amendments to IAS 12) issued in May 2023
- Supplier Finance Arrangements (Amendments to IAS 7 and IFRS 7) issued in May 2023

Note 4. Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 31, the Council has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. The critical judgements made in the Statement of Accounts are:

- In line with the Code of Practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24, based on International Financial Reporting Standards, the Council has not charged depreciation on land, investment properties, community assets, assets held for sale and assets under construction. For all assets subject to valuation, the total value for 2023/24 for Land and Buildings (NBV) is £34.142 million (2022/23; Land and Buildings (NBV) is £33.491 million).
- The Council has taken professional advice from the Pension Fund's actuary, Hymans Robertson LLP, to determine the overall net asset of the fund which is £3.032 million for 2023/24; this has increased by £5.097 million since 2022/23. However:
 - This does not affect the financial position of the Council as the actuarial valuation is based on a number of assumptions about the future, as shown in Note 4.
 - The revenue impact of the surplus is formally reviewed by the actuary on a triennial basis who determines revised employer contributions for the forthcoming 3-year period. Further, fluctuations in pension assets and liabilities occur due to movements in market investments.
- The participants in the Council's Non-Domestic Rates Collection Fund share the costs of any successful appeals to reduce the rateable value of a property. This includes the cost of any outstanding appeals which may be backdated prior to 1 April 2010.

To estimate the provision for outstanding appeals, the Council has reviewed the outstanding appeals as at 31 March 2024. An estimated provision of £2.625 million has been included in the Collection Fund in respect of successful appeals costs. The Council's share of any such Collection Fund costs is 40% or £1.050 million of the total provision and this is included in the General Fund balance.

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

The Statement of Accounts contains estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the Council about the future or are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made considering 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 2024 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
Property	<p>All Property is reviewed on a 4 year rolling basis. Where an asset has not been specifically reviewed a "table-top" analytical review is undertaken to determine if the principle valuation indexes show a material change in the current asset's valuation.</p> <p>In addition, an annual impairment review is undertaken to determine if any of the Council's assets have been impaired.</p>	<p>88% of the Council's assets are valued at fair value, so the impact of changes in market is significant. If there was a 1% fall in market value, it is estimated that the value of the Council's property assets would reduce by £0.341 million.</p>
Depreciation	<p>Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about their level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual assets. The current economic climate makes it uncertain that the authority will be able to sustain its current spending on repairs and maintenance, bringing into doubt the useful lives assigned to assets.</p>	<p>If the useful life of assets is reduced, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the asset falls.</p> <p>It is estimated that the annual depreciation charge for buildings would increase by £0.311 million for every year that the useful lives had to be reduced.</p>
Plant and Equipment	<p>Plant and Equipment are valued on an historic cost basis.</p>	<p>There will not be any changes to this valuation due to market conditions because the valuation approach reflects costs at acquisition or similar situations.</p>
Pensions Asset/ Liability	<p>Estimation of the net asset/liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are</p>	<p>The effects on the net pension's asset/liability of changes in individual assumptions, as provided by the actuary, can be measured. For instance, a:</p>

	<p>projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of actuaries is engaged to provide the Council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.1% decrease in the discount rate assumption would result in an increase in the pension asset/liability of £1.000 million. • 0.1% increase in the salary increase rate would result in an increase in pension asset/liability of £0.041 million. • 0.1% increase in the pension increase rate would result in an increase in pension asset/liability of £0.978 million.
<p>Provision – Rateable Value Appeals</p>	<p>Appeals by non-domestic ratepayers for a reduction in the rateable value of their premises are outstanding. Appeals are determined by the Valuation Office and are not within the Council's control. However, expert independent advice has been sought in arriving at an estimated provision.</p>	<p>The provision is based upon the latest list of outstanding rating list proposals provided by the Valuation Office Agency. It is an estimate based on changes in comparable hereditaments, market trends and other valuation issues, including the potential for certain proposals to be withdrawn. The estimate includes appeals and proposals in respect of live and historic Rating List entries. It does not include any allowance or adjustment for the effects of transition or for changes in liability. The estimated provision is made up of the estimated outcome of appeals calculated by a weighted average of the historic outcomes. It should be noted that the impact on the Council of appeals, as well as other NNDR, is limited by Safety Net calculation (the calculation of which is limited by regulation).</p> <p>A 10% variation in the estimated provision would be £0.263 million for the Collection Fund of which £0.105 million would be attributable to the General Fund.</p>

Note 6. Material Items of Income and Expenditure

The primary purpose of this note is to disclose those material items of income and expenditure that are not part of the ordinary course of business or events of the Council (i.e., extraordinary). During 2023/24 no such items of income or expenditure were incurred (2022/23 was also nil.)

Note 7. Events after the Balance Sheet Date

The Annual Financial Report, incorporating the Statement of Accounts, was authorised for issue by the Section 151 Officer on 31st May 2024.

With regard to 2023/24:

- **Adjusting Events**
The financial statements and notes have not been adjusted for any such material events which took place after the 31 March 2024.
- **Non-Adjusting Events**
The financial statements and notes have not been adjusted for any such material events which took place after the 31 March 2024.

Note 8. Expenditure & Income by Nature

2022/23	2022/23	2022/23		2023/24	2023/24	2023/24
General Fund	Other Reserves	Total		General Fund	Other Reserves	Total
8,774	1,215	9,989	Employees (*)	9,415	(134)	9,281
27,915	380	28,295	Other Service Expenses (*)	27,013	0	27,013
0	1,168	1,168	Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment (*)	0	550	550
(1,342)	653	(689)	REFCUS (*)	(667)	667	0
0	580	580	Interest payable	141	91	232
334	(334)	0	Statutory Minimum Provision	319	(319)	0
3,295	0	3,295	Precept Payments	3,572	0	3,572
0	28	28	Loss/(Gain) on disposal of non-current assets	(277)	0	(277)
38,976	3,690	42,666	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	39,516	854	40,372
(21,139)	0	(21,139)	Government Grants (Services) (*)	(19,227)	0	(19,227)
(1,958)	380	(1,578)	Government Grants (Central)	(1,583)	0	(1,583)
(6,194)	0	(6,194)	Sales Fees & Charges (*)	(6,122)	0	(6,122)
(819)	6	(813)	Interest Receivable	(2,119)	0	(2,119)
(7,407)	136	(7,271)	Council Tax	(7,581)	(90)	(7,671)
(4,321)	(2,607)	(6,928)	Business Rates	(6,376)	(294)	(6,670)
(41,838)	(2,085)	(43,922)	TOTAL INCOME	(43,008)	(384)	(43,391)
(2,861)	1,605	(1,256)	NET EXPENDITURE	(3,491)	470	(3,019)
8,014	3,416	11,430	COST OF SERVICES (*)	10,414	1,083	11,497

Cost of service line made up with items marked by Asterix *

Note 8a. Grant Income

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

2022/23		2023/24
£000		£000
	Credited to non-specific income	
(13)	Revenue Support Grant	(102)
(1,113)	New Homes Bonus	(838)
(452)	Rural Services Grant	(643)
(1,578)	TOTAL	(1,583)
	Credited to services	
(12,140)	Benefits	(12,148)
(111)	HB Admin Grants	(91)
(815)	Section 106	(299)
(5,790)	Community Infrastructure Levy	(3,913)
(1,565)	Homelessness	(2,096)
(477)	Collection Costs	(139)
(7)	Sport England	0
(234)	Other	(437)
(21,139)	TOTAL Credited to services	(19,123)

Note 9. Statutory Out-turn**General Fund Balance (Useable Reserve)**

The General Fund is the statutory fund into which all the receipts of the Council are required to be paid and out of which all liabilities of the Council are to be met, except to the extent that statutory rules might provide otherwise. These rules can also specify the financial year in which liabilities and payments should impact on the General Fund Balance, which is not necessarily in accordance with proper accounting practice under IFRS as presented in these Financial Statements. The General Fund Balance therefore summarises the resources that the Council is statutorily empowered to spend on its services or on capital investment (or the deficit of resources that the Council is required to recover) at the end of the financial year.

The elements of the General Fund Balance at the Balance Sheet date are as follows:

Other Earmarked	31 March 2022 £'000	Transfers In 22/23 £'000	Transfers Out 22/23 £'000	31 March 2023 £'000	Transfers In 23/24 £'000	Transfers Out 23/24 £'000	31 March 2024 £'000
General Fund Core and Surplus Savings	9,182	1,657	(1,222)	9,618	2,771	(1,976)	10,413
Community Infrastructure Levy	7,784	2,879	(9)	10,654	2,409	(402)	12,661
Enterprise Zone NNDR	659	165	(85)	739	575	(358)	956
Change Management	244	0	(12)	231	0	(174)	57
Major Project Development	100	0	0	100	0	0	100
Affordable Housing	221	0	0	221	0	(91)	131
Vehicle Replacements	89	0	(15)	74	0	0	74
Housing	79	0	0	79	0	(6)	73
Building Control	23	0	(23)	0	0	0	0
Leisure Centre	300	0	(12)	288	0	(230)	58
Business Rates S31	1,458	0	(1,458)	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire Horizons	3,840	307	(1,409)	2,738	0	(201)	2,537
Homelessness	0	576	(0)	576	0	(103)	473
Other Earmarked	485	98	(29)	554	0	(189)	365
Total Earmarked	15,284	4,025	(3,052)	16,256	2,984	(1,754)	17,485
TOTAL	24,466	5,682	(4,274)	25,873	5,755	(3,730)	27,898

Note 10a. Useable Reserves other than General Fund

Capital Receipts Reserve

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

Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve

The Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve holds the grants and contributions received towards capital projects yet to take place where there are no obligations for the Council to make repayments in any circumstances.

Note 10b. Un-useable Reserves

Capital Adjustment Reserve

The Asset Historic Cost (Capital Adjustment) Reserve together with the Revaluation Reserve represent the Council's financial interest in its' own assets. The balance of the Reserve is determined by taking account of the Revaluation Reserve requirements defined below.

Revaluation Reserve

The Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the Council arising from increases in the value of its Property, Plant and Equipment arising from the annual valuation process. It is identified at individual asset level.

The Reserve contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 1 April 2007, the date that the Reserve was created. Depreciation is applied each year whilst any disposed assets are written out in the year. Accumulated gains arising before that date are consolidated into the balance on the Asset Historic Cost (Capital Adjustment) Reserve.

Financial Instruments Adjustment Reserve

The Financial Instruments Adjustment Reserve absorbs the differences between accounting for the fair value of loans given to individuals and organisations, and the actual income credited to the General Fund.

Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve

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

Pensions Reserve

The Pensions Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for valuating Pension Liabilities for the purpose of producing the Financial Statements and for funding such liabilities in accordance with statutory provisions. Further information is found in Note 22 in respect of Defined Benefit Pension Scheme.

Collection Fund Adjustment Reserve

The Collection Fund Adjustment Reserve identifies the element of the Collection Fund balance that is due to the Council at the Balance Sheet date, but which will be settled to the Council in accordance with statutory General Fund requirements in the next financial year.

Accumulated Absences Adjustment Reserve

The Accumulated Absences Reserve accounts for the financial value of staff entitlements at the financial year end. i.e., annual leave entitlement and accrued flexitime carried forward at 31 March. This accrual is not permitted to the General Fund.

Note 11. Analysis of Capital Reserve Movements & Adjustments Between Accounting Basis & Funding Basis under Regulation

The following definitions are applicable to the subsequently presented Tables of Capital Reserve Movement for the year:

Transfers between Reserves

The Capital Receipts Reserve makes a contribution to the Capital Adjustment Reserve to fund a portion of new Capital Investment.

General Fund (GF) Contribution to Capital

A portion of new Capital Investment is funded by General Fund Contributions. The General Fund does not incur any Depreciation or Impairment charges.

Capital Grant Receipts

These are applied to the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve when received then transferred to the Capital Adjustment Reserve when utilised for new investment. The overall balance in any one year may therefore be either positive or negative.

Expenditure Grants to Third Parties

The Grants are to provide long term benefit to the recipients therefore they are financed by Capital Grants.

Profit Upon Sale of Assets

Receipts upon Sale are credited to the Capital Receipts Reserve or Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve as appropriate whilst the book value of the Asset at the time of sale is written off to the Capital Adjustment Reserve or Revaluation Reserve as appropriate.

Depreciation

This represents a charge for the diminution of the value of the Asset through use according to a pre-determined schedule. The historic cost element of the charge (calculated in accordance with book value of the asset at 31 March 2023 or the actual incurred cost of subsequent additions or enhancements) is charged to the Capital Adjustment Reserve whilst the remainder (relating to the portion of the upward asset value arising from post 31 March 2023 Annual Revaluations) is charged to the Revaluation Reserve.

Impairment

When Annual Valuation takes place the historic cost base arising from the Depreciation exercise referred to above is further adjusted. The charge or credit shown here reflects that adjustment but only up to the level of the original historic cost base at individual asset level. The overall balance in any one year may therefore be either positive or negative.

Revaluation

When Annual Valuation takes place, some assets are identified as having a value above their historic cost base. The charge or credit shown here reflects the adjustment upon valuation of such assets in the current financial year though in the case of any downward valuations the adjustment is applied only to the extent that the holding balance of the Revaluation Reserve at individual asset level is reduced to zero at the year end. The overall balance in any one year may therefore be either positive or negative.

Movements in 2022/23	Usable Capital Receipts Reserve	Usable Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve	Un-usable Capital Adjustment Reserve	Un-usable Revaluation Reserve	Un-usable Deferred Capital Receipts	Capital Outturn for the year TOTAL
Transfers between reserves	289					289
GF Contributions to Capital			(1,010)			(1,010)
Grants Received		380				380
Expenditure Grants to Third Parties			676			676
Capital Receipts	(234)					(234)
Additions			(690)			(690)
Depreciation			798	99		897
Amortisation			15			15
Impairment			256			256
Statutory Minimum Provision			(334)			(334)
TOTAL ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASE & FUNDING BASE - Balance Sheet Side	55	380	(289)	99	0	245
Revaluation				991		991
TOTAL RESERVES MOVEMENT	55	380	(289)	1,090	0	1,236

Movements in 2023/24	Usable Capital Receipts Reserve	Usable Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve	Un-usable Capital Adjustment Reserve	Un-usable Revaluation Reserve	Un-usable Deferred Capital Receipts	Capital Outturn for the year TOTAL
Transfers between reserves						
GF Contributions to Capital			1,845			1,845
Grants Received		15				15
Expenditure Grants to Third Parties						
Capital Receipts	(276)				45	(231)
Repayment of soft loans	(29)					(29)
Additions			(2,505)			(2,505)
Depreciation			580	108		688
Amortisation			0			0
Revaluation			(138)			(138)
Statutory Minimum Provision			(319)			(319)
Disposals			106	78		184
TOTAL ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASE & FUNDING BASE - Balance Sheet Side	(305)	15	(431)	186	45	(490)
Revaluation				(487)		(487)
TOTAL RESERVES MOVEMENT	(305)	15	(431)	(301)	45	(977)

11a. Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulation

2022/23 £'000		2023/24 £'000
245	Total Capital Items from previous page	(490)
580	Net interest on the Pension Liability	91
1,215	Current & Past Cost Pension Adjustment	(134)
1,795	Pensions Reserve	(43)
	(see Note 21 for detail)	
136	Change in Council Tax Entitlement	(90)
(2,193)	Change in Business Rates entitlement	(727)
(414)	Change in Renewable Energy NNDR	433
(2,471)	Collection Fund Adjustment Account (see Collection Fund Note 7 for detail)	(384)
6	Other Items	(79)
(425)	TOTAL ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATION	(996)
1,256	SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) UPON PROVISION OF SERVICES	3,019
832	GENERAL FUND OUT-TURN UNDER STATUTE (including Earmarked Items)	2,023

Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding under Regulation refers to those items chargeable to Reserves other than the General Fund. The latter being the budget monitoring vehicle of the Council as defined by Statute. The items charged to Other Reserves as listed above are those required to convert the 'Surplus or Deficit upon the Provision of Services' as shown on the 'Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement' to the General Fund Out-turn (including Earmarked items) as defined by Statute.

Note 12a. Property, Plant and Equipment – Council – Prior year

Movement of Property, Plant and Equipment 2022-23	Land & Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture &	Infrastructure Assets	Community Assets	Total Assets	Assets Held for Sale
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or valuation						
At 1 April 2022	36,726	7,819	720	877	46,142	165
Transfers						
Additions in Year	370	320			690	
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	(991)				(991)	
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the CI&ES	(256)				(256)	
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment W/O to GCA	(448)				(448)	
Disposals		(2,017)			(2,017)	
At 31 March 2023	35,401	6,122	720	877	43,120	165
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment						
At 1 April 2022	(2,048)	(6,174)	(76)	0	(8,298)	0
Depreciation Charge in year	(305)	(592)			(897)	
Transfers						
Depreciation restated to the Revaluation reserve Upon Revaluation						
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment W/O to GCA	448				448	
Adjustment for disposal		1,989			1,989	
At year end	(1,905)	(4,777)	(76)	0	(6,759)	0
Balance Sheet Value at year end	33,496	1,345	644	877	36,362	165
Balance Sheet Value at year start	34,671	1,645	644	877	37,837	165

* Brought forward balance for land and building is updated to match the new CIPFA asset register system.

Note 12b. Property, Plant and Equipment – Council – Current year

Movement of Property, Plant and Equipment 2023-24	Land & Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	Infrastructure Assets	Community Assets	Total Assets	Assets Held for Sale
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or Valuation						
At 1 April 2023	35,401	6,122	720	877	43,120	165
Transfers						
Additions in Year	339	2,166			2,505	
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	487				487	
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the CI&ES	138				138	
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment W/O to GCA	(509)				(509)	
Disposals		(1,357)			(1,357)	(165)
At 31 March 2024	35,856	6,931	720	877	44,384	0
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment						
At 1 April 2023	(1,906)	(4,777)	(76)	0	(6,759)	0
Depreciation Charge in year	(311)	(377)			(688)	
Depreciation restated to the Income & Expenditure Account Upon Revaluation						
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment W/O to GCA	509				509	
Adjustment for disposal		1,337			1,337	
At year end	(1,708)	(3,817)	(76)	0	(5,601)	0
Balance Sheet Value at year end	34,148	3,114	644	877	38,779	0
Balance Sheet Value at year start	33,496	1,345	644	877	36,362	165

Capital Commitments

At 31 March 2024, the authority had a retention amount of £0.018 million with the Pellikaan contract on the Hive Leisure Centre to be paid in 2024/25.

Revaluations

Land and buildings

The Authority carries out a rolling programme that ensures that all Property required to be measured at fair value is revalued at least every four years. All valuations were carried out externally. Valuations of land and buildings were carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

The Council's current valuers are Wilks, Head & Eve, 6th Floor, Fairgate House, 78 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1HB.

The specific assumptions applied in estimating current values in respect of Land and Buildings by the Council's valuer were as follows:

- that exchange takes place on the date of valuation and after proper marketing,
- that there is a willing buyer and a willing seller, i.e., not forced or compelled,
- that it is an "arm's-length" transaction, i.e., not between parties that have a particular or special relationship, e.g., parent and subsidiary companies,
- and that the parties acted knowledgeably and prudently.

Vehicles, Plant, Equipment and Infrastructure assets are valued at historic cost, as at the date of acquisition and subsequent capital enhancement expenditure less depreciation. Community Assets and Assets Under Construction are valued at historic cost at the date of acquisition and subsequent capital enhancement. Consequently, there is no on-going revaluation review for these assets.

In addition to the Professional Valuations undertaken, the Authority has conducted any necessary impairment reviews. In the light of these the Authority considers the quoted value of its assets to constitute a fair and objective valuation of future Service Delivery potential. Assets Held for Sale are valued at lower of carrying value and fair value less cost of sale.

Revaluation Profile 2023/24	Land and Buildings	Vehicles Plant Furniture & Equipment	Infrastructure Assets	Community Assets	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Carried at Historic Cost	0	3,115	643	876	4,634
Valued at Fair Value as at:					
31st March 2024	23,078				23,075
31st March 2023	8,213				8,213
31st March 2022	2,821				2,821
31 st March 2021	36				36
Total Cost of Valuation	34,148	3,115	643	876	38,779

Note 13. Capital Enhancement and Capital Financing

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

A net increase in the CFR would reflect the Council's need to borrow to finance capital enhancement. Any borrowing would be repaid from an annual revenue charge (MRP) which reflects the use of the assets over their useful lives.

Restated 2022/23		2023/24
£000		£000
9,451	Opening Capital Financing Requirement	10,088
	Capital Enhancement	
690	Property, Plant and Equipment	2,505
1,251	Highways contribution	0
1,100	Loan to Subsidiary Company	0
235	Loan to EC CLT	0
676	Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute Repayable Advances	667
3,951	TOTAL CAPITAL ENHANCEMENT	3,172
	Sources of Finance	
(289)	Capital receipts	(158)
(1,673)	Grants and other contributions	(595)
(1,018)	Direct Revenue Financing – Other	(574)
0	Repayment of loan from subsidiary company	(1,000)
0	Repayment of Loans from Individuals	(43)
(334)	Minimum revenue provision	(319)
(3,314)	TOTAL SOURCES OF FINANCE	(2,689)
10,088	Closing Capital Finance Requirement	10,571

Note 14. Heritage Assets

Cultural Heritage Assets

The Authority's collection of themed displays is reported in the Balance Sheet at historic cost, which is also used for the insurance valuation.

These heritage assets are located at Oliver Cromwell's House and are held to increase the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the house and local area during the time when Oliver Cromwell resided in the District. The collection is relatively static, and

acquisitions and donations are rare. Where they do occur, acquisitions are initially recognised at cost.

The displays are themed rooms and include a painting of Oliver Cromwell, as well as reproduction furniture, models, firearms and wall hangings.

The displays are reviewed annually and replaced or renewed, if necessary, as per the three year Business Plan for Oliver Cromwell's House. These would be low cost items. The collection is on display and open to the public throughout the year in the Museum.

Note 15. Intangible Assets

The Council accounts for its software as intangible assets, where 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 include both purchased licenses and internally generated software.

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 software are generally five years.

Note 16. Long Term Debtors

2022/23 £'000		2023/24 £'000
6,000	Loan to Trading Companies	5,000
235	Loan to CLT	235
322	Loans to Individuals & Private Sector	279
6,557	Total	5,513

Interest rate on the loan to the trading company is fixed at 4.5%.

Interest rate on the loan to East Cambridgeshire CLT is fixed at 3.75%

Other long term loans are not charged interest.

Note 17. Debtors

2022/23		2023/24
£000		£000
403	Council Taxpayers	463
536	Non-Domestic Rate Payers	670
939	Sub Total Local taxation	1,133
832	Trading Company	360
1,974	Sundry Debtors & Accruals	1,229
2,806	Sub Total Financial Instruments definition	1,589
377	Payments in Advance	347
(977)	Bad Debt Provisions	(912)
1,003	Local Govt.	353
153	Central Govt. – Customs & Excise	220
101	Central Govt. – Other	1,008
657	Sub Total	1,016
4,402	TOTAL	3,737

Note 18. Cash and Cash Equivalents

2022/23		2023/24
£000		£000
12,500	Money Market Funds	21,000
544	Bank Account - Operational	644
13,044	Total	21,644

Note 19. Creditors

2022/23 £000		2023/24 £000
(296)	Payroll Creditors	(307)
(1,770)	Sundry Creditors	(1,511)
(250)	Trading Company	(142)
(2,316)	Sub Total Financial Instruments Definition	(1,959)
(100)	Covid Grant Creditors	0
(53)	CTAX Energy Rebate Creditor	0
(2,012)	Local Govt. - Collection Fund Account	(2,431)
(1,449)	Central Govt. – Collection Fund Account	(2,285)
(2,243)	Other Local Government	(1,028)
(3,430)	Central Govt. – DWP, DCLG	(707)
(269)	Receipts in Advance	(1,301)
(9,557)	Sub Total	(7,752)
(11,872)	Total	(9,711)

Note 20. Provisions, Contingent Assets and Liabilities**Provisions**

2022/23 £000		2023/24 £000
(16)	Maintenance of Amenity Areas	(16)
(1,034)	Business Rate Appeal	(1,050)
(1,050)	Total	(1,066)

1. Maintenance of Amenity Areas

Amounts received which are used to fund the maintenance of amenity areas over a period of 15 years.

2. NNDR Appeals Provision

As a consequence of the Government initiative in the localisation of Non-Domestic Rates (NDR), the Government transferred the risk of appeals against Rateable Values to local authorities. Following a review, a provision for appeals outstanding was estimated to be £2.625 million at the end of 2023/24 of which £1.050 million would have to be met by the Council, and £1.575 million by other Collection Fund participants.

Contingent Liabilities

The Council had no Contingent Liabilities at the 31st March 2024.

Contingent Assets

There were no contingent assets at the 31st March 2024.

Note 21. Pension Fund Net Long Term Liability & Reserve

31 March 2023	Gross Liabilities	31 March 2024
£'000		£'000
(72,992)	Opening Balances as at 1 April	(53,122)
(1,989)	[I] Interest Cost	(2,518)
23,311	[A] Actuarial (losses) /gains from changes in financial assumptions	1,639
(2,777)	[C] Current service cost	(1,423)
	[C] Past Service Cost	
(401)	[N] Contributions from scheme participants	(455)
1,659	[N] Benefits paid	2,021
67	[N] Estimated unfunded benefits paid	74
(53,122)	Closing balance at 31 March	(53,784)

31 March 2023	Gross Assets	31 March 2024
52,115	Opening fair value of scheme assets balance as at 1 April	51,057
1,409	[I] Interest Expense	2,427
(2,704)	[A] Actuarial (losses) / gains from changes in financial assumptions	3,274
0	[C] Asset ceiling	(141)
1,495	[C] Contributions by the employer	1,624
67	[C] Contributions for unfunded (Discretionary benefits)	74
401	[N] Contributions by employees into the scheme	455
(1,659)	[N] Benefits paid	(2,021)
(67)	[N] Unfunded (Discretionary benefits)	(74)
51,057	Closing balance at 31 March	56,675
(2,065)	TOTAL NET LIABILITIES / ASSETS	2,891

Net Movement		Net Movement
2022/23		2023/24
1,562	General Fund Charge - Employer Contributions	1,698
1,215	[C] Other items to net cost of services	(134)
580	[I] Interest cost minus return on plan assets to financing income & expenditure	91
3,357	Charge to Surplus/(Deficit) upon Provision of Services	1,655
(20,607)	[A] Actuarial Gains/Losses to other income & expenditure	(4,913)
(17,250)	Charge to Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Account for the Year	(3,258)
(1,562)	Less General Fund Charge - Employer Contributions	(1,698)
(18,812)	TOTAL MOVEMENT IN PENSION RESERVE	(4,956)

The expected return on scheme assets is determined by considering the expected returns available on the assets underlying the current investment policy. Expected yields on fixed interest investments are based on gross redemption yields as at the Balance Sheet date. Expected returns on equity investments reflect long-term real rates of return experienced in the respective markets.

Note 22. Defined Benefit Pension Scheme

Participation in Pension Schemes

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its officers, the Council makes contributions towards the cost of post-employment benefits. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the Council has a commitment to make payments and this needs to be disclosed at the time that employees earn their future entitlement. Employees of East Cambridgeshire District Council may participate in the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund, part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). The fund is administered as a defined benefit final salary scheme by Cambridgeshire County Council in accordance with LGPS Regulations 1997, as amended.

Valuation of Pension Fund

The contribution rate is determined by the Fund's actuary based on triennial valuations. The last valuation took place as at 31 March 2022.

In 2023/24 the Council paid an employer's contribution of £1.62 million representing 25% of employees' pensionable pay (2022/23 £1.49 million @ 25%) into the Cambridgeshire County Pension Fund. The contribution rate is set to meet 100% of the pension fund's liabilities. The scheme provides members of the Fund with defined benefits related to pay and service. Changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme permit employees retiring on or after 6 April 2006 to take an increase in their lump sum payment on retirement in exchange for a reduction in their future annual pension. Our actuary has allowed for future retirements to elect to take 25% of the maximum additional tax-free cash up to HMRC limits for pre-April 2008 service and 63% of the maximum for post-April service.

As a consequence of the triennial valuation, the asset value in the intervening period is an estimate calculated by the actuary using a model. Any differences between the estimate and actual figures are adjusted at the next full valuation.

Transactions Relating to Post-Employment Benefits

The Council charges the cost of retirement benefits to the cost of services when they are earned by employees as distinct from when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge the Council is required to make to the General Fund is based on the cash payable in the year. The difference between the two different methods is charged to the Pension Reserve.

Assets and Liabilities in relation to Post-employment Benefits

The Reconciliation of present value of the scheme liabilities in respect of East Cambridgeshire District Council is shown at Note 21 to the Accounts.

The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the authority has in the long run to pay retirement benefits. The total assets of £2.891 million have an impact on the net worth of the authority as recorded in the Balance Sheet. However, statutory arrangements for funding the deficit mean that the financial position of the authority remains healthy. The deficit on the scheme will be made good by increased contributions over the remaining working life of employees, as assessed by the scheme actuary.

The total contribution expected to be made to the scheme by the Council in the year to 31 March 2025 is £1.596 million.

- The overall gain at 31 March 2024 does not result in a return of funds from the Local Government Pension Scheme, therefore a further calculation determines an asset ceiling for which the Council can reflect an asset on the balance sheet. The asset ceiling reduces the overall gain by £0.141M.

Basis for estimating Liabilities and Assets

Liabilities, for the purposes of IAS19, have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels, longevity etc. The liabilities have been assessed by Hymans Robertson LLP, the independent firm of actuaries to the County Council Pension Fund being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2024. The results of this valuation were projected forward using approximate methods. The main assumptions used by the actuary are as shown below.

2022/23	County Fund – Main Assumptions	2023/24
3.45%	Rate of increase in salaries	3.25%
2.95%	Rate of increase in pensions	2.75%
4.75%	Rate of discounting scheme liabilities	4.85%
	<i>Mortality assumptions:</i>	
	Longevity at 65 for current pensioners	
22.0	Men	21.9
24.7	Women	24.5
	Longevity at 65 for future pensioners	
22.8	Men	22.7
26.2	Women	25.9

Local Government Pension Scheme Assets Comprised:

Pension fund assets consist of the following categories, by value of the total assets held:

31-Mar-23		31-Mar-24
£'000		£'000
1,233	Cash and cash equivalents	1,234
	Equity instruments by industry:	
0	Consumer	648
0	Manufacturing	660
0	Energy & Utilities	69
0	Financial Institutions	632
0	Health & Care	532
0	Information Technology	1248
0	Other	62
0	Sub-total equity	3,850
	Debt Securities:	
1,728	UK Government	4,830
	Private equity:	
6,336	All not in active markets	6,924
	Real Estate	
3,335	Real Estate - UK Property	4,590
0	Real Estate - Overseas Property	0
	Other investment funds:	
5,512	Bonds	8,154
28,210	Equity	23,160
4489	Infrastructure	4,073
0	Real Estate - UK Property	0
214	Other	0
38,425	Sub-total other investment funds	35,388
51,057	Total Assets	56,816

Sensitivity analysis:

Increase Assumption 31 Mar 23	Impact on the defined benefit obligation in the scheme	Increase Assumption 31 Mar 24
£000		£000
909	Decrease in Real Discount Rate by 0.1%	1,000
2,125	1 Year increase in member life expectancy	2,151
71	Rate of Increase in salaries increase by 0.1%)	41
852	Increase in the Pension Increase Rate (CPI) by 0.1%	978

Further information

Further information may be found in the Cambridgeshire County Pension Fund Annual Report, available from the Head of Finance, Cambridgeshire County Council, New Shire Hall, Emery Crescent, Enterprise Campus, Alconbury Weald, Huntingdon, PE28 4YE.

Note 23. Financial Instruments

The financial assets and liabilities included on the Balance Sheet comprise the following categories of financial instruments.

	Current	
	2022/23	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Measured at Amortised Cost		
Investments and Cash & Cash Equivalents		
Investments in subsidiaries		
Short term Investments	17,000	10,000
Money Market Funds	12,500	21,000
Cash & Cash Equivalents	544	644
Loans & Receivables		
Total Investments and Cash & Cash Equivalents	30,044	31,644
Debtors	2,806	1,589
Loans & Investments	0	0
TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSETS	32,850	33,233
Long Term		
Loans & Investments	6,557	5,513
Borrowings	0	0
TOTAL BORROWINGS	0	0
Measured at Amortised Cost		
Creditors	(2,316)	(1,959)
Financial Liabilities at amortised cost		
TOTAL CREDITORS	(2,316)	(1,959)
TOTAL FINANCIAL LIABILITIES	(2,316)	(1,959)

Fair value of assets and liabilities carried at amortised cost.

Financial assets classified as available for sale are carried in the Balance Sheet at fair value taken from the market price.

Financial liabilities and financial assets classified as loans and receivables are recorded on the Balance Sheet at their amortised cost. Their fair value has been assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that will take place over the remaining term of the instruments, using spreadsheets provided by our advisors or by using the following assumptions:

- There were no long or short term borrowings at the yearend so no estimated rates were needed.
- No early repayment or impairment is recognised.
- Where an instrument will mature in the next 12 months the carrying amount is assumed to approximate to fair value.
- The fair value of debtors is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.

- No changes in the classification of financial instruments were required as part of the implementation of IFRS 9.

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

Risk management is carried out by the Finance Team with due regard to the Annual Treasury Management Strategy approved by the Council.

Credit risk

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

The Council's theoretical maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to its investments in banks and the money markets is equivalent to its total cash holding £31.00 million (2022/23; £29.5 million). However, the true risk cannot be assessed, as the risk of any institution failing to make interest payments or repay the principal sum will be specific to that individual institution. The risk of not being able to recover the principal sums applies to all of the Council's deposits but there was no evidence as at 31 March 2024 that this was likely to occur and there are no investments that as at 31 March 2024 were with institutions that had failed.

In relation to the sums owed by the Council's customers and contractual debtors, the Council makes prudent financial provision for bad debts based on an assessment of the risks for each type of debt and the age of those debts whilst maintaining a robust approach to the collection of debts. The older the debt, the greater is the provision for bad debts. The bad debt provision has taken into account the current economic climate and the increased likelihood of debtors not being able to settle their debts.

The Council does not generally allow credit for its customers, such that £0k (£146k in 2022/23) of the £502K (£1,253k in 2022/23) balance is past its due date for payment. The past due amount can be analysed by age as follows:

	31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2024 £000
Less than three months	1,107	861
Three to six months	10	5
Six months to one year	12	6
More than one year	124	138
Total	1,253	1,010

Collateral – During the reporting period the Council held no collateral as security.

Liquidity risk

The Council's current liquidity risk is low, as it has significant cash holdings. The authority has a comprehensive cashflow management system that seeks to ensure that cash is available as needed. However, if unexpected movements happen, the authority has ready access to borrowings from the PWLB and money markets, so there is no significant risk that it will be unable to meet its commitments under financial instruments.

Market risk – Interest Rate Risk

The Council currently has cash surpluses and has no external borrowing. Its interest rate exposure is therefore limited to the interest rate movements on its investments.

Price risk

The Council invests in shares in two wholly owned companies to provide a local service. There is no intention to sell these shares and there is no other source of valuation of them, so the risk is minimal.

Foreign Exchange Risk

The Council does not hold foreign currencies and has no intention of doing so; consequently, it has no exposure to loss arising from movements in exchange rates.

IFRS 9 Disclosure

ECDC's core treasury management investments are not material. The risk of default should be virtually zero and therefore any potential expected credit loss impairment under IFRS 9 should not be required. The Council has reviewed its loan to ECTC and does not expect any credit loss.

Note 24. Trading Operations

From a local authority context, a trading operation is one where a Council is trading and taking operational risks and could, if the economic environment so dictated, expose the Council to a financial loss on the service provided.

The Council owns several industrial sites in the district, the biggest being East Space North in Littleport. The profits (or losses) on these trading operations were as follows:

Trading Operations	2022-23		2023-24	
	Turnover	Surplus/(Loss)	Turnover	Surplus/(Loss)
Business Units	109,383	(41,385)	102,336	29,477
E Space South	28,350	6,185	24,600	11,639
E Space North	259,991	85,521	261,386	137,013
Building Control	266,643	44,026	270,556	35,768
Total	664,367	94,347	658,878	213,897

Note 25. Members' Allowances

The Authority paid the following amounts to Members of the Council during the year:

2022/23		2023/24	
£		£	
253,094	Allowances	249,328	
2,579	Expenses	4,981	
255,673		254,309	

Note 26. Senior Officer and Staff Remuneration over £50,000

The number of employees whose remuneration in the year was £50,000 or more is shown in the table below. It includes pay, redundancy payments and other employee benefits but not employer's pension contributions.

2022/23		2023/24	
1	50,000 but less than	55,000	1
5	55,000 but less than	60,000	9
1	60,000 but less than	65,000	3
0	65,000 but less than	70,000	1
1	70,000 but less than	75,000	0
1	75,000 but less than	80,000	0
3	80,000 but less than	85,000	0
0	85,000 but less than	90,000	4
0	90,000 but less than	95,000	0
0	95,000 but less than	100,000	0
0	100,000 but less than	105,000	1
0	105,000 but less than	110,000	0
1	110,000 but less than	115,000	1
0	115,000 but less than	120,000	0
0	120,000 but less than	125,000	0
0	125,000 but less than	130,000	0
0	130,000 but less than	135,000	0
0	135,000 but less than	140,000	0
0	140,000 but less than	145,000	0
0	145,000 but less than	150,000	0
1	150,000 but less than	155,000	1
0	155,000 but less than	160,000	0
14			21

Included in the banding table above are those Senior Officers who are separately disclosed in the following Remuneration of Senior Employees table.

The remuneration of Senior Employees is shown in the table below.

2023/24	Salary including allowances	Additional Payments	Benefits and fees	Total remuneration	Employer Pension contributions	Remuneration including pension contributions
Post Holder	£		£	£	£	£
Chief Executive- John Hill	146,562		6,828	153,390	25,502	178,892
Director Operations	100,471		1,239	101,710	17,482	119,192
Director Commercial	105,863	9,000		114,863	19,986	134,849
Director Legal Services	86,644			86,644	15,076	101,720
Director Finance	86,644		380	87,024	15,076	102,100
Director Community	86,644			86,644	15,076	101,720

Key – 2023/24

Note 1 All staff detailed above were in post throughout the 2023-24 financial year.

2022/23	Salary including allowances	Additional Payments	Benefits and fees	Total remuneration	Employer Pension contributions	Remuneration including pension contributions
Post Holder	£		£	£	£	£
Chief Executive – John Hill	144,637		8,722	153,359	24,878	178,237
Director Operations 1	8,501	19,769		28,270	1,537	29,807
Director Operations 2	39,418		496	39,914	6,780	46,694
Director Commercial	112,688			112,688	19,382	132,070
Director Legal Services	80,575		400	80,975	13,859	94,834
Director Finance	80,575		362	80,937	13,859	94,796
Director Corporate	80,575			80,575	13,859	94,434

Key – 2022/23

Note 1 Director Operations 1 in post until 30th April 2022

Note 2 Director Operations 2 in post from 7th November 2022

The numbers of exit packages committed in the year with total cost per band and total cost of the compulsory and other redundancies are set out in the table below.

2022/23			2023/24			
Number of compulsory redundancies	Number of other departures agreed	Total number of exit packages agreed		Number of compulsory redundancies	Number of other departures agreed	Total number of exit packages agreed
	0	0	£0 to less than £20,000		0	0
	1	1	£20,000 to less than £40,000		0	0
0	1	1	TOTAL	0	0	0
		Cost £000				Cost £000
	0	0	£0 to less than £20,000		0	0
	20	20	£20,000 to less than £40,000		0	0
	20	20	TOTAL		0	0

Note 27. External Audit Related Costs

These figures show the amounts included in the accounts which include any adjustments made for previous years.

2022/23 £'000		2023/24 £'000
48	External Audit	147
195	PSAA Increased Cost	0
36	Grant Claim Certificate	38
279		185

Note 28. Related Parties

The Council must disclose in the accounts any material transactions with related parties. Related parties are bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence the Council or to be controlled or influenced by the Council. Disclosure of these transactions allows readers to assess the extent to which the Council might have been constrained in its ability to operate independently.

Central Government has significant influence over the general operations of the Council, it is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Council operates, provides a significant amount of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties, for example Council Tax bills.

Grants received from Government departments are set out in the analysis in Note 8a on "Grant Income".

The Council has a significant operational relationship with Cambridgeshire County Council. The County Council is the administering authority for the East Cambridgeshire's pension fund,

and many of the Council's services work with County Council services on a day-to-day basis, for example, the Council is the statutory waste collection authority whereas the County Council is the statutory waste disposal authority, but each of the Councils has to pay the other in respect of certain types of waste.

Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. The total of members' allowances paid in 2023/24 is shown in Note 25. Some Council members are also:

1. Elected members of other Councils, including the County Council, Parish and Town Councils.
2. Nominated representatives of Cambridgeshire County Council on various organisations.

In respect of 2023/24, there was one transaction with related parties when the accounts were produced that are not disclosed elsewhere in the accounts.

One Councillor's relative represented Littleport Leisure Centre – Transactions in Year from ECDC to LLC £15,238 for Grant funding. £11,400 outstanding at 31st March 2024

Entities Controlled or Significantly Influenced by the Authority

The Council fully owns East Cambs Trading Company Limited and East Cambs Street Scene Ltd

East Cambridgeshire Trading Company Ltd

East Cambridgeshire Trading Company (ECTC) Ltd formally started trading on the 1st April 2016. ECTC has two functional divisions: Commercial Services and Property and CLT Development.

The Commercial Services arm of the Trading Company manage the Ely markets on behalf of the Council and undertake grounds maintenance works for ECDC and other external customers within the district.

The Property and CLT Development arm, known as Palace Green Homes, are responsible for progressing the development of small scale house building, including the development of CLTs, within the district.

Payments from ECTC to ECDC £1,764K,

Payments from ECDC to ECTC £1,245K

East Cambs Street Scene Ltd

East Cambs Street Scene is responsible for the delivery of the waste and street cleansing service.

Payments from ECSS to ECDC £955K

Payments from ECDC to ECSS £4,417K

Group Accounts have been produced as the figures for both the above companies are material to the overall accounts of the Council. The Council's financial relationship with the companies is shown in the Group Accounts section of the Financial Statements.

Anglia Revenue Partnership

The Council became a partner in the Anglia Revenue Partnership (ARP) on 13 October 2010. Breckland Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Fenland District Council, East Suffolk Council and West Suffolk Council, work together to provide their Revenues and Benefits services through the ARP. The Council pays ARP for the services it provides; this payment is included in the service costs in the CI&E Account.

Note 29. Leases**Council as Lessee**

Finance Leases

The only material Finance Leases held by the Council as lessee are:

2022/23		2023/24
£000		£000
353	Public Conveniences, Car Park, Open Space	365

The Authority was committed to making minimum payments under these leases through the service payment to the main contractor in settlement of the effective long-term liability for the interest in the vehicles. The minimum lease payments are made up of the following:

2022/23		2023/24
£000		£000
	<i>Finance lease liabilities (net present value of minimum lease payments)</i>	
17	Current	17
40	Finance costs payable in future years	23
57	Minimum lease payments	40

There will be no rent reviews or other adjustments (therefore no contingent rents apply). Consequently, the minimum rentals are directly equal to the Finance Lease liability above. As these amounts are immaterial, they have not been included in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement.

Operating Leases

The Authority has no material operating leases as lessee.

Council as Lessor**Finance leases**

The Council has no finance leases as lessor.

Operating Leases

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

- for the provision of public open space, recreation and public conveniences
- to encourage small businesses
- and other minor items.

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

2022/23		2023/24	
£000		£000	
20	Not later than 1 year		9
497	Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years		381
118	Later than 5 years		108
635			498

The minimum lease payments receivable includes rents that are contingent on events taking place after the lease was entered into, such as adjustments following rent reviews. In 2023/24 £0 contingent rents were receivable by the Authority (2022/23 £0).

IFRS 16 (Leases) effective from 1 April 2024 IFRS 16 has been effective since 1 January 2019 for the private sector. However, CIPFA/LASAAC have deferred implementation of IFRS16 for local government to 1 April 2024. From 1 April 2024 the Council adopts IFRS16 and ensure that the Council's accounts and group accounts will converge as both will be subject to IFRS16. The new standard amends the accounting for lessees, removing the distinction between recognising an operating lease (off balance sheet) and a finance lease (on balance sheet). The new standard requires recognition of all qualifying leases on balance sheet. This will result in a number of vehicle and property leases currently classified as operating leases to be brought onto the balance sheet. Upon transition, the Council shall recognise the cumulative effects of initially applying IFRS 16 recognised at the date of initial application as an adjustment to the opening balances of reserves. IFRS 16 defines a lease as a contract that 'conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration.' This definition applies both to lessees and lessors. Therefore, in order to contain a lease, a contract must:

Depend on the use of an identified asset and provide the lessee with the right to control the use of that identified asset The Council defines the lease term as the non-cancellable period for which a lessee has the right to use an underlying asset, together with both i) periods covered by an option to extend the lease if the lessee is reasonably certain to exercise that option; and ii) periods covered by an option to terminate the lease if the lessee is reasonably certain not to exercise that option. The Council will apply the following for leases previously classified as operating leases:

No adjustments for leases for which the underlying asset is of low value (less than £5,000) No adjustment for leases for which the lease term ends within 12 months of initial application

Our expectation is that around 12 of the Council's operating leases will meet the definition of a lease under IFRS 16, resulting in recognition from 1 April 2024 of assets with a value of £1.113 million, along with a lease liability of a similar amount. As a result of recognising these assets on the balance sheet, the Council expects that the impact on the CIES from associated depreciation and finance costs will amount to approximately £1.025 million in 2024-25.

Note 30. Interest received

The Council benefited from improved interest rates on its treasury investments

Interest received during the financial year was £2,115,332, this figure was made up of £1,859,879 from investment in money markets and other short, fixed term investments and £255,453 from the loan to ECTC.

Note 31. Accounting Policies

Accounting Policies in respect of Concepts and Principles

General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the **2023/24** financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2024. The Council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom **2023/24** and the Service Reporting Code of Practice **2023/24**, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

The underlying concepts of the accounts include the:

Council being a 'going concern' – all operations continuing.

- Accrual of income and expenditure – placing items in the year they relate, rather than the year the cash transaction takes place.
- Primacy of legislative requirements – legislation overrides standard accounting practice.

The accounting statements are prepared with the objective of presenting a true and fair view of the financial position and transactions of the Council.

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

The accounting policies are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that they are appropriate, compliant with accepted accounting practice and relevant to the Council's ongoing business activity.

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

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, or other events and conditions on the Council's financial position or financial performance. Where a change is made, it is applied retrospectively, if material, by adjusting opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period as if the new policy had always been applied.

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.

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

Exceptional Items

When items of income and expense are material, their nature and amount are disclosed separately, either on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement or in the notes to the accounts, depending on how significant the items are to an understanding of the Council's financial performance.

Accruals of Income and Expenditure as shown in Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account

Income and expenditure are accounted for in the year in which resources are consumed or when entitlement arises. The principles applied are as follows:

- Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the Council transfers the significant risks and rewards of ownership to the purchaser, and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Council.
- Revenue from the provision of services is recognised when the Council can measure reliably the percentage of completion of the transaction, and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Council.
- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed – where 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 receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure based on the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.
- 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. 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.
- Where the Council is acting as an agent for another party (e.g., in the collection of NNDR and Council Tax), income and expenditure are recognised only to the extent that commission is receivable by the Council for the agency services provided or the Council incurs expenses directly on its own behalf in providing the services.
- Government Grants are recorded as Income when they are received provided there is reasonable assurance that the conditions of receipt are complied with or at a later date should the conditions be met at that later date.
- In relation to the Local Government Pension scheme the liability that the Authority has for meeting the future cost of retirement benefits arising from service provided by employees up to the Balance Sheet date net of the contributions paid into the fund and the investment income generated.
- Changes in fair values of Investment Properties are recognised.
- The Statutory basis of accounting for the Council differs from that reported in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Account as required under IFRS. Details are provided on the following page:

The differences between the Statutory Basis of Accounting and the IFRS Accounting base are as follows:

Income or Expense	Basis of Statutory Charge to General Fund	Basis of Accounting Charge or Credit	Other Funds utilised to represent enhancement from Statutory Outturn to Accounting Outturn
Consumption or usage of Long Term Assets	Contribution to the reduction in borrowing requirement in accordance with statutory guidance.	Full accrual principle determined by Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment	Capital Adjustment Account with small portion to Revaluation Reserve in relation to Current Cost Element of Depreciation
Grant receipts relating to Long Term Assets	None	All Grants received in year providing no conditions are attached and/or conditional grants from prior years that were applied in year.	Unapplied Capital Grants Reserve
Disposal Receipts or entitlements relating to Long Term Assets	None	Net Profit	Capital Receipts Reserve (deferred if cash not received) minus Capital Adjustment Account (or Revaluation Reserve) in relation to holding value of asset at time of sale.
Financing of new Capital Investment	Contributions made where otherwise not funded by Capital Receipts or designated Capital Grants	None	Capital Adjustment Account
Upward Valuation of Assets	None	Credited	Revaluation Reserve or, where reinstating past Impairment, Capital Adjustment Account
Pension Scheme Costs	Direct amounts paid in relation to the scheme	Full accrual principles including actuarial valuation	Pension Reserve
Staff Costs	Direct amounts paid	Accrual made for leave entitlement deferred forwards	Accumulated Absences Adjustment Account
Council Tax Receipts & Business Rates	Pre-planned demand plus prior year surplus	Full accrual income principle	Collection Fund Adjustment Account
Revenue Expenditure Financed by Capital Under Statute	None	Full accrual principles	Capital Adjustment Account
Minimum Statutory Provision for Capital Debt Repayment	Charge as required under statute	None	Capital Adjustment Account

Reserves

The Council's Reserves represent the accumulation of surpluses (and deficits) upon the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure account overall years up to and including the Balance Sheet Date. It also equals the Total Value of the Council's assets less its' liabilities. Reserves are classified into Useable (when currently available for application) and Un-useable (when there is no current liquidity).

The Notes to the Accounts upon the Reserves explains fully the purpose of each Reserve and the uses to which they are applied.

Value Added Tax

VAT payable is included as an expense only to the extent that it is not recoverable from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. VAT receivable is excluded from income.

Events after the Balance Sheet Date

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

- Those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is adjusted to reflect such events.
- Those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is not adjusted to reflect such events, but where a category of events would have a material effect, disclosure is made in the notes, detailing the nature of the event and their estimated financial effect.

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

Accounting Policies in respect of Non-Current Assets

Property, Plant and Equipment (IAS 16)

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

Recognition

Spend on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment is capitalised on an accrual's basis, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. There is a de minimis level of £10,000 however, where the cumulative value of individual assets is greater than £10,000 and they meet the criteria for recognition they will be capitalised.

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

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

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

- Fair Value: Land and Buildings, Investment Properties
- Depreciated Historic Cost: Vehicles, Plant and Equipment, Infrastructure, Intangibles
- Historic Cost: Community Assets, Assets Under Construction, Assets Held for Sale

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 regularly to ensure that their carrying value is not materially different from their fair value at the yearend, but as a minimum every four years.

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

Components

The Council will separately account for components where the cost of the component is significant in relation to the overall total cost of the asset, and the useful economic life of the component is significantly different from the useful economic life of the asset. Individual components with similar useful lives and depreciation methods will be grouped.

For this purpose, a significant component cost would be 10% of the overall total cost of the asset but with a de-minimis component threshold of £100,000.

Impairment

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

The incidence of charge to the Capital Adjustment and Revaluation Reserve is detailed above.

Disposals and Non-Current Assets Held for Sale

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

If assets no longer meet the criteria to be classified as Assets Held for Sale, they are reclassified back to non-current assets and valued at the lower of their carrying amount before they were classified as Held for Sale; adjusted for depreciation, amortisation or revaluations that would have been recognised had they not been classified as Held for Sale, and their recoverable amount at the date of the decision not to sell.

Assets that are to be abandoned or scrapped are not reclassified as Assets Held for Sale.

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts. The balance of receipts is required to be credited to the Capital Receipts Reserve, and can then only be used for new capital investment or set aside to reduce the Council's underlying need to borrow (the capital financing requirement)

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided for on all Property, Plant and Equipment assets by allocating the value of the asset over its useful life. An exception is made for assets where the finite useful life cannot be determined, (i.e., land and Community Assets) and assets that are not yet available for use (i.e., assets under construction).

Depreciation is calculated as follows:

Asset Type	Depreciation basis	Useful Economic Life
Operational Buildings	Straight-line allocation over the estimated life of the building or component where identified separately	5 years to 99 years
Community Assets	Straight line allocation over the estimated life of the asset	16 years to 99 years
Intangible Assets	Straight line allocation over the estimated life of the asset	1 year to 5 years
Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	Straight line allocation over the estimated life of the asset	1 year to 48 years
Infrastructure		5 years to 99 years

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

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

The residual value of the assets is reviewed at least every four years and the depreciation adjusted to match any change in the life of the asset.

Year of depreciation charge

The depreciation charge will generally commence in the year of the addition of the asset.

Heritage Assets

Heritage Assets (those Assets of cultural, environmental or historic importance) are recognised and measured (including the treatment of revaluation gains and losses) in accordance with the Authority's accounting policies on Property, Plant and Equipment. However, some of the measurement rules are relaxed in relation to heritage assets.

Intangible Assets

Expenditure, on an accrual's basis, for assets that do not have physical substance but are identifiable and controlled by the Council (e.g., software licences) are capitalised where they will bring benefit for more than one year. The balance is amortised (charged) to the relevant service revenue account over the economic life of the investment to reflect the pattern of consumption of benefits.

Leases

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

Where a lease covers both land and buildings, the land and buildings elements are considered separately for classification.

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

The Council as Lessee**Finance leases**

Property, Plant and Equipment held under finance leases is recognised on the Balance Sheet at the commencement of the lease at its fair value measured at the lease's inception (or the present value of the minimum lease payments, if lower). The asset recognised is matched by a liability for the obligation to pay the lessor. Contingent rents are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

Lease payments are apportioned between:

- a charge for the acquisition of the interest in the property, plant and equipment, applied to write down the lease liability, and
- a finance charge which is debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Property, plant and equipment recognised under finance leases is accounted for using the policies applied generally to such assets, subject to depreciation being charged over the lease term if this is shorter than the asset's estimated useful life (where ownership of the asset does not transfer to the Council at the end of the lease period.)

Operating leases.

Rentals paid under operating leases are debited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as an expense of the services benefitting from the use of the leased property, plant or equipment. Charges are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease.

The Council as Lessor

Finance Leases

Where the Council grants a finance lease over a property, the relevant asset is written out of the Balance Sheet as a disposal whilst an appropriate debtor balance is created to reflect the amount owed to the Council.

Operating Leases.

Where the Council grants an operating lease over a property the asset is retained in the Balance Sheet. Rental income is credited to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Credits are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease.

Current Value Measurement (IFRS 13)

Previously, all assets and liabilities were valued under the principle of "fair value" which was defined as "the amount for which an asset could be exchanged, or liability settled between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's length transaction".

Although "fair value" remains as the approach to valuation for a number of assets and liabilities, in respect of Operational Assets IFRS 13 introduces "current value". This means such assets have to be measured in a way that recognises their "service potential".

Accounting Policies in respect of Employee Benefits

Benefits payable during employment.

To the extent that the Council has an outstanding liability for these at the Balance Sheet Date, the amount is shown in the Accumulated Absences Reserve.

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.

Termination benefits are charged to the appropriate service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account when the Council can demonstrate that it is committed to either terminating the employment of an officer or has made an offer of voluntary redundancy even if the officer has not left the Council by 31 March.

Post-Employment Benefits (Pensions)

Employees of the Council are members of the Local Government Pensions Scheme (LGPS), administered by Cambridgeshire County Council. This scheme provides defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees work for the Council.

- The liabilities of the LGPS attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – i.e., an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc., and projections of projected earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using an appropriate discount rate (based on the indicative rate of return on high quality corporate bonds as identified by the actuary).

Discretionary Benefits

The Council also has restricted powers to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirements. Any liabilities estimated to arise as a result of an award to any member of staff 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.

Accounting Policies in respect of Financial Instruments

Financial Instruments

A financial asset or liability is recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. This will normally be the date that a contract is entered into but may be later if there are conditions that need to be satisfied. Financial assets are recognised by the Council on the Balance Sheet only when the goods or services have been provided or rendered to a third party. Financial liabilities are recognised when the goods or services ordered from a third party have been received by the Council and the third party has performed its contractual obligations.

Financial Assets

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

- amortised cost.
- fair value through profit or loss (FVPL),
- fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI)

The Council's business model is to hold investments to collect contractual cash flows. Financial assets are therefore classified as amortised cost, except for those whose contractual payments are not solely payment of principle and interest (i.e., where the cash flows do not take the form of a basic debt instrument).

- **Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost**
Financial assets measured at amortised cost are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument, are initially measured at fair value. They are subsequently measured at their amortised cost. Annual credits to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement 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 principle receivable. The Interest credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the loans is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement. Any gains or losses that arise on the derecognition of an asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investments income and expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Financial Liabilities

- Financial liabilities are initially measured at fair value and are subsequently carried at their amortised cost.
Annual charges to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. For most borrowing that the Council has, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principle repayable (plus accrued interest), and interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement. Gains and losses on the repurchase or early settlement of borrowing are credited and debited to the Financing and Investment Income or Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year of repurchase/settlement. However, where repurchase has taken place as part of a restructuring the loan portfolio that involves the modification or exchange of existing instruments, the premium or discount is respectively deducted from or added to the amortised cost of the new or modified loan and the write down to the comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is spread over the life of the loan by an adjustment to the effective interest rate. Where premiums and discounts have been charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, regulations allow the impact on the General Fund Balance to be spread over future years. The Council has a policy of spreading the gain/loss over the term that was remaining on the loan against which the premium was payable or discount receivable when it was repaid. The reconciliation of amounts charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement 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.

Provisions and Contingent Liabilities

Provisions

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Council a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires a financial settlement and a reliable estimate of the obligation can be made. Provisions are debited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and are measured at the best estimate of the expenditure that is likely to be required. When payments are made, they are charged to the provision.

Contingent Liabilities

A contingent liability arises from an event which is too uncertain, or the amount of the obligation cannot be reliably estimated. The liability is disclosed as a contingent liability within the notes to the accounts. Contingent liabilities also arise in circumstances where a provision would otherwise be made but either it is not probable that an outflow

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

Note 32. Going Concern

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 (the Code), which is based upon International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as amended for the UK public sector. The accounts have been prepared on the going concern basis.

In conducting its assessment that this basis is appropriate, in relation to the going concern period up to 31st March 2025, management of the Council have undertaken forecasting of both income and expenditure, the expected impact on reserves, and cashflow forecasting.

Our year-end balances, as reported in these statements are as follows:

Date	General Fund	Earmarked reserves
31 st March 2024	£1.238	£13,734

Our expected General Fund and Earmarked Reserve position as at 31st March 2025, are a predicted balance of £1.364 million in the General Fund and £8.820 million in other Earmarked Reserves (excluding CIL). [Figures from the 2024/25 budget approved by Full Council on the 20th February 2024.] This remains in line with our minimum level of General Fund balance, i.e., 10% of the net operating budget as set in the budget report by the Chief Finance Officer.

Our cash flow forecasting and assessment of the adequacy of our liquidity position demonstrates positive cash balances throughout the going concern period, with no expectation of the need for external borrowing.

The key assumption within this forecast was that the Council will come in on budget in 2023/24 and 2024/25. It should be noted that the budget for 2024/25 was approved with continuing income reductions in relation to car parking and the leisure centre management fee, reflecting the continuing impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. And the budget for both years has been set taking into account the high levels of inflation in the economy and consequential expected increases in employee pay.

The Council has in recent years, always underspent its budget at yearend and the figures now detailed in this Statement of Accounts, show a significant underspend in 2023/24 which will, all other things being equal, increase the earmarked reserves forecast in the budget documentation, as quoted above.

The current forecast is that after allocations from the Surplus Savings Reserve in 2024/25 there will still be over £7.6 million in this reserve as at the 31st March 2025. It is therefore strongly believed that any pressures will be able to be absorbed within this balance, if required, up until this time

On this basis, the Council has an expectation that it will have adequate resources to continue in operational existence throughout the going concern period up until 31st March 2025, maintaining the provision of its services. For this reason, alongside the statutory

guidance, we continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing these financial statements.



Ian Smith
Director, Finance
East Cambridgeshire District Council

Collection Fund

2022/23			2023/24		
Non Domestic Rates £'000	Council Tax £'000	TOTAL £'000	Non Domestic Rates £'000	Council Tax £'000	TOTAL £'000
Income					
	(64,322)	(64,322)		(69,881)	(69,881)
(21,574)		(21,574)			(23,494)
(9)		(9)	(23,494)		(2,621)
			(2,621)		
(21,582)	(64,322)	(85,904)	(26,115)	(69,881)	(95,996)
Expenditure					
Repay Previous Years Surplus / Deficit					
(1,687)	0	(1,687)	(172)	0	(172)
(1,350)	244	(1,106)	(137)	37	(100)
(303)	1,514	1,211	(31)	235	204
0	268	268	0	41	41
(34)	79	45	(3)	12	9
(3,374)	2,105	(1,269)	(343)	325	(18)
Precepts and Demands					
9,861		9,861	11,373		11,373
8,020	7,163	15,183	9,186	7,544	16,730
1,805	45,727	47,532	2,067	49,318	51,385
	8,015	8,015		8,711	8,711
201	2,333	2,534	229	2,555	2,784
				384	384
19,887	63,238	83,125	22,855	68,512	91,367
Charges to Collection Fund					
(18)	(220)	(238)	0	(385)	(385)
143	333	476	158	584	742
(2,089)		(2,089)	40		40
96		96	99		99
1,127		1,127	1,008		1,008
329		329	480		480
(412)	113	(298)	1,785	199	1,984
16,101	65,456	81,558	24,297	69,036	93,333
(Increase) / Decrease in Collection Fund Balance					
(5,481)	1,134	(4,346)	(1,818)	(845)	(2,663)
Fund Balance - (Surplus) / Deficit at 1 April					
4,422	(2,101)	2,321	(1,059)	(967)	(2,026)
Fund Balance - (Surplus) / Deficit at 31 March					
(1,059)	(967)	(2,025)	(2,877)	(1,812)	(4,689)

Notes to the Collection Fund

1. Purpose of Fund

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

Until it is distributed, the tax collected is held in a statutory Collection Fund which is separate from the General Fund of the Council. The accounts are however, consolidated into the Council's accounts. They have been prepared on an accrual's basis.

Parish and Town Council precepts are transferred to the General Fund before being paid to the Parish or Town Council. Interest is not payable / chargeable to the Collection Fund on cash flow variations between it and the General Fund.

There is no requirement for a separate Collection Fund Balance Sheet. The assets and liabilities of the Collection Fund at the end of the year are apportioned between East Cambridgeshire District Council and the major preceptors in proportion to their demand on the fund for the year. The major preceptors' share of the assets and liabilities of the Collection Fund are shown as a debtor in East Cambridgeshire District Council's accounts. East Cambridgeshire District Council's share of the assets and liabilities are held in the Collection Fund Adjustment Account reserve.

2. Council Tax

Tax Base at 31 March 2024					
Tax Band	Properties	Exemptions & Discounts	Chargeable Dwellings	Band D Multiplier	Band D equivalent
A-	10.8	3.4	7.4	5/9	4.1
A	4103.2	831.0	3272.2	6/9	2181.5
B	10298.6	1124.0	9174.6	7/9	7,135.8
C	7671.7	319.2	7352.5	8/9	6,535.6
D	6914.7	137.2	6777.5	9/9	6,777.5
E	4672.5	48.7	4623.8	11/9	5,651.3
F	2262.1	14.7	2247.4	13/9	3,246.2
G	750.8	3.6	747.2	15/9	1,245.3
H	83.0	0.0	83.0	18/9	166.0
Total	36,767.4	2,481.8	34,285.6		32,943.3

Council Tax charge per band D property for 2022/23 £2,032.35

Council Tax charge per band D property for 2023/24 £2,143.32

3. Non Domestic Rates (NNDR)

The standard business rate multiplier set by the Government for 2023/24 was 51.2p (2022/23 51.2p). The small business multiplier, for business with a rateable value of under £18,000 was 49.9p (2022/23 49.9p)

Total rateable value at 31 March 2024 £70.995 million.

Total rateable value at 31 March 2023 £60.224 million.

4. Non Domestic Rates Appeals

The provision is based upon the latest list of outstanding rating list proposals provided by the Valuation Office Agency. It is an estimate based on changes in comparable hereditaments, market trends and other valuation issues, including the potential for certain proposals to be withdrawn. The estimate includes appeals and proposals in respect of live and historic Rating List entries. It does not include any allowance or adjustment for the effects of transition or for changes in liability. The estimated provision is made up of the estimated outcome of appeals calculated by a weighted average of the historic outcomes. It should be noted that the impact on the Council of appeals, as well as other NDR, is limited by Safety Net calculation (the calculation of which is limited by regulation)

5. Collection Fund Balance Sheet

Non Domestic Rates 31 Mar 23 £'000	Council Tax 31 Mar 23 £'000	TOTAL 31 Mar 23 £'000		Non Domestic Rates 31 Mar 24 £'000	Council Tax 31 Mar 24 £'000	TOTAL 31 Mar 24 £'000
2,898	1,079	3,977	Cash held by ECDC	4,569	1,661	6,230
2,113	3,188	5,301	Debtors	2,520	3,826	6,346
(798)	(1,601)	(2,399)	Receipts in Advance	(861)	(1,778)	(2,639)
(569)	(1,700)	(2,269)	Impairment Provision	(727)	(1,899)	(2,626)
(2,585)	0	(2,585)	Appeals Provision	(2,625)	0	(2,625)
(1,059)	(966)	(2,025)	Fund Surplus	(2,876)	(1,810)	(4,686)
0	0	0	TOTAL	0	0	0

6. Collection Fund Representation of Debtor, Creditor & Appeals Balances in ECDC Accounts

The Debtor, Creditor and Provisions entries are recorded in the Council's Accounts in accordance with the proportion of the fund attributable to East Cambridgeshire for its own purposes. The relevant proportions are 40% for Non-Domestic Rates and 10.6% for Council Tax. The entries are therefore as follows:

Non Domestic Rates 31 Mar 23 £'000	Council Tax 31 Mar 23 £'000	TOTAL 31 Mar 23 £'000		Non Domestic Rates 31 Mar 24 £'000	Council Tax 31 Mar 24 £'000	TOTAL 31 Mar 24 £'000
845	350	1,195	Debtors	1,008	407	1,415
(319)	(174)	(493)	Receipts in Advance	(344)	(189)	(533)
(228)	(188)	(416)	Impairment Provision	(290)	(202)	(492)
(1,034)	0	(1,034)	Appeals Provision	(1,050)	0	(1,050)
(290)	(958)	(1,248)	Creditors - Local Government	(287)	(1,599)	(1,886)
(1,449)	0	(1,449)	Creditors - Central Government	(2,284)	0	(2,284)
(424)	(108)	(532)	Fund Surplus to Collection Fund Adjustment Account	(1,151)	(198)	(1,349)
(2,899)	(1,078)	(3,977)	TOTAL	(4,398)	(1,781)	(6,179)

7. Collection Fund Adjustment Reserve

The Collection Fund Adjustment Reserve identifies the element of the Collection Fund balance that is due to this Council.

2022/23 £'000	Collection Fund Adjustment Account		2023/24 £'000
1,506	Opening Balance		(965)
(2,471)	Movement in Year		(384)
(965)	Closing Balance		(1,349)
		Movement	Closing Balance
(108)	Council Tax	(90)	(198)
(424)	Non Domestic Rates - Core	(727)	(1,151)
(433)	Non Domestic Rates - Renewable Energy	433	0
			(1,349)

GROUP Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Account

2022/23				2023/24		
GROSS EXPENDITURE	GROSS INCOME	NET EXPENDITURE		GROSS EXPENDITURE	GROSS INCOME	NET EXPENDITURE
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
51,096	(45,736)	5,360	Finance & Assets	26,019	(18,922)	7,097
20,345	(15,692)	4,653	Operational Services	13,443	(8,294)	5,149
71,442	(61,428)	10,013	Cost of Services	39,462	(27,216)	12,246
3,323	(4)	3,319	Other Operating Costs	3,295	(4)	3,291
430	(569)	(139)	Financing & Investment Items	173	(1,850)	(1,677)
58	(15,776)	(15,718)	Taxation & Grant Income	0	(15,963)	(15,963)
75,253	(77,777)	(2,525)	Net Surplus/Deficit on provision of services	42,930	(45,032)	(2,103)
0	(19,616)	(19,616)	Other comprehensive income & expenditure	0	(5,400)	(5,400)
75,253	(97,393)	(22,141)	TOTAL	42,930	(50,432)	(7,503)

GROUP Movement in Reserves Statement

2022/23					2023/24		
Opening Balance Group	Adjust between Account basis and fund basis	Other Income & Expenditure	Closing Balance		Adjust between Account basis and fund basis	Other Income & Expenditure	Closing Balance
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
24,385	(425)	1,926	25,886	General Fund	(996)	2,380	27,270
1,536	(56)	1	1,481	Capital Receipts Reserve	305	0	1,786
379	25	0	404	Capital Grants Unapplied	(15)	0	389
26,300	(456)	1,927	27,771	Total Useable	(706)	2,380	29,445
19,791	289	0	20,080	Capital Adjustments Account	431	0	20,511
14,068	(99)	(992)	12,977	Revaluation Reserve	(186)	487	13,278
(22,242)	266	21,206	(1047)	Other Unusable	460	4,914	4,327
11,616	456	20,214	32,287	Total Unusable	706	5,124	38,116
37,917	0	22,141	60,058	TOTAL	0	7,503	67,561

Group Balance Sheet

31 Mar 23		31 Mar 24
£'000		£'000
36,443	Property, Plant and Equipment	38,890
105	Heritage Assets	105
0	Intangible Assets	0
2,610	Trade & Other receivables	0
557	Long Term Debtors	513
0	Net Pension Asset	2,891
39,715	TOTAL LONG TERM ASSETS	42,396
17,000	Investments (Short Term)	10,000
165	Assets Held for Sale	0
4,128	Short Term Debtors	4,871
4,916	Inventories	3,379
	Trade & other receivables	
13,805	Cash and Cash Equivalents	22,403
40,014	TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	40,653
(12,793)	Short Term Creditors & Receipts in Advance	(10,429)
(1,193)	Provisions	(1,194)
(153)	Borrowings	(149)
(14,139)	TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	(11,772)
0	Borrowings	0
(3,467)	Capital Grants Received in Advance	(3,716)
(2,065)	Net Pensions Liability	0
(5,532)	LONG TERM LIABILITIES	(3,716)
60,058	NET ASSETS	67,561
	FINANCED BY:	
27,771	USABLE RESERVES	29,445
32,287	UNUSABLE RESERVES	38,116
60,058	TOTAL RESERVES	67,561


Ian Smith - CPFA

Director, Finance

East Cambridgeshire District Council

20th February 2025

Group Cash Flow Statement

Group		Group
31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£'000		£'000
1,476	Net Surplus / (Deficit) on the Provision of Services – (i)	4,294
(126)	Interest receivable	(1,878)
	Adjustments for Non-cash Items:	
1,264	Depreciation & Amortisation	589
	Impairment	
1,795	Pension Liability	(43)
21,136	Change in Inventories	1,500
(5,609)	Change in Debtors & Creditors	(1,721)
18,460	Total Adjustments (ii)	(1,184)
19,936	A - Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities (i)+(ii)	2,740
(699)	Purchase of Property, Plant & Equipment	(2,390)
(1,338)	Change in Long Term Debtors	1,044
(11,000)	Change in Short term Investments	7,000
848	Interest Received	14
(12,189)	B - Investing Activities	5,668
(6)	Net receipt / (application) of Capital Grants	249
	Change in Collection Fund agencies	
481	Debtors & Creditors	1,254
3,907	Loans Advanced	0
(27,377)	Loans Repaid	(1,255)
0	Leasing Liabilities Proceeds	0
(17)	Leasing Liabilities Repayment	(55)
(55)	Interest Paid	0
(23,067)	C - Financing Activities	192
(15,320)	Net (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents (A+B+C)	8,600
29,124	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	13,804
13,804	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	22,404

Notes to Group Accounts

G1 The Council has two Trading Companies East Cambs Trading Company Limited and East Cambs Street Scene. As a result, a set of Group Accounts for the group as a whole are produced. The accounts have been consolidated on a line by line basis, as per IFRS10.

The impact of the Companies activities upon the Reserves of the Group are as follows.

	31 March 2023 £'000	In Year Movement 2023/24 £'000	31 March 2024 £'000
Surplus Savings Reserve - Profit & Loss Account	131	(1,028)	(897)
Total Company Reserves portion of Group Balance Sheet	131	(1,028)	(897)
Represented by:			
East Cambs Trading Company Profit & Loss	131	(1,028)	(897)
East Cambs Street Scene Profit & Loss	0	0	0

G2 The Assets & Liabilities of the Company's at the Balance Sheet Date are as follows:

	Trading Company	Street Scene	Inter Company	Total Change upon Council
Property Plant & Equipment	84	24		108
Long Term Debtor/Loan	(5,000)	0	5,000	0
Debtors & Cash	482	277	(106)	653
Inventories	3,395	11		3,406
Borrowings	(149)			(149)
Creditors	(1,025)	(837)	386	(1,476)
TOTAL ASSETS NET OF COUNCIL SHARE	(2,213)	(525)	5,280	2,542

The Group Balance Sheet has moved from a position at 31st March 2023 of £59.499 million to £66.691 million at 31 March 2024.

ECTC's non-current assets have reduced primarily because there is only one instalment remaining on the Kennett land promotion, which is due in October 2024, which is less than one year.

Inventories have reduced by £1.4m as 10 properties were sold last year and at the end of March 2024, the latest development project in Ely is approximately only 50% built.

Trade & other receivable is £191k lower this year following the payment of the third of four instalments on the Kennett land promotion with the final instalment only being £806k as opposed to £977k for the previous three.

Trade payables has increased as work on the Eden Square development has increased, and amounts are due to contractors. At the end of March 2024 with less building work in progress there was less due to contractors.

Non-current liabilities have reduced by £1m following a repayment of part of the loan due to ECDC.

G3 East Cambs Trading Company and East Cambs Street Scene report leases under IFRS16 for 2023/24 but for group consolidation this has been rolled back to IAS17.

G4. Group Audit Fees

	2022/23	2023/24
ECDC	£279,000	£185,000
ECTC	£35,650	£44,000
ECSS	£22,875	£26,300
Total Audit Fees	£337,525	£255,300

Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

Glossary of terms

Accrual

The recognition of income and expenditure as it is earned or incurred, rather than as cash is received or paid.

Actuarial Assumptions

These are predictions made for factors that will affect the financial condition of the pension scheme.

Amortisation

The gradual write-off of the initial cost of assets.

Asset

An item having value to the Council in monetary terms.

Capital Enhancement

Enhancement on the acquisition of non-current assets which will be used in providing services beyond the current accounting period or spend on non-current assets.

Capital Receipts

Income received from selling non-current assets.

Carrying amount

The value of an asset or liability in the Balance Sheet.

CIPFA

This is the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy which is an institute that represents accounting in the Public Sector.

Collection Fund

A separate fund that records the income and expenditure relating to council tax and non-domestic rates.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

An amount payable by developers (commercial and domestic) in respect of new buildings created within the District. The Levy must be used to provide infrastructure; decisions on which are taken by District and Parish Councils.

Contingent Liabilities

These are amounts that the Council may be, but is not definitely, liable for.

Council Tax

A tax paid by residents of the District that is based on the value of the property lived in and is paid to the Council and spent on local services.

Creditors

These are people or organisations which the Council owes money to for goods or services which have not been paid for by the end of the financial year.

Current Assets

These are assets that are held for a short period of time, for example cash in the bank, inventories and debtors.

Debtors

Sums of money owed to the District Council but not received by the end of the financial year.

Earmarked Reserves

Money set aside for a specific purpose.

Exceptional Item

A material item in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that falls within the ordinary activities of the Council, but which needs to be disclosed separately by virtue of its size to give a fair presentation of the accounts.

Fair value

The amount for which an asset could be exchanged, or a liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties in arms-length transaction.

Finance Lease

A lease is a financial agreement to pay for an asset, for example a vehicle, in regular instalments. A finance lease transfers substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of an item of property, plant and equipment to a lessee.

Impairment of debts

This recognises that the real value of debt is less than the book value.

Intangible Assets

A non-physical item which provides future economic benefits. This Council's intangible assets comprise computer software licences.

Liabilities

Amounts due to individuals or organisations which will have to be paid at some time in the future. Current liabilities are usually payable within one year of the Balance Sheet date.

Liquid Resources

Current asset investments held as readily disposable stores of value, either readily convertible into cash, or traded in an active market.

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

The minimum amount that must be charged to the revenue account each year to provide for the repayment of monies borrowed by the Council.

Non Domestic Rates

Rates which are levied on business properties. From 1st April 2013, as a consequence of The Local Government Finance Act 2012, a local Non Domestic Rating regime was introduced that included the business rates retention scheme. See also **Tariff** and **Safety Net**.

Operating Leases

A lease is a financial agreement to pay for an asset, for example a vehicle, in regular instalments. An operating lease is where the ownership of the non-current asset remains with the lessor.

Precept

A payment to the Council's General Fund, or another local council, from the Council's Collection Fund.

Prior Year Adjustments

These are material adjustments applicable to previous years arising from changes in accounting policies or from the correction of fundamental errors.

Property, Plant and Equipment

Non-current assets that give benefit to the District Council and the services it provides for more than one year.

Provisions

Monies set aside for liabilities or losses which are likely to be incurred but where the exact amounts or dates on which they will arrive are uncertain.

Reclassification

Where comparative (prior year) figures are reclassified into new categories of income or expenditure, and the change has not been the result of a material error or accounting policy, but the amount is "material" then this is a reclassification.

Responsible Financial Officer

The designated post within the Council, as determined by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011, which holds the statutory S.151 responsibility (Local Government Act 1972). This responsibility is in respect of ensuring the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs. This post was formerly known as Chief Financial Officer.

Restated

Where there has been a material error in the accounts or a new accounting policy has been applied, then the comparative (prior year) figures have to be "restated" as if the correction or policy had been in place as at the end of the previous financial year.

Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute

Spending on items normally classed as revenue but which are defined by statute as capital e.g., improvement grants.

Revenue Support Grant

A grant from Central Government towards the cost of providing services.

Safety Net

The scheme for localising Non Domestic Rates (NDR) includes a safety net provision. Where the actual NDR after Tariff is less than 92.5% of the funding baseline, Central Government makes a safety net payment to the Council equal to the difference between the actual NDR and the funding baseline.

Section 106

Under planning regulations developers can be requested to make contributions to on and off-site facilities required as a result of their development.

Tariff

The scheme for localising Non Domestic Rates (NDR) includes baselines for both the amount of NDR the Council receives and the amount of Council funding from NDR. The Council pays Central Government a Tariff equal to the difference between the two baselines.

True and Fair View Override

As required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011, paragraph 8.2, the Responsible Financial Officer is required to certify that the Statement of Accounts presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council. However, as a consequence of IFRS, this has introduced the principle of the “true and fair view override”. This means, where the Responsible Financial Officer considers that to give a true and fair view would require the Council to provide misleading information i.e., to provide an actual outturn figure would actually show to the reader an unexpected financial position, the Responsible Financial Officer is permitted to provide alternative figures providing such divergence from the “true and fair view” is appropriately acknowledged in the notes to the accounts.

ABBREVIATIONS

CFR	Capital Financing Requirement
CIES	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
CIPFA	Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy
CPFA	Chartered Public Finance Accountant
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DRC	Depreciated replacement cost
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
IAS	International Accounting Standards
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standards
LEP	Local Enterprise Partnership
LGPS	Local Government Pension Scheme
MRP	Minimum Revenue Provision
MTFS	Medium Term Financial Strategy
NBV	Net Book Value
NDR	Non Domestic Rates
NHB	New Homes Bonus
NNDR	National Non Domestic Rates (Business Rates)
PWLB	Public Works Loans Board
RICS	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
RSG	Revenue Support Grant
S106	Section 106
SOLACE	Society of Local Authority Chief Executives