

Annual Financial Report and Statement of Accounts 2019/20



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Worcestershire County Council Annual Financial Report

Leader's Introduction

The 2019/20 financial year has been very busy for the Council which has seen us manage our finances closely whilst at the same time progressing key changes within the Council and importantly delivering significant investment in services and infrastructure to support the most vulnerable in our society, improve the County's transport network and provide vital impetus to promote economic growth and job creation.

The County was faced with significant disruption from Storms Ciara and Dennis and rose to the challenge of keeping people safe, minimising the impact on daily lives and supporting those communities affected.

The Covid-19 pandemic started to impact on the Council during the middle of March and had only a minimal financial effect during 2019/20. The Government has been quick to distribute funding to local councils and with our health colleagues, other local authorities, and emergency service partners we are leading the recovery response for the County area. This ongoing crisis, however, will continue to be a significant challenge for us during 2020/21.

During 2019/20 there have been several significant improvements as we continue to deliver our Corporate Plan Shaping Worcestershire's Future.

**WORCESTERSHIRE
CHILDREN FIRST**  We have successfully set up our wholly owned Council company Worcestershire Children First taking day to day charge of around £100 million of Council

spend and the delivery of important priorities around Education and Children's Social Care.

Our improvement plan for children's social care has made excellent progress over the last year and as a result our engagement with Essex County Council as Improvement Partner has drawn to a close. A more stable workforce with permanency rates for front line social workers at

86% has been achieved and average caseloads have reduced to 20. In terms of the numbers of children in care they have stabilised at 70 per 10,000 and for the first time we are now taking fewer children into care than the West Midlands average. Our investment in skilled and highly motivated staff and management continues to pay off.

We have seen our Education performance standards improve with 84% of children in Worcestershire educated in good or outstanding schools although our aim is for this to reach 90%. Last year over 90% of parents secured an offer at their first preference school for their child. Latest GCSE results show that the percentage of students in the County gaining grades 4 or above in English and Maths has increased.

The Council redesign is taking shape with an agreed organisational structure and we have successfully recruited to our remaining top-tier posts.

Worcestershire's economy continued to perform well with our Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership and wider business organisations driving forward our jointly agreed objectives set out in the Strategic Economic Plan to create 25,000 jobs, grow the economy by nearly one third (an extra £2.9bn Gross Value Added) and deliver 21,500 new homes by 2025. Excellent progress was made with 31,000 new jobs added, an increase in Gross Value Added of £2bn and the building of 12,980 new homes to date – ensuring Worcestershire remained one of the fastest growing local economies in the country. Covid-19 and the economic impact as a result of the lockdown will undoubtedly be a significant challenge for this coming year.



With regard to digital infrastructure, the Superfast Broadband programme has transformed the availability of faster broadband in the County with 96% of premises now able to access 24Mbps+. The programme has been extended as a result of additional funding, including £1million from Defra, and aims to reach 97% superfast coverage by early 2021.



We have built and opened the first new rail station in Worcestershire for 100 years which will significantly transform connectivity for rail users. Worcestershire Parkway has enabled key services to and from London that will take less than 2 hours and passengers will be able to get to Cardiff in 1hr 23 mins and to Nottingham in 1hr 49 mins. Our clear ambition now is to access even more services.

We have also been investing in our road infrastructure. The Worcester Southern Link Road (SLR) is a strategically important link. The planned improvements will result in critically needed additional highway capacity along the SLR leading to a significant improvement in journey times and journey time reliability.

In Bromsgrove, the changes to the A38 Barley Mow Lane junctions have been successfully delivered with progression of the designs for the M5 and M42 elements of the scheme ongoing with Highways England maintaining the plan to commence construction in 2020.

Our Energy from Waste plant, EnviRecover, continues to perform well, allowing our contractor to apply for the relevant permissions to enable them to progress up to 15% more waste through the facility each year. Energy from the plant creates electricity for 32,000 homes.

We have continued to complete a range of drainage and flood mitigation schemes to improve our resilience to the effects of flooding and the changing climate. During the last 12 months the major flood adaptation scheme at Upton-upon-Severn has been completed, increasing the road's resilience to future flooding.

Work is continuing across the County to provide attractive public spaces to support the local retail economy. This builds on the success of Cathedral Square in Worcester, Alcester Street in Redditch, Droitwich High Street, Teme Street in Tenbury and most recently The Shambles in Worcester and Worcester Street in Kidderminster. More schemes are planned for this year.

Alongside our response and recovery to Covid-19, the long-term funding of social care undoubtedly remains the key challenge and one that will require a nationally agreed solution. In the meantime, I welcome the continuation of the social care grants, the additional funding announced in the autumn for 2020/21 and the proposed continuation for one more year of the Adult Social Care precept that together will enable us to fund the rising costs of social care next year.

Looking forward to 2020/21, we will be continuing our Covid-19 response & recovery actions alongside working with Central Government around funding arrangements. Our Corporate Plan remains a key focus as it is now more important than ever to encourage a strong local economic recovery, support vulnerable adults and children and help our residents and service users to return to a normal way of life.

**Simon Geraghty, Leader of Worcestershire County Council
May 2019**

Chief Executive's Introduction

My second year as Chief Executive has seen the Council deliver structural change whilst at the same time being faced with the significant challenges through safeguarding life and property as a result of Storms Ciara and Dennis, and then as a workforce facing a complete realignment of working practices as a result of Covid-19.

I would like to thank all staff who have worked tirelessly throughout the year under difficult circumstances making a real difference to people's lives. 2019/20 has been dominated by four key strategic priorities:

- a) Strong financial management and budget stabilisation;
- b) A full organisational redesign;
- c) The creation and launch of Worcestershire Children First and the Ofsted reinspection; and
- d) The introduction of a new digital case management system in both Children's and Adult services.

Strong financial management and budget stabilisation

2018/19 saw the Council face significant financial pressure mitigated by the successful implementation of a number of savings measures. Building on this strength 2019/20 financial performance has remained strong with expenditure coming in on budget to within £0.3 million (0.1%).

Behind this we have strengthened the finance team and upskilled budget holders and spend managers give them more access to self-service finance reports.

A full organisational redesign

The organisational redesign has been a major piece of work this year involving all departments at all levels. The fundamentals behind the redesign are to remove operational silos, drive performance and productivity, reform processes to be more efficient and cost effective, and to use digital technology where appropriate to its full potential.

The first part of this process to implement the top tier and Assistant Directors has been completed whilst we have been reviewing remaining staffing structures which when complete will lead to a £3m per annum saving.

Within the field of organisational redesign and human resources work has been progressing throughout the year on improving performance, productivity and total reward. The following main points illustrate the work completed to date:

We have moved to 100% compliance with mid-year and end of year ratings submissions for the performance process. This has been coupled with a calibration process looking to move performance ratings to a standard distribution curve.

- We have continued to embed our core employment policies (Managing Attendance, Conduct, Performance, Grievance etc). These have led to a continued improvement in attendance levels having moved from a projected c10 days average sickness per employee to 7.68 days per employee over the last 12 months. This has returned a significant amount of productivity back into the business.
- We have continued to focus on recruitment of front-line social workers within Children's Services in Worcestershire Children First. We have met our target of recruiting to 85% permanent front-line practitioner social workers in Children's.



The creation and launch of Worcestershire Children First and the Ofsted reinspection

The Council's wholly owned company, Worcestershire Children First, was successfully launched on 1 October. More than 700 staff were smoothly TUPE-transferred to the new organisation, with no negative impact on performance and morale. The Department for Education (DfE) were pleased with the progress made to the agreed timescale.

The improvement work in Children's Social Work and Safeguarding got independent and external recognition in July 2019 when Ofsted returned for a full inspection under the new Inspections of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) framework. Ofsted confirmed the services were no longer "inadequate" and graded the service "Requires improvement to be good" with a strong trajectory of improvement. This improvement has been made possible by the success of our workforce strategy that is designed to ensure that the conditions are in place where social work can flourish, and that the organisation is the 'employer of choice' in a very competitive market place. At the end of year children's social work permanency was running at 86%, a significant improvement on the previous year.

In October 2019, in line with DfE requirements, the new multi-agency Safeguarding Board arrangement went live with "Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership". The focus of the new partnership is multi-agency quality assurance, protecting children from exploitation and learning lessons from serious cases.

In 2019 there was investment in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) services as part of the response to the SEND Written Statement of Action from 2018. The development of this workforce in both capacity and practice has resulted in continued improvement this year particularly in the timely completion of the assessment and planning for Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP's). In 2018/19 overall, 30% of EHCPs were completed within the 20 week timescale. In December 2019 100% of EHCPs due

to be completed were done so within the 20 week timescale. The latest DfE monitoring visit concluded that we are making good progress with the Written Statement of Action and that previous concerns raised about the continuity of effort during a period of organisational change with the establishment of Worcestershire Children First (WCF) and key senior personnel change were assuaged at the visit.

The introduction of a new digital case management system in both Children's and Adult services

We have successfully implemented our new social care case management system Liquidlogic for both the Council's Adults Social Care staff and Worcestershire Children First's Children's teams. This new system will bring staff productivity improvements through improved mobile working.

Flooding

I would also like to say a big thank you to Highways, Flood team, Emergency Planning and other colleagues for their superb efforts in managing the major floods we have had that began over the Autumn of this last year. Many properties and roads were badly affected on several occasions between late October and December, and the hard work of all involved and our partners in the District Councils and Environment Agency ensured we managed the difficult conditions and kept things moving as much as practicable. The later floods in February and March again saw these teams working very hard to keep the County's people safe and the roads clear.

Covid-19 Initial Recovery

The Council has a clear role in supporting public health and the Covid-19 pandemic has created a significant challenge that will last for many months to come. The work of the staff and Councillors to date has been fantastic, working with partner agencies at the forefront of support. I am so proud of all that we have accomplished in such a short period of time.

As a workforce we have adapted fantastically to new working arrangements, for many staff keeping vital services continuing whilst for others there are many examples of volunteering in other roles such a support food parcel delivery or staffing our Here to Help service.

The Government has given us funding to see us through the first quarter of 2020/21 and we are working closely with MHCLG and the County Council's Network to model our future needs and to make sure we maintain financial stability and service provision. Whilst it is very difficult to forecast what the total impact will be on the Council's service provision, we are working on what the future will look like and through the summer will be reviewing our Medium Term Financial Plan.

I am confident that our strong workforce and all our organisational redesign work will means we have an excellent operational base to move forward and continue to deliver our Corporate Plan objectives.

Paul Robinson
Chief Executive

Chief Financial Officer’s Narrative Report

Worcestershire is a County with a proud heritage. Home to over half a million people, with a mix of urban and rural communities, and a thriving economy. The County Council, like its peers and public sector partners, continues to deal with a significant increase in demand for and cost of our services, most of which relates to social care. Through good financial management the County Council continues to set and deliver a balanced budget, whilst also improving its performance in key areas.

Despite significant challenges in 2019/20, the County Council delivered a small overspend of £0.3 million against its £330.4 million budget and achieved planned savings of £15.8 million. Through robust financial monitoring and prompt management action, we have ensured that additional costs arising from our response to flooding across Worcestershire at the beginning of 2020 and the current Covid-19 pandemic which started to have financial implications during March 2020, have not had an adverse impact on the outturn position at 31 March 2020. The outturn position by directorate is given below:

Service area	Budget £m	Outturn £m	Variance £m
People – Adults	125.870	127.413	1.543
People – Communities	21.165	20.255	-0.910
People – Public Health	2.389	2.471	0.082
Children’s Services/WCF	95.488	96.037	0.549
Economy & Infrastructure	55.749	54.766	-0.983
Commercial & Change	6.392	5.912	-0.480
Finance/Corporate Items	32.449	29.042	-3.407
Non-Assigned	(6.865)	(3.000)	3.865
Budgeted Use of Reserves	(2.247)	(2.247)	0
Total	330.390	330.649	0.259

The Council’s main cost pressure during the year arose on Adult Services where the £126 million budget was overspent by £1.6 million (1.3%), which was offset by underspends of £1 million on Community Services and £1 million on Economy and Infrastructure services.

School Balances overall reduced during the year to a net surplus of £1.4 million, although the net position includes £9.3 million of schools in deficit. School’s funding therefore remains an area of concern and the Council and Worcestershire Children First are working to support schools in achieving their financial plans as well as lobbying Central Government. The non-schools Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) will carry forward a deficit of £6.2 million and this will be carried forward and offset against future DSG income.

Following storms Ciara and Dennis earlier this year, the Council set up a Worcestershire Flood Support Scheme and allocated £250,000 to support those most affected. The Council’s own expenditure totalled £1.5 million and we are reclaiming £0.9 million of this under the Government’s emergency fund – the Bellwin Scheme.

The Covid-19 pandemic started close to our financial year end and thus for 2019/20 it has not had a major financial impact, with expenditure totalling £0.4 million over the last two weeks of the financial year. On 27 March 2020 the Council received £14.9 million (being the first part of a total of £25.5 million given to the Council) to support costs and unspent monies will be carried forward for use in 2020/21. The Council has since been given additional Infection Control funding to forward to social care providers and is able to reclaim monies from the NHS to support hospital discharges.

We continued to make progress against our key financial service performance indicators throughout the year; the time taken to collect our debt has improved in 2019/20 with 98% collected in 90 days, compared with 97% in 2018/19, following a focused review of our income management processes. The centralisation of income management, with standardised income raising and debt collection procedures, agreed as part of our Finance Improvement Programme and the allocation of additional resources will ensure that this improvement is sustained in 2020/21. However, the time taken to pay creditors has slipped in 2019/20 with 96% of creditors paid within 30 days of invoice date, compared with our 2018/19 performance of 99%. We are in the process of reviewing and strengthening our Financial Transaction team and will continue to review this target.

We have taken appropriate measures to ensure the valuation of our assets and investments are robust, noting that they are subject to a degree of uncertainty considering the current financial climate as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. This equally will apply to our Pension fund investments. With regard to our debtors in light of Covid-19 we have increased our Provision of Bad Debts by £1.4 million to £3 million taking into account the financial challenges faced by individuals and businesses at this time. We will continue to review this in 2020/21.

Looking forward, there is considerable financial uncertainty regarding the impact of Covid-19, the length of time this will impact our services, our income and funding levels, the strength of our service providers and partners, and not least our own staff as we manage recovery.

In many respects, we are acting as agents for Central Government working with partner agencies managing the response to the Covid-19 crises at a local level and as such we continue to work with Government to reclaim costs and lost income. Funding so far that has come forward from

Government has been quickly distributed to where it is needed most. The majority of the financial impact will occur in 2020/21 and the following year, and we will be revising our Medium-Term Financial Plan as matters continue to emerge.

Finance staff continue to work closely with our service partner Liberata and our external auditors Grant Thornton to improve performance to ensure a robust close-down process and produce the statutory accounts within statutory deadlines, and I express my thanks for their hard work.

As the financial pressures and funding uncertainties facing councils increase, it is imperative that we continue to put financial strength and competence at the heart of all decision making to deliver an innovative, strong, resilient and sustainable financial performance. The qualified finance team has been significantly strengthened during 2019/20 as we have made progress and driven change through our Financial Improvement Programme. We will continue to manage this programme and report to our Audit and Governance Committee on a regular basis.

Further in-depth highlights of the 2019/20 Statement of Accounts are contained in the Finance and Performance Review section below.

Michael Hudson LLB (Hons), LL.M, CPFA
Chief Financial Officer



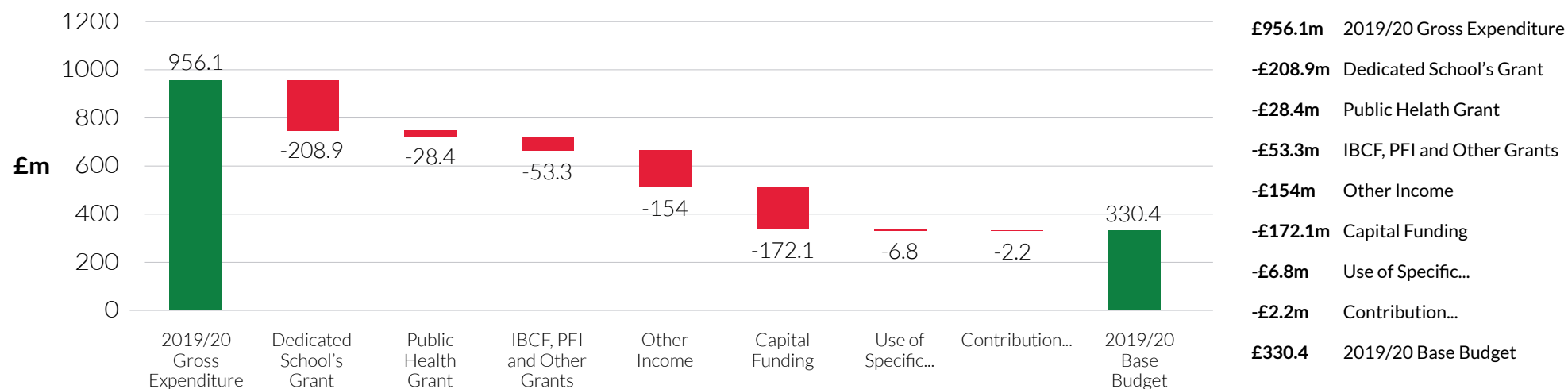
Finance and Performance Review

2019/20 Financial performance

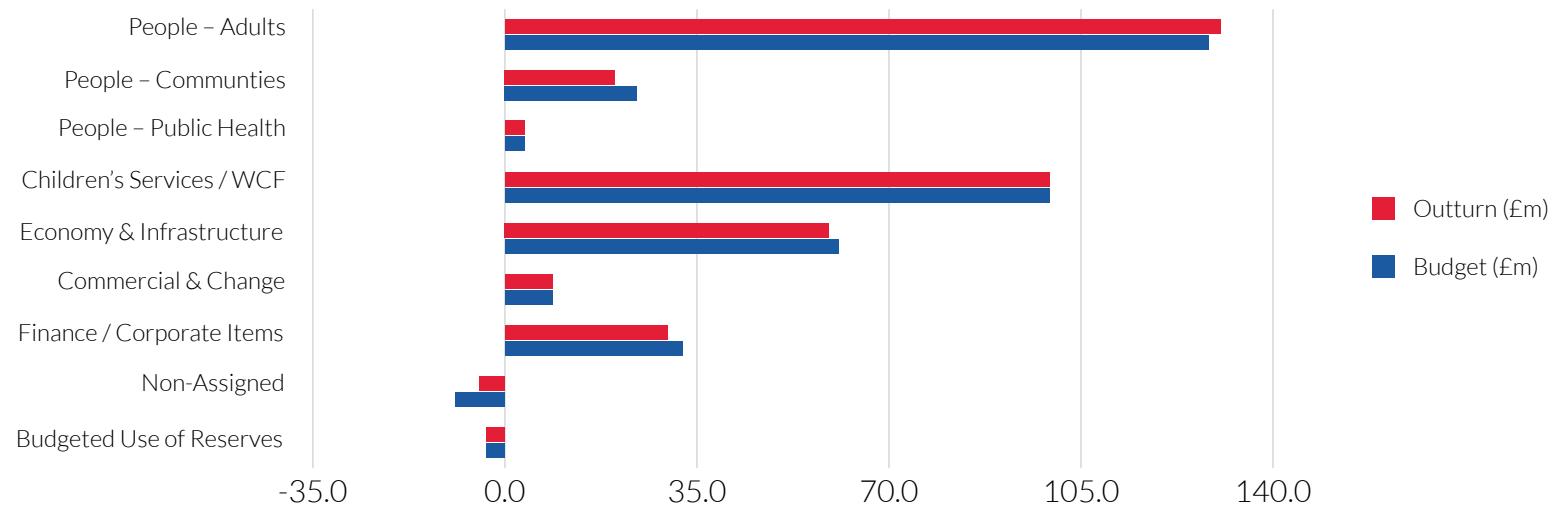
The County Council net budget for 2019/20 was £330.390 million. The breakdown of gross to net expenditure is shown in the graph below:

In line with budget monitoring throughout the year the County Council overspent it's £330 million budget by £0.3 million (0.1%) in 2019/20, with pressures in People, Children's Services and Finance, Human Resources (HR) & Chief Executive being offset by underspends in Economy and Infrastructure and Commercial and Change Services. The graph below gives details of the outturn position by directorate.

Gross to Net Expenditure 2019/20



Outturn Position by Directorate



Significant management action has been undertaken in year to manage cost pressures in addition to delivering savings of £15.8 million. The key financial and performance for each directorate is drawn out in the following paragraphs.

People Services – Adults

As reported and forecast during 2019/20 the Adult Social Care budget ended the year overspent, although the level was better than predicted with a £1.6 million overall pressures across all areas of social care. A particular factor was the increased activity and unit price of nursing placements in the Older People service saw £4.6 million more spent than the original budget. The use of grants, changes to income, service delivery and vacancy management have enabled managers to offset some of these pressures. The 2020/21 budget has again sought to redirect resources to rebalance these budgets.

People Services – Communities

The Communities budget returned a £0.9 million underspend largely as a result of increased grant and registrars income.

Children’s Services

Children’s social care placements demand and costs continued to increase in 2019/20, resulting in an overspend of £0.5 million which relates largely to costs pressures in the Home to School/College Transport budget. This is a significant improvement on the previous year. We continue to monitor the increased demand and underlying pressures on transport services through a technical working group, led by the Head of Finance.

The increasing cost of high needs provision has placed significant pressure on the Dedicated School’s Grant (DSG) funding as well as the Council. The overall DSG deficit at 31 March 2020 is £6.2 million and this will be carried forward against future DSG income. The Council continues to work with schools to optimise pressures within funding, whilst lobbying Central Government for the issue to be addressed nationally.

Economy and Infrastructure

The directorate has delivered an underspend of £1.0 million (1.8% of its budget), with a significant proportion of this relating to underspends of £0.6 million in Streetworks services with delays in projects; and £0.4 million underspend achieved by a reduced volume of concessionary fares payments.

Commercial and Change

Following close management action to contain expenditure, the Directorate has delivered an underspend of £0.5 million (7.5% of its budget) as a result of management action in holding vacant posts across a number of areas, reduced asset management spend and achieving contract savings.

Finance, HR & Chief Executive

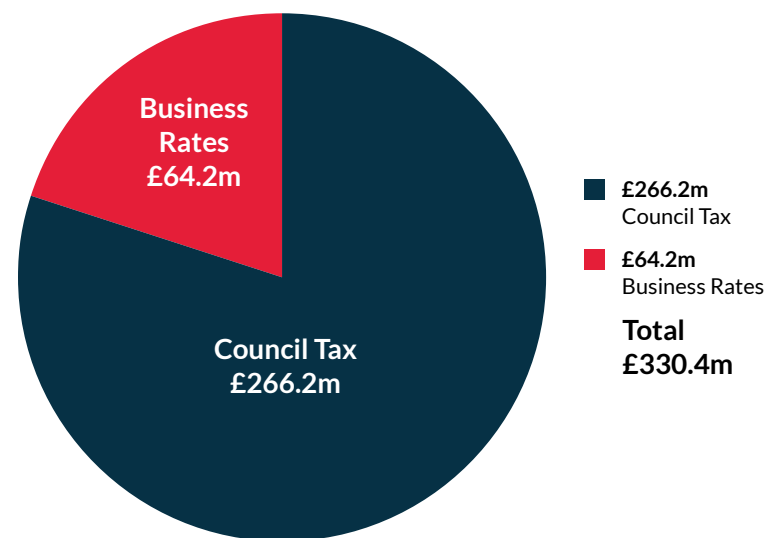
Finance and Corporate budgets achieved an underspend of £2.9 million mainly as a result of reduced borrowing costs from prudently managing cash balances, withholding expenditure from the Council’s contingency budget, and reduce employer’s pension costs.

The corporately held savings target of £6.9 million for Organisational Redesign and Commercial Savings has been partially offset by a one-off withdrawal of £3 million from the Financial Risk Reserve, with the balance of £3.9 million reported as an overspend. The 2020/21 budget has been updated to reflect those savings that can be delivered in that or future years.

Funding sources

The Council’s core revenue expenditure was funded by a combination of locally raised funds and resource allocated from central government.

Funding Sources 2019/20



The Council Tax Band D equivalent was set at £1,260.75, which includes £90.83 relating to the ring-fenced Adult Social Care precept.

Services also receive funding from specific grants, contributions and fees and charges. Key grants are the Improved Better Care Fund, Public Health Ring-fenced Grant and Dedicated Schools Grant. The terms and conditions of these grants vary, and the funding may be non-recurrent.

Impact on the Council's Assets and Liabilities

The value of our property plant and equipment has increased by a net £18.1 million in 2019/20. We have disposed of £20.3 million of assets, including 8 schools which have converted to academy status during 2019/20 resulting in a £16.3 million reduction to the Council's assets at nil consideration.

We secured £9.7 million of capital receipts which have helped us manage our borrowing requirement and fund transformation. At the same time, we are reporting a further £7.6 million of assets held for sale (note 15.8 Non-operational assets). Of these a quarter of the value is linked to the disposal of a former school asset which has planning permission for a new adult's residential home which will increase capacity for care in the County.

The County Council's pensions liabilities have decreased by £42.9 million. Of this, £27.4 million relates to an actuarial gain from changes in financial assumptions surrounding discount rates and CPI inflation; in line with actuarial assumptions.

Whilst we have seen an improvement in performance in debts collected within 90 days, we saw the average time to collect a debt slip from 39 days to 55 days in 2019/20. Progress is underway, as part of our Finance Improvement Programme, to improve our income management and debt collection processes and we continue to work with our strategic partners, with support from colleagues in legal services, to facilitate the efficient resolution of queries in respect of debts that are over 30 days old. We are also now reporting collection rates and progress on a quarterly basis to the Audit and Governance Committee. In response to changes in the aged profile of debtor balances at 31 March 2020, we have increased our impairment allowance by £1.4 million: trade debtors by £0.9 million with a further £0.5 million increase in respect of Adult Social Care debt. The County Council has considered the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic upon the recoverability of debtor balances at 31 March 2020 and has applied a professional judgement to increase the bad debt provision in 2019/20 by 25% to reflect the additional risk.

Whilst performance in respect of our time to pay creditors continues to be high (96% of all creditors paid within 30 days), we continue to review creditor payment terms to secure savings where we can negotiate reduced costs. Overall the increase of our trade creditors at 31 March 2020 by £12.6 million is mainly related to the timing of equalisation payments to District Councils in respect of the Business Rate Retention Scheme.

Our earmarked and other usable reserves have increased over the year by £9.5 million to £144.4 million. This reflects the financial position of the County Council in the year, with directorates drawing down amounts put by in previous years to support service delivery offset by corporate savings through lower Minimum Revenue Provision costs allowing savings to be added to the Financial Risk Reserve. Further detail is given below.

Financial risks and our reserves

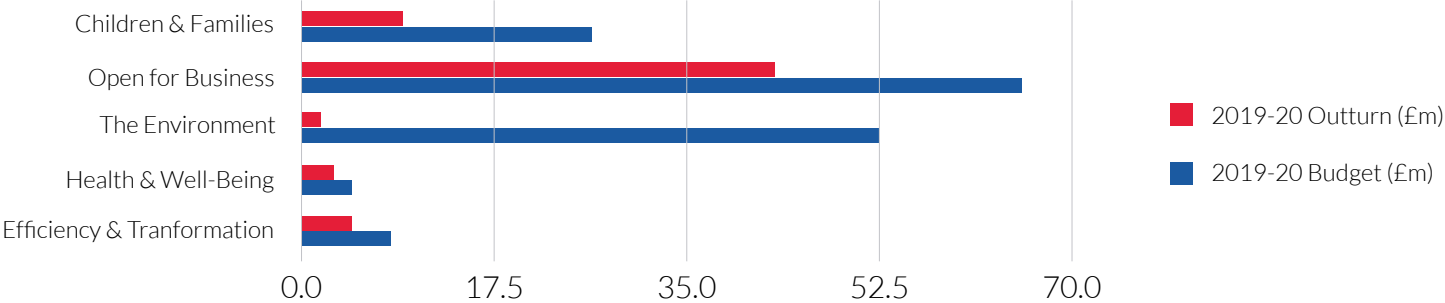
Over recent years, our trend for underlying cost pressures and extensive use of specific grants and other reserves has significantly reduced our earmarked reserves although that trend is reversing. Our General Fund Reserve balance at 31 March 2020 was unchanged at £12.2 million. Looking forward, the total resources available are £76.3 million, as noted in the table below:

	Balance at 31 March 2019	Transfers out	Transfers in	Balance at 31 March 2020
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Directorate Reserves	28.7	-14.9	15.1	28.9
Grant/Funding Reserves	13.8	-5.5	5.4	13.7
Corporate Funding/ Insurance	21.6	-14.3	21.8	29.1
Schools/DSG Reserves	4.9	-12.8	3.0	-4.9
PFI reserves	12.5	-7.8	4.8	9.5
Total	81.5	-55.3	50.1	76.3

Capital Programme

The capital programme for 2019/20 to 2021/22 and beyond totals £338.6 million, with £160.7 million in 2019/20. Expenditure is most significant in the Economy & Infrastructure Directorate which includes infrastructure support for Open for Business priorities.

2019-20 Capital Programme

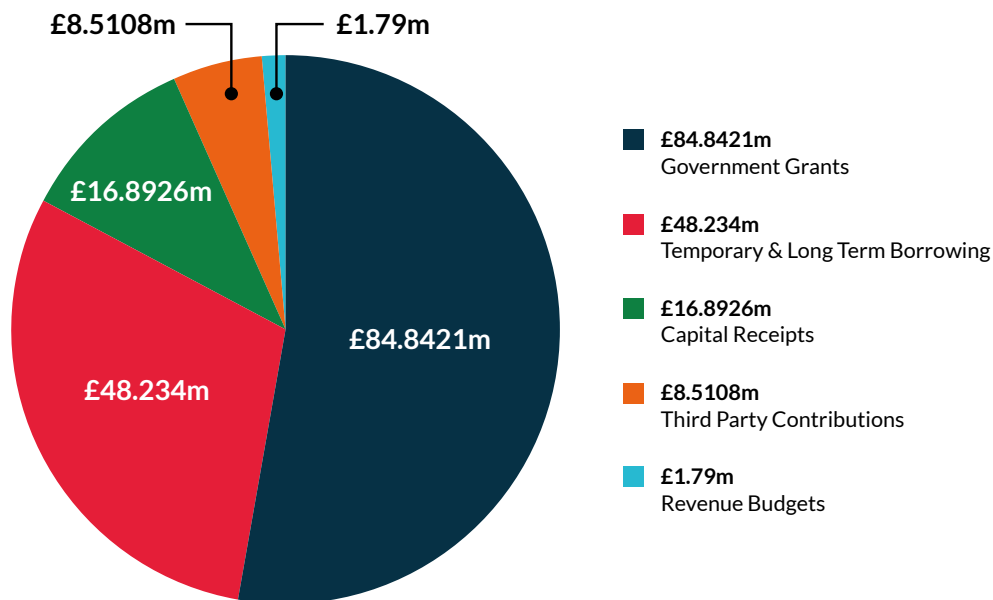


Key schemes supported during 2019/20 are:

- Southern Link Road Dualling
- Worcestershire Parkway Regional Interchange
- Kidderminster Rail Station Enhancements
- A38 Bromsgrove
- Social Care Case Management System Replacement – Liquid Logic

Funding for capital schemes comes mainly from government grants, usually for specific developments, and borrowing, as shown below:

Funding Sources 2019/20



Impact on Treasury Management and cash flow

Our short-term borrowing has reduced by £18.0 million whilst our long-term borrowing has increased by £26.6 million. This reflects our strategy of reprofiling our borrowing. All of our Treasury Management activities are reported separately and regularly to Cabinet and Council. All transactions have been completed in accordance with our Treasury Management Strategy for the year.

Delivering the Corporate Plan

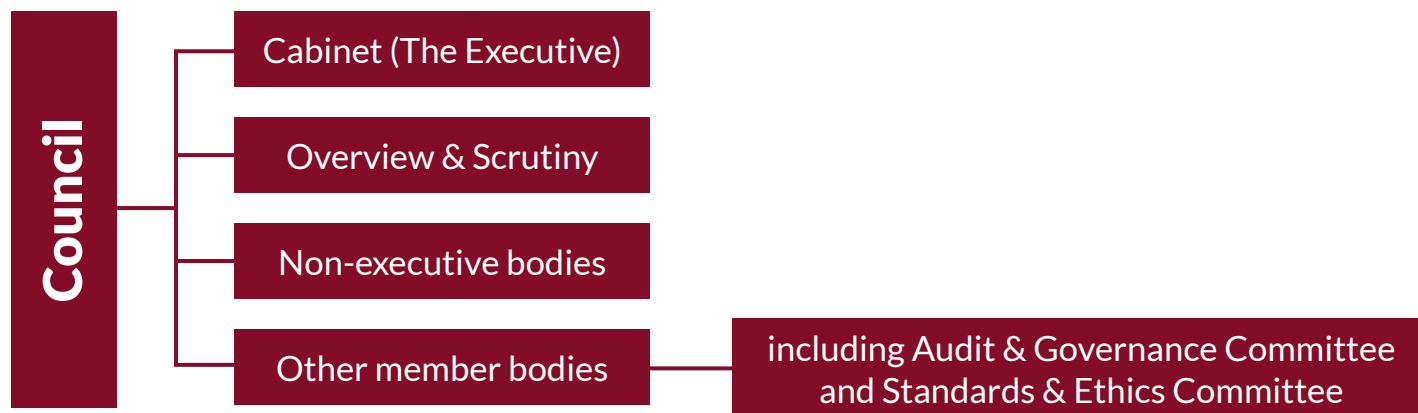
The Council's 2017-22 Corporate Plan – Shaping Worcestershire's Future, sets a clear vision and four distinct priorities for the organisation and wider partnership to focus on delivering. This is set out alongside a revised way of working, moving towards financial self-sufficiency and encouraging those individuals, families and communities who can to do more for themselves, enabling limited resources to be targeted on protecting the most vulnerable in society. Regular public engagement has consistently highlighted the following important aspects to consider when allocating resources:

- Safeguarding vulnerable young people, particularly those in or leaving care to ensure they are safe and can make the most of the opportunities they have.
- Protecting vulnerable older people, particularly those with physical, learning and mental health difficulties.
- Maintenance of the highway.

Political structure

The County Council is run by 57 elected Councillors who are responsible for making sure that the services we provide meet the needs of residents and those who work in the county. They do this by setting the overall policies and strategies for the County Council and by monitoring the way in which these are implemented.

Full Council meetings are held regularly throughout the year. Council is responsible for agreeing the main policies and priorities for all services, including the County Council's budget. Cabinet is responsible for most day to day Council decisions. The Leader of the Council, Simon Geraghty, appoints councillors to the Cabinet and these Cabinet members have specific areas of responsibility. There are currently nine members of Cabinet. Cabinet makes its decisions in line with overall policies, priorities and budget. All of its decisions are made in accordance with governance arrangements and details of Cabinet meetings are available at the following: [Browse meetings – Cabinet – Worcestershire County Council](#) The work of Council is supported by a number of other committees:



Further information about the County Council's governance arrangements can be found on the County Council website www.worcestershire.gov.uk, in the Council, Democracy and Councillor Information section and in the Annual Governance Statement which forms part of this document.

The County Council is operationally managed by the Strategic Leadership Team, comprising the Chief Executive, directors from the 3 directorates and the Chief Financial Officer.



Looking ahead and going concern

The 2020/21 budget was approved at Council on 13 February 2020, with the detailed proposals presented to Cabinet on 30 January 2020.

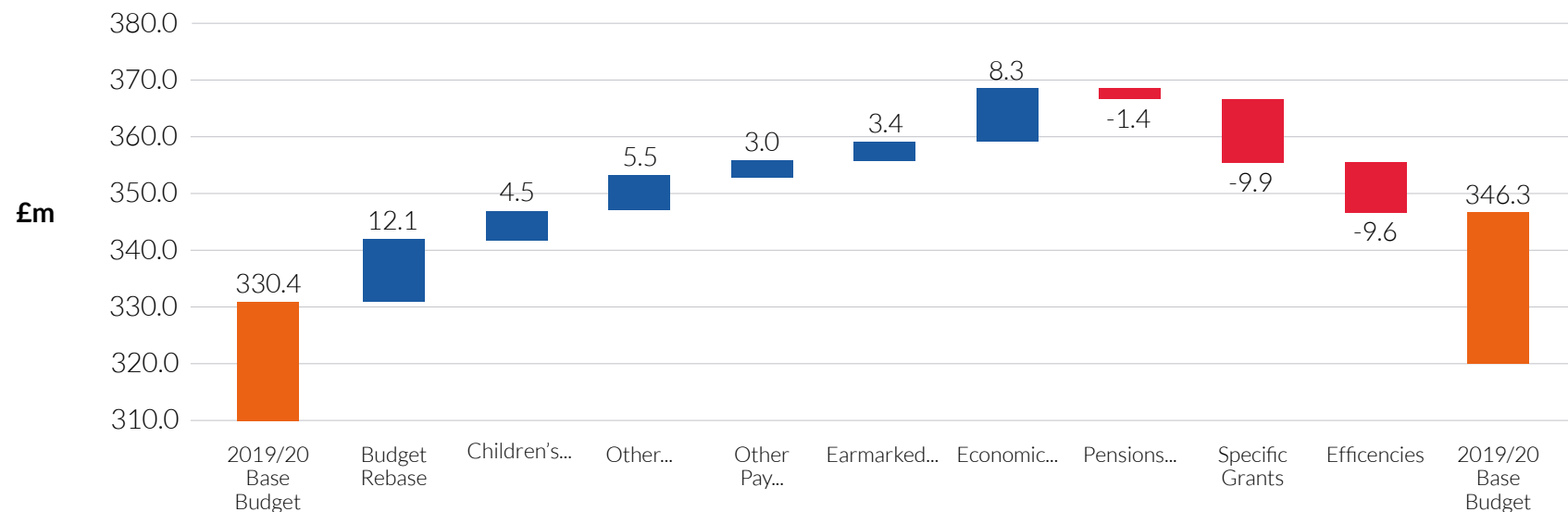
This budget and Medium Term Financial Plan was approved before the Covid-19 crises and therefore will need to be reviewed and updated taking into account all Central Government funding to support response activity, together with the impact of additional expenditure and risk of lost income. A review of the Medium Term Financial Plan will be undertaken at the same time. However, at this stage we are assuming that the majority of our costs and lost income will be funded by Government and there will be limited draw on our reserves.

The paragraphs below details of the current budget for 2020/21.

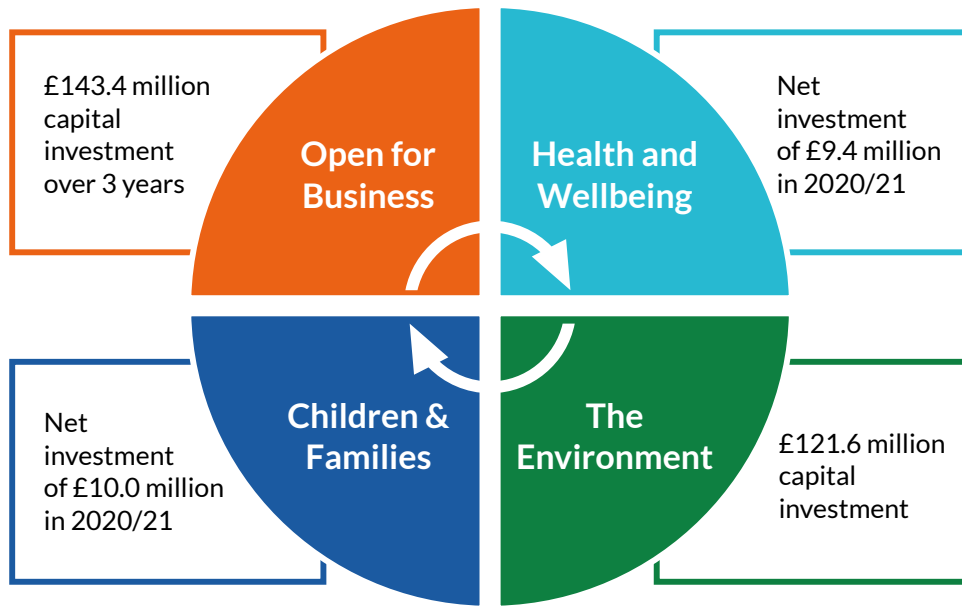
Expenditure

The net revenue budget requirement for 2020/21 is £346.246 million. That is a net £15.856 million more than 2019/20, however to achieve a balanced budget a programme of efficiency, reform and income proposals totalling £9.6 million was approved by Council in February 2020.

Movement in Expenditure Budget



The medium-term financial plan confirms the commitment to continue to resource the Council's Corporate Plan priorities. It includes a capital programme of £338.6 million to deliver regeneration, infrastructure and other changes during 2020-23.

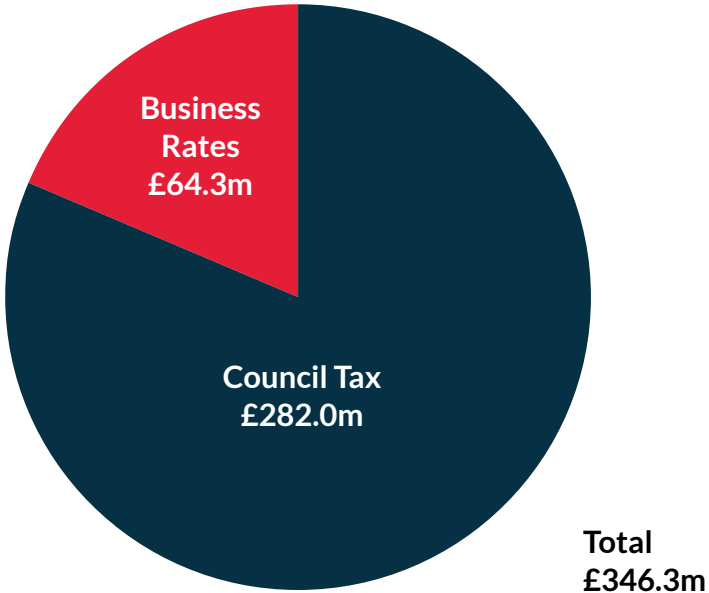


We are supporting this with a commitment to invest £29.0 million to ensure that the County Council is operating efficiently, prepared for the future including more digitally enabled operations, and closer working with our key partners.

Funding

The main sources of the County Council’s income are collected locally, with local taxation through Council Tax and the Adult Social Care Precept accounting for 81% of core funding income in 2020/21.

Funding Sources 2020/21



The County Council and its six District Council partners participated in a one-year 75% Business Rates Retention Pilot Scheme in 2019/20 resulting in a total gain of £8.7 million, with £4.9 million of this to be directed to help prevent or reduce the costs of Adults’ and Children’s social care across the County. In 2020/21, the County Council and six District Councils plus Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service will form a pool under the allowed 50% Business Rates Retention Scheme which is likely to benefit Worcestershire residents by around £2.8 million.

Medium Term Financial Plan 2020-23

The Medium-Term Financial Plan takes account of the Corporate Plan commitment, the cost of providing our services and current central government funding announcements. Our current assumption, which may need to be reviewed in light of Covid-19, is that there will need to be a total of around £60 million of savings, reforms and income generation over the period 2020-23, with around £23 million required in 2020/21.

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Total
Medium Term Financial Plan	£000	£000	£000	£000
Funding	346,246	355,782	367,281	1,069,309
Transfer to Reserves	(1,107)	-	-	(1,107)
Projected Budget Requirement	345,139	364,029	383,079	1,092,247
Funding Gap (Before Reforms)	0	8,247	15,798	24,045

Worcestershire Children First

The County Council's wholly owned subsidiary Worcestershire Children First (WCF) was successfully launched on 1 October 2019 and operational responsibility for the delivery of all of Children's services on behalf of Worcestershire County Council was transferred on that date. Over 800 staff were TUPE transferred from the County Council to the new company to ensure an efficient transition of services and responsibilities. The Department for Education (DfE) has been informed of the company's progress and performance throughout the transition period, as part of contract monitoring arrangements, and are satisfied with the progress made to date.

The County Council has accounted for the activity of Worcestershire Children First through group accounts and these can be found at pages 142 to 148 in the 2019/20 Statement of Accounts.

EU Exit – The potential impacts of the United Kingdom leaving the European Union

Following a referendum in June 2016, the UK government invoked Article 50 of the Treaty of the European Union, starting the process for the exit from the European Union. The UK left the European Union on 31 January 2020 and there is now a transition period until 31 December 2020 while the UK and the EU negotiate additional arrangements with new rules in respect of trade, travel and business for the UK and EU to take effect from 1 January 2021. There has been minimal impact on the County Council's accounts for 2019/20. We will continue to review the potential impact with our key partners, including our financial advisors, Place Partnership Ltd valuers and the Pension Fund to actively manage any risks arising in the transition period and beyond.

Covid-19

On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) assessed Covid-19 as a global pandemic and in the UK, on 23 March 2020, the Prime Minister issued instructions to the UK public to stay at home, to protect the NHS and to save lives. The County Council's response included activating the Corporate Emergency Response Framework: setting up our own internal Gold, Silver and Bronze arrangements to meet the Covid-19 response requirements and establishing arrangements with strategic partners across the county to identify how the County Council can preserve continuity and quality of service throughout our communities in this unprecedented time.

The UK Government has issued two grants to local authorities both totalling £1.6 billion, of which the County Council has received £25.5 million in allocation, to contribute towards its cost of response and recovery to Covid-19. Funding of £14.9 million was received on 27 March 2020; £0.4 million has been recognised and used to offset Covid-19 related expenditure in 2019/20; the balance has been treated as a receipt in advance at 31 March 2020 and included in short-term creditors in Note 21 to the accounts.

Statement of Responsibilities

This sets out the respective responsibilities of the County Council and the Chief Financial Officer in respect of preparation of the Statement of Accounts.

The Council 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 County Council, that officer is the Chief Financial Officer;
- Manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets; and
- Approve the Statement of Accounts.

Responsibilities of the Chief Financial Officer

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

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

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

The Chief Financial Officer has also:

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

Approval of Accounts

The date that the Statement of Accounts was approved is 27 October 2020. All known material events that have occurred up to and including this date which relate to 2019/20 or before are reflected in the accounts.

In accordance with Regulation 9(1) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (as amended) I certify that the Statement of Accounts 2019/20 provides a true and fair view of the financial position of the County Council at 31 March 2020 and its income and expenditure for the year 2019/20.

**Michael Hudson,
Chief Financial Officer**

In accordance with Regulation 9(2) b of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (as amended) I certify that the Audit & Governance Committee approved the Statement of Accounts 2019/20 on 2 October 2020.

**Nathan Desmond,
Chairman of the Audit & Governance Committee**



Worcestershire County Council Annual Governance Statement

Introduction

The Annual Governance Statement is a review of our activities to ensure that the County Council is carrying out its functions effectively. The review includes an update of governance issues previously identified, current issues and an evaluation of the future position of the County Council.

Our risk management process is a key part of our governance arrangements and provides assurance that:

- Our business is conducted in accordance with all relevant laws and regulations.
- Public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for.
- Resources are used economically, efficiently and effectively to achieve agreed priorities which benefit local people.

The 2019/20 Annual Governance Statement also reflects the unprecedented position the County Council finds itself in as it, along with the wider community, reacts to the challenges of working during the Covid-19 crisis.

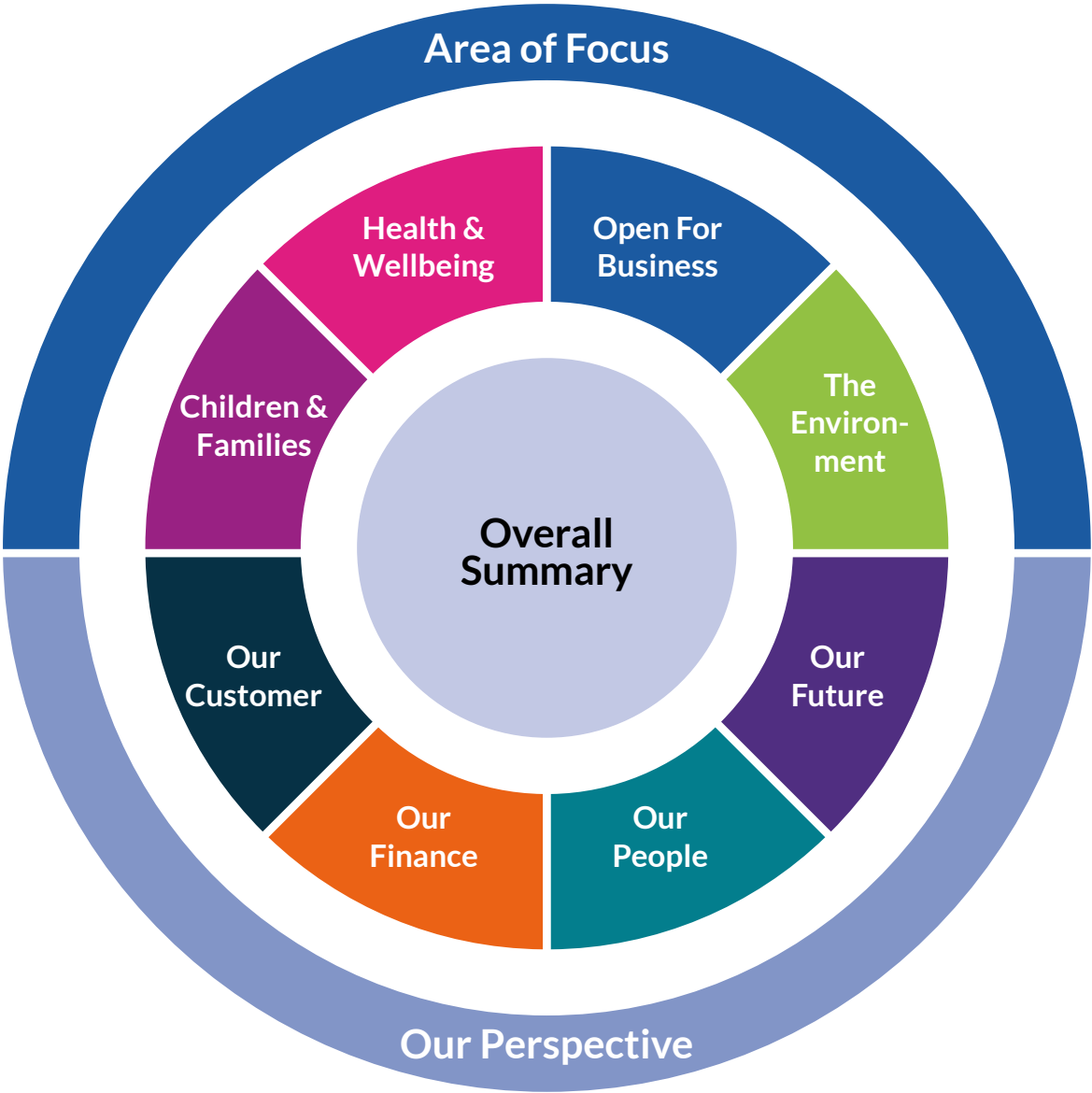
The governance framework

This Annual Governance Statement is published in accordance with the CIPFA/SoLACE Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework (2016) (The Framework). This comprises systems and processes for the direction and control of the County Council and the activities through which it accounts to, engages with and leads the community. It enables us to monitor the achievement of strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate, cost-effective services.

The County Council has approved the requirements of the Framework and several specific strategies and processes for strengthening corporate governance such as the Corporate Risk Management Group and the Balanced Scorecard.

Our system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level and is based on an ongoing process to identify and manage risks to the achievement of policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure but provides reasonable assurance of effectiveness.

The Balanced Scorecard is used to show the relationship between the intended outcomes of the Corporate Plan – Shaping Worcestershire’s Future with the finance, workforce and process measures that support their delivery. The Balanced Scorecard is available to the public via the County Council’s website to improve accountability to local communities. Performance is measured and reported against areas of focus internally on a quarterly basis and publicly every six months. The Covid-19 crisis has meant that the year-end Balanced Scorecard position has been delayed.



Set out below are the activities carried out by the County Council which contribute to our delivery of the seven principles in the CIPFA/SoLACE Framework during 2019/20.

Core Principle A: Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law

We have arrangements in place to provide assurance that our values are upheld, and that members and officers demonstrate high standards of conduct and behaviour to comply with laws and regulations.

These include:

- Codes of conduct for officers and members;
- The inclusion of ethical values in policies and procedures for all areas;
- A complaints procedure ensuring appropriate investigation and response;
- A Whistleblowing Policy which enables employees and others who have serious concerns about any aspect of the Council’s work to come forward and voice those concerns;
- A commitment to equality of opportunity for all citizens, in line with the Public Sector Duty as set out in the Equality Act 2010;
- Our Constitution, which sets out the conditions to ensure that all officers, key post holders and members can fulfil their responsibilities in accordance with legislative requirements. Roles, responsibilities and delegated authority for individual Members, the Council, Cabinet and senior officers are documented.

Core Principle B: Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement

The Chief Executive and Strategic Leadership Team value and are committed to acting on staff feedback. The County Council has an annual staff survey, frequent pulse surveys and staff briefings. Staff are involved in issue resolution arrangements.

In 2019/20, the County Council’s “Making a Decision” Roadshows have enabled Councillors and Officers to engage with members of the local community to receive feedback and inform our Adult Social Care Services. The results of the Worcestershire Viewpoint Survey 2019 were published in July 2019; responses to the online survey have enabled us to monitor public perception in relation to local priorities, satisfaction with Council services and level of engagement.

Feedback from events and surveys help to inform the council’s four corporate priorities: supporting Children and families, promoting Health and Well Being, protecting the Environment and championing Open for Business.

We are registered as a Controller under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which governs how we manage and process the information we collect and retain. We have a nominated Data Protection Officer and procedures in place that explain how we use and share information, as well as arrangements for members of the public to access information. We have also adopted the model publication scheme produced by the Information Commissioner’s Office.

Core Principle C: Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits

Our Corporate Plan, Shaping Worcestershire’s Future 2017-22, identifies four key priorities that help us shape the future vision for Worcestershire and focus the delivery of our services.





Open for Business – we have a significant programme of improvements in workforce skills, employment, infrastructure and productivity. We are aiming to become a financially self-sufficient Council and to achieve this aim we are promoting and supporting businesses in the County and those looking to relocate here.



Children and Families – we have a strong focus on improving outcomes for the children, young people and families of Worcestershire. We support schools with achieving a good or outstanding rating by Ofsted and facilitating young people achieving five or more good GCSE's, and support young people moving successfully into employment. These services are delivered in conjunction with our wholly owned company, Worcestershire Children First.



The Environment – Worcestershire's environment is one of our key features and contributes to enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors. We are committed to improving our infrastructure networks, including transport and digital technology to support business and encourage investment. We also have a key focus on minimising waste which goes to landfill.



Health and Wellbeing – we are working with local partners to support our residents to be healthier, live longer, have better quality of life and remain independent for as long as possible. Our focus on adult social care aims to keep people with support and care needs as independent as possible by providing choice in how to live their lives.

All services have plans in place in line with approved budgets to deliver the key outcomes contained in the Corporate Plan. Management of these plans varies by service, but includes key performance indicators, ongoing outcome monitoring and reports to management teams and committees as appropriate.

Core Principle D: Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes



The County Council’s planning process works to support and optimise delivery and identify and mitigate any risks.

Each key area of focus identifies several aims and targets, which are managed through the Balanced Scorecard. Responsibility for achieving these lies with individual directorates, and relevant aims and targets are included in individual service delivery plans. Risks and issues are managed through the Corporate Risk Management Group and regular updates are provided to SLT and the Audit & Governance Committee.

Progress against the Corporate Plan is monitored and reported to councillors on a regular basis.

Core Principle E: Developing the entity’s capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it

To deliver our objectives, we rely on our staff to carry on the great work they already do daily which is underpinned by Our People Values:

- **Customer Focus** – putting the customer at the heart of everything we do
- **‘Can do’ Culture** – being proactive to achieve excellence
- **Freedom within Boundaries** – courage to make constructive change

We aim to drive change, develop talent and optimise potential and enable managers and leaders to develop and motivate our workforce to allow it to be future fit. Reviewing the talent and potential of our workforce enables us to better understand and identify the potential we can develop over the coming years

Our annual performance review scheme forms a central part of our planning process. Discussions and review sessions take place between every member of staff and their line manager to agree and track personal objectives and actions, with formal mid-year reviews as a key part of the process. 99% of staff received mid-year reviews during 2019/20. The timing and impact of the Covid-19 lockdown and staff restrictions has meant that the end of year performance reviews for 2019/20 have been put on hold. Managers are being supported to put in place local monitoring arrangements, including managing any ongoing performance issues.

Core Principle F: Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management

Risk management is about the identification, analysis and control of threats or events that adversely affect the achievement of the County Council’s strategic and operational objectives. It also enables positive risks to be taken to innovate and improve service provision. The Risk Management Strategy details the methodology for evaluating corporate risk management arrangements and its delivery is enabled by the Corporate Risk Management Group. A specific risk framework has been put in place to manage the risks identified as a result of the Covid-19 crisis, with the County Council’s Corporate Emergency Response Framework activated as part of our response.

The County Council’s Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy embeds effective standards in countering fraud, corruption and theft. The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for ensuring this Strategy is applied and that the CIPFA Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption is followed. The County Council supports and submits data for the National Fraud Initiative (NFI) and assesses all matches for review and, where appropriate, mitigation.

Financial Regulations form part of the Constitution and set out our financial management framework for ensuring we make the best use of the money we have available to spend. It outlines the financial roles and responsibilities for staff and Members and provides a framework for financial decision-making. Where there are specific statutory powers and duties the Financial Regulations seek to ensure these are duly complied with, as well as reflecting best professional practice and decision-making.

Core Principle G: Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability

We endeavour to always be open and transparent through our officer and member activity. A large amount of information is available on the County Council website which gives details of the working of the organisation, what we spend, and how our decisions are made.

The Forward Plan provides information about the matters on which the County Council will make decisions. Formal agenda, reports and minutes for all committee meetings are published on our website which ensures that people know what decisions the County Council is planning to take, and the decisions taken.

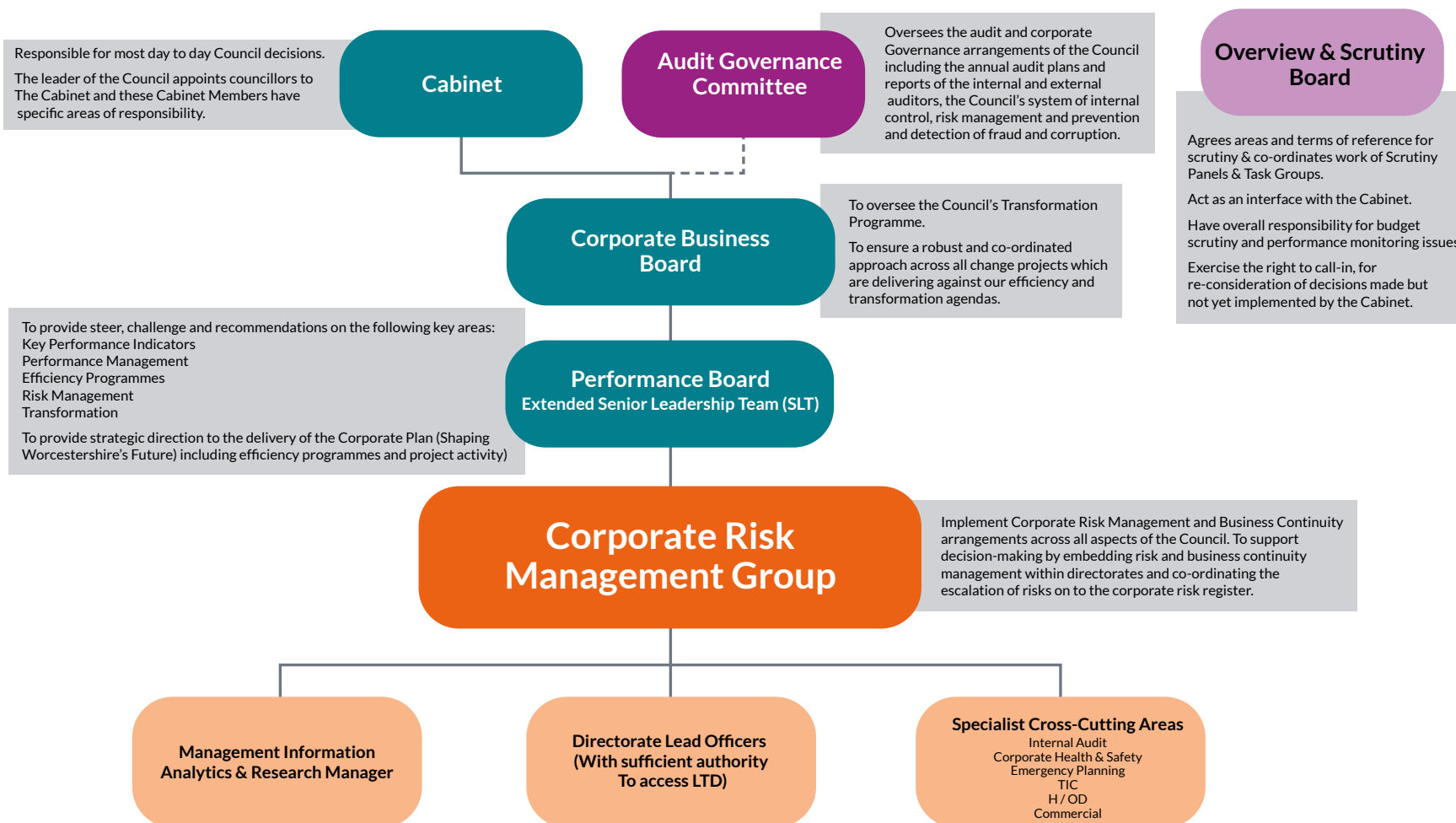
Our Monitoring Officer has a specific duty to ensure the County Council, its officers and elected councillors maintain the highest standards in all they do. In February 2020, the County Council's Monitoring Officer retired following 21 years of service. An interim Monitoring Officer has been appointed to fulfil this role and ensure the highest standards of conduct are maintained with a permanent replacement starting in June 2020.

Arrangements are in place to ensure that we fully comply with the requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) and CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Head of Internal Audit.

Review of Effectiveness

The effectiveness of risk management within the County Council is reviewed throughout the year by the Corporate Risk Management Group. The outcomes of this Group have informed this Statement. The governance process undertaken by the Group are detailed below:

Corporate Risk Management Group Governance



Audit and Audit Assurances

The Council's Statement of Accounts are audited by Grant Thornton UK LLP. In accordance with statutory requirements, the annual audit includes an examination and certification of the financial statements to confirm they are 'true and fair' and an assessment of arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources. In 2018/19, Grant Thornton gave an unqualified audit opinion on the financial statements.

From 1 April 2019, internal audit services have been provided by the Council's in-house team (previously provided by Warwickshire County Council). The team's role is to enhance and protect the County Council's value by providing risk-based and objective assurance, advice and insight. It is responsible for reviewing the adequacy of internal controls across all areas of the Council and its services are managed and delivered in accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS).

The Audit & Governance Committee approve the Internal Audit Charter and Audit Plan which outline the role of Internal Audit, its responsibilities and independence and the planned programme of audit work.

Based on the results of work undertaken during the year, the Chief Internal Auditor's annual opinion is that the control environment provides **moderate assurance** that the significant risks facing the County Council are addressed.

Significant Governance Issues

2018/19 Governance Issues

2018/19 issues Governance issues

Sustainable improvement in Children's Services

As noted in the 2017/18 AGS the response to the statutory improvement notice in Children's Services remains live. The improvement plan continues with regular programme monitoring and independent checking. The new wholly owned Council Company 'Worcestershire Children First' is in shadow form and will become live from 1 October 2019. A programme board is in place to ensure a smooth transition.

Serious harm or death of a child or young person

Safeguarding risk because of serious harm or death of a child or failure to safeguard children. Reputational risk as a result of poor inspection or service breakdown.

Update on progress

Worcestershire Children First (WCF) was successfully launched on 1 October 2019, following a two-year programme of activity. WCF officially took over the operational responsibility for all the delivery of Children's Services on behalf of Worcestershire County Council (WCC). More than 800 staff were smoothly TUPE transferred to the new organisation, with no negative impact on performance and morale. The Department for Education (DfE) were pleased with the progress made to the agreed timescale. DfE have been kept fully informed of progress of the company and its performance as part of the contract monitoring arrangements. The DfE have considered the Ofsted report of July 2019 and the Children's Services Commissioner's report of 22 January 2020 and the Secretary of State intends to withdraw the Children's Services Commissioner due to the good progress made in all areas, with the Direction and monitoring remaining in place.

We will continue to monitor developments in Children's Services however following significant improvements noted above, this is no longer a governance issue for 2019/20.

Children and Families have seen no change in service delivery or performance since launch of Worcestershire Children First. A Children Social Care staff survey was undertaken in December along with staffing data which shows a high level of stability and ongoing commitment from staff. Specific priorities for continual development and implementation are included in the Company Business Plan and detailed within Social Care and Safeguarding Business Plan, which is embedded throughout the service, key elements are:

- Ofsted recommendations for areas of improvement;
- Service Area Business Development and Improvement Plans;
- Preparation for Inspections and Focused Visits;
- Innovation;
- Quality Assurance and Audit.

2018/19 issues Governance issues**Activity exceeds budget allocation**

Inadequate budgets and/or ineffective financial management will impact on the County Council's ability to effectively provide services and impair our ability to forward plan. The level of earmarked and general reserves could also be impacted by any unplanned draw down.

Serious harm or death of a vulnerable adult

A safeguarding risk because of serious harm/death from failure to safeguard a vulnerable adult. We also face reputational risk as a result of service breakdown.

Staff capacity, recruitment and retention

Our ability to deliver front line and key services will be impacted unless the County Council adopts a range of strategies to attract and retain a highly skilled and specialised workforce.

Update on progress

Regular budget monitoring and a focus on demand/activity continues to strengthen and be a focus of our reporting and monitoring. Demand in WCF was in line/slightly better than forecast and Adult modelling has also improved but further work is scheduled with IT packages. This is subject now to review of Covid-19 'new normal' in 2020/21.

A Safeguarding Adult Board is in place with representation from safeguarding partners. A centralised Adult Safeguarding Team located within the Safeguarding Hub ensures competency of staff, information sharing and consistency in decision making. The Adult Safeguarding Team are aligned with the Locality Teams and 3 Conversations processes. Staff are assessed against WSAB safeguarding competency framework.

There is a dedicated HR team supporting social work recruitment. We are using agency workers to cover specialist and hard to fill roles and considering enhanced payment packages to attract/retain the right staff as part of the Organisational Redesign programme.

The development of a workforce strategy to identify future needs and potential gaps is underway. We continue to develop and train internal resource, including maximisation of internal secondments.

During 2019/20, the County Council's transactional recruitment team was in-sourced from Liberata and are fully integrated into the HR team.

Following progress in our recruitment activity in the year, we have determined that this no longer a governance issue for 2019/20.

2019/20 Governance issues

Serious harm or death of a child or young person

Safeguarding risk because of serious harm or death of a child or failure to safeguard children. Reputational risk as a result of poor inspection or service breakdown.

Identified Actions

Safeguarding issues continue to be monitored and managed through the WCF Performance Board in and developed through partnership working with the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSCP) and other local strategic partners. Quality Assurance measures are in place safeguarding and activity is monitored by the WSCP Safeguarding Practice Review Board and Get Safe Partnership Board.

Activity exceeds budget allocation

Inadequate budgets and/or ineffective financial management will impact on the County Council's ability to effectively provide services and impair our ability to forward plan. The level of earmarked and general reserves could also be impacted by any unplanned draw down.

In year financial monitoring and reporting to management, Council and Cabinet is by reference to performance against agreed budgets and forecast outturn position. Achievement of savings targets and the use of Council reserves are monitored as part of ongoing activity to consider financial sustainability and to inform our assessment of going concern.

Serious harm or death of a vulnerable adult

A safeguarding risk because of serious harm/death from failure to safeguard a vulnerable adult. We also face reputational risk as a result of service breakdown.

A Safeguarding Adult Board is in place with representation from safeguarding partners. A centralised Adult Safeguarding Team located within the Safeguarding Hub ensures competency of staff, information sharing and consistency in decision making. The Adult Safeguarding Team are aligned with the Locality Teams and 3 Conversations processes. Staff are assessed against WSAB safeguarding competency framework.

2019/20 Governance issues**Covid-19 Impact upon governance arrangements**

The restrictions imposed by Central Government to respond to the global Covid-19 pandemic have resulted in changes to the County Council’s working practices and governance arrangements, with particular reference to:

- Council meetings and decision-making arrangements;
- Engagement in local and national response;
- Implementation of new policies and processes;
- Business as usual and delivery of services;
- Future funding and cashflow challenges; and
- Assessment of longer-term disruption and consequences.

Identified Actions

Our response to the crisis included activating the Corporate Emergency Response Framework, setting up County Councils own internal Gold, Silver and Bronze arrangements to meet the Covid-19 response requirements, which in turn are aligned to the LRF structures of Strategic (SCG) and Tactical (TCG) Coordinating Groups. The Mission of Gold being: “to preserve life, prevent the spread of infection and maintain critical County Council services”.

Officer decisions made in dealing with the Covid-19 response have been reported on the Council’s website and include provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Here2Help, development of the Adult Social Care Access Centre and purchase of care.

A revised governance framework has been developed and approved by Cabinet and arrangements made to ensure that meetings and the formal decision-making process conforms to the relevant legislative requirements for remote meetings of a local authority.

Our ‘Here2Help’ community action group was setup in April 2020 to provide information and assistance to vulnerable people in the community and signpost local residents to advice and support available throughout Worcestershire.

The Worcestershire Covid-19 Economic Response, Recovery and Resilience Group (WERRG), of which the Council holds the role of Chairman, has been established.

Issues identified for 2020/21

A number of the issues and corresponding action plans noted above will continue to be the key focus for the County Council's leadership in 2020/21:

- Sustaining improvement in Children's Services through Worcestershire Children's First.
- Safeguarding vulnerable children and adults.
- Ensuring a financially sustainable short and medium-term budget.
- Implementing an alternative model for delivery of property services including consideration of TUPE proceedings for Place Partnership Ltd.

In addition to these issues, the County Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic will continue to inform our assessment of governance arrangements, with particular reference to:

- Impact of Covid-19 on the County Council's governance arrangements and new working practices.
- Monitoring the financial impact of Covid-19 on budgeted income and expenditure.
- Consideration of lessons learned from our response to Covid-19.
- Further development of the County Council's performance, transformation and productivity culture.

Certification

To the best of our knowledge, the governance arrangements, as defined above have been effective. We propose over the coming year to take steps to address the above matters to further enhance our governance arrangements. We are satisfied that these steps will address the need for improvements that were identified in our review of effectiveness and will monitor their implementation and operation during the year and as part of our next annual review and through the County Council's Corporate Risk Management Group.

Paul Robinson
Chief Executive
Date: 27 October 2020

Simon Geraghty
Leader of the County Council
Date: 27 October 2020



Worcestershire County Council Statement of Accounts

Introduction to the Statutory Accounts

The Statutory Accounts presents Worcestershire County Council's (the County Council) financial position in line with statutory reporting requirements. The accounts are prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20 (the Code) and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (as amended). The main objective of the Code is to give a true and fair view of the financial position of the County Council, including information about financial position, performance, the results of stewardship of management and any risks and uncertainties.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

This statement shows the accounting costs in year of providing services by the County Council. This is prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. The taxation position is shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement. The Expenditure and Funding Analysis note reconciles the position between taxation related expenditure and accounting related transactions. The surplus or deficit on the provision of services shows the true economic cost of providing the County Council's services.

Movement in Reserves Statement

This shows the movement on the different reserves held, analysed into usable and unusable reserves. The net increase/decrease before transfers to/from earmarked reserves shows the statutory General Fund balance before any discretionary transfers are undertaken.

Balance Sheet

This shows the value of the assets and liabilities of the County Council, with the net assets matched by the reserves held. Reserves are categorised as usable, i.e. those the County Council can use to provide services, and unusable, i.e. those which cannot be used to provide services.

Cash Flow Statement

This shows the change in cash and cash equivalents of the County Council, and classifies the cash as operating, investing and financing activities. The amount of net cash arising from operating activities is a key indicator of the extent to which the operations of the County Council are funded by way of taxation, grant income and fees and charges.

Notes to the Accounts

These give further detail in support of the information provided in the main accounts. Notes are only provided where the amounts involved are material. Materiality is determined by the nature or magnitude of the disclosure and the potential for the user of the accounts being influenced by any omission. The notes include the relevant accounting policies which explain the basis for the figures included in the accounts and details of relevant estimates and judgements. Any estimations which are likely to lead to a material adjustment in the 2020/21 accounts are evaluated and detailed in the notes.

Group Accounts

Group accounts are presented, in addition to the Council's single entity statements, to provide a full picture of the Council's economic activities and position. The Group Accounts comprise:

- Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;
- Group Movement in Reserves Statement;
- Group Balance Sheet;
- Group Cash Flow Statement; and
- Notes to the Group Accounts.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

2018/19	2018/19 Restated	2018/19		2019/20	2019/20	2019/20	
Expenditure	Income	Net		Expenditure	Income	Net	Note
£m	£m	£m		£m	£m	£m	
Service Expenditure Analysis							3,4,5,6, 7.1
261.2	(116.0)	145.2	People	296.3	(145.3)	151.0	8
349.4	(238.5)	110.9	Children's Services	345.6	(236.7)	108.9	7.3, 8
106.4	(32.4)	74.0	Economy & Infrastructure	92.0	(26.5)	65.5	-
61.4	(25.0)	36.4	Commercial & Change	32.9	(1.1)	31.8	-
13.2	(11.5)	1.7	Finance, Human Resources & Chief Executive	28.5	(4.5)	24.0	-
791.6	(423.4)	368.2	Net Cost of Services	795.3	(414.1)	381.2	-
3.9	(1.9)	2.0	Other operating expenditure	10.5	(4.5)	6.0	9
97.4	(32.5)	64.9	Financing, investment income & expenditure	77.9	(30.0)	47.9	10
0.2	(382.7)	(382.5)	Taxation & non-specific grant income and expenditure	0.2	(419.2)	(419.0)	7.2, 11
893.1	(840.5)	52.6	(Surplus)/deficit on the provision of services	883.9	(867.8)	16.1	-
Other comprehensive income and expenditure:							
		(11.9)	(Surplus) on revaluation of property, plant & equipment	-	-	(26.2)	15.3
		10.5	Downward revaluations on non-current assets charged to Revaluation Reserve	-	-	20.6	15.3
		56.4	Actuarial (gains)/losses on pension assets & liabilities	-	-	(35.9)	26.2.2
		55.0	Total other comprehensive income and expenditure	-	-	(41.5)	-
		107.6	Total comprehensive income and expenditure (surplus)/deficit	-	-	(25.4)	-

Movement in Reserves Statement 2019/20

	General Fund (Non-Earmarked) Balance	General Fund (Earmarked) Reserves	General Fund Total	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied Account	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Reserves
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Balance at 31 March 2019	12.2	81.5	93.7	0.1	41.1	134.9	(66.6)	68.3
Movement in reserves during 2019/20:								
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(16.1)	–	(16.1)	–	–	(16.1)	41.5	25.4
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (Note 12)	16.1	(5.2)	10.9	(0.1)	14.8	25.6	(25.6)	–
Increase/(decrease) in 2019/20	–	(5.2)	(5.2)	(0.1)	14.8	9.5	15.9	25.4
Balance at 31 March 2020 carried forward	12.2	76.3	88.5		55.9	144.4	(50.7)	93.7
Note Reference		13.1				13	14	

Movement in Reserves Statement 2018/19 Comparison

	General Fund (Non-Earmarked) Balance	General Fund (Earmarked) Reserves	General Fund Total	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied Account	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Reserves
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Balance at 31 March 2018	12.2	84.4	96.6	4.8	34.9	136.3	39.6	175.9
Movement in reserves during 2018/19								
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(52.6)	–	(52.6)	–	–	(52.6)	(55.0)	(107.6)
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (Note 12)	52.6	(2.9)	49.7	(4.7)	6.2	51.2	(51.2)	–
Increase/(decrease) in 2019/19	–	(2.9)	(2.9)	(4.7)	6.2	(1.4)	(106.2)	(107.6)
Balance at 31 March 2019 carried forward	12.2	81.5	93.7	0.1	41.1	134.9	(66.6)	68.3
Note Reference		13.1				13	14	

Balance Sheet

31 March 2019		31 March 2020	
£m		£m	Note
1,052.5	Property, plant and equipment	1,070.7	15,16
1.7	Heritage assets	1.7	
4.0	Intangible assets	5.4	
3.0	Long-term investments	3.0	17,18
119.6	Long-term debtors	115.9	19
1,180.8	Long term assets	1,196.7	
8.3	Non-Operational Assets	7.6	15.8
7.1	Short-term investments	5.0	
1.2	Inventories	1.2	
56.2	Short-term debtors	93.9	19
38.1	Cash and cash equivalents	71.6	20
110.9	Current assets	179.3	
(57.4)	Short-term borrowing	(39.4)	17
(81.4)	Short-term creditors	(115.1)	21
(138.8)	Current liabilities	(154.5)	
(0.3)	Long-term creditors	-	22
(3.2)	Long-term provisions	(7.6)	
(409.3)	Long-term borrowing	(435.9)	17
(646.9)	Other long-term liabilities	(654.9)	22
(24.9)	Grants receipts in advance	(29.4)	23

31 March 2019		31 March 2020	
£m		£m	Note
(1,084.6)	Long-term liabilities	(1,127.8)	
68.3	Net assets	93.7	
Financed by:			
134.9	Usable reserves	144.4	13
(66.6)	Unusable reserves	(50.7)	14
68.3	Total reserves	93.7	

Cash Flow Statement

2018/19		2019/20	
£m		£m	Note
(52.6)	Net surplus/(deficit) on the provision of services	(16.1)	
137.3	Adjust net (surplus)/deficit for non-cash movements	126.0	
(61.7)	Adjust for items included in the net (surplus)/deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	(87.5)	
23.0	Net cash flows from operating activities	22.4	24.1
(22.9)	Net cash flows from investing activities	8.3	24.2
22.6	Net cash flows from financing activities	2.8	24.3
22.7	Net increase/(decrease) in cash or cash equivalents	33.5	
	Cash and cash equivalents		20
15.4	Balance at 1 April	38.1	
38.1	Balance at 31 March	71.6	
22.7	Movement in cash and cash equivalents increase/(decrease)	33.5	

Notes to the Financial Statements

These comprise further information about material items, a summary of significant accounting policies, detail of entries in the prime Statements and other explanatory information and disclosures.

1	General accounting policies	19	Debtors
2	Prior Period Adjustment – Restatement of 2018/19 comparative amounts	20	Cash and cash equivalents
3	Expenditure and funding analysis	21	Creditors
4	Adjustments between funding and accounting basis	22	Other long-term liabilities
5	Segmental reporting	23	Grants receipts in advance
6	Expenditure and income analysed by nature	24	Cash activities
7	Grant and contribution income	25	Officers' remuneration
8	Section 75 framework partnership agreements	26	Pension schemes
9	Other operating expenditure	27	Termination benefits and exit packages
10	Financing and investment income and expenditure	28	Related parties
11	Taxation and non-specific grants	29	Leases
12	Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulation	30	External audit costs
13	Usable reserves	31	Events after the reporting period
14	Unusable reserves		Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Worcestershire County Council
15	Property, plant and equipment		
16	Private finance initiatives (PFI)		
17	Financial instruments		
18	Long-term investments		

1. General accounting policies

The Statement of Accounts summarises the County Council’s transactions for the 2019/20 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2020. The County Council is required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (as amended) to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts in accordance the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20 and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The Accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis, under the assumption that the Council will continue in existence for the foreseeable future.

Local authority school assets, liabilities, reserves and cash flows are recognised in the County Council’s financial statements. Maintained schools comprise: Community, Voluntary Aided, Voluntary Controlled and Trust schools. Academies and Free schools are not maintained by the County Council and are not included in the consolidation.

The County Council has taken a judgement and, in accordance with accounting standards and the Code of Practice on group accounts and consolidation, all maintained schools in the Worcestershire area are now considered to be separate entities controlled by the County Council. Rather than produce group accounts the revenue costs and associated balances of all maintained schools, such as accruals, provisions and cash balances, are included in the County Council’s financial statements.

Consolidation of other accounts held by schools such as school funds and devolved capital accounts were reviewed and judged to be immaterial and are not recognised on the County Council’s Balance Sheet. The Statement of Accounts contains estimated figures based on assumptions made by the County Council. Estimates are made considering historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. Actual results may potentially be different from the assumptions and estimates used by the County Council and relevant notes include an assessment of the potential material impact of any changes in estimates which lead to significant risk of material adjustment in 2020/21.

2. Prior Period Adjustment – Restatement of 2018/19 comparative amounts

The County Council has completed a directorate restructure in 2019/20. The 2018/19 comparative figures in the Statements and supporting notes detailed below have been restated in the 2019/20 financial statements to reflect the changes:

- Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement
- Expenditure & Funding Analysis
- Adjustments between funding & accounting basis
- Segmental reporting
- Grants & contribution income

Details of the adjustments are shown in the table below:

	As published 2018/19			Adjustments for restructure			Restated comparatives			
	Exp £m	Income £m	Net £m	Exp £m	Income £m	Net £m	Exp £m	Income £m	Net £m	
Service Analysis										Service Analysis
Adult Services	209.6	(73.1)	136.5	51.6	(42.9)	8.7	261.2	(116.0)	145.2	People
Children, Families & Communities	382.5	(265.3)	117.2	(33.1)	26.8	(6.3)	349.4	(238.5)	110.9	Children's Services
Economy & Infrastructure	111.0	(34.5)	76.5	(4.6)	2.1	(2.5)	106.4	(32.4)	74.0	Economy & Infrastructure
Commercial & Change, Finance & Chief Executive	58.8	(20.5)	38.3	2.6	(4.5)	(1.9)	61.4	(25.0)	36.4	Commercial & Change
Public Health	29.7	(30.0)	(0.3)	(16.5)	18.5	2.0	13.2	(11.5)	1.7	Finance, Human Resources & Chief Executive
Net Cost of Services	791.6	(423.4)	368.2	–	–	–	791.6	(423.4)	368.2	Net Cost of Services

The 2018/19 comparative figures in Note 15.1 Property, Plant & Equipment: Movements have been restated in the 2019/20 financial statements to reflect the revised presentation of transfers from Assets under Construction to the categories of Land & Buildings, Vehicles, plant, furniture & equipment and Infrastructure assets in the year ended 31 March 2019. Following a detailed review of transfers from Assets under Construction in 2019/20, the values for Additions in these asset categories have been revised and an additional line to show Other movements in cost or valuation has been added. Details of the adjustments are noted below:

	As published 2018/19					Adjustments for reclassification				
	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, plant, furniture & equipment	Infrastructure assets	Assets under Construction	Total Property, Plant & Equipment	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, plant, furniture & equipment	Infrastructure assets	Assets under Construction	Total Property, Plant & Equipment
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Movements										
Additions	8.7	6.3	57.3	15.8	88.1	3.3	2.3	42.2	40.3	88.1
Other movements in cost or valuation	-	-	-	-	-	5.4	4.0	15.1	(24.5)	-

3. Expenditure and funding analysis

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis (EFA) demonstrates how the funding available to the County Council for the year has been applied in providing services in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by the County Council. It also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision-making purposes between the County Council's services. Income and expenditure are presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CI&ES). Service analysis within the accounts is based on the County Council's operational directorates.

2018/19 Restated				2019/20		
Net Expenditure Chargeable to General Fund Balances	Adjustments between the Funding & Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement		Net Expenditure Chargeable to General Fund Balances	Adjustments between the Funding & Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement
£m	£m	£m		£m	£m	£m
137.5	7.7	145.2	People	147.7	3.3	151.0
91.4	19.5	110.9	Children's Services	92.6	16.3	108.9
44.0	30.0	74.0	Economy & Infrastructure	34.5	31.0	65.5
23.1	13.3	36.4	Commercial & Change	21.1	10.7	31.8
1.3	0.4	1.7	Finance, HR & Chief Executive	18.3	5.7	24.0
297.3	70.9	368.2	Net Cost of Services	314.2	67.0	381.2
(294.4)	(21.2)	(315.6)	Other Income and Expenditure	(309.0)	(56.1)	(365.1)
2.9	49.7	52.6	Net Deficit	5.2	10.9	16.1
96.6	-	-	Opening General Fund Balance	93.7	-	-
(2.9)	-	-	Less Deficit on General Fund Balance in Year	(5.2)	-	-
93.7	-	-	General Fund Balance	88.5	-	-

	General Fund	Earmarked Reserves	Total
	£m	£m	£m
Opening General Fund Balance	12.2	81.5	93.7
Surplus/(deficit) on general fund balance in year	-	(5.2)	(5.2)
Closing General Fund Balance	12.2	76.3	88.5

In respect of the net revenue outturn, the County Council's 2019/20 General Fund budget and actual spend figures are in the table below:

	Original budget	Actual	Variance
	£m	£m	£m
Total General Fund (a)	332.6	332.3	0.3
Funded by:			
Council tax	(264.4)	(264.4)	-
Business rates retention scheme	(64.2)	(64.2)	-
Collection fund surplus	(1.7)	(1.7)	-
Contribution from earmarked reserves	(2.3)	(2.6)	(0.3)
Total funding (b)	(332.6)	(332.9)	(0.3)
Movement on General Fund (a) + (b)	-	-	-

More details about the County Council's revenue spending on services are given in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and subsequent notes.

4. Adjustments between funding and accounting basis

This note provides additional analysis of the adjustments between the funding and accounting basis column in note 3 (Expenditure and funding analysis) and details the movement from the General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts.

2019/20	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments	Other Differences	Total Adjustments
	£m	£m	£m	£m
People	1.5	1.8		3.3
Children's Services	16.1	0.2	–	16.3
Economy & Infrastructure	30.7	0.3	–	31.0
Commercial & Change	10.5	0.2	–	10.7
Finance, HR & Chief Executive	(12.0)	24.3	(6.6)	5.7
Net Cost of Services	46.8	26.8	(6.6)	67.0
Other Income and Expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(56.1)	–	–	(56.1)
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(9.3)	26.8	(6.6)	10.9

Adjustments for capital purposes adds in depreciation, impairment and revaluation gains and losses in the service lines. For other income and expenditure includes the statutory charges for capital financing and investment and capital grant adjustments.

Net change for the pensions adjustments represents the removal of the employer pension contributions made by the County Council as allowed by statute and the replacement with current and past service costs.

Other differences are statutory adjustments including the employee annual leave accrual.

2018/19 Restated	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments	Other Differences	Total Adjustments
	£m	£m	£m	£m
People	1.1	6.6	-	7.7
Children's Services	19.5	-	-	19.5
Economy & Infrastructure	29.2	0.8	-	30.0
Commercial & Change	(2.8)	17.3	(1.2)	13.3
Finance, HR & Chief Executive	-	0.3	0.1	0.4
Net Cost of Services	47.0	25.0	(1.1)	70.9
Other Income and Expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(21.7)	-	0.5	(21.2)
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	25.3	25.0	(0.6)	49.7

5. Segmental reporting

The segments below represent the County Council's directorate structure which is used for internal reporting.

2019/20	People	Children's Services	Economy & Infrastructure	Commercial & Change	Finance, HR & Chief Executive	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Income for Fees and Charges	(61.1)	(15.0)	(21.8)	(5.0)	(8.3)	(111.2)
Depreciation and Impairment	3.5	6.1	27.0	11.7	-	48.3
Premises Costs	12.5	14.3	(11.5)	4.7	0.4	20.4
Transport Costs	3.4	7.7	2.4	-	0.3	13.8
Third Party Payments	210.0	75.4	67.9	4.6	0.4	358.3

2018/19 Restated	People	Children's Services	Economy & Infrastructure	Commercial & Change	Finance, HR & Chief Executive	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Income for Fees and Charges	(46.9)	(15.5)	(20.7)	(12.5)	(0.6)	(96.2)
Depreciation and Impairment	3.4	10.9	25.3	5.1	-	44.7
Premises Costs	7.8	15.8	(11.4)	9.7	-	21.9
Transport Costs	2.0	14.4	2.3	0.6	-	19.3
Third Party Payments	195.3	87.9	65.3	13.5	-	362.0

6. Expenditure and income analysed by nature

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

Revenue from the provision of services is recognised when the authority 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 authority. International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS15) Revenue from Contracts with Customers was adopted in 2018/19. The County Council has undertaken a detailed assessment of income streams in 2019/20 and determined that there is no material impact on either the opening balances or the revenue recognised during the year. As such no adjustments have been made to opening balances or revenue and no transitional disclosures have been made.

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, subject to a de minimis of £5,000.

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.

2018/19	Expenditure and income analysed by nature	2019/20
£m		£m
	Expenditure	
275.9	Employee benefits expenses	256.2
473.4	Other service expenses	495.7
44.7	Depreciation amortisation and impairment	48.3
37.8	Loss on disposal of non-current assets	21.8
61.1	Interest payments	61.7
0.2	Precepts and levies	0.2
893.1	Total Expenditure	883.9
	Income	

2018/19	Expenditure and income analysed by nature	2019/20
£m		£m
(99.7)	Fees and charges and other service income	(118.9)
(315.9)	Income from council tax and business rates	(321.6)
(312.2)	Grants and contributions credited to services	(329.9)
(66.8)	Grants and contributions credited to taxation and non-specific grant income	(97.5)
(32.5)	Interest and Investment Income	(30.1)
(13.4)	Other	30.2
(840.5)	Total Income	(867.8)
52.6	Net Deficit on Provision of Services	16.1

7. Grant and contribution income

Government grants, third-party contributions, and donations are recognised as due to the County Council when there is reasonable assurance that:

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

Amounts are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement once the conditions attached to the grant or contribution have been satisfied. Where the conditions have not been satisfied they are carried in the Balance Sheet as creditors or receipts in advance and credited once the conditions are met.

7.1 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – credited to services

2018/19	Restated	2019/20
£m		£m
People Services		
13.4	Improved Better Care Fund	16.1
12.1	Better Care Fund (contribution)	12.3
5.0	Disabled Facilities Grant	5.4
2.9	Independent Living Fund	2.8
2.4	Winter Pressures Grant	2.4
1.5	Adult Social Care Support Grant	4.1
0.2	Care Act	0.2
0.3	Other	0.1
29.1	Public Health	28.4
0.5	Other	0.7
5.3	Libraries & Community	5.8
4.7	Bromsgrove Schools Private Finance Initiatives (PFI) Grant	4.7
77.4	Total People Services	83.0

2018/19 Restated	2019/20
£m	£m
Children's Services	
213.2 Dedicated Schools Grant	210.0
9.5 Pupil Premium	8.7
4.9 Other Education & Skills	8.4
4.9 Universal Free School Meals	4.2
2.5 Post 16 Learning Skills Council	1.6
1.7 Other Children's Social Care	2.1
1.4 Alternative Delivery Model Implementation Grant	–
1.3 Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children	1.2
Youth Grants	1.2
0.4 Transport	0.4
239.8 Total Children's Services	237.8
Economy & Infrastructure	
1.8 Waste Disposal Private Finance Initiatives (PFI) Grant	1.8
0.5 Transport	0.5
0.1 Environment/Winter Damage	1.1
2.0 Other	1.7
4.4 Total Economy & Infrastructure	5.1
Commercial & Change	
0.4 Other	0.8
0.4 Total Commercial & Change	0.8

2018/19 Restated	2019/20
£m	£m
Finance, HR & Chief Executive	
2.6 New Homes	2.6
0.1 Other	0.6
2.7 Total Finance, HR & Chief Executive	3.2
(12.4) REFCUS Adjustment	
312.3 Total Credited to Services	329.9

7.2 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – credited to taxation and non-specific grant income

2018/19		2019/20
£m		£m
Credited to taxation and non-specific grant income:		
9.5	Revenue Support Grant	–
3.0	Business Rate Reliefs – S31 Grant	19.4
1.0	Levy Account Surplus Grant	0.2
13.5	Total non ring-fenced Government grants	19.6

2018/19	2019/20
£m	£m
Capital grants	
21.7 Structural maintenance	15.4
12.1 Transport	28.8
5.7 Basic Needs	14.4
5.4 LA Schools Condition Allocation	3.8
4.8 Worcestershire Local Growth Fund	3.6
1.9 European Regional Development Fund	1.5
1.8 Great Birmingham & Solihull Local Growth Fund	2.2
0.1 Broadband Project	0.8
2.5 Other Capital Grants	1.3
56.0 Total Capital Grants	71.8
3.4 Other contributions	6.1
59.4 Total Capital Grants and Contributions	77.9
(6.1) Less Transfer to unapplied capital grants reserve	-
53.3	77.9
66.8 Total credited to taxation and non-specific grant income	97.5

7.3 Dedicated schools grant

The County Council's expenditure on schools is primarily funded by Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) from the Department for Education (DfE). An element of the DSG is recouped by the DfE to fund academy schools in the county. DSG is ringfenced and can only be applied to meet expenditure properly included in the schools budget, including county-wide education services and Individual Schools Budget.

The overall DSG deficit is £6.2 million and will be carried forward against future DSG income. Within the central expenditure, High Needs expenditure overspent by £8.7 million in 2019/20; an outcome which is similar for a significant number of local authorities. The Government has allocated an additional £780 million of funding in 2020/21 of which Worcestershire's share is £8.7 million.

	Central Expenditure	Individual Schools Budget	Total
	£m	£m	£m
Final DSG for 2019/20	-	-	414.0
Academy Recoupment 2019/20	-	-	(205.6)
Total DSG after recoupment	-	-	208.4
Brought forward from 2018/19	-	-	(0.6)
Agreed budgeted distribution in 2019/20	39.6	168.2	207.8
In year adjustments	1.6	-	1.6
Final budgeted distribution	41.2	168.2	209.4
Actual expenditure	(47.3)	(168.3)	(215.6)
Carry forward to 2020/21	(6.1)	(0.1)	(6.2)

8. Section 75 framework partnership agreements

The County Council has a Section 75 joint agreement relating to the commissioning of health and social care services in Worcestershire, which includes The Better Care Fund, between the County Council, NHS Redditch and Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS South Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS Wyre Forest Clinical Commissioning Group. The agreement is classified as a Joint Operation, as there is joint control, and the activity is primarily to provide services to the parties within their boundaries. Within the Section 75 agreement there are budgets primarily managed by the Clinical Commissioning Groups, budgets primarily managed by the County Council, pooled budgets (jointly controlled) and aligned budgets. Where services are primarily managed by the County Council the income and expenditure are reflected within the Net Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. This also includes the County Council's proportion of jointly controlled pooled budgets. Where services are hosted by the County Council, but primarily managed by the Clinical Commissioning Groups, the income and expenditure are not reflected in the County Council's accounts.

Partnership expenditure (outturn) has been split to show what is primarily managed by the Clinical Commissioning Groups and the County Council for 2019/20. Included in the County Council contribution is £28.4 million Better Care Fund.

2018/19					2019/20				
Partnership income	Partnership expenditure	Net partnership expenditure	Clinical Commissioning Group Managed	WCC contribution	Partnership income	Partnership expenditure	Net partnership expenditure	Clinical Commissioning Group Managed	WCC contribution
£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
(147.1)	149.4	2.3	103.8	45.6	(164.2)	166.9	2.7	111.9	55.0
(19.1)	19.1		16.1	3.0	(19.2)	19.3	0.1	17.2	2.1
(166.2)	168.5	2.3	119.9	48.6	(183.4)	186.2	2.8	129.1	57.1

The County Council had outstanding balances with the Clinical Commissioning Groups at 31 March 2020 of £0.8 million debtors (2018/19 £1.4 million) and £0.7 million creditors (2018/19 £1.0 million).

9. Other operating expenditure

2018/19		2019/20
£m		£m
0.4	Admin Expenses Pension	0.4
1.6	Loss on disposal of non-current assets	5.6
2.0		6.0

The loss on disposal relates to the removal of assets from the Balance Sheet where the County Council does not have control of the use of the asset.

10. Financing and investment income and expenditure

Financing and investment income and expenditure includes interest receivable and payable on the County Council's investment portfolio, the interest element of the pension fund liability and losses on the transfer of schools to other bodies at nil consideration.

2018/19	2019/20
£m	£m
28.9 Interest payable and similar charges	29.3
9.3 Pensions interest cost & expected return on pensions	11.1
36.3 Loss on transfer of schools to other bodies (e.g. academies)	16.3
(9.6) Interest receivable and similar income	(8.8)
64.9	47.9

11. Taxation and non-specific grants

The Worcestershire district councils, in their role as billing authorities, act as agents for the County Council, the precepting authority, collecting council tax on our behalf, with transactions and balances allocated between the districts and the County Council. The Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement includes the County Council's proportion of the net surplus or deficit and the Balance Sheet includes amounts to reflect the County Council's share of council tax debtors, overpayments and council tax creditors and monies owed or paid in advance in relation to payments from the district councils.

The district councils collect business rate income on behalf of the County Council as well as amounts to be paid over to other precepting bodies and Central Government. The County Council maintains balances for National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) arrears, impairment allowances, prepayments and overpayments in its underlying accounting records. NNDR transactions and balances are allocated between the County Council, the District Councils and Central Government.

Government grants and third-party contributions and donations are recognised as due to the County Council when there is reasonable assurance that:

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

Amounts recognised as due are not credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement until conditions attached to the grant or contributions have been satisfied. Grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried in the Balance Sheet as creditors or receipts in advance. When conditions are satisfied, the grant or contribution is credited to the relevant service line or to Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income (non ring-fenced revenue grants and capital grants) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

2018/19	2019/20
£m	£m
(254.0) Council tax income	(265.6)
(61.9) Non-domestic rates	(56.1)
(13.5) Non ring-fenced government grants	(19.6)
(53.3) Capital grants and contributions	(77.9)
0.2 Environment Agency	0.2
(382.5)	(419.0)

12. Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulation

This note consolidates the adjustments required through the County Council's reserves to convert the surplus or deficit on the CIES to the movement on the General Fund Balance.

2019/20	Usable Reserves				
	General Fund (Non-earmarked balances)	General Fund (Earmarked reserves)	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Depreciation of non-current assets	43.2	-	-	-	(43.2)
Amortisation of intangible assets	1.0	-	-	-	(1.0)
Capital grants and contributions applied	(78.0)	-	-	-	78.0
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	11.8	-	-	-	(11.8)
Net loss on disposal of non-current assets	31.4	-	-	-	(31.4)
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	(12.0)	-	-	-	12.0
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund	(0.6)	(0.5)	-	-	1.1
Revaluation to Capital Adjustment Account	4.0	-	-	-	(4.0)
Capital Grants and Contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement (CI&ES)	-	-	-	78.0	(78.0)
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to Capital Adjustment Account	-	-	-	(63.2)	63.2
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CI&E Statement	(9.5)	-	9.5	-	-
Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-	-	(9.6)	-	9.6

2019/20	Usable Reserves				
	General Fund (Non-earmarked balances)	General Fund (Earmarked reserves)	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the CI&E Statement	56.7	–	–	–	(56.7)
Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(29.9)	–	–	–	29.9
Amount by which council tax income credited to the CI&E Statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	0.6	–	–	–	(0.6)
Amount by which National Non-Domestic Rates income credited to the CI&E Statement is different from Non-Domestic Rates income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(9.3)	–	–	–	9.3
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CI&E Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	2.0	–	–	–	(2.0)
Sub Total	11.4	(0.5)	(0.1)	14.8	(25.6)
Transfer to/(from) earmarked reserves	4.7	(4.7)	–	–	–
Total Adjustments	16.1	(5.2)	(0.1)	14.8	(25.6)

2018/19	Usable Reserves				
	General Fund (Non-earmarked balances)	General Fund (Earmarked reserves)	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Depreciation of non-current assets	39.0	-	-	-	(39.0)
Amortisation of intangible assets	0.3	-	-	-	(0.3)
Capital grants and contributions applied	(59.4)	-	-	-	59.4
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	13.8	-	-	-	(13.8)
Net loss on disposal of non-current assets	40.1	-	-	-	(40.1)
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	(10.1)	-	-	-	10.1
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund	(0.7)	(0.6)	-	-	1.3
Revaluation to Capital Adjustment Account	5.3	-	-	-	(5.3)
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CI&E Statement	(2.3)	-	2.3	-	-
Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-	-	(7.0)	-	7.0
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the CI&E Statement	50.1	-	-	-	(50.1)
Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(25.1)	-	-	-	25.1
Amount by which council tax income credited to the CI&E Statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(0.4)	-	-	-	0.4
Amount by which National Non-Domestic Rates income credited to the CI&E Statement is different from Non-Domestic Rates income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	0.9	-	-	-	(0.9)
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CI&E Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(1.7)	-	-	-	1.7

2018/19	Usable Reserves				
	General Fund (Non-earmarked balances)	General Fund (Earmarked reserves)	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Sub Total	49.8	(0.6)	(4.7)	-	(44.5)
Transfer to/(from) earmarked reserves	2.8	(2.3)	-	6.2	(6.7)
Total Adjustments	52.6	(2.9)	(4.7)	6.2	(51.2)

13. Usable Reserves

The County Council sets aside specific amounts that can be used 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). Where expenditure is to be financed from a reserve, the expenditure is charged to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and an amount is then transferred from the reserve to the General Fund Balance via an entry in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

	Opening Balance	Contributions		Closing Balance
	01/04/19	To	From	31/03/20
	£m	£m	£m	£m
General fund	12.2	-	-	12.2
Earmarked specific reserves	81.5	50.1	(55.3)	76.3
Capital grants unapplied	41.1	78.0	(63.2)	55.9
Capital receipts reserve	0.1	9.5	(9.6)	0.0
Total Usable Reserves	134.9	137.6	(128.1)	144.4

13.1 Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves

The County Council sets aside amounts from the General Fund in earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans to support specific areas of our corporate plan priorities. These amounts are then drawn down as required. Our earmarked reserves position and plans are reviewed annually and plans for future use are approved by Cabinet and Council as part of the annual budget setting process.

	Balance at 31 March 2019	Transfers out	Transfers in	Balance at 31 March 2020	Purpose of the reserve
	£m	£m	£m	£m	
Open for Business					
Revolving Investment Fund	4.5	(0.3)	0.7	4.9	Investment in the local economy which delivers income to support future investment
Open for Business	3.9	-	-	3.9	Supporting measures to grow our local economy
Local Authority Business Growth Initiative	0.6			0.6	Residual Local Authority Business Growth Initiative funding
Sub regional mineral plan	0.6	(0.2)	0.2	0.6	Funds held to support the delivery of the sub regional mineral plan
Growing Places reserve	2.4	(0.5)	1.0	2.9	Supporting growth in the local economy
Regional Improvement and Efficiency Reserve	0.7	(0.7)	-	0.0	Money held for the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Programme (the County Council are the administering authority)
Other	0.4	-	0.4	0.8	Lower value reserves covering, for example, apprenticeships
Children & Families					
Safeguarding	-	-	1.1	1.1	Risk reserve maintained to support unexpected safeguarding costs that could arise through the contract with Worcestershire Children First
Revenue grants unapplied	4.0	(2.4)	2.1	3.7	Grants held by the service for draw down as required
The Environment					
Regeneration and Infrastructure	3.0	(3.0)	0.5	0.5	Supporting measures to grow our local economy

	Balance at 31 March 2019	Transfers out	Transfers in	Balance at 31 March 2020	Purpose of the reserve
	£m	£m	£m	£m	
Revenue grants unapplied	0.4	-	-	0.4	Grants held by the service for draw down as required
Health and Wellbeing					
Public Health	6.2	(1.9)	2.1	6.4	Balances from the Ring-fenced Public Health Grant held to support the service against future changes in funding
Revenue grants unapplied	0.1	-	0.2	0.3	Grants held by the service for draw down as required
Efficient Council					
Transformation/Change Reserve	5.3	(3.4)	2.4	4.3	Financing invest to save schemes to change the shape and design of the County Council
Digital Reserve	3.0	-	-	3.0	Supporting the development of digitally enabled operations as part of the organisational review
Elections	0.2	-	0.1	0.3	Annual amounts set aside to provide County Council elections, which happen every 4 years
Property Management	0.5	-	0.1	0.6	Funding for property-related expenditure
Insurance	8.4	(0.5)	1.3	9.2	Covering claims below the County Council's insurance policy excess
Business Rates Pool	9.8	(13.2)	20.2	16.8	To enable smoothing of the impact of changes to the Business Rates retention across the Pool and changes in national funding levels, including rate appeal losses and any fall in rates collected
Coroners Major Inquests	0.2	-	0.2	0.4	Amounts set aside to cover significant inquest costs
Councillors Divisional Fund	0.6	(0.5)	1.1	1.2	Funds to support Councillors' local discretionary spend
Fleet Surplus Reserve	0.4	(0.3)	-	0.1	Fleet support
Future Capital Investment	1.8	(0.6)	0.3	1.5	Monies set aside to fund future planned capital expenditure
Financial Services Reserve	1.6	-	-	1.6	Funding to support the employers' pension contributions
Financial Risk Reserve	5.5	(7.2)	8.3	6.6	Amount set aside to support financial risk

	Balance at 31 March 2019	Transfers out	Transfers in	Balance at 31 March 2020	Purpose of the reserve
	£m	£m	£m	£m	
Other reserves (not available for core spend)					
Schools balances held under delegation	5.6	(5.6)	1.4	1.4	Balances held for individual maintained schools
Schools ICT PFI Reserve	0.4	(0.2)	-	0.2	PFI grant funding supporting the ongoing delivery of the programme
Bromsgrove High School PFI Advance	1.7	(0.1)	-	1.6	PFI grant funding supporting the ongoing delivery of the programme
DSG c/fwd Balance Reserve	(0.7)	(7.2)	1.6	(6.3)	Dedicated Schools Grant unallocated or unspent balances*
Waste Contract PFI Grant	10.4	(7.5)	4.8	7.7	To fund pressures relating to the increase on household waste disposal costs as the number of households in the County increases
Total	81.5	(55.3)	50.1	76.3	

*Within the above Earmarked Reserves table is a deficit reserve of £6.3 million for Dedicated Schools Grant. This relates to the High Needs Block where the costs incurred during the year were greater than the specific grant received from the Department for Education and any brought forward balances from last year. Guidance from Central Government does not enable these costs to be charged to the Council's General Fund. The Council is managing an action plan to reduce expenditure whilst at the same time additional funding is being received from Government for 2020/21. In the meantime, until recurrent income matches recurrent expenditure, the Council will need to carry a deficit reserve until it is paid off.

14. Unusable Reserves

These reserves are set aside but cannot be used to provide services, including those that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets were sold; and those that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line ‘Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations’.

	Opening Balance 01/04/19	Contributions		Closing Balance 31/03/20	Purpose of the reserve
		To	From		
	£m	£m	£m	£m	
Pensions reserve	(492.7)	(108.0)	117.1	(483.6)	Movement in remeasurement of the net defined liability
Accumulated absences adjustment account	(5.1)	5.1	(7.2)	(7.2)	Balances relating to the accumulated holiday due but not taken in year
Financial instruments adjustment account	(1.1)	–	–	(1.1)	Valuation gains and losses on financial instruments carried at fair value
Capital adjustment account	205.0	74.1	(67.4)	211.7	An accounting mechanism used to reconcile the different rates at which assets are depreciated
Revaluation reserve	225.0	26.2	(32.7)	218.5	Unrealised gains and losses arising from revaluations of long-term assets
Collection fund adjustment accounts	2.3	(0.5)	9.2	11.0	Surplus or deficit arising from agency arrangements
Rounding adjustment	–	–	0.2	–	
Total Unusable Reserves	(66.6)	(3.1)	19.2	(50.7)	

15. Property, Plant and Equipment

Physical assets that support the delivery of our services and have a life of more than one financial year, are classified as Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE).

Expenditure on PPE is capitalised on an accrual basis in the accounts, unless it is maintenance only in which case it is charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when it is incurred. Purchased assets are initially measured at cost. Non-purchased assets are measured at fair value, or at the carrying amount where there is no commercial substance (e.g. via exchange). The detailed bases for measuring assets are given below:

- Land and buildings – Current value based on existing use for operational assets where there is an active market or depreciated replacement cost for assets of a more specialist nature.
- Vehicles, plant and equipment – Current value based on existing use for operational assets where there is an active market or depreciated replacement cost for assets of a more specialist nature.
- Infrastructure – Historical cost.
- Community assets – Depreciated historical cost.
- Assets under construction – Historical cost.

Capital expenditure that does not result in the creation of a long-term asset (Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute, known as REFCUS) is charged as expenditure to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Where the cost of this expenditure is met from existing capital resources or by borrowing, a transfer in the Movement in Reserves Statement from the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account so that there is no impact on the level of council tax.

Depreciation is provided for on PPE assets over their useful lives, with major components depreciated separately. Assets without a determinable finite useful life (e.g. freehold land and certain Community Assets) or that are not yet available for use (e.g. assets under construction) are not depreciated. The calculation is on a straight-line basis over the remaining useful life of the assets as estimated by the valuer. Newly acquired assets are depreciated from the mid-point of the year. Vehicles are depreciated over the life of the asset. Equipment is generally depreciated over a 5-year life, with IT equipment depreciated over 3 years.

15.1 Movements

2019/20	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, plant, furniture & equipment	Infrastructure assets	Community Assets	Surplus Assets	Assets under Construction	Total Property, Plant & Equipment	PFI Assets included in PPE	
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	
Cost or valuation									
At 1 April 2019	567.4	182.5	586.0	0.3	9.0	65.1	1,410.3	225.4	
Additions	2.6	5.8	46.9	-	-	35.0	90.3	0.1	
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in Revaluation Reserve	(4.3)	-	-	-	-	-	(4.3)	(4.1)	
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Surplus on the Provision of Services	(5.9)	-	-	-	(1.0)	-	(6.9)	-	
De-recognition/Disposals	(18.1)	-	-	-	(2.2)	-	(20.3)	(0.9)	
De-recognition – Other	(10.6)	-	-	-	-	-	(10.6)	-	
Assets reclassified to Held for Sale	(0.2)	-	-	-	(1.2)	-	(1.4)	-	
Assets reclassified to other categories	(0.1)	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other movements in cost or valuation	5.7	0.9	44.9	-	-	(51.5)	-	-	
At 31 March 2020	536.5	189.3	677.8	0.3	4.6	48.6	1,457.1	220.5	
Accumulated depreciation and impairment									
At 1 April 2019	(31.0)	(71.4)	(253.9)		(1.5)		(357.8)	(23.7)	
Restatements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	(3.7)	-	-	-	-	-	(3.7)	-	
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(4.8)	(8.2)	(26.4)	-	-	-	(39.4)	(5.5)	

2019/20	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, plant, furniture & equipment	Infrastructure assets	Community Assets	Surplus Assets	Assets under Construction	Total Property, Plant & Equipment	PFI Assets included in PPE
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
De-recognition – Disposals	0.7	-	-	-	-	-	0.7	-
De-recognition – Other	0.9	-	-	-	-	-	0.9	-
Assets reclassified to Held for Sale	-	-	-	-	0.1	-	0.1	-
Other movements in depreciation and impairment	11.7	-	-	-	1.1	-	12.8	1.3
At 31 March 2020	(26.2)	(79.6)	(280.3)	-	(0.3)	-	(386.4)	(27.9)
Net book value								
At 31 March 2020	510.3	109.7	397.5	0.3	4.3	48.6	1,070.7	192.6
At 31 March 2019	536.4	111.1	332.1	0.3	7.5	65.1	1,052.5	198.6

2018/19 Restated	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, plant, furniture & equipment	Infrastructure assets	Community Assets	Surplus Assets	Assets under Construction	Total Property, Plant & Equipment	PFI Assets included in PPE
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Cost or valuation								
At 1 April 2018	610.5	176.1	528.7	0.3	11.5	49.3	1,376.4	221.7
Restatements	(0.8)	0.1	-	-	0.4	-	(0.3)	-
Additions	3.3	2.3	42.2	-	-	40.3	88.1	0.6
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in Revaluation Reserve	(5.1)	-	-	-	-	-	(5.1)	-
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Surplus on the Provision of Services	(2.7)	-	-	-	(6.3)	-	(9.0)	-
De-recognition/Disposals	(41.0)	-	-	-	-	-	(41.0)	-
Assets reclassified to Held for Sale	(0.1)	-	-	-	1.3	-	1.2	-
Assets reclassified to other categories	(2.1)	-	-	-	2.1	-	-	-
Other movements in cost or valuation	5.4	4.0	15.1	-	-	(24.5)	-	-
At 31 March 2019	567.4	182.5	586.0	0.3	9.0	65.1	1,410.3	222.3
Accumulated depreciation and impairment								
At 1 April 2018	(31.1)	(64.8)	(230.1)	-	(0.6)	-	(326.6)	(18.2)
Restatements	-	-	-	-	(0.4)	-	(0.4)	-
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	(3.7)	-	-	-	-	-	(3.7)	-

2018/19 Restated	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, plant, furniture & equipment	Infrastructure assets	Community Assets	Surplus Assets	Assets under Construction	Total Property, Plant & Equipment	PFI Assets included in PPE
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(4.6)	(6.6)	(23.8)	–	(0.1)	–	(35.1)	(5.5)
De-recognition – disposals	1.4	–	–	–	–	–	1.4	–
Assets reclassified to other categories	–	–	–	–	(0.6)	–	(0.6)	–
Depreciation written out following revaluation	7.0	–	–	–	0.2	–	7.2	–
At 31 March 2019	(31.0)	(71.4)	(253.9)	–	(1.5)	–	(357.8)	(23.7)
Net book value								
At 31 March 2019	536.4	111.1	332.1	0.3	7.5	65.1	1,052.5	198.6
At 31 March 2018	579.4	111.3	298.6	0.3	10.9	49.3	1,049.8	203.4

15.2 Revaluations

Asset categories are revalued at least every five years on a rolling basis in accordance with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Valuation – Global Standards 2020 and UK National Supplement. Further revaluations are carried out where there have been material changes. Assets are revalued where completed capital expenditure represents more than 15% of the asset's opening net book value or is greater than £100,000. Non-property assets with short useful lives and/or low values are valued at depreciated historical cost and where there is no market-based evidence of current value because of the specialist nature of the asset, depreciated replacement cost (DRC) is used. The County Council's valuations have been completed by:

Mark Vincent MRICS, Estates Surveyor
Place Partnership Ltd, Placepro House
Unit 6 Berkeley Business Park, Wainwright Road
Worcester WR4 9FA

The Energy From Waste PFI asset was last valued in 2017/18 by Hilco Valuation Services, using a market value methodology to determine the value of the asset. The market value methodology incorporates two methods; the sales comparison and cost method. The cost method considers the current cost to reproduce or replace machinery and business assets, deducting for accrued depreciation. The sales comparison method compares machinery and business assets being valued to similar assets which have been sold recently.

We will consider the valuation of the asset on an annual basis to determine whether any material changes in valuation exist and if it remains appropriate for the asset to be revalued as part of the five year programme of valuations. Any valuation exercise required will be performed by expert valuers due to the specialised nature of the asset.

As at 31 March 2020, the Council's share of the Energy From Waste PFI asset has a net book value of £98.4 million; this comprises £96.1 million classified as Vehicle, plant, furniture & equipment and £2.3 million as Land & Buildings. Where increases in value are identified, the carrying amount of the asset is increased with a corresponding entry for the gain in the Revaluation Reserve.

Where decreases in value are identified, they are accounted for by:

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

Upon revaluation (upwards or downwards) previously accumulated depreciation is eliminated and the asset shown at the newly revalued figure.

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

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

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

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

Revaluations

	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, plant, furniture & equipment	Infrastructure assets	Community Assets	Surplus Assets	Assets under Construction	Total Property, Plant & Equipment	PFI Assets included in PPE
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Net book value as at:								
31 March 2020	319.2	0.1	-	-	1.8	-	321.1	69.6
31 March 2019	28.9	-	-	-	1.3	-	30.2	3.5
31 March 2018	141.1	96.1	-	-	1.0	-	238.2	119.5
31 March 2017	10.3	-	-	-	0.2	-	10.5	-
31 March 2016	10.8	-	-	-	-	-	10.8	-
Held at cost	-	13.5	397.5	0.3	-	48.6	459.9	-
Total cost or valuation	510.3	109.7	397.5	0.3	4.3	48.6	1,070.7	192.6

15.3 Revaluation reserve

The revaluation reserve contains revaluation gains arising from increases in the value of PPE assets. The balance is reduced when assets with accumulated gains are:

- Revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost.
- Used in the provision of services and the gains are consumed through depreciation, or
- Disposed of and the gains are realised.

2018/19		2019/20
£m		£m
242.7	Opening Balance at 1 April	225.0
12.0	Revaluations upwards during the year	26.2
(3.7)	Depreciation of revaluations	(3.7)
(10.5)	Revaluations downwards during the year	(20.6)
(15.4)	Disposal of revaluations	(8.4)
(0.1)	Other adjustments	–
225.0	Closing Balance at 31 March	218.5

15.4 Downward revaluations and disposal losses

Disposal proceeds more than £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts and used for new capital investment or set aside to reduce the County Council's underlying need to borrow (the Capital Financing Requirement). Gains or losses arising from the derecognition of an asset recognises the difference between the disposal proceeds and carrying value of the asset and is included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services. There is then a credit to the Capital Receipts Reserve equal to the disposal proceeds and a debit to the Capital Adjustment Account for the carrying amount of the fixed asset disposal.

Schools converting to academy status are transferred for nil consideration.

2018/19	2019/20
£m	£m
11.6 Downward revaluations – other land and buildings	29.5
6.2 Downward revaluations – non-operational	0.5
37.8 Disposal losses – other land & buildings	21.9
55.6	51.9

15.5 Capital Adjustment Account

The Capital Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of non-current assets and for financing the acquisition, construction or additions to those assets under statutory provisions.

2018/19	2019/20
£m	£m
214.7 Balance at 1 April	205.0
– Capital Financing:	–
7.0 Capital receipts	9.7
53.3 Capital grants and contributions	63.2
0.7 Revenue contributions to capital expenditure	0.6
0.5 Capital reserve	0.6
61.5	74.1
(5.3) Downward revaluations charged to Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(4.0)
(35.4) Depreciation charged to Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(40.6)
7.0 Minimum revenue provision adjustment	8.8
2.5 Minimum revenue provision PFI adjustment	3.2
(13.8) REFCUS adjustment	(11.8)
(24.7) Disposal of non-current assets	(23.0)
(1.5) Other adjustments	–
205.0 Closing Balance at 31 March	211.7

15.6 Contractual commitments for property, plant and equipment

As at 31 March 2020 the County Council has a capital programme comprising capital projects amounting to £178.3 million (2018/19 £257.4 million). The following contracts have been entered into for the construction or enhancement of PPE.

Major schemes where contracts have been let:	£m
Worcestershire A4440 Southern Link Road Dualling	33.7
Local Broadband Plan	3.9
Worcester Southern Link – Battenhall Bridge (SLR3)	3.5
Holyoakes Field First School Relocation	5.4
Sub-total	46.5
Committed schemes less than £2 million	19.1
Major schemes where contracts have been let:	65.6

15.7 School assets

The land and buildings utilised in the provision of education services across the County are recognised in accordance with the asset recognition tests as they are judged to apply to the different type of arrangements. The accounting treatment of the schools' land and buildings is as follows:

- Community schools – land and buildings are legally held by the County Council and are shown in full on the Balance Sheet. Valuation of these assets is at depreciated replacement cost to reflect the specialist nature of the assets;
- Voluntary Controlled schools and Voluntary Aided schools – land and buildings comprising the main body of the school are legally held by the other entities. In Worcestershire this is either the Church of England or Catholic Diocese who retain the control of the asset. The review determined that, for these assets, legal ownership in conjunction with the substantive rights to the asset and future economic benefits sit with the relevant church body. Accordingly, the County Council has not shown these assets on the Balance Sheet;
- Foundation schools/Trust schools – land and buildings comprising the body of the school are legally held by other entities. The review determined that, for these assets, legal ownership in conjunction with the substantive rights to the asset and future economic benefits sit with the relevant church body. The County Council has use of the assets but is not able to exert substantive control over them or to receive any future economic benefits. Accordingly, the County Council has not shown these assets on the Balance Sheet;
- Assets provided by the County Council as part of its responsibility for running the schools are shown on the Balance Sheet (for example the funding of mobile classrooms);
- Academy schools (previously community schools) – are not maintained by the County Council. The land and buildings comprising the body of the schools are leased to the academy on a 125-year lease and are therefore not shown on the Balance Sheet; local authority schools which are due to convert to academy status post balance sheet date are treated as non-adjusting post balance sheet date events. Where a school transfers after 31 March 2020, details are given in the Events after the Balance Sheet date note at the end of the accounts.

	Number of schools at 31 March 2020	Value held on Balance Sheet at 31 March 2020	Status
		£m	
Community	55	264.8	On Balance Sheet
PFI	7	70.9	On Balance Sheet
Voluntary controlled	43	1.8	Off Balance Sheet
Voluntary aided	22	0.2	Off Balance Sheet
Academy	111	1.0	Off Balance Sheet
Foundation	1	0.9	Off Balance Sheet
Free School	4		Off Balance Sheet
	243	339.6	

15.8 Non-operational assets

Assets held for sale are actively marketed and, as such, are not depreciated.

	2018/19	2019/20
	£m	£m
8.3 Assets Held for Sale		7.6

15.9 Capital expenditure and capital financing

2018/19	2019/20
£m	£m
541.4	578.4
Opening capital financing requirement	
Capital investment:	
91.7	92.8
Property, plant and equipment	
13.8	11.8
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	
105.5	104.6
Total Capital Investment	
Sources of finance:	
(7.0)	(9.7)
Capital receipts	
(53.3)	(63.2)
Government grants & other contributions	
Sums set aside from revenue:	
(1.2)	(1.2)
Direct revenue contributions	
(7.0)	(8.9)
MRP/loans fund principal (excluding PFI)	
578.4	600.0
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	
Explanation of movements in year	
37.0	21.6
Increase in underlying need to borrow (supported by government financial assistance)	
37.0	21.6
Increase/(decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement	

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) is a charge to the General Fund and is shown in the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, with a matching entry in the Capital Adjustment Account. It represents an annual contribution from revenue towards the provision for the reduction in our overall borrowing requirement. MRP is charged over a period that is broadly commensurate with the period over which the County Council receives benefit from the asset. The charge is calculated using the asset life method on an annuity basis for either:

- The average life of all assets at 31 March 2008 for pre-2008 debts, and
- The average asset class life for post-2008 debts, using schools, highways and other assets as our key categories.

15.10 Assumptions made about the future and estimate uncertainties

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
Property plant & equipment assets – depreciation	Property plant and equipment assets held on the Balance Sheet have an estimated useful life. This is based on a professional judgement by the Valuer.	Depreciation is applied on a straight-line basis over the useful life of the asset. Variations to the useful life will alter the amount of depreciation charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The impact of this is minimised by a review of the useful life of an asset being undertaken at each valuation.
Property plant & equipment assets – valuation	Property plant and equipment assets are valued by the County Council’s Valuer on a five-year rolling programme, unless events indicate that a more frequent interval is required.	The Valuer uses his professional knowledge of the market and other factors to arrive at an asset value. Variations to this value would result in increased or decreased depreciation and, potentially, impairment losses being charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. A 5% reduction in the Land and Buildings value of £536.5 million would result in a £26.8 million charge to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure account if no amounts were available to cover the loss in the Revaluation Reserve. An increase in estimated asset values would result in an increase to the Revaluation Reserve and/or reversals of previous negative movements to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure account and/or gains recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure account, as appropriate.

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
Property plant & equipment assets – valuation	<p>The outbreak of Covid-19 has impacted upon global financial markets and thus less weight can be attached to previous market evidence used to inform opinions on asset values.</p> <p>At the current time it is not possible to accurately predict the severity or longevity of the impact of Covid-19; asset values have been based on market evidence prior to Covid-19 on the assumption that values will be restored in the future.</p>	<p>All physical valuations performed by the Council's external valuer were undertaken prior to the measures imposed by the UK Government and there have been no limitations in inspection of assets revalued in the year as a result of Covid-19 restrictions.</p> <p>In line with RICS Guidance issued in response to the potential market impact of the Covid-19 virus, the valuations provided have been reported on the basis of 'material valuation uncertainty' as per VPS 3 and VPGA 10 of the RICS Red Book Global.</p>

Property plant and equipment is valued at £1,070.7 million at 31 March 2020.

16. Private finance initiatives (PFI)

PFI contracts are agreements to receive services, where the responsibility for making available the property, plant and equipment needed to provide services passes to the PFI contractor. In accordance with International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee (IFRIC 12), the County Council carries the assets used under the contracts on its Balance Sheet as part of Property, Plant and Equipment as we control the services provided and will gain ownership of the property, plant and equipment at the end of the contracts for no additional charge. The original recognition of these assets at fair value (based on the cost to purchase the property, plant and equipment) is balanced by the recognition of a liability for amounts due to the scheme operator to pay for the capital investment. Non-current assets recognised on the Balance Sheet are revalued and depreciated in the same way as property, plant and equipment owned by the County Council.

The County Council has 4 PFI contracts providing waste services (including energy from waste), schools and library services. These contracts have been assessed as meeting the requirements of IFRIC 12 and the non-current assets relating to the service provision have been brought on to the County Council's Balance Sheet with a corresponding finance liability.

The original recognition of these assets at fair value (based on the cost to purchase the property, plant and equipment) is balanced by the recognition of a liability for amounts due to the scheme operator to pay for the capital investment. Non-current assets recognised on the Balance Sheet are revalued and depreciated in the same way as property, plant and equipment owned by the County Council. The significant PFI contracts are as follows:

16.1 Waste Disposal PFI

In December 1998 the County Council, in partnership with Herefordshire Council, entered into a 25-year contract with Mercia Waste Management Limited for the provision of an integrated waste management system using the Private Finance Initiative.

Under the contract the Councils are required to ensure that all waste for disposal is delivered to the Contractor who will take responsibility for recycling or recovering energy from the waste stream. In total the estimated cost over the life of the contract is approximately £500 million of which approximately 75% relates to the County Council. The contractor is at risk if waste tonnage fluctuates although the Authorities will be liable for a minimum payment of about £6 million per year in future years.

A variation to the contract was signed in May 2014 to design, build, finance and operate an Energy from Waste Plant. Actual takeover by Mercia Waste Management Limited was achieved in March 2017. Completion of the takeover tests by Mercia Waste Management Limited was achieved as planned in August 2017.

Both Councils will be providing circa 82% of the Project Finance requirement from their own planned borrowing from the Public Works and Loans Board with the remaining 18% being provided by the equity shareholders of Mercia Waste Management Limited. The loan is shown under long term Debtors on the Balance Sheet and the effective interest rate is shown under financial investments on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

16.2 Bromsgrove Schools PFI

In December 2005 the County Council entered into a 30-year contract with BAM PPP UK Limited (previously known as HBG PFI Projects Ltd) for the replacement of seven schools in the Bromsgrove area. The estimated cost over the life of the contract is approximately £300 million. During 2007/08 the seven new schools were completed and opened to provide educational services for the children of Bromsgrove and the surrounding area. In 2014/15 one school became an Academy. This has no impact to the main PFI contract. The Academy has entered into an agreement with the County Council to continue the obligations of the school in respect of the PFI contract.

16.3 Worcester Library and History Centre (The Hive) PFI

In January 2010 the County Council entered into a PFI contract with Galliford Try Investments Ltd (now DiF Infra 3 UK Limited) for the construction and provision of a new Worcester Library and History Centre (The Hive). The Hive became operational in January 2012 and opened to the public in the summer of 2012. The Hive is a partnership initiative between the County Council and the University of Worcester ('the University') for the provision of a fully-integrated public and University library, plus the Worcestershire Record Office, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service and Worcestershire Hub Customer Service Centre.

The service term for the contract is 25 years from the handover of the facility and the annual unitary payment during the life of the contract is £4.6 million, at April 2007 prices. The contract allows for indexation by the retail prices index of the service element of the contract (30% of the unitary payment) annually. At the end of the contract term the assets transfer to the County Council and the University on a 70/30 basis. The contract also allows for an extension to the provision of services by Galliford Try Investments Ltd.

16.4 Value of assets and liabilities under PFI contracts

	PPE – land & buildings				PPE – vehicle, plant & equipment	PPE
	Waste disposal	Bromsgrove schools	The Hive	Total	Waste disposal	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Balance at 31 March 2019	8.7	63.6	28.8	101.1	97.5	198.6
Additions	-	0.2	-	0.2	-	0.2
Revaluations	(2.7)	(0.4)	(1.2)	(4.3)	0.1	(4.2)
Depreciation	(0.2)	(0.7)	0.2	(0.7)	(1.4)	(2.1)
Balance at 31 March 2020	5.8	62.7	27.8	96.3	96.2	192.5

Finance lease liability				
	Waste disposal	Bromsgrove schools	The Hive	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Balance at 31 March 2019	(109.6)	(51.3)	(17.9)	(178.8)
Additions	(0.1)	-	-	(0.1)
Payments	5.9	1.2	0.4	7.5
Balance at 31 March 2020	(103.8)	(50.1)	(17.5)	(171.4)

16.5 Details of payments due to be made under PFI contracts

	Repayment of liability	Service Charge	Interest	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Payments due within one year	8.0	33.7	12.0	53.7
Payments due within 2 to 5 years	26.2	79.2	38.0	143.4
Payments due within 6 to 10 years	15.5	23.0	23.4	61.9
Payments due within 11 to 15 years	23.8	23.3	14.8	61.9
Payments due within 16 to 20 years	17.6	12.7	3.0	33.3

The payments due are based on prices at the Balance Sheet date.

17. Financial instruments

Financial instruments are contracts that give rise to a financial asset or financial liability and are represented by investments, borrowings, debtors, creditors and cash equivalents. They are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the County Council becomes party to the contractual provisions of the Financial Instrument and are carried in-line with the new Code requirements of International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS9).

Financial liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet once there is a contractual obligation and are initially measured at fair value and carried at amortised cost. Fair value is the amount for which an asset could be exchanged or a liability settled between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's length transaction. The fair value of loans has been assessed at current market conditions by calculating the present value of the cash flows that take place over the remaining life of the loans.

Debtors and Creditors are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the County Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value and subsequently measured at their amortised cost.

Financial assets are classified as either:

- Amortised Cost – where the County Council holds the asset to collect payments of principal and interest and the cashflows arising not subject to variations in capital value. These are recognised on the Balance Sheet when we become party to the contractual provisions of the instrument and are initially valued at fair value, with subsequent measurement at amortised cost.
- Fair Value through profit and loss – in all other cases. These are recognised on the Balance Sheet when we become party to the contractual provisions of the instrument and are initially valued at fair value, with subsequent measurement at market price for instruments with quoted prices or discounted cash flow for instruments with fixed and determinable payments.

The fair value calculations have been provided by the County Council's Treasury Management advisors for PWLB loans, LOBO loans, PFI Liabilities and shares in unlisted companies.

Long-term 31 March 2019	Current 31 March 2019		Long-term 31 March 2020	Current 31 March 2020
£m	£m		£m	£m
Investments				
-	7.0	Financial assets at amortised cost	-	5.0
3.0	0.1	Fair value through profit & loss	3.0	0.0
3.0	7.1		3.0	5.0
Cash Equivalents				
-	8.9	Cash equivalents at amortised cost	-	10.0
-	35.4	Fair value through profit & loss	-	70.2
-	44.3		-	80.2
Debtors				
119.6	31.9	Financial assets at amortised cost	115.9	37.9
Borrowings				
(409.3)	(57.4)	Financial liabilities at amortised cost	(435.9)	(39.4)
Other long-term liabilities				
(178.8)	-	PFI and finance lease liabilities	(171.4)	-
Creditors				
(0.3)	(45.2)	Financial liabilities at amortised cost	-	(57.2)

17.1 Income, expense, gains and losses

2018/19				2019/20			
Financial liabilities at amortised cost	Financial assets at amortised cost	Financial assets at fair value through profit & loss	Total	Financial liabilities at amortised cost	Financial assets at amortised cost	Financial assets at fair value through profit & loss	Total
£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
(28.9)	1.2	(1.6)	(29.3)	(29.2)	0.6	–	(28.6)
–	8.1	1.8	9.9	–	8.0	0.2	8.2
(28.9)	9.3	0.2	(19.4)	(29.2)	8.6	0.2	(20.4)

17.2 Fair value of assets and liabilities

Financial liabilities and financial assets classed as loans and receivables and financial liabilities at amortised cost are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost. The fair values can be estimated by calculating the present value of cash flows that will take place over the remaining term of the instruments.

31 March 2019			31 March 2020		
Carrying amount	Fair value		Carrying amount	Fair value	
£m	£m		£m	£m	
Financial liabilities					
512.0	605.3	Financial liabilities	532.5	790.9	
178.8	165.9	PFI liabilities	171.4	153.7	
0.3	0.3	Long Term Creditors	–	–	
Financial assets					
41.9	41.9	Loans & receivables	46.0	46.0	
119.6	119.6	Long Term Debtors	115.9	115.9	
44.3	44.3	Short term investments held as cash	80.2	80.2	

The value of investments held at fair value is analysed below. Assets are assigned as:

- Level 1 – quoted prices of identical assets or liabilities;
- Level 2 – inputs other than quoted prices that are observable, either directly or indirectly;
- Level 3 – unobservable inputs

31 March 2019			31 March 2020	
Level 2	Level 3		Level 2	Level 3
£m	£m		£m	£m
-	3.0	Malvern Hills Science Park	-	3.0
0.0	3.0	Total Available for Sale Assets	0.0	3.0

The maturity analysis of financial liabilities (loans) is as follows:

31 March 2019		31 March 2020
£m		£m
57.4	Maturing within one year	39.5
29.2	Maturing in 1-2 years	32.2
34.1	Maturing in 2-5 years	34.2
55.7	Maturing in 5-10 years	53.3
290.4	Maturing in more than 10 years	316.2
466.8	Total	475.4

17.3 Nature and extent of risks arising from financial instruments

The County Council's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks. The key risks are:

- Credit risk - the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the County Council. The credit risk in respect of Trade Debtors is considered at Note 19. For our other Financial Assets Held at Amortised Cost, we have considered the additional credit risk arising as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic:
 - Cash and Cash Equivalents – No material risk on the basis that these are liquid assets.
 - Short-term investments – No material risk. The Short-term investments balance at 31 March 2020 comprises a single deposit at another local authority with a short-term maturity date; the expected credit loss was assessed by our Independent Treasury Advisors as a trivial sum.
 - Capital Advances treated as a Loan – No material risk. In respect of the loan arrangement to Mercia Waste, we assess the 12 month potential credit loss; as this has been quantified as not material, we see no reason to revise our assessment in light of the Covid-19 impact given that:
 - The nature of the Counterparty's activity (waste management), which has continued to operate during the pandemic and will continue to operate as the economy reopens; and
 - The nature of the underlying asset (clean power generation), notwithstanding short-term energy price fluctuations, we do not anticipate any risk of obsolescence, loss of amenity or other factors that would suggest an impairment in the value of the asset.
- Liquidity risk – the possibility that the County Council might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments. This is managed by our Treasury Management Strategy, referenced below. Additional risks to the Council's liquidity as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic are monitored as part of routine financial monitoring and planning activity; and
- Market risk – the possibility that financial loss might arise for the County Council because of changes in such measures as interest rates movements. This is not applicable to our loans as they are fixed-rate. There are no additional market risks arising from Covid-19; to date, there has been no impact upon the interest rates of our existing or anticipated borrowing.

The County Council's overall risk management procedures focus on the unpredictability of financial markets and seek to minimise potential adverse effects on the resources available to fund services. Risk management is carried out by a central treasury team under policies approved by the County Council in the Treasury Management Strategy. The Strategy for 2019/20 was approved by Council on 14 February 2019.

18. Long-term investments

31 March 2019		31 March 2020
£m		£m
3.0	Malvern Hills Science Park	3.0
3.0	Total	3.0

18.1 Malvern Hills Science Park

Malvern Hills Science Park is a limited company established by the County Council with its partners Malvern Hills District Council and the Hereford and Worcester Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise. The County Council holds 9 voting shares out of a total issue of 100; this has been judged not to give the County Council a controlling influence. In addition, the County Council holds Preference shares of 957,103 P1 shares (957,103 in 2017/18) and 6,190 P2 shares (6,190 2017/18). The preference shares carry no voting rights. These are the only Level 3 investments held by the County Council. The County Council's investment, measured at fair value in 2019/20, is £3.0 million (2018/19 £3.0m). This is shown on the Balance Sheet as a Long-Term investment, and the asset is held at Fair Value Through Profit and Loss (included in note 17.2). These shares are not publicly traded therefore their value is not expected to change materially.

19. Debtors

Debtors are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the County Council becomes party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value and subsequently at amortised cost.

31 March 2019		31 March 2020
£m		£m
	Long term debtors:	
4.4	Trade receivables	4.3
115.2	Other receivables	111.6
119.6		115.9
	Short term debtors:	
30.1	Trade receivables	40.1
4.9	Prepayments	4.8
21.2	Other receivables	49.0
56.2		93.9
175.8	Total debtors	209.8

The County Council does not generally allow credit for trade receivables debtors, however £9.5 million of balances are past due date for payment and can be analysed as follows. The current bad debt provision for trade debtors in the Balance Sheet is £1.4 million, an increase of £0.9 million.

	£m
One to three months	1.2
Three to six months	1.4
Six months to one year	2.0
More than one year	4.9
Total	9.5

20. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours.

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

	Opening Balance 01/04/2019	Movement During the Year	Closing Balance 31/03/2020
	£m	£m	£m
Bank current accounts	(6.2)	(2.4)	(8.6)
Short Term investments held as cash	44.3	35.9	80.2
Total cash and cash equivalents	38.1	33.5	71.6

21. Creditors

Creditors are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the County Council becomes party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value and subsequently at amortised cost.

31 March 2019		31 March 2020
£m		£m
	Long-term creditors	
(0.3)	Other payables	–
	Short-term creditors	
(49.6)	Trade payables	(62.2)
(31.8)	Other payables	(52.9)
(81.4)		(115.1)
(81.7)	Total creditors	(115.1)

22. Other long-term liabilities

2018/19	2019/20
£m	£m
(178.8) PFI liabilities	(171.4)
(465.2) Re-measurement of the net defined benefit	(481.1)
(2.9) Teachers' Pension scheme Added year	(2.4)
(646.9) Other Long-term Liabilities	(654.9)

23. Grants receipts in advance

31 March 2019		31 March 2020
£m		£m
23.4	Section 106 Town and Country Planning Act 1990	27.8
1.5	Section 278 Highways Act 1980	1.6
24.9		29.4

24. Cash activities

24.1 Operating activities

2018/19	2019/20
£m	£m
1.4 Interest received	1.0
(29.1) Interest paid	(29.7)

2018/19	2019/20
£m	£m
The surplus/deficit on the provision of services has been adjusted for the following non-cash movements	
39.1 Depreciation	43.2
5.3 Downward revaluations	4.0
0.3 Amortisation	1.1
- (Increase)/decrease in impairment for bad debts	0.2
6.5 (Decrease)/increase in creditors	33.4
5.2 (Increase)/decrease in debtors	(33.0)
48.5 Movement in pension liability	51.4
(0.1) (Increase)/decrease in Inventories	-
40.1 Carrying amount of non-current assets and non-current assets held for sale, sold or derecognised	29.2
(7.6) Other non-cash items	(3.5)
137.3	126.0

The surplus/deficit on the provision of services has been adjusted for the following items that are investing or financing activities	
(2.3) Proceeds from the sale of property plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(9.5)
(59.4) Any other items for which the cash effects investing or financing cash flows	(78.0)

2018/19	2019/20
£m	£m
(61.7)	(87.5)

24.2 Investing activities

2018/19	2019/20
£m	£m
(91.3) Purchase of property, plant & equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(92.6)
(736.5) Purchase of short-term & long-term investments	(935.4)
7.4 Other payments for investing activities	7.2
2.3 Proceeds from the sale of property, plant & equipment, investment property and intangible assets	9.5
731.5 Proceeds from short-term & long-term investments	937.4
63.7 Other receipts from investing activities	82.2
(22.9) Net cash flows from investing activities	8.3

24.3 Financing activities

2018/19	2019/20
£m	£m
64.8 Cash receipts of short-term & long-term borrowing	29.9
8.2 Other receipts from financing activities	1.8
(6.9) Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases & on-Balance Sheet PFI contracts	(7.5)
(43.5) Repayments of short- and long-term borrowing	(21.4)
22.6 Net cash flows from financing activities	2.8

25. Officers' remuneration

Short-term employee benefits, including wages and salaries, paid annual and sick leave for current employees, are recognised as an expense in the year in which the service is provided to the County Council.

25.1 Remuneration over £50,000 per annum

All amounts paid to or receivable by County Council employees, including salary, expenses allowances and compensation for loss of employment, where this total is more than £50,000 are given in the table below.

2018/19			Total Remuneration to Employees	2019/20		
Teachers	Non-Teachers	Total		Teachers	Non-Teachers	Total
56	37	93	£50,000 to £54,999	67	25	92
40	27	67	£55,000 to £59,999	42	19	61
31	9	40	£60,000 to £64,999	20	11	31
21	4	25	£65,000 to £69,999	25	5	30
14	6	20	£70,000 to £74,999	15	7	22
2	4	6	£75,000 to £79,999	5	4	9
5	3	8	£80,000 to £84,999	6	2	8
	4	4	£85,000 to £89,999	2	2	4
2	3	5	£90,000 to £94,999	3	1	4
1	2	3	£95,000 to £99,999	1	5	6
2	2	4	£100,000 to £104,999	2	1	3
-	-	-	£105,000 to £109,999	1	1	2
-	1	1	£110,000 to £114,999	0	0	0
-	-	-	£115,000 to £119,999	0	0	0
-	1	1	£120,000 to £124,999	0	1	1
-	2	2	£125,000 to £129,999	0	0	0
-	-	-	£130,000 to £134,999	0	1	1
-	-	-	£135,000 to £169,999	0	0	0
-	1	1	£170,000 to £174,999	0	1	1
174	105	279		189	86	275

25.2 Senior employees' remuneration

Senior employees are defined as those whose salary is more than £150,000 per annum, and those employed in statutory chief officer posts or who report directly to the Chief Executive.

Post Title		Salary	National Insurance	Expense allowances	Pension Contributions	Total	Position start date	Position end date
		£	£	£	£	£		
Chief Executive, Paul Robinson	2019/20	179,048	23,516	339	27,424	230,327		
Chief Executive, Paul Robinson	2018/19	172,471	22,638	62	25,028	220,199		
Director of Children's Services^	2019/20	65,338	8,421	358	10,026	84,143		
	2018/19	128,093	16,514	828	18,624	164,059		
Director of Economy & Infrastructure	2019/20	131,910	16,986	-	20,204	169,100		
	2018/19	128,341	16,146	-	18,624	163,111		
Director of Commercial & Change	2019/20	121,910	15,633	-	18,967	156,510		
	2018/19	111,334	14,208	76	16,197	141,815	30/04/2018	
Director of Public Health*	2019/20	64,699	8,135	39	7,032	79,905	01/08/2019	
Director of Public Health	2019/20	21,051	2,508	-	3,098	26,657		31/07/2019
	2018/19	62,766	7,499	-	9,113	79,378		
Chief Financial Officer	2019/20	108,243	13,747	305	16,580	138,875		
	2018/19	99,712	12,598	-	14,469	126,779	23/04/2018	
Interim Chief Financial Officer	2018/19	6,162	737	-	847	7,746		21/04/2018
Interim Director of People	2019/20	49,023	6,247	-	7,509	62,779	25/10/2019	
Total	2019/20	741,222	95,193	1,041	110,840	948,296		

Post Title	Salary	National Insurance	Expense allowances	Pension Contributions	Total	Position start date	Position end date
	£	£	£	£	£		
	2018/19	708,879	90,340	966	102,902	903,088	

* Interim Director of Public Health from 01/08/2019 to 16/02/20, Permanent from 17/02/20

^ Director of Children's Service transferred to Worcestershire Children First on 01/10/19 but retains the statutory role of Director of Children's Services

26. Pension schemes

Post-employment benefits include pensions and retirement lump sums. Employees of the County Council may be members of:

- The Local Government Pensions Scheme (a defined benefit scheme), administered by the County Council under national regulations;
- The Teachers' Pension Scheme (a defined contribution scheme), administered by the Teachers' Pensions Agency on behalf of the Department for Education; or
- The NHS Pension Scheme (a defined contribution scheme), administered by the Department of Health.

26.1 Defined contribution pension schemes

It is not possible for the County Council to identify its share of the underlying liabilities attributable to our employees within these, and therefore for the purposes of the Statement of Accounts they are accounted for as defined contribution schemes, that is, actual costs are included in the revenue accounts, with no assets or liabilities in the Balance Sheet.

26.1.1 Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Teachers' Pension Scheme is a defined benefit scheme administered by the Teachers' Pensions Agency. Although the scheme is unfunded, a notional fund is used as a basis for calculating the employers' contribution rate.

In 2019/20 the County Council paid £14.3 million (2018/19 £11.8m) to the Department for Education and Skills in respect of teachers' pension costs, which represents 20.7% (2018/19 16.5%) of teachers' pensionable pay. In addition, the County Council is responsible for all pension payments relating to Teacher's added years it has awarded, together with the related increases. In 2019/20 these amounted to £0.3 million (2018/19 £0.3m), representing 0.4% (2018/19 0.4%) of pensionable pay. The County Council's Actuary has calculated a long-term liability of £2.5 million in respect of these payments that will decline over time and this is included in the balance sheet under other long-term liabilities.

26.1.2 NHS Pension Scheme

The NHS pension scheme is a defined benefit scheme administered by the NHS Superannuation Scheme.

In 2019/20 the County Council paid £0.1 million (2018/19 £0.1m) to the NHS Superannuation Scheme, which represents 14.4% (2018/19 14.4%) of NHS pensionable pay.

26.2 Defined benefit pension schemes

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

- The liabilities of the Pension Fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis.
- The assets of the Pension Fund attributable to the County Council are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value.

In relation to retirement benefits the General Fund is charged with the amount payable by the County Council to the Pension Fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated by the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement there are appropriations to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the Pension Fund and pensioners and any amounts payable to the fund but unpaid at the year-end. The negative balance on the Pensions Reserve measures the beneficial impact to the General Fund of being required to account for retirement benefits based on cash flows and not as benefits are earned by employees.

The County Council administers and participates in the Worcestershire County Council Pension Fund. Retirement benefits are determined independently of the investments of the Pension Fund, and the County Council has an obligation to make contributions where assets are insufficient to meet employee benefits. The County Council and participating employees pay contributions into the fund which are calculated at a level intended to balance pension's liabilities with investment assets.

The pension scheme is operated under the regulatory framework for the Local Government Pension Scheme and the governance of the scheme. As the statutory Administering Authority and Scheme Manager for the Fund, the County Council is responsible for ensuring effective stewardship of the Pension Fund's affairs. The County Council has established a Pension Committee to discharge its responsibility for the management of the administration of the Pension Fund. Policy is determined in accordance with the Pensions Fund Regulations. The management of the Pension Fund's assets is operated through thirteen specialist external managers.

The three principal risks to the scheme are:

- Market risk (volatility in stock prices, increase in interest rates and fluctuations in currency exchange rates);
- Credit risk where a borrower does not make payments as promised; and
- Liquidity risk, in that a given security or asset cannot be traded quickly enough in the market.

Discretionary post-retirement benefits on early retirement are an unfunded defined benefit arrangement, under which liabilities are recognised when awards are made. There are no plan assets built up to meet these pension liabilities.

The Court of Appeal decision on the 28 June 2019 in the Sargeant/McCloud cases (generally referred to for the LGPS as "McCloud") ruled that the transitional protection afforded to older members when the Public Service Pension Schemes were amended constituted unlawful age discrimination.

The County Council's actuary has included a calculation for the anticipated impact of the judgement on the pensions' liability. The additional costs are sensitive to the assumptions made. Relevant entries are included below as McCloud judgment liability.

26.2.1 Transactions relating to post-employment benefits

The County Council recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the reported cost of services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. The charge against the council tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of post-employment/retirement benefits is reversed out of the General Fund via the Movement in Reserves Statement. The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the General Fund Balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement during the year:

2018/19		2019/20
£m		£m
Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement		
Cost of services:		
(33.4)	Current service cost	(32.5)
(6.5)	Past Service Cost – McCloud Judgment	(9.2)
(0.5)	Settlements and curtailments	(3.5)
Other Operating Expenses		
(0.4)	Administration expenses	(0.4)
Financing & investment income & expenditure		
(32.2)	Interest on Pensions Liabilities	(32.4)
22.9	Interest on Pensions Assets	21.3
(50.1)	Total post-employment benefit charged to the surplus or deficit on the Provision of Services	(56.7)
Re-measurement of the net defined liability charged to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement		
11.5	Return on Plan assets (excluding the amount included in net interest expense)	(51.3)
	Actuarial gain/(loss) arising on changes in experience	17.4
(68.1)	Actuarial gain/(loss) arising on changes in financial assumptions	27.4

2018/19	2019/20
£m	£m
Actuarial gain/(loss) arising on changes in demographic assumptions	42.0
(106.7) Total post-employment benefit charged to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	(21.2)
Movement in Reserves Statement	
(25.1) Reversal of net charges made to the surplus or deficit for the Provision of Services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the Code of Practice	(26.8)
Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year:	
1.6 Employer's contributions payable to the scheme	5.3
(36.2) Retirement benefits payable to pensioners	(39.8)

The County Council made an up-front payment of Employer's contributions payable to the scheme of £70.2 million in 2017/18 for the three years 2017/18 to 2019/20. The payment in year during this period is calculated on the actuary's assessment of the actual liability balance. The impact of this payment is considered by the actuary as part of the annual IAS19 exercise and reflected in our pension's liabilities and reserve entries.

26.2.2 Pension gains and losses charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

2018/19	2019/20
£m	£m
11.5 Return on Plan Assets (excluding the amount included in net interest expense)	(51.3)
Actuarial gain/(loss) arising from changes in experience	17.4
(68.1) Actuarial gain/(loss) arising from changes in financial assumptions	27.4
Actuarial gain/(loss) arising from changes in demographic assumptions	42.0
0.2 (Increase)/decrease in Teachers Pension Liability	0.4
(56.4) Total gain/(loss)	35.9

26.2.3 Pension assets and liabilities recognised in the Balance Sheet

2018/19	2019/20
£m	£m
(1,365.3) Present value of liabilities	(1,322.4)
900.1 Fair value of assets	841.3
(465.2) Deficit in the scheme	(481.1)

Statutory arrangements for funding the deficit mean that the financial position of the County Council is consistent with previous financial years. The deficit on the local government pension scheme will be made good by increased contributions over the remaining working life of the employees (i.e. before payments fall due), as assessed by the scheme actuary. Finance is only required to be raised to cover discretionary benefits when the pensions are paid.

26.2.4 Liabilities and assets in relation to post-employment benefits (Local Government Pension Scheme)

This table gives detail of the assets and liabilities as calculated by the County Council’s actuary. The financial assumptions included are based on yield assumptions on corporate bonds and are impacted by the duration of our employee liabilities. Increases in benefits and pensions included in these assumptions are based on Consumer Prices Index (CPI). Salary growth assumptions are based on long-term “real” salary inflation assumptions. Further information is given in note 26.2.6 which breaks down the fund investment assets, note 26.2.7 which provides the underlying assumptions for calculations included and note 26.2.8 which estimates the impact of any sensitivities in these assumptions.

Reconciliation of present value of the scheme liabilities:

2018/19		2019/20
£m		£m
(1253.6)	Opening balance at 1 April	(1,365.3)
(33.4)	Current service cost	(32.5)
(32.2)	Interest cost	(32.4)
(6.6)	Contributions by scheme participants	(6.1)
	Remeasurement (gains) and losses:	
	Actuarial gain/(loss) arising on changes in experience	17.4
(68.1)	Actuarial gain/(loss) arising on changes in financial assumptions	27.4
	Actuarial gain/(loss) arising on changes in demographic assumptions	42.0
36.2	Benefits paid	39.8
(0.6)	Business combinations	0.0
(6.5)	Past service cost – McCloud Judgment	(9.2)
(0.5)	Curtailments	(3.5)
(1,365.3)	Closing balance at 31 March	(1,322.4)

Reconciliation of fair value of the scheme assets:

2018/19	2019/20
£m	£m
893.6 Opening balance at 1 April	900.1
22.9 Interest Income	21.3
11.5 Return on plan assets, excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	(51.3)
(0.4) Administration expenses	(0.4)
1.6 Employer contributions	5.3
0.5 Business combinations	0.0
6.6 Contributions by scheme participants	6.1
(36.2) Benefits paid	(39.8)
900.1 Closing balance at 31 March	841.3

26.2.5 Pensions Reserve

2018/19	2019/20
£m	£m
(411.0) Balance at 1 April	(492.7)
11.5 Return on Plan assets (excluding the amount included in net interest expense)	(51.3)
Actuarial gain/(loss) arising on changes in experience	17.4
(68.1) Actuarial gain/(loss) arising on changes in financial assumptions	27.4
Actuarial gain/(loss) arising on changes in demographic assumptions	42.0
(0.1) Business combinations	0.0
(50.1) Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	(56.7)
1.6 Employer's pensions contributions & direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	5.3
23.4 Employer's pension contributions – prepayment adjustment	24.6
0.2 Decrease in Teachers Pension Liability	0.4
(492.7) Balance at 31 March	(483.6)

26.2.6 Local Government Pension Scheme assets

2018/19		Quoted	2019/20
£m		(Y/N)	£m
Equities:			
1.8	UK Quoted	Y	1.7
237.6	Overseas quoted	Y	203.6
120.6	Pooled Investment Vehicle – UK Managed Funds	N	106.0
287.2	Pooled Investment Vehicle – UK Managed Funds – (overseas equities)	N	281.8
	Pooled Investment Vehicle – Overseas Managed Funds	N	0.8
Bonds:			
2.7	UK Corporate	Y	3.4
41.4	Overseas Corporate	Y	38.7
72.9	UK Government Fixed	Y	60.6
	Overseas Government	Y	0.8
Property:			
23.4	European Property Fund	N	19.4
8.1	UK Property Debt	N	5.9
5.4	Overseas Property Debt	N	4.2
19.8	UK Property Fund	N	17.7
	Overseas Real Estate Investment Trusts	N	1.7
Alternatives:			
32.4	UK Infrastructure	N	41.2
17.1	European Infrastructure	N	22.7
2.7	US Infrastructure	N	15.1

2018/19		Quoted	2019/20
£m		(Y/N)	£m
6.3	US Stock Options	N	5.9
	Overseas Stock Options	N	(5.1)
	Corporate Private Debt	N	10.1
	Cash:		
3.6	Cash Instruments	Y	1.7
7.2	Cash Accounts	Y	1.7
9.9	Net Current Assets	N	1.7
900.1	Total		841.3

26.2.7 Basis for estimating assets and liabilities

Liabilities 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, etc. The Local Government Pension Scheme has been assessed by Mercer Ltd, an independent firm of actuaries, and estimates for the County Council fund are based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2019, with an effective date of 1 April 2020. The principal assumptions used by the actuary are:

2018/19	2019/20
Mortality assumptions	
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners (years):	
22.8 Men	22.6
25.8 Women	25.0
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners (years):	
25.1 Men	24.2
28.2 Women	27.0
Financial assumptions	
2.2% Rate of CPI inflation	2.1%
3.7% Rate of increase in salaries	3.6%
2.3% Rate of increase in pensions	2.2%
2.4% Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	2.4%

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. The sensitivity analyses below have been determined based on reasonably possible changes of the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period and assumes for each change that the assumption analysed changes while all the other assumptions remain constant. The assumptions in longevity, for example, assume that life expectancy increases or decreases for men and women. In practice, this is unlikely to occur, and changes in some of the assumptions may be interrelated. The estimations in the sensitivity analysis have followed the accounting policies for the scheme, i.e. on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method. The methods and types of assumptions used in preparing the sensitivity analysis below did not change from those used in the previous period.

26.2.8 Assumptions made about the future and estimate uncertainties

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
Pensions Fund – valuation of assets	<p>The outbreak of Covid-19 has resulted in significant volatility and uncertainty in markets around the world.</p> <p>The Pension Fund’s pooled property funds are valued at fair value by independent valuers in accordance with RICS valuation professional standards, whilst infrastructure investments are valued at fair value by independent experts. For 2019/20 there is additional uncertainty regarding the property valuations due to the time that it will take to fully realise the impact of Covid-19 upon illiquid assets such as property. The valuations have been updated based on the information available as at 31 March 2020 and may be subject to variations as further market information becomes available.</p>	<p>The total value of direct property investments in the 2019/20 Pension Fund Accounts is £149.8 million (£171.8 million in 2018/19). There is a risk that this investment may be under or overstated.</p> <p>The total value of direct infrastructure investments in the 2019/20 Pension Fund Accounts statements is £299.1 million (£159.4 million in 2018/19). There is a risk that this investment may be under or overstated.</p>

26.2.9 Impact on the Defined Benefit Obligation in the Scheme (Liabilities)

	Increase in rate of	Increase/(decrease) in Assumption
		£m
Discount Rate	0.1%	(21.9)
Inflation	0.1%	22.3
Pay	0.1%	2.2
Life Expectancy	1 year	35.8

26.2.10 Impact on the County Council's cash flows

The weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation for scheme members is 17 years (2018/19 17 years). The County Council anticipates payments of £28.1 million expected contributions to the scheme in 2020/21.

26.2.11 Future accounting standards – IAS 19 Employee Benefits

IAS 19 Employee Benefits will require the remeasurement of net pension asset/liability following plan amendments, curtailments or settlements to be used to determine current service cost and net interest for the remainder of the year after the change to the plan. The updating of these assumptions will apply to changes from 1 April 2020 and could result in positive, negative or no movement in the net pension liability and, as such, we cannot determine the possible impact on the accounts.

27. Termination benefits and exit packages

This discloses both exit packages for employees who have left the County Council in 2019/20 and any provisions for packages which have been agreed where the employee will leave at a future date. The cost includes redundancy costs, costs of pension added years and any other departure costs. Termination Benefits are charged in the year in which they are paid or on an accrual basis if appropriate.

Where enhancement of retirement benefits is made the amount charged is the amount payable by the County Council to the Pension Fund or pensioner in the year.

2018/19			2019/20	
Total number of exit packages	Total cost of exit packages	Exit package cost band (including redundancy, pension strain, and settlement payments)	Total number of exit packages	Total cost of exit packages
	£m			£m
107	0.8	£0 – £20,000	68	0.5
27	0.7	£20,001 – £40,000	21	0.6
14	0.7	£40,001 – £60,000	8	0.4
3	0.2	£60,001 – £80,000	5	0.3
2	0.3	£80,001 – £200,000	7	1.0
153	2.7	Total Termination Packages	109	2.8

28. Related parties

The Council is required to disclose material transactions with bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence the Council, or to be controlled or influenced by the Council.

28.1 UK Central Government

The UK Central Government has significant influence over the general operations of the County Council. It is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the County Council works, provides funding in the form of grants (note 7 refers), and sets the terms of many of the relationships that the County Council has with other organisations.

28.2 Elected Members

Elected members of the County Council have direct control over the County Council's financial and operating policies. A total of £1.1 million allowances and expenses were paid to members in 2019/20 (2018/19 £1.0 million). Elected members of the County Council may be involved with other local organisations that provide services for or receive services from the County Council. Transactions for these organisations have been reviewed and there are no related party disclosures to be made for elected members.

28.3 Officers

Officers of the County Council may be involved with other local organisations that provide services for or receive services from the County Council. Transactions for these organisations have been reviewed and there are no related party disclosures to be made for officers.

28.4 Section 75 Framework Partnership Agreements

The County Council has an integrated commissioning unit with Health through a Section 75 arrangement including the Better Care Fund (details given in note 8). Monitoring is through the Integrated Commissioning Executive Officers Group (ICEOG) and agreed and controlled through the Clinical Commissioning Group Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

28.5 Worcestershire County Council Pension Fund

At the year-end the County Council charged the Pension Fund £1.5 million (2018/19 £1.0 million) for expenses incurred in administering the Pension Fund. Further details are given in note 26 Defined Benefit Pension Schemes.

28.6 West Mercia Energy Joint Committee

The County Council is represented by its elected members on the West Mercia Energy Joint Committee (WME). WME offers energy procurement and management on behalf of its four owning authorities and a number of outside bodies. WME is constituted as a Joint Committee and the County Council is one of four constituent authorities, alongside Shropshire Council, Herefordshire Council and Telford and Wrekin Council. The parties have rights to the net assets of the arrangement and, as such, this is judged to be a joint venture. This joint venture is not consolidated into the Group Accounts because it is not considered

to be material. The County Council spent £5.8 million with WME in 2019/20 (2018/19 £6.7 million) and this is reflected in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

28.7 Place Partnership

Place Partnership Limited is a single asset management company co-owned by the County Council, Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority, Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police and each party has equal shares and equal voting rights. Any profits made by Place Partnership Limited would be distributed equally to members and any loss distribution would be limited by shareholding. Place Partnership Limited has been classified as a Joint Operation for the purpose of financial reporting, because there is joint control, and the activity of the arrangement is primarily to provide services to the parties within their boundaries. In 2019/20, the operating cost for the County Council was £5.2 million (2018/19 £5.0m) and this is reflected in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Place Partnership Limited has not been fully consolidated into the County Council's accounts as a Joint Operation, because there is no material difference to the costs already reflected. There is a creditor for £0.2 million outstanding at the year-end (2018/19 £0.4 million), and a debtor for £0.02m (2018/19 £0).

28.8 Severn Arts

Severn Arts is a Private Company Limited by Guarantee that provides education in music and the Arts within Worcestershire. The County Council appoints one out of the ten trustees. This is a Related Party because the trustee appointed is a key management personnel of the County Council. The County Council spent £0.001 million on behalf of Severn Arts post transfer (2018/19 £0.05 million) and this is reflected in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The company commenced on 1 June 2018, after a transfer of service provision and assets from the County Council. As part of the transfer, the County Council loaned Severn Arts £0.4 million, which is to be paid back in monthly instalments over 7 years with 4.78% interest per annum. There is a loan balance of £0.268 million outstanding at 31 March 2020 (2018/19 £0.343 million), and a debtor balance of £0.001 million (2018/19 £0.03 million).

28.9 Worcestershire Children First

Worcestershire Children First is a Private Limited Company by Guarantee without share capital and is 100% owned and controlled by Worcestershire County Council. The company was incorporated on 4 July 2018 and commenced trading on 1 October 2019. The company is principally engaged in the provision of social care and educational services for children and families across Worcestershire. The company has been identified as a subsidiary as it is 100% owned by the Council, and therefore the Council is deemed to have single control. Group Accounts have been prepared because the subsidiary is assessed to be material.

In 2019/20, the Council spent £55.1 million on services from the company and received £3.5 million in income from the provision of support services. This is reflected in the single entity Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. There is a debtor of £6.2 million and a creditor of £3.8 million outstanding at 31 March 2020 and these balances are included in the single entity Balance Sheet.

The company's Board includes 1 Director who is employed by the Council and 2 Elected members of the Council; these individuals did not receive any remuneration from the company during the year.

29. Leases

29.1 The County Council as lessee – operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as an expense. Charges are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease.

Operating lease payments of £1.3 million were made in 2019/20 (2018/19 £1.1 million). The County Council's outstanding obligations under lease agreements as at 31 March 2020 totalled £12.4 million (31 March 2019 £11.7 million).

	£m
Leases expiring in less than 1 year	0.3
Leases expiring between 1 and 5 years	0.7
Leases expiring in 5 years+	11.5
	12.4

29.2 The County Council as lessor – operating leases

Where an asset is leased by the County Council to a third party as an operating lease the asset is retained in the Balance Sheet. Rental income is credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease.

Operating lease receipts of £2.0 million were received in 2019/20 (2018/19 £2.2 million). The County Council's outstanding obligations under lease arrangements as at 31 March 2020 totalled £7.4 million (2018/19 £9.8 million).

	£m
Leases expiring in less than 1 year	0.8
Leases expiring between 1 and 5 years	1.5
Leases expiring in 5 years+	5.1
	7.4

29.3 Future accounting standards – International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS 16) Leases

At the balance sheet date, IFRS 16 Leases has been published but not yet adopted by the Code of Practice of Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom. IFRS 16 will require local authorities that are lessees to recognise a lease on their balance sheet as a right-of-use asset with a corresponding lease liability (there are exemptions for low-value and short-term leases). CIPFA/LASAAC have deferred implementation of IFRS 16 for local government to 1 April 2021.

The County Council is preparing for the new standard and will:

- Liaise with our directorates and maintained schools to confirm current lease arrangements and identify relevant contracts.
- Consider each material contract to determine service contracts v. operating lease.
- Establish new disclosure and accounting requirements.

30. External audit costs

2018/19	2019/20
£m	£m
0.1 Fees payable regarding external audit services	0.1

The fee of £82k paid to Grant Thornton comprised £74k audit fee and £4k grant certification fee. An audit fee of £4k was agreed by the Public Sector Audit Appointments body to cover additional audit work required in certifying the 2018/19 accounts.

The County Council is licensed to use the CFO Insights tool provided by Grant Thornton, at a cost of £13k per annum. This is not related to the external audit services provided.

31. Events after the reporting period

Events after the reporting period 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 approved. 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 of the nature of the events and their estimated financial effect.

The financial statements have not been adjusted for the following events which took place after 31 March 2020; they provide information relevant to the Council's financial position but do not relate to conditions existing at that date.

Non-adjusting events

Academy Conversions

Three schools have converted to academy status after 31 March 2020. As these converted after the reporting period they are non-adjusting events and are reported below for information.

Name of School	Date of Conversion	Asset Value at 31 March 2020
		£m
St Thomas More Catholic First School	01/04/2020	£0.02
Northleigh CE Primary School	01/04/2020	£0.02
Feckenham CE First School	01/09/2020	£0.01

Covid-19

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused significant uncertainty with regard to national economic conditions and this is likely to impact on the level of funding that the County Council may receive in future years. It is not possible to quantify the full impact this will have at this time.

It is anticipated that central government will review both grant funding and the expectations of local government to play its part in supporting economic recovery. The Statements of Accounts include more specific detail regarding the impact of Covid-19 in the accompanying disclosure notes concerning Property, Plant & Equipment and Financial Instruments and the Leader, Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer’s narrative reports and the Annual Governance Statement.

The UK Government issues two grants to local authorities both totalling £1.6 billion, of which the County Council received £25.5 million in allocation, to contribute towards its cost of response and recovery to Covid-19. Funding of £14.9 million was received on 27 March 2020; £0.4 million has been recognised and used to offset Covid-19 expenditure in 2019/20; the balance has been treated as a receipt in advance at 31 March 2020 and included in short-term creditors in Note 21 to the accounts.

Independent Auditor’s Report to the Members of Worcestershire County Council

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Worcestershire County Council (the ‘Authority’) and its subsidiary (the ‘group’) for the year ended 31 March 2020 which comprise the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, the Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Group Movement in Reserves Statement the Group Balance Sheet and the Group Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the financial position of the group and of the Authority as at 31 March 2020 and of the group’s expenditure and income and the Authority’s expenditure and income for the year then ended;
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20; and
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the ‘Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements’ section of our report. We 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 we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The impact of macro-economic uncertainties on our audit

Our audit of the financial statements requires us to obtain an understanding of all relevant uncertainties, including those arising as a consequence of the effects of macro-economic uncertainties such as Covid-19 and Brexit. All audits assess and challenge the reasonableness of estimates made by the Chief Financial Officer and the related disclosures and the appropriateness of the going concern basis of preparation of the financial statements. All of these depend on assessments of the future economic environment and the group’s and Authority’s future operational arrangements.

Covid-19 and Brexit are amongst the most significant economic events currently faced by the UK, and at the date of this report their effects are subject to unprecedented levels of uncertainty, with the full range of possible outcomes and their impacts unknown. We applied a standardised firm-wide approach in response to these uncertainties when assessing the group's and Authority's future operational arrangements. However, no audit should be expected to predict the unknowable factors or all possible future implications for an authority associated with these particular events.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

In our evaluation of the Chief Financial Officer's conclusions, and in accordance with the expectation set out within the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20 that the Authority's financial statements shall be prepared on a going concern basis, we considered the risks associated with the group's and Authority's operating activities, including effects arising from macro-economic uncertainties such as Covid-19 and Brexit. We analysed how those risks might affect the group's and Authority's financial resources or ability to continue operations over the period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue. In accordance with the above, we have nothing to report in these respects.

However, as we cannot predict all future events or conditions and as subsequent events may result in outcomes that are inconsistent with judgements that were reasonable at the time they were made, the absence of reference to a material uncertainty in this auditor's report is not a guarantee that the Authority or group will continue in operation.

Emphasis of Matter – effects of Covid-19 on the valuation of land and buildings

We draw attention to Note 15.10 of the financial statements, which describes the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the valuation of the Authority's land and buildings as at 31 March 2020. As, disclosed in note 15.10 to the financial statements, the outbreak of Covid-19 has impacted global financial markets and market activity has been impacted. A material valuation uncertainty was therefore disclosed in the Authority's property valuer's report. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other information

The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Financial Report and Statement of Accounts, other than the Authority and group financial statements and, our auditor's report thereon and our auditor's report on the pension fund financial statements. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge of the group and Authority obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Other information we are required to report on by exception under the Code of Audit Practice

Under the Code of Audit Practice published by the National Audit Office on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (the Code of Audit Practice) we are required to consider whether the Annual Governance Statement does not comply with the 'delivering good governance in Local Government Framework 2016 Edition' published by CIPFA and SOLACE or is misleading or inconsistent with the information of which we are aware from our audit. We are not required to consider whether the Annual Governance Statement addresses all risks and controls or that risks are satisfactorily addressed by internal controls.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matter required by the Code of Audit Practice

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit of the financial statements and our knowledge of the Authority gained through our work in relation to the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, the other information published together with the financial statements in the Annual Financial Report and Statement of Accounts, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Under the Code of Audit Practice, we are required to report to you if:

- We issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- We make a written recommendation to the Authority under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or

- 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 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or;
- We issue an advisory notice under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- We make an application for judicial review under Section 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit.

We have nothing to report in respect of the above matters.

Responsibilities of the Authority, the Chief Financial Officer and Those Charged with Governance for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities set out on pages 30-31, the Authority is required to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this authority, that officer is the Chief Financial Officer. The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the 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 2019/20, for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Chief Financial 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 Chief Financial Officer is responsible for assessing the group's 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 there is an intention by government that the services provided by the Authority will no longer be provided.

The Audit and Governance Committee is Those Charged with Governance. Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Authority's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements – Conclusion on the Authority’s arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

Conclusion

On the basis of our work, having regard to the guidance on the specified criterion issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in April 2020, we are satisfied that the Authority put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Responsibilities of the Authority

The Authority is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for securing 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 review of the Authority’s arrangements for securing 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 to be satisfied 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.

We have undertaken our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance on the specified criterion issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in April 2020, as to whether in all significant respects the Authority had proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people. The Comptroller and Auditor General determined this criterion as that necessary for us to consider under the Code of Audit Practice in satisfying ourselves whether the Authority put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2020.

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 be satisfied that the Authority has put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements – Delay in certification of completion of the audit

We are required to give an opinion on the consistency of the pension fund financial statements of the Authority included in the Pension Fund Annual Report with the pension fund financial statements included in the Annual Financial Report and Statement of Accounts. The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 require authorities to publish the Pension Fund Annual Report by 1 December 2020. As the Authority has not prepared the Pension Fund Annual Report at the time of this report we have yet to issue our report on the consistency of the pension fund financial statements. Until we have done so, we are unable to certify that we have completed the audit of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice.

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice until we have completed the work necessary to issue our Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) Component Assurance statement for the Authority for the year ended 31 March 2020. We are satisfied that this work does not have a material effect on the financial statements or on our conclusion on the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the members of the Authority, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and as set out in paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Authority's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Authority and the Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Peter Barber, Key Audit Partner
for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Local Auditor
Birmingham
27 October 2020



Worcestershire County Council Group Accounts

Group Accounts and Supporting Notes

Group Accounts

Introduction

In order to provide a fuller picture of the Council's economic activities and financial position, the accounting statements of the Council and Worcestershire Children First have been consolidated.

The Group Accounts are presented in addition to the Council's 'single entity' financial statements and comprise:

- Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;
- Group Movement in Reserves Statement;
- Group Balance Sheet; and
- Group Cash Flow Statement.

These statements are set out on the following pages, together with accompanying disclosure notes. Disclosure notes have only been included in the group accounts where they are materially different from those of the Council's single entity accounts.

Results of Subsidiary

Worcestershire Children First

The County Council's wholly owned subsidiary Worcestershire Children First (WCF) was successfully launched on 1 October 2019 and operational responsibility for the delivery of all of Children's services on behalf of Worcestershire County Council was transferred on that date.

For 2019/20, the company's results showed a profit for the year of £0.5 million and net assets of £0.5 million.

A full copy of the company's accounts can be obtained from the Directors, Worcestershire Children First, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester WR5 2NP. The accounts are audited by Grant Thornton (UK) LLP

Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

	2019/20	2019/20	2019/20
	Expenditure	Income	Net
	£m	£m	£m
People	296.3	(145.3)	151.0
Children's Services	341.7	(233.4)	108.3
Economy & Infrastructure	92.0	(26.5)	65.5
Commercial & Change	32.9	(1.1)	31.8
Finance, HR & Chief Executive	28.5	(4.5)	24.0
Net Cost of Services	791.4	(410.8)	380.6
Other operating expenditure	10.5	(4.5)	6.0
Financing, investment income & expenditure	77.9	(30.0)	47.9
Taxation & non-specific grant income and expenditure	0.2	(419.2)	(419.0)
(Surplus)/deficit on the provision of services	880.0	(864.5)	15.5
Tax expenses of subsidiary	0.1	–	0.1
Group (surplus)/deficit	880.1	(864.5)	15.6
Other comprehensive income and expenditure:			
(Surplus) on revaluation of property, plant & equipment	–	–	(26.2)
Downward revaluations on non-current assets charged to Revaluation Reserve	–	–	20.6
Actuarial (gains)/losses on pension assets & liabilities	–	–	(35.9)
Total other comprehensive income and expenditure	–	–	(41.5)
Total comprehensive income and expenditure (surplus)/deficit	–	–	(25.9)

Group Movement in Reserves Statement 2019/20

	General Fund (Non-Earmarked) Balance	General Fund (Earmarked) Reserves	General Fund Total	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied Account	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Council Reserves	Council's Share of Reserves of subsidiary	Total Reserves attributable to Council
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Balance at 31 March 2019	12.2	81.5	93.7	0.1	41.1	134.9	(66.6)	68.3	-	68.3
Movement in reserves during 2019/20:										
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	35.5	-	35.5	-	-	35.5	41.5	77.0	0.5	77.5
Adjustments between group accounts and authority accounts	(51.6)	-	(51.6)	-	-	(51.6)	-	(51.6)	-	(51.6)
Net increase/(decrease) before transfers	(16.1)	-	(16.1)	-	-	(16.1)	41.5	25.4	0.5	25.9
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	16.1	(5.2)	10.9	(0.1)	14.8	25.6	(25.6)	-	-	-
Increase/(decrease) in 2019/20	-	(5.2)	(5.2)	(0.1)	14.8	9.5	15.9	25.4	0.5	25.9
Balance at 31 March 2020 carried forward	12.2	76.3	88.5		55.9	144.4	(50.7)	93.7	0.5	94.2

Adjustments between Group Accounts and Authority Accounts in the Group Movement in Reserves Statement

	2019/20
	General Fund Total
	£m
Removal of intercompany transactions	51.6
Total adjustments between Group Accounts and Authority Accounts	51.6

Group Balance Sheet

31 March 2020

	£m
Property, plant and equipment	1,070.7
Heritage assets	1.7
Intangible assets	5.4
Long-term investments	3.0
Long-term debtors	115.9
Long term assets	1,196.7
Non-Operational Assets	7.6
Short-term investments	5.0
Inventories	1.2
Short-term debtors	89.9
Cash and cash equivalents	78.2
Current assets	181.9
Short-term borrowing	(39.4)
Short-term creditors	(117.2)
Current liabilities	(156.6)
Long-term creditors	
Long-term provisions	(7.6)
Long-term borrowing	(435.9)
Other long-term liabilities	(654.9)
Grants receipts in advance	(29.4)
Long-term liabilities	(1,127.8)

31 March 2020

	£m
Net assets	94.2
Financed by:	
Usable reserves	144.9
Unusable reserves	(50.7)
Total reserves	94.2

Group Cash Flow Statement

	2019/20
	£m
Net surplus/(deficit) on the provision of services	(15.6)
Adjust net (surplus)/deficit for non-cash movements	132.0
Adjust for items included in the net (surplus)/deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	(87.5)
Net cash flows from operating activities	28.9
Net cash flows from investing activities	8.3
Net cash flows from financing activities	2.8
Net increase/(decrease) in cash or cash equivalents	40.1
Cash and cash equivalents	
Balance at 1 April	38.1
Balance at 31 March	78.2
Movement in cash and cash equivalents increase/(decrease)	40.1

Notes to the Group Accounts

1. Group boundary

Worcestershire Children First (WCF) is private limited company by guarantee and a 100% wholly owned subsidiary of Worcestershire County Council.

The company is a subsidiary of the Council for accounting purposes and its results have been consolidated into the Group Accounts on a line by line basis using the acquisition basis of consolidation.

2. Accounting policies

The financial statements of WCF have been prepared in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'. Differences between these standards and the Code would have no material impact on the Group Statements.

The Group Accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20 issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance (CIPFA). In preparing the Group Accounts, the Council has:

- Aligned the accounting policies of the company with those of the Council and made consolidation adjustments as necessary;
- Consolidated the financial statements of the company with those of the Council on a line by line basis; and
- Eliminated in full: balances, transactions, income and expenditure between the Council and its subsidiary.

The group accounting policies are not significantly different from those used to prepare the Council's single entity statements with the exception of the policy noted below:

- Pensions – the Group Accounts have been prepared incorporating the requirements of IAS19: Retirement Benefits for the treatment of pension costs. IAS19 requires that pension costs are recorded in the year in which the benefit entitlements are earned by the employee rather than the year in which the pension and employer's contributions are actually paid. The Pension Reserve represents the net liability for future pension costs. The financial statements of WCF have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'. The financial position under FRS102 is not significantly different under IAS19 and no adjustments have been made in the Group Accounts.

Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
Accounting policies	The principles, rules and procedures used in the preparation of the accounts
Accruals	The recognition of income and expenditure as goods and services are provided, not when cash is received or paid
Actuary	An independent company which advises on the assets and liabilities of the pension fund with the aim of ensuring that the payment of pensions and future benefits are met.
Admitted bodies	Voluntary and charitable bodies whose staff can become members of the Local Government Pension Scheme, subject to certain terms and conditions, and other organisations to which Local Government employees have been transferred under the outsourcing of local government services
Agent	The County Council or other authority acting as an intermediary
Amortisation	The drop-in value of intangible assets as they become out of date
Asset	<p>A resource controlled by the County Council because of past events and from which economic benefits or service potential is expected. Assets can be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intangible – assets of non-physical form, e.g. patents, goodwill, trademarks and copyrights • Property, plant and equipment – assets which give the Council benefits for more than one year • Community – assets held in perpetuity which may have restrictions on their disposal • Infrastructure – assets such as highways and footways • Non-operational – assets not directly used for service provision • Heritage – assets held solely for historical, artistic, or environmental qualities
Assets under construction	Capital expenditure on assets where the work is incomplete
Augmentation	Additional employer contributions relating to the cost of employees who are allowed to retire before their normal retirement age
Billing authority	The local authority which collects Council Tax. In Worcestershire this is the district or borough council
Capital charge	A charge to services to reflect the cost of Property, Plant and Equipment used in the provision of services
Capital expenditure	Expenditure on acquisition or construction of assets which have a value to the authority for more than one year e.g. land and buildings
Capital financing costs	The costs of financing assets, being the interest costs of external loans and monies used to repay debt
Capital receipts	Income from the sale of capital assets
Commutation/commuting	Where a member of the pension scheme gives up part or all of their pension in return for an immediate lump sum. It is also called a cash option

Term	Definition
Council tax precept	A property based tax which is set by the County Council and administered by district and borough councils
Creditors	Amounts owed by the County Council for work done, goods received or services provided but for which payment has not been made by the end of the accounting period
Current service cost	Officers employed during the year will have earned one or more years of pensionable service. The current service cost is the increase in the value of the pension scheme's liabilities arising from the employee service during the period
Custodian	The organisation that holds and safeguards the Pension Fund assets
Debtors	Amounts due to the County Council for work done, goods received or services provided but which remain unpaid by the end of the accounting period
Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)	A central government grant paid to the County Council for use for expenditure on schools.
Deferred pension benefit	A pension benefit which a member of the fund has accrued but is not yet entitled to receive payment
Depreciation	The fall in value of an asset, as recorded in the financial records, due to wear and tear, age or obsolescence
Derivative	A financial instrument whose characteristics and value depend upon the characteristics and value of an underlier, typically a commodity bond, equity or currency. Examples of derivatives include futures and options
Effective Interest rate (EIR)	The rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments or receipts through the expected life of a financial instrument. When calculating the EIR, the County Council shall estimate cash flows considering all contractual terms of the financial instrument
Equities	Shares representing the capital of a company issued to shareholders, usually with voting rights on the way the company runs the business
Fair value	The amount for which an asset could be exchanged or a liability settled
Financial instruments	Any contract giving rise to a financial asset or liability. For the County Council this is likely to be a loan or investment
Fixed interest	A corporate bond in the form of a certificate of debt issues by a company or institution in return for a fixed rate of interest with a promise of redemption to repay the original sum
Gilt	Similar to corporate bonds by way of interest and redemption, but these are issued by Government and are a loan to the Government
Forward foreign exchange	An agreement to purchase or sell an amount of foreign currency at a future date and predetermined price
Imprest accounts	Petty cash accounts used for small items of expenditure
Index linked	Stock whose value is related directly to an index, usually the Retail Price Index and therefore provides a hedge against inflation
Joint Venture	A joint arrangement whereby the parties that have joint control of the arrangement have rights to the net assets of the arrangement
Joint Operation	A joint arrangement whereby the parties that have joint control of the arrangement have rights to the assets, and obligation for the liabilities, relating to the arrangement

Term	Definition
Liability	A present obligation of the County Council arising from past events, the settlement of which is expected to result in an outflow of resources
Minimum revenue provision (MRP)	The statutory amount set aside from the revenue budget which can be used to repay external loans
National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR)	A tax collected locally by borough and district councils and paid to Central Government. It is then redistributed to county, unitary, borough and district councils on the basis of the resident population
Operating leases	A method of obtaining the use of an asset where the rewards and risks of ownership of the asset remain with the leasing company and the annual rental is charged directly to the revenue account
Pooled investment vehicles	A fund in which multiple investors contribute assets and hold them as a group, for example a unit trust
PPE (Property, Plant & Equipment)	For the purposes of the Statement of Accounts, the Council's property, plant and equipment is abbreviated to PPE.
Precept	The amount the County Council (the precepting authority) ask district and borough councils to collect as council tax.
Private Finance Initiative (PFI)	A long-term contractual public private partnership under which the private sector takes on the risks associated with the delivery of public services in exchange for payments tied to standards of performance
Provisions	Monies set aside to meet any liabilities or losses which are likely or will be incurred, but the amounts or the dates on which they will arise are uncertain e.g. provision for bad debts
Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)	A government agency which provides long-term loans to local authorities at favourable interest rates
Reserves	Money set aside to meet the cost of specific future expenditure. These can be either <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usable – those which can be used to provide services • Unusable – those which cannot be used to provide services
Revenue contributions to capital expenditure	The amount of capital expenditure to be financed directly from the annual revenue budget
Revenue Support Grant (RSG)	A general central government grant paid to the County Council in support of annual revenue expenditure
Scheduled bodies	Local authorities and similar bodies whose staff are entitled automatically to become members of the Local Authority Pension Fund
Settlement costs	Settlement costs arise when a lump-sum payment is made to a scheme member in exchange for their rights to receive certain pension benefits
Stock lending	The temporary transfer of stock (shares/securities) to a third party for a fixed or open period of time. In return the owner of the stock receives an agreed consideration secured by collateral of equal or greater value than the loaned securities
Transfer values	Sums which are either paid to or received from other pension schemes and relate to new and former members' periods of pensionable employment with employers participating in the scheme

**Worcestershire
Pension Fund**



Statement of Accounts 2019/20

Audited



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About the Accounts

Basis of Preparation

The statement of Accounts summarises the Fund's transactions for the 2018/2019 financial year and its position at year-end as at 31 March 2019. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19 which is based upon International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as amended for the UK public sector.

The Accounts summarise the transactions of the Fund and report on the net assets available to pay pension benefits. The Accounts do not take account of obligations to pay pensions and benefits which fall due after the end of the financial year.

Explanatory Foreword and a Review of the Year 2018/19

Contains a review of the year and other general information about the accounts.

The Worcestershire Pension Fund Account

Details the money received and spent within the Pension Fund during 2018/19.

Net Assets Statement

Statement showing the Pension Fund's financial position at 31 March 2019.

Notes to the Pension Fund Accounts

Notes providing additional information for the Fund Account and Net Assets Statement.

Statement of Accounting Policies

These are now shown against the relevant note as opposed to a prescribed list of accounting policies in previous year's accounts.

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

1. Explanatory Foreword and a Review of the Year 2019/20

Foreword by the Chief Financial Officer

Welcome to the Worcestershire Pension Fund 2019/20 Statement of Accounts. Worcestershire County Council administers the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), which provides for the occupational pensions of employees, other than teachers, police officers, and fire fighters of the local authorities within the Herefordshire and Worcestershire area. Worcestershire County Council also operates the scheme for members of other organisations which have made admission agreements with the Fund and designated bodies who have passed resolutions with Worcestershire County Council.

Table 1 Aim and Purpose of the Scheme

The purpose of the Scheme is to:

- Receive monies in respect of contributions, transfer values and investment income.
- Pay out monies in respect of scheme benefits, transfer values, costs, charges and expenses.

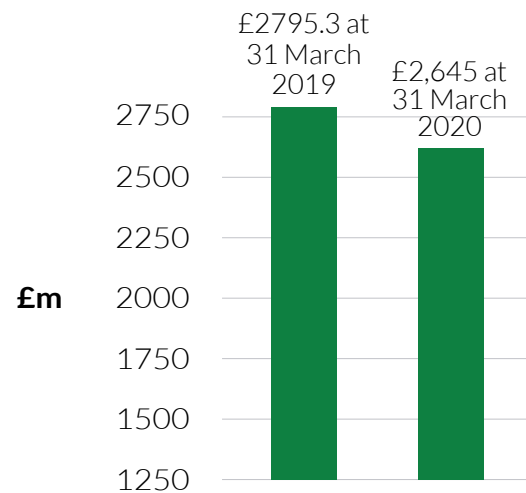
The purpose of the Scheme is to:

- Receive monies in respect of contributions, transfer values and investment income.
- Pay out monies in respect of scheme benefits, transfer values, costs, charges and expenses.

Key headlines

- The value of the Fund’s net assets decreased by £149.9 million from £2,795.3 million at 31 March 2019 to £2,645.4 million at 31 March 2020.
- Income from contributions increased by 7%, (£87.5 million from £81.8 million).
- Net investment returns decreased by £238.9 million compared to 2018/19 which was mainly due to the impact of Covid-19 cushioned somewhat by the equity protection strategy. There was also some disinvestment from passively managed pooled funds to Infrastructure and property funds in line with the investment strategy.
- Contributions from staff and employers were less than the benefits paid and management expenses in 2019/20 by £38.7 million. This was expected due mainly to some employers paying their 3-year pension contributions upfront in 2017/18 to reduce their overall costs.
- During the year a surplus resulted on the Pension Fund account (aside from the net investments returns) totalling £9.2 million a decrease of £7.6 million compared to 2018/19.

Funds Net Assets



Surplus/Deficit (-) on the Fund account

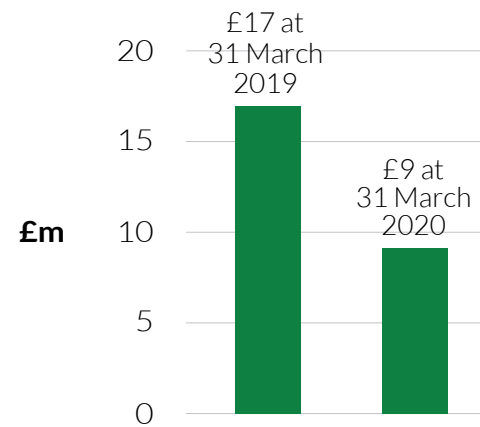


Table 2 analysis of changes within the Fund's membership profile

	31 March	31 March	Change	Change
	2019	2020		%
Contributors to the Fund	23,436	23,133	(303)	(1.3)
Pensions paid	18,089	18,917	828	4.4
Deferred members	20,729	21,585	856	4.0
	62,254	63,635	1,381	2.2

Scheme membership has continued to grow and is now in excess of 63,600. Active employer numbers have increased from 196 to 202 at the end of March 2020. Given the administrative challenges presented by this continued growth, the Fund regularly review its systems and processes and importantly, the way it engages with, and receives data from scheme employers.

Governance

The Council has established a Pension Committee to exercise the Administering Authority's responsibility for the management of the Worcestershire Pension Fund. The Pension Committee has overall responsibility for the management of the administration of the Fund and for the strategic management of the Fund's assets. In order to discharge its responsibility effectively the Pension Committee is supported by the Pension Administration Advisory Forum and the Pension Investment Advisory Panel. Note, it is the Audit and governance Committee that are charged with governance for the purpose of the accounts.

The Council established a Pension Board in July 2015. The purpose of the Board is to assist the Administering Authority in its role as a scheme manager of the Scheme. Such assistance is to: (a) secure compliance with the Regulations, any other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the Scheme, and requirements imposed by the Pensions Regulator in relation to the Scheme and; (b) to ensure the effective and efficient governance and administration of the Scheme.

The Pension Fund's Governance Policy Statement is published on the Council's website. The Policy Statement ensures that the Fund's governance arrangements comply with the LGPS Regulations and are aligned to prescribed best practice guidance.

The Fund has also undertaken the Scheme Advisory Board (SAB) 'Good Governance' review which was provided to the Pensions Committee in March 2020 detailing the Funds 'Good Governance' position statement.

Management of the Fund's assets

The management of the Fund's assets is operated through thirteen specialist external managers with seventeen mandates in total. The Pension Committee is advised in relation to asset allocation decisions and the monitoring of external managers' performance by the Pension Investment Sub Committee, which includes an independent financial adviser.

The Fund's asset allocation is kept under regular review and the current long-term investment allocation includes investments in a wide variety of UK and overseas companies, Corporate Bonds, Corporate Private Debt, Property and Infrastructure. As a result of an asset allocation review that took place in November 2016, the following Pension Committee endorsed recommendations were progressed during 2017/18 and have continued during 2019/20:

- a) An increase in the allocation to Infrastructure or a mix of Infrastructure and Real Estate by 5% from the current strategic allocation of up to 10% of the Fund to 15%.
- b) An increase in the Fund's allocation to alternative indices by 5% from the current strategic allocation of up to 10% of the Fund to 15%.
- c) The Fund returns the Strategic Asset Allocation to North American equities to Passive Management.

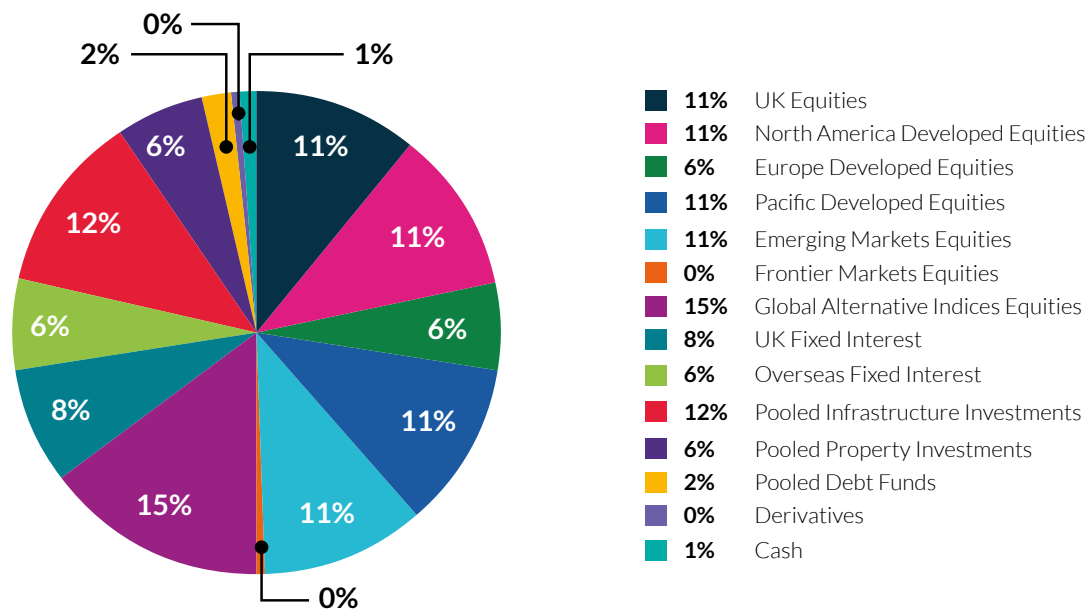
As at 31 March 2020 the 2016 strategic asset allocation review recommendation of a 15% commitment to 'Alternatives including property' continued to be implemented following investments into a pooled Property Debt Fund for Walton Street Fund II and a further commitment to the British Strategic Infrastructure Fund (BSIF) and Venn property debt Fund II were agreed by Committee in 2019/20 and are due to be implemented in 2020/21.

In addition, the Fund transitioned its active Emerging Market equity funds and active corporate bond funds to LGPS Central during 2019/20.

River and Mercantile continue to manage the Equity Protection Strategy that was implemented during early March 2018, which has provided some asset valuation protection for the passive equity portfolio following the significant impact of Covid-19 on the Funds asset valuation as at the end of March 2020.

The following chart details the distribution of the Fund's assets as at 31 March 2020:

Table 3 Distribution of the Funds Assets



Impact of Covid-19

Ongoing discussions have taken place with existing fund managers and our actuary to consider the implications of Covid-19 on the market valuation of the Fund. As detailed above the Fund had already taken steps to diversify some of its asset allocations from equities into property and infrastructure as well as implementing an equity protection strategy to guard against major market fluctuations. Excessive volatility in market risk is managed through the diversification of the portfolio in terms of geographical and industry sectors and individual securities. However, this potentially has far-reaching consequences in terms of funding and risk, which will need to be kept under review. Meetings were held with the actuary to ensure the most up to date market valuation position was used for the Employers IAS19 Pension statements at year end.

LGPS Central

The 2017/18 accounts highlighted the government’s approach and reasoning (Opportunities for collaboration, cost savings and efficiencies) for asset pooling with responsibility for asset allocation staying with the 90 administering authorities. Worcestershire Pension Fund (WPF) in collaboration with

eight other Local Authorities (Cheshire, Leicestershire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, the West Midlands, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, and the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority) set up a collective investment vehicles called LGPS Central. The Company was authorised to operate as an Alternative Investment Fund Manager (AIFM) and became formally operational from the 1 April 2018.

Each Fund approved the regulatory capital requirements for LGPS Central and its introduction on the 31 January 2018. All FCA regulated entities were required to hold regulatory capital designed to protect the solvency of the entity. It was calculated that £16 million of capital was needed to be introduced (“Capital Introduced”) by the eight Shareholding Funds to cover the capital requirement, a prudent buffer, set-up costs and operational liquidity. Each Fund provided £2 million of capital on 31 January 2018, with Worcestershire’s share consisting of £1.3 million of equity and £0.7 million of debt which has been met by Worcestershire Pension Fund.

LGPS Central has been in operation just over 2 years and WPF transitioned funds into LGPS Central’s Global Active Emerging Market managed mandate in July 2019 and LGPS Central’s Active Corporate Bond mandate in March 2020.

Management of the Fund’s liabilities

The Funding strategy is kept under regular review by the Pension Committee and the Fund’s actuary assesses at three yearly intervals the balance of the Fund’s assets against its liabilities. An actuarial valuation of the Worcestershire Pension Fund was carried out by Mercers as at 31 March 2016 to determine the contribution rates with effect from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2020. The key outcomes of the valuation at that point in time are detailed below:

- The Fund’s assets of £1,952 million represented 75% of the Fund’s past service liabilities of £2,606 million (the “Funding Target”) at the valuation date. This is an increase on the 69% funded position as a result of the 2013 valuation.
- A common rate of contribution of 15.3% of pensionable pay per annum is required from employers. The common rate is calculated as being sufficient, together with contributions paid by members, to meet all liabilities arising in respect of service after the valuation date.
- The deficit of £654 million would be eliminated by a contribution addition of £34 million per annum increasing at 3.7% per annum for 18 years.

The next actuarial valuation was undertaken during 2019/20, and changes to the employers’ contribution rates have been implemented with effect from 1 April 2020.

To meet the requirements of the Regulations, Worcestershire County Council as administering authority of the Fund has set a clear long-term funding objective; to achieve and then maintain assets equal to 100% of projected accrued liabilities, assessed on an ongoing basis.

Michael Hudson
LLB (Hons), LLM, CPFA
Chief Financial Officer

2. Fund Account (money received and spent during 2019/20)

For the year ended 31 March 2020

2018/19	2019/20
£m	£m
	Notes
Dealings with members, employers and others directly involved with the Fund	
81.8 Contributions	4 87.5
12.9 Transfers in from other pension funds	5 12.9
94.7	100.4
(106.3) Benefits	6 (111.9)
(8.7) Payments to and on account of leavers	7 (11.2)
(115.0)	(123.1)
(20.3) Net additions/(Withdrawals) from dealings with members	(22.7)
(1.1) Administrative expenses	8 (1.5)
(12.0) Management expenses	9 (14.5)
(33.4) Net additions/(Withdrawals) including fund management and administrative expenses	(38.7)
Returns on investments	
51.7 Investment income	10 48.6
(1.5) Taxes on income	11 (0.7)
77.5 Profit and losses on disposal of investments and changes in the market value of investments	12a & 15b (159.1)
127.7 Net return on investments	(111.2)
94.3 Net increase/(decrease) in the net assets available for benefits during the year	(149.9)

2018/19		2019/20
£m	Notes	£m
2,701.0	Opening fund net assets of the scheme	2,795.3
2,795.3	Closing fund net assets of the scheme	2,645.4

Management expenses have increased mainly due to disinvesting some existing passive equity funds into Infrastructure and Property funds which by their nature have larger management fees. The decrease in market valuations is mainly due to the impact of Covid-19.

3. Net Assets Statement for the year ended 31 March 2020 (showing the financial position at 31 March 2019 and 2020)

2018/19	Notes	2019/20
£m		£m
1.4 Long term Investment Assets	12	1.4
2,753.1 Investment Assets – Internally Managed	12 & 13	2,180.1
0.0 Investment Assets – LGPS Central Managed	12 & 13	428.8
32.9 Cash Deposits	12	25.5
2,787.4		2,635.8
(29.0) Investment Liabilities	12	(21.4)
39.2 Current Assets	17	35.3
1.5 Non-Current Assets	18	2.0
(3.8) Current Liabilities	19	(6.3)
2,795.3 Net Assets of the Fund available to fund benefits at the period end		2,645.4

These Financial Statements do not take into account liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits after the period end. The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits (determined in accordance with IAS 19) is disclosed in the Actuarial Statement (note 2 to the Accounts). Note 14 to the Accounts provide details on the Fair Value of assets.

Financial assets are included in the Net Assets Statement above on a fair value basis as at the reporting date apart from those financial instruments that are held solely for the payments of principal and interest (SPPI) such as cash and debtors which are measured at amortised cost. A financial asset is recognised in the Net Assets Statement on the date the Fund becomes party to the contractual acquisition of the asset. From this date any gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of asset are recognised in the Fund Account. The values of investments as shown in the Net Assets Statement have been determined as follows:

- i) **Market-quoted investments** the value of an investment for which there is a readily available market price is determined by the bid market price ruling on the final day of the accounting period.

- ii) **Fixed interest securities fixed** are recorded at net market value based on their current yields.
- iii) **Unquoted investments** the fair value of investments for which market quotations are not readily available is determined as follows:
 - a. **Valuations of delisted securities** are based on the last sale price prior to delisting, or where subject to liquidation, the amount the Fund expects to receive on wind-up, less estimated realisation costs.
 - b. **Securities subject to takeover offer** – the value of the consideration offered under the offer, less estimated realisation costs.
 - c. **Directly held investments** include investments in limited partnerships, shares in unlisted companies, trusts and bonds. Other unquoted securities typically include pooled investments in property, infrastructure, debt securities and private equity. The valuation of these pools or directly held securities is undertaken by the investment manager or responsible entity and advised as a unit or security price. The valuation standards followed in these valuations adhere to industry guidelines or to standards set by the constituent documents of the pool or the management agreement.
 - d. **Investments in unquoted property and infrastructure pooled funds** are valued at the net asset value or a single price advised by the fund manager.
 - e. **Investments in unquoted listed partnerships** are valued based on the Fund’s share of the net assets in the limited partnership using the latest financial statements published by the respective fund managers in accordance with the International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation Guidelines 2012.
- iv) **Limited partnerships** Fair value is based on the net asset value ascertained from periodic valuations provided by those controlling the partnership.
- v) **Pooled investment vehicles** Pooled investment vehicles are valued at closing bid price if both bid and offer prices are published; or if single priced, at the closing single price. In the case of pooled investment vehicles that are accumulation funds, change in market value also includes income which is reinvested in the Fund, net of applicable withholding tax.

Financial Liabilities

The Fund recognises financial liabilities at fair value as at the reporting date apart from those financial instruments that are held solely for the payments of principal and interest (SPPI) such as cash and debtors which are measured at amortised cost. A financial liability is recognised in the Net Assets Statement on the date the Fund becomes party to the liability. From this date any gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value or amortised cost of the liability are recognised by the Fund.

4. Notes to the Accounts (providing additional information for the Fund Account and Net Assets Statement)

These now comprise of a summary of significant accounting policies (shown against the relevant note as opposed to a prescribed list of accounting policies in previous year's accounts). Further information and detail of entries in the prime statements and other explanatory information and disclosures are as follows:-

NOTE 1: Description of Fund

a) General

The Fund is administered by Worcestershire County Council on behalf of their own employees, those of the Herefordshire Council, the District Councils, Private Sector admitted bodies with staff transferred under TUPE from the Administering Authority and other bodies in the county of Worcestershire, other than teachers, police officers, and fire fighters.

In matters relating to the management of the Fund's assets the Pensions Committee is advised in relation to asset allocation decisions and the monitoring of external managers' performance by the Pension Investment Sub Committee, which includes an independent investment adviser and the Scheme Manager.

The Pensions Committee consists of County Councillors and an Employer and Employee Representative. Formal monitoring takes place on a quarterly basis through meetings with investment managers to discuss their performance. Asset allocation is reviewed at least annually, and pension administration issues are discussed quarterly at the Pension Administration Advisory Forum with any resulting recommendations considered by the Pensions Committee.

The day to day management of the Fund's investments is divided between external investment managers who operate in accordance with mandates set out in the Investment Strategy Statement.

b) Membership

Membership of the LGPS is voluntary and employees are free to choose to join the scheme, remain in the scheme or make their own personal arrangement outside the scheme. Organisations participating in Worcestershire County Council Pensions Fund include the following:

- Scheduled bodies which are automatically entitled to be members of the Fund. These include county councils, district councils, foundation schools/colleges and academies.
- Admitted bodies, which participate in the Fund under the terms of an admission agreement between the Fund and the employer. Admitted bodies include voluntary, charitable and similar not for profit organisations, or private contractors undertaking a local authority function following outsourcing to the private sector.
- Designated bodies which are organisations that have passed resolutions with town or parish councils.

Membership details are set out below:

	31 March 2019	31 March 2020
Number of employers	196	202
Employee Members of the Fund		
County Council	8,256	7,653
Other Employers	15,180	15,480
Total	23,436	23,133
Pensioner Members of the Fund		
County Council	5,240	5,565
Other Employers	12,849	13,352
Total	18,089	18,917
Deferred Members of the Fund		
County Council	8,379	8,602
Other Employers	12,350	12,983
Total	20,729	21,585
Total Number of Members in the Fund	62,254	63,635

c) Funding

Benefits are funded by contributions and investment earnings. Contributions are made by employee members of the Fund in accordance with the LGPS Regulations 2013 and range from 5.5% to 12.5% of pensionable pay for the financial year ending March 2020. Employee contributions are matched by employer contributions which are set based on actuarial valuations. The last valuation conducted was at 31 March 2019 which will take effect from the 1 April 2020 onwards. Currently, employer contribution rates range from 5.5% to 41.9% of pensionable pay based on the valuation undertaken as at the 31 March 2016. The common 2019/20 employer contribution rate for the Fund is 15.3%. To ensure employer contribution increases, required by the Fund's Actuary following the 31 March 2013 actuarial valuation, remained affordable, the Administering Authority agreed with employers to phase in any increases in their Secondary rate over a period of up to 6 years.

d) Pension Benefits

Prior to 1 April 2014 pension benefits under the LGPS were based on final pensionable pay and length of pensionable service. From 1 April 2014, the scheme became a career average scheme, whereby members accrue benefits based on their pensionable pay in that year at an accrual rate of 1/49th. Accrued pension is updated annually in line with the Consumer Prices Index.

A range of other benefits are also provided including early retirement, disability pensions and death benefits, as explained on [the LGPS website](#).

Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits

The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits is assessed on a triennial basis by the scheme actuary in accordance with the requirements of the International Accounting Standard (IAS) 19 and relevant actuarial standards. As permitted under the Code, the Fund has opted to disclose the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits by way of a note to the net assets statement (Note 2 below).

NOTE 2: Funding Arrangements and Actuarial Present Value of Promised Retirement Benefits

Funding Arrangements

This statement has been provided to meet the requirements under Regulation 57(1)(d) of The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013. An actuarial valuation of the Worcestershire Pension Fund was carried out as at 31 March 2019 to determine the contribution rates with effect from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023.

Based on the assumptions adopted, the Fund's assets of £2,795 million represented 90% of the Fund's past service liabilities of £3,090 million (the "Solvency Funding Target") at the valuation date. The deficit at the valuation was therefore £295 million.

The valuation also showed that a Primary contribution rate of 17.5% of pensionable pay per annum was required from employers. The Primary rate is calculated as being sufficient, together with contributions paid by members, to meet all liabilities arising in respect of service after the valuation date.

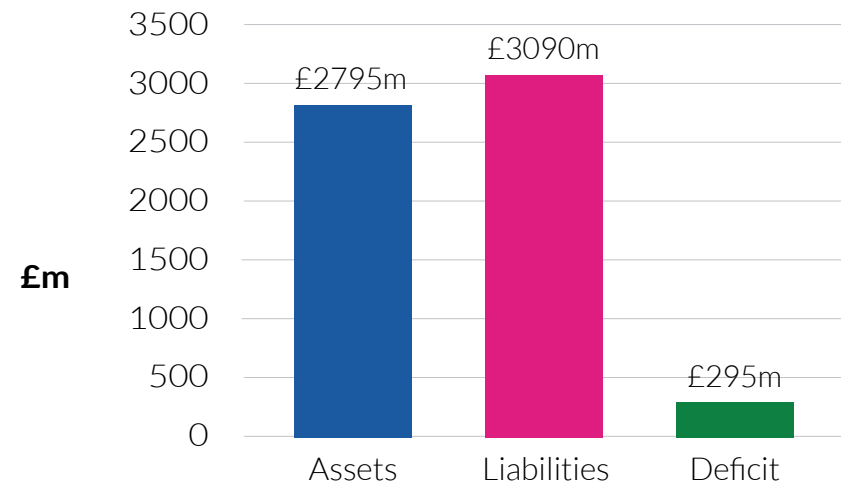
The valuation also showed that a common rate of contribution of 15.3% of pensionable pay per annum was required from employers. The common rate is calculated as being sufficient, together with contributions paid by members, to meet all liabilities arising in respect of service after the valuation date.

The funding objective as set out in the FSS is to achieve and maintain a solvency funding level of 100% of liabilities (the solvency funding target). In line with the FSS, where a shortfall exists at the effective date of the valuation a deficit recovery plan will be put in place which requires additional contributions to correct the shortfall. Equally, where there is a surplus it is usually appropriate to offset this against contributions for future service, in which case contribution reductions will be put in place to allow for this.

The FSS which can be found on the Funds website, sets out the process for determining the recovery plan in respect of each employer and takes on board all relevant assumptions such as demography, commutation, short term pay increases, RPI/CPI). At this actuarial valuation the average recovery period adopted is 15 years, and the total initial recovery payment (the "Secondary rate" for 2020-2023) is an addition of approximately £28m per annum in £ terms (which allows for the contribution plans which have been set for individual employers under the provisions of the FSS).

Further details regarding the results of the valuation are contained in the formal report on the actuarial valuation dated 31 March 2020.

90% Funded



In practice, each individual employer’s position is assessed separately, and the contributions required are set out in the report. In addition to the certified contribution rates, payments to cover additional liabilities arising from early retirements (other than ill-health retirements) will be made to the Fund by the employers.

The funding plan adopted in assessing the contributions for each individual employer is in accordance with the Funding Strategy Statement (FSS). Any different approaches adopted, e.g. regarding the implementation of contribution increases and deficit recovery periods, are as determined through the FSS consultation process.

The valuation was carried out using the projected unit actuarial method and the main actuarial assumptions used for assessing the Solvency Funding Target and the Primary rate of contribution were as follows:

	For past service liabilities (Solvency Funding Target)	For future service liabilities (Primary rate of contribution)
Rate of return on investments (discount rate)	4.05% per annum	4.65%** per annum
Rate of pay increases (long term) *	3.9% per annum	3.9% per annum
Rate of increases in pensions in payment (in excess of GMP)	2.4% per annum	2.4% per annum

**allowance was also made for short-term public sector pay restraint over a 4 year period.*

***This is the discount rate for the “growth pot” and applies to most of the employers. Certain employers have a more cautious investment strategy, and so a lower discount rate.*

The assets were assessed at market value. The next triennial actuarial valuation of the Fund is due as at 31 March 2022. Based on the results of this valuation, the contribution rates payable by the individual employers will be revised with effect from 1 April 2023.

The McCloud Judgment

The “McCloud judgment” refers to a legal challenge in relation to historic benefit changes for all public sector schemes being age discriminatory. The Government announced in 2019 that this needs to be remedied for all public sector schemes including the LGPS. This is likely to result in increased costs for some employers. This remedy is not yet agreed but guidance issued requires that each Fund sets out its policy on addressing the implications.

In line with guidance issued by the LGPS Scheme Advisory Board, the above funding level and Primary contribution rate do not include an allowance for the estimated cost of the McCloud judgment. However, at the overall Fund level we estimate that the cost of the judgment could be an increase in past service liabilities of broadly £29 million and an increase in the Primary Contribution rate of 0.6% of Pensionable Pay per annum.

Where the employer has elected to include a provision for the cost of the judgment, this is included within the secondary rate for that employer (and also within the whole Fund secondary rate of £28 million per annum shown above).

Impact of Covid-19

The valuation results and employer contributions above were assessed as at 31 March 2019. In 2020 we have so far seen significant volatility and uncertainty in markets around the world in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic. This potentially has far-reaching consequences in terms of funding and risk, which will need to be kept under review. We believe that it is important to take stock of the situation as opposed to make immediate decisions in what is an unprecedented set of events. Our view is that employer contributions should not be revisited but the position should be kept under review by the Administering Authority who will monitor the development of the situation and keep all stakeholders informed of any potential implications so that the outcome can be managed effectively.

Actuarial Present Value of Promised Retirement Benefits for the Purposes of IAS 26

IAS 26 requires the present value of the Fund's promised retirement benefits to be disclosed, and for this purpose the actuarial assumptions and methodology used should be based on IAS 19 rather than the assumptions and methodology used for funding purposes. To assess the value of the benefits on this basis, we have used the following financial assumptions as at 31 March 2020 (the 31 March 2019 assumptions are included for comparison):

	31 March 2019	31 March 2020
Rate of return on investments (discount rate)	2.4% per annum	2.4% per annum
Rate of CPI Inflation/CARE benefit revaluation	2.2% per annum	2.1% per annum
Rate of pay increases*	3.7% per annum	3.6% per annum
Rate of increases in pensions in payment (in excess of GMP)/Deferred revaluation	2.3% per annum	2.2% per annum

* This is the long-term assumption. An allowance corresponding to that made at the latest formal actuarial valuation for short-term public sector pay restraint was also included.

The demographic assumptions are the same as those used for funding purposes, with the 31 March 2020 assumptions being updated to reflect the assumptions adopted for the 2019 actuarial valuation. Full details of these assumptions are set out in the formal report on the actuarial valuation dated March 2020.

Corporate bond yields were similar at the start and end of year resulting in the same discount rate of 2.4% p.a. being used for IAS 26 purposes at the year-end as for last year. The expected long-term rate of CPI inflation decreased during the year, from 2.2% p.a. to 2.1%, which served to decrease the liabilities slightly over the year.

The value of the Fund's promised retirement benefits for the purposes of IAS 26 as at 31 March 2019 was estimated as £4,202 million including the potential impact of the McCloud Judgment.

Interest over the year increased the liabilities by c£101 million and allowing for net benefits accrued/paid over the period also increased the liabilities by c£63 million (this includes any increase in liabilities arising as a result of early retirements/augmentations and the potential impact of GMP Indexation – see comments below). There was also a decrease in liabilities of £159 million due to “actuarial gains” (i.e. the effects of the *changes in the actuarial assumptions used, referred to above, and the incorporation of the 31 March 2019 actuarial valuation results into the IAS26 figures*).

The net effect of all the above is that the estimated total value of the Fund's promised retirement benefits as at 31 March 2020 is therefore £4,207 million. Therefore, based on the IAS26 assumptions adopted, the IAS26 balance sheet position at the 31 March 2019 and the 31 March 2020 is as follows:

	31 March 2019	31 March 2020
	£m	£m
Present value of promised retirement benefits	4,202	4,207
Fair value of Fund assets	2,795	2,635
Net Liability	1,407	1,572

GMP Indexation

At present, the public service schemes are required to provide full CPI pension increases on GMP benefits for members who reach State Pension Age between 6 April 2016 and 5 April 2021. The UK Government may well extend this at some point in the future to include members reaching State Pension Age from 6 April 2021 onwards, which would give rise to a further cost to the LGPS and its employers. If the Fund were required to index-link GMP benefits in respect of those members who reach their State Pension Age after April 2021, then this would increase the Fund liabilities and we have included an approximate allowance for this within the final IAS26 liability figure above.

Paul Middleman
Fellow of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries
Mercer Limited
May 2020

Laura Evans
Fellow of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries
Mercer Limited
May 2020

NOTE 3: Events after the Reporting Date

These are events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or notes. Management have reviewed and can confirm that there are no significant events after the reporting period.

Covid-19

The Covid-19 global pandemic has caused significant uncertainty with regard to national economic conditions and this is likely to impact on the level of funding that local government bodies may receive in future years which will need to be taken into account for employer's contributions to the Fund.

It is anticipated that the future value of investments may be exposed to increased market volatility as a result of Covid-19 and this may impact on the value of the Fund in the short to medium term; however it is not possible to reliably estimate the financial impact of this on the position and performance of the Fund in future periods.

The Pension Fund Accounts include more specific detail regarding the impact of Covid-19 in the accompanying disclosure notes concerning Funding Arrangements and Accounting Assumptions and the Chief Financial Officer's foreword.

NOTE 4: Contributions Receivable

Normal contributions, both from the members and from employers, are accounted for on an accruals basis at the percentage rate recommended by the Fund's Actuary in the payroll period to which they relate.

Employer deficit funding contributions are accounted for on the due dates on which they are payable under the schedule of contributions set by the scheme Actuary or on receipt if earlier than the due date.

Employers' augmentation contributions and pension strain contributions are accounted for in the period in which the liability arises. Any amount due in year but unpaid will be classed as a current financial asset. Amounts not due until future years are classed as long-term financial assets. The contributions received are detailed below:-

	2018/19	2019/20
By Category	£m	£m
Employers		
Normal contributions	36.5	39.6
Deficit recovery contributions	18.8	19.0
Augmentation contributions	3.2	4.4
Additional contributions	0.0	0.0
Employees		
Normal contributions	23.0	24.0
Additional contributions	0.3	0.5
	81.8	87.5
By authority:		
Worcestershire County Council	9.4	10.0
Scheduled bodies*	58.2	63.2
Community admission bodies	5.4	5.9

	2018/19	2019/20
By Category	£m	£m
Transferee admission bodies	7.8	7.5
Designated bodies	1.0	0.9
	81.8	87.5

NOTE 5: Transfers in and from other Pension Funds

Transfer values represent the amounts received and paid during the year for members who have either joined or left the Fund during the financial year and are calculated in accordance with LGPS regulations. Individual transfers in/out are accounted for when received/paid, which is normally when the member liability is accepted or discharged.

Bulk (group) transfers are accounted for on an accruals basis in accordance with the terms of the transfer agreement. The Transfers in and from other Pension Funds are as follows:-

	2018/19	2019/20
By Category	£m	£m
Individual transfers	12.9	12.9
	12.9	12.9

NOTE 6: Benefits Payable

Pensions and lump-sum benefits payable include all amounts known to be due as at the end of the financial year. Any amounts due but unpaid are disclosed in the Net Assets Statement as current liabilities. The benefits paid are as follows:-

By category:	2018/19	2019/20
	£m	£m
Pensions	84.3	89.1
Commutations and lump sum retirement benefits	19.9	20.7
Lump sum death benefits	2.1	2.1
	106.3	111.9

By authority:	2018/19	2019/20
	£m	£m
Worcestershire County Council	39.1	41.7
Scheduled bodies	55.7	57.7
Admitted bodies	1.7	1.6
Community admission bodies	6.4	7.2
Transferee admission bodies	2.8	3.0
Designated bodies	0.6	0.7
	106.3	111.9

NOTE 7: Payments to and on Account of Leavers

	2018/19	2019/20
	£m	£m
Individual transfers	8.7	11.2
Group transfers	0.0	0.0
	8.7	11.2

At year-end there were no potential liabilities in respect of individuals transferring out of the Fund upon whom the Fund is awaiting final decisions.

NOTE 8: Administrative Expenses

All administrative expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis. All staff costs of the Fund’s administration team are charged direct to the Fund. Associated management, accommodation and other overheads are apportioned to this activity and charged as expenses to the Fund.

	2018/19	2019/20
	£m	£m
Employee expenses	0.6	0.6
Support services	0.1	0.1
Actuarial services	0.4	0.8
Other expenses	0.0	0.0
	1.1	1.5

The audit fee (included in support services above) for work completed by the Fund’s external auditors for the year ended 31 March 2020 was £23,742 (1.6% of total admin costs (£19,222 for the year ended 31 March 2019 1.9% of total admin costs)). In addition, a non-audit service fee of £8,500 included in support services above was incurred relating to IAS19 requirements.

NOTE 9: Management Expenses

The Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 1998 permit costs incurred in connection with the investment and administration of the Fund to be charged against the Fund.

The Code of Practice does not require any breakdown of the Fund's administrative expenses. However in the interests of greater transparency, the Fund discloses its management expenses in accordance with CIPFA guidance *accounting for Local Government Pension Scheme Management Costs*.

All oversight and governance expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis. All staff costs associated with governance and oversight are charged direct to the Fund. Associated management, accommodation and other overheads are apportioned to this activity and charged as expenses to the Fund.

	2018/19	2019/20
	£m	£m
Oversight and Governance	0.1	0.1
Investment Management Expenses		
Administration, management and custody fees*	11.9	14.4
Other expenses	0.0	0.0
	12.0	14.5

NOTE 9A: Investment Management Expenses

Fixed Income and Equity Investment Managers' expenses are charged on a percentage basis of the market value of assets under management and therefore increase or reduce as the value of these investments change. Global Custodian fees are agreed in the respective mandate governing their appointment.

The cost of obtaining investment advice from the Fund's Independent Investment Adviser is included in investment management charges. All investment management expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis. The management costs are as follows:-

	2018/19	2019/20
	£m	£m
Management fees	10.7	13.4
Custody fees	0.4	0.3
Transaction costs	0.8	0.7
	11.9	14.4

The £14.4m investment management expenses incurred in 2019/20 represent 0.55% or 55 basis points (bps) of the market value of the Fund's assets as at 31 March 2020 (0.42% or 42bps 31 March 2019).

The cash for the pooled property investments, pooled infrastructure investment and Equity Protection solution drawdowns were transitioned from the overweight position held in UK passive equities, which have a very low management fee in comparison.

The reason for the investment in pooled property investments and pooled infrastructure investments was to further diversify the Fund's assets whilst maintaining long term target investment returns. These investments have a J-Curve return profile, so are expected to provide increased returns as the pooled funds mature.

*The Fund has applied CIPFA's guidance 'Accounting for Local Government Pension Scheme Management Costs', which requires external investment management fees and transaction costs to be deducted from asset values (rather than invoiced and paid directly). These are shown gross: the application of the guidance increases management expenses from £12.8 million to £14.5 million for 2019/20 (£9.7 million to £12.0 million for 2018/19). It is important to note that the application of the guidance does not represent an actual increase in costs, or a decrease in the Fund's resources to pay pension benefits.

NOTE 10: Investment Income

Income from equities (dividend income) is accounted for on the date stocks are quoted ex-dividend. Any amount not received by the end of the reporting period is disclosed in the net assets statement as a current financial asset.

Income from fixed interest, cash and short-term deposits is accounted for on an accruals basis, using the effective interest rate of the financial institution as at the date of acquisition or origination. Income includes the amortisation of any discount or premium, transaction costs (where material) or other differences between the initial carrying amount of the instrument and its amount at maturity calculated on an effective interest rate basis. Income from other investments is accounted for on an accruals basis.

The changes in market value of investments during the year are recognised as income and comprise all increases and decreases in the market value of investments held at any time during the year, including profits and losses realised on sales of investments and unrealised changes in market value.

By authority:	2018/19	2019/20
	£m	£m
Fixed interest securities	14.4	2.0
Equity dividends	23.8	25.2
Pooled property investments	7.3	10.4
Pooled infrastructure investments	5.5	9.0
Interest on cash deposits	0.6	2.0
Securities lending	0.1	0.0
	51.7	48.6

NOTE 11: Taxes on Income

The Fund is a registered public service scheme under section (1) of schedule 36 of the Finance Act 2004 and as such is exempt from UK income tax on interest received and from capital gains tax on the proceeds of investments sold. Income from overseas investments suffers withholding tax in the country of origin, unless exemption is permitted. Irrecoverable tax is accounted for as a fund expense as it arises.

	2018/19	2019/20
	£m	£m
Withholding tax – equities	(1.5)	(0.7)
	(1.5)	(0.7)

NOTE 12: Investments

	Market value 31 March 2019	Market value 31 March 2020
	£m	£m
Long term Investment Assets		
LGPS Central – AFIM	0.0	0.0
LGPS Central shares	1.4	1.4
Investment Assets – LGPS Central Managed		
Equities	0.0	285.2
Fixed interest securities	0.0	143.6
Investment Assets – WPF Managed		
Fixed interest securities	361.5	211.2
Equities	715.7	307.9
Pooled investment vehicles	1,291.0	1,126.0
Pooled property investments	171.8	149.8
Pooled Infrastructure investments	159.4	299.1
Pooled Debt Assets	12.4	38.0
Derivatives – futures	32.1	42.8
Derivatives – forward FX	0.1	0.0
Cash deposits	32.9	25.5
Investment income due	7.3	5.3

	Market value 31 March 2019	Market value 31 March 2020
	£m	£m
Amounts receivable for sales	1.8	0.0
Total investment assets	2,787.4	2,635.8
Investment liabilities		
Derivatives – futures	(20.8)	(21.4)
Derivatives – forward FX	(2.8)	(0.0)
Amounts payable for purchases	(5.4)	(0.0)
Total investment liabilities	(29.0)	(21.4)
Net investment assets	2,758.4	2614.4

NOTE 12A: Reconciliation of Movements in Investments and Derivatives

	Market value 31 March 2019	Purchases during the year and derivative payments	Sales during the year and derivative receipts	Change in market value during the year	Market value 31 March 2020
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Long-term Investment Assets					
LGPS Central – AFIM	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
LGPS Central – Shares	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4
	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4
Investment Assets – LGPS Central Managed					
Fixed interest securities	0.0	345.9	0.0	(60.7)	285.2
Equities	0.0	158.6	0.0	(15.0)	143.6
	1.4	504.5	0.0	(75.7)	430.2
Investment Assets – WPF Managed					
Fixed interest securities	361.5	313.4	(466.1)	(2.4)	211.2
Equities	715.7	149.8	(541.6)	(16.0)	307.9
Pooled investment vehicles	1,291.0	3.8	(65.4)	(103.4)	1,126.0
Pooled Property investments	171.8	12.6	(26.2)	(8.4)	149.8
Pooled Infrastructure Investments	159.4	203.0	(78.0)	14.7	299.1
Pooled Debt investments	12.4	25.8	(1.6)	1.4	38.0
	2,713.2	1,212.9	(1,178.9)	(185.0)	2,562.2

	Market value 31 March 2019	Purchases during the year and derivative payments	Sales during the year and derivative receipts	Change in market value during the year	Market value 31 March 2020
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Derivative contracts:					
Futures	11.3	74.7	(83.9)	19.3	21.4
Forward currency contracts	(2.7)	15.0	(14.7)	2.4	0.0
	2,721.8	1,302.6	(1277.5)	(163.3)	2583.6
Other investment balances:					
Cash deposits	32.9			4.2	25.5
Investment income due	7.3				5.3
Amount receivable for sales of investments	1.8				0.0
Amounts payable for purchases of investments	(5.4)				0.0
Net investment assets	2,758.4			(159.1)	2,604.0

Prior year comparators:

	Market value 31 March 2018	Purchases during the year and derivative payments	Sales during the year and derivative receipts	Change in market value during the year	Market value 31 March 2019
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Long-term Investment Assets					
LGPS Central – AFIM	0.5	0.0	(0.5)	0.0	0.0
LGPS Central – Shares	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4
	1.9	0.0	(0.5)	0.0	1.4
Investment Assets					
Fixed interest securities	359.8	90.9	(88.3)	(0.9)	361.5
Equities	752.5	301.8	(304.5)	(34.1)	715.7
Pooled investment vehicles	1,292.0	1.7	(131.3)	128.6	1,291.0
Pooled Property investments	128.5	64.2	(22.8)	1.9	171.8
Pooled Infrastructure Investments	96.1	77.9	(16.0)	1.4	159.4
Pooled Debt Investments	0.0	15.0	(2.9)	0.3	12.4
	2,630.8	551.5	(566.3)	97.2	2,713.2
Derivative contracts:					
Futures	24.5	1.4	(1.3)	(13.3)	11.3
Forward currency contracts	1.6	13.7	(7.3)	(10.7)	(2.7)
	2,656.9	566.6	(574.9)	73.2	2,721.8
Other investment balances:					
Cash deposits	27.1			4.3	32.9

	Market value 31 March 2018	Purchases during the year and derivative payments	Sales during the year and derivative receipts	Change in market value during the year	Market value 31 March 2019
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Investment income due	6.5				7.3
Amount receivable for sales of investments	0.7				1.8
Amounts payable for purchases of investments	(1.8)				(5.4)
Net investment assets	2,689.4			77.5	2,758.4

The change in market value of investments during the year comprises all increases and decreases in the market value of investments held at any time during the year, including profits and losses realised on sales of investments during the year. The changes in purchases and sales in derivatives relate to transactions made within the equity protection strategy maintained by River & Mercantile.

Transaction costs are not included in the cost of purchases and sale proceeds, as they have been included in Investment Management Expenses as per CIPFA guidance. Transaction costs include costs charged directly to the scheme such as fees, commissions, and other fees. Transaction costs incurred during the 2019/2020 year amounted to £0.7 million, (2018/2019 £0.8 million). These transaction costs represent 0.03% or 3bps of the Market Value of the Fund's assets as at 31 March 2020 (3bps at 31 March 2019).

Indirect costs are incurred through the bid-offer spread on investments within pooled investments vehicles. The amount of indirect costs is not provided separately to the Fund.

NOTE 12B: Analysis of Investments (excl. Derivative Contracts, Cash and Other Balances)

	31 March 2019	31 March 2020
	£m	£m
Long term Investment Assets		
LGPS Central – AFIM	0.0	0.0
LGPS Central – shares	1.4	1.4
	1.4	1.4
Fixed interest securities		
UK Gilts	220.1	211.2
UK corporate quoted	7.3	0.0
Overseas public sector quoted	0.0	0.0
Overseas corporate quoted	134.1	0.0
	361.5	211.2
Equities		
UK quoted	13.2	8.8
Overseas quoted	702.5	293.1
	715.7	301.9
Pooled Investment Vehicles		
Other UK managed funds	375.0	285.9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UK equities ▪ Overseas equities 	483.5	449.4

	31 March 2019	31 March 2020
	£m	£m
Global equities	417.8	389.0
Emerging Market equities	0.0	287.9
Global bonds	0.0	143.6
Other overseas managed funds	14.7	5.0
	1,291.0	1,560.8
Pooled Funds – Additional Analysis		
Pooled property investments – UK	86.8	75.2
Pooled property investments – overseas	85.0	74.6
	171.8	149.8
Pooled Infrastructure investments	159.4	299.1
	159.4	299.1
Pooled Debt investments	12.4	38.0
	12.4	38.0
Derivatives – futures	32.1	42.8
Derivatives – forward FX	0.1	0.0
Cash deposits	32.9	25.5
Investment income due	7.3	5.3
Amounts receivable for sales	1.8	0.0
Total investment assets	2,787.4	2635.8
Investment liabilities		
Derivatives – futures	(20.8)	(21.4)

	31 March 2019	31 March 2020
	£m	£m
Derivatives – forward FX	(2.8)	(0.0)
Amounts payable for purchases	(5.4)	(0.0)
Total investment liabilities	(29.0)	(21.4)
Net investment assets	2,758.4	2614.4

NOTE 12C: Pension Fund Investments Analysed by Fund Manager

The proportion of the market value of investment assets held by external fund managers at the year-end was:

External Fund Manager	2018/19		2019/20	
	£m	%	£m	%
LGPS Central (Bonds)	0.0	0	143.6	6
LGPS Central (Emerging Markets)	0.0	0	285.2	11
JP Morgan Asset Management (Bonds)	144.6	5	0.2	0
JP Morgan Asset Management (Emerging Markets)	165.4	6	1.5	0
Nomura Asset Management UK Ltd	382.8	14	321.1	12
Schroder Investment Management	189.9	7	1.4	0
Legal and General Asset Management	1,276.2	46	1,118.3	43
Green Investment Bank	48.3	2	46.7	2
Hermes (Fund I and II)	48.6	2	97.9	4
Invesco (Euro and a UK Property Fund)	108.2	4	100.5	4

External Fund Manager	2018/19		2019/20	
	£m	%	£m	%
VENN	26.7	1	21.1	1
Walton Street	17.0	1	7.6	0
Walton Street II	0.0	0	3.2	0
AEW	19.9	1	17.4	1
Stonepeak	10.6	0	60.6	2
First State	51.9	2	93.9	4
EQT	12.4	0	38.0	1
River and Mercantile	241.8	9	245.4	9
WCC Managed Account	5.4	0	4.1	0
	2,749.7	100	2607.7	100

The above excludes £1.4m (2018/19 £1.4m) Invested in LGPS Central and £5.3m (2018/19 £7.3m) of Investment Income due.

The following investments represent more than 5% of the net assets of the scheme:

Security	Market value	% of total	Market value	% of total
	31 March 2019	Fund	31 March 2020	Fund
	£m	%	£m	%
LGIM – North America Index Pooled Fund	307.5	11.2	287.7	11.1
LGIM – UK Equity Index Pooled Fund	375.0	13.7	285.9	11.0
LGPS Central Emerging Market Equity Pool	0.0	0.0	285.2	11.0
River and Mercantile UK Gilts	220.1	8.0	211.2	8.1
LGIM – Europe (ex-UK) Index Pooled Fund	176.0	6.4	155.8	6.0
LGPS Central Corporate Bond Pool	0.0	0.0	143.6	5.5
LGIM Client Specific United Fund – STAJ	133.8	4.9	137.4	5.3
LGIM – FTSE Developed Equity Pooled Fund	159.6	5.8	134.0	5.1

NOTE 12D: Stock Lending

The Fund operates the practice of lending stock to a third party for a financial consideration. Securities released to a third party under the stock lending agreement with the Fund’s custodian, BNY Mellon, are included in the net assets statement to reflect the Fund’s continuing economic interest of a proprietary nature in those securities.

The total amount of stock lent at the year-end was £4.6 million (2019 £25.9 million). Counterparty risk is managed through holding collateral at the Fund’s custodian bank. The total collateral, which consisted of acceptable corporate and sovereign debt as well as equities was £5.0 million (2019 £28.1 million) representing 108.8% of stock lent.

Income received from stock lending activities was £0.0 million for the year ending 31 March 2020 (2019 £0.1 million). This is included within the ‘Investment Income’ figure detailed on the Fund Account.

Stock lending commissions are remitted to the Fund via the custodian. During the period the stock is on loan, the voting rights of the loaned stocks are passed to the borrower. There are no liabilities associated with the loaned assets.

NOTE 13: Analysis of Derivatives

The Fund uses derivative financial instruments to manage its exposure to specific risks arising from its investment activities. The Fund does not hold derivatives for speculative purposes.

The value of futures contracts is determined using exchange prices at the reporting date. Amounts due from or owed to the broker are the amounts outstanding in respect of the initial margin and variation margin. The future value of forward currency contracts is based on market forward exchange rates at the year-end date and determined as the gain or loss that would arise if the outstanding contract were matched at the year-end with an equal and opposite contract.

Objectives and Policies for Holding Derivatives

Most of the holding in derivatives is to hedge exposures to reduce risk in the Fund. Derivatives may be used to gain exposure to an asset more efficiently than holding the underlying asset. The use of derivatives is managed in line with the investment management agreement between the Fund and its investment managers.

In 2019/20 the Fund entered into a contract with River and Mercantile, to hedge the recent gains in Equities. This involved entering into exchange-traded options on 3 major indices and purchasing a collateral pool of Gilts.

a) Futures

The Fund's investment managers hold cash balances in order to ensure efficient and timely trading when opportunities arise. The Fund's management did not want this cash to be 'out of the market' and so enabled a number of investment managers to buy and sell futures contracts which had an underlying economic value broadly equivalent to the cash held. The economic exposure represents the notional value of the stock purchased under futures contracts and is therefore subject to market movements. The portfolio cannot be geared to and must have the liquidity needed to cover open positions. Derivative receipts and payments represent the realised gains and losses on futures contracts.

b) Forward Foreign Currency

In order to maintain appropriate diversification and to take advantage of overseas investment returns, the Fund's bond mandate targets outperformance against a global benchmark index. To reduce volatility associated with the fluctuating currency rates, the Fund has enabled the bond mandate investment manager to purchase and sell forward foreign currencies as a hedge.

Dividends, interest and purchases and sales of investments in foreign currencies have been accounted for at the spot market rates at the date of transaction. End-of-year spot market exchange rates are used to value cash balances held in foreign currency bank accounts, market values of overseas investments and purchases and sales outstanding at the end of the reporting period.

Futures

Outstanding exchange traded futures contracts are as follows:

Assets		Economic Exposure	Market Value at 31 March 2019	Economic Exposure	Market Value at 31 March 2020
Type of future	Expiration	£m	£m	£m	£m
UK gilt exchange traded	Under one year	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
UK FTSE exchange traded option	Under one year	0.0	23.5	0.0	15.9
EUROSTOXX exchange traded option	Under one year	0.0	4.5	0.0	15.2
US S+P exchange traded option	Under one year	0.0	3.8	0.0	11.7
Overseas exchanged traded	Under one year	27.6	0.3	0.0	0.0
Total assets			32.1		42.8

Liabilities		Economic Exposure Value	Market Value at 31 March 2019	Economic Exposure Value	Market Value at 31 March 2020
Type of future	Expiration	£m	£m	£m	£m
UK gilt exchange traded	Under one year	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
UK FTSE exchange traded option	Under one year	0.0	(12.8)	0.0	(9.5)
EUROSTOXX exchange traded option	Under one year	0.0	(2.7)	0.0	(6.1)
US S+P 500 exchange traded option	Under one year	0.0	(5.1)	0.0	(5.8)
Overseas exchanged traded	Under one year	(21.4)	(0.2)	(21.4)	0.0
Total liabilities			(20.8)		(21.4)

Net futures			11.3		21.4
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Open forward currency contracts at 31 March 2020

Settlement	Currency Bought	Local Currency Value	Currency Sold	Local Currency Value	Asset Value	Liability Value
		£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
There were no Open Contracts at 31 March 2020						
					0.0	(0.0)
Net forward currency contracts at 31 March 2020						0.0
Prior year comparative						
Open forward currency contracts at 31 March 2019					0.1	(2.8)
Net forward currency contracts at 31 March 2019						(2.7)

Analysis of Cash

Cash comprises demand deposits and cash equivalents; these include amounts held by the Fund's external managers. Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and that are subject to minimal risk of changes in value.

	2018/19	2019/20
Cash	£m	£m
Cash deposits	18.2	18.6
Cash instruments	14.7	6.9
	32.9	25.5

NOTE 14: Fair Value**NOTE 14A: Basis of Valuation**

The basis of the valuation of each class of investment asset is set out below. There has been no change in the valuation techniques used during the year. All assets have been valued using fair value techniques which represent the highest and best price available at the reporting date.

Description of asset	Valuation hierarchy	Basis of valuation	Observable and unobservable inputs	Key sensitivities affecting the valuations provided
Market-Quoted Investments	Level 1	Published bid market price ruling on the final day of the accounting period	Not required	Not required
Fixed Interest Securities	Level 1	Fixed interest securities are valued at net market value based on current yields	Not required	Not required
Pooled Equity Funds	Level 2	Closing bid price where bid and offer prices are published; or the single price, as applicable	Net Asset Value (NAV)-based pricing set on a forward pricing basis and in the case of accumulation funds, reinvested income net of applicable withholding tax	Not required
Forward foreign exchange derivatives	Level 2	Market forward exchange rates at the year-end	Exchange rate risk	Not required
Derivatives – Futures	Level 2	Option pricing model	Annualised volatility of counterparty credit risk	Not required
Property, Infrastructure and Debt Funds	Level 3	Unit or security price as advised by Investment Manager or responsible entity	Funds share of net assets in limited partnership, using Financial Statements published by the manager as at the final day of the accounting period	Valuations could be affected by material events occurring between the date of the financial statements provided and the Fund's own reporting date, by changes to expected cashflows, and by any differences between audited and unaudited accounts

Please see paragraphs under the Net assets Statement for more detail of our basis for measurement for the above Financial Instruments.

NOTE 14B: Fair Value Hierarchy

Level 1

Financial instruments at Level 1 are those where the fair values are derived from unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. Products classified as level 1 comprise quoted equities, quoted fixed interest securities and quoted index linked securities.

Listed investments are shown at bid prices. The bid value of the investment is based on the bid market quotation of the relevant stock exchange.

Level 2

Financial instruments at level 2 are those where quoted market prices are not available; for example, where an instrument is traded in a market that is not considered to be active, or where valuation techniques are used to determine fair value and where these techniques use inputs that are based significantly on observable market data.

Level 3

Financial instruments at level 3 are those where at least one input could have a significant effect on the instrument's valuation is not based on observable market data.

Such instruments would include unquoted equity investments, pooled property investments and pooled infrastructure investments which are valued using various valuation techniques that require significant judgement in determining appropriate assumptions.

The following table provides an analysis of the financial assets and liabilities of the pension fund into levels 1 to 3, based on the level at which the fair value is observable:

Values at 31 March 2020	Quoted market price	Using observable inputs	With significant unobservable inputs	Total
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 2	
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Fair Value Financial assets				
Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	953.2	1168.8	486.9	2,598.5
Total fair value financial assets	953.2	1168.8	486.9	2608.9
Fair Value Financial Liabilities				
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit and loss		(21.4)		(21.4)
Total fair value financial liabilities	0.0	(21.4)	0.0	(21.4)
Net fair value financial assets	953.2	1147.4	486.9	2587.5
Values at 31 March 2019	Quoted market price	Using observable inputs	With significant unobservable inputs	Total
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 2	
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Fair Value Financial assets				
Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	1,086.3	1,323.2	343.6	2,753.1
Total fair value financial assets	1,086.3	1,323.2	343.6	2,753.1
Fair Value Financial Liabilities				
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit and loss		(29.0)		(29.0)

Values at 31 March 2019	Quoted market price	Using observable inputs	With significant unobservable inputs	Total
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 2	
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Total fair value financial liabilities	0.0	(29.0)	0.0	(29.0)
Net fair value financial assets	1,086.3	1,294.2	343.6	2,724.1

NOTE 14C: Sensitivity of Assets valued at Level 3

Having analysed historical data and current market trends, and consulted with independent investment advisors, the Fund has determined that the valuation methods described in Note 14a are likely to be accurate to within the following ranges and has set out below the consequent potential impact on the closing value of investments held at 31 March 2020.

Sensitivity Analysis	Valuation Range	Value as at 31 March 2020	Valuation Increase	Valuation Decrease
	+/- %	£m	£m	£m
Pooled Investments – Property Funds	15%	149.8	172.3	127.3
Pooled Investments – Infrastructure Funds	6.5%	299.1	320.0	278.2
Pooled Investments – Debt Funds	6.5%	38.0	40.7	35.3
Total		486.9	532.8	440.8

Reconciliation of Fair Value Measurements within Level 3

Investment Movement	Pooled Investments – Property Funds	Pooled Investments – Infrastructure Funds	Pooled Investments – Debt Funds	Total
	£m	£m		£m
Market Value 1 April 2019	171.8	159.4	12.4	343.6
Transfers into Level 3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Transfers out of Level 3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Purchases and derivative Pymts	12.6	203.0	25.8	241.4
Sales and derivative receipts	(26.2)	(78.0)	(1.6)	(105.8)
Unrealised gains/(losses)	(8.9)	15.2	0.9	7.2
Realised gains/(losses)	0.5	(0.5)	0.5	0.5
Market value 31 March 2020	148.9	299.1	38.0	486.9

NOTE 15: Financial Instruments**NOTE 15A: Classification of Financial Instruments**

Accounting policies describe how different asset classes of financial instruments are measured, and how income and expenses, including fair value gains and losses, are recognised. The following table analyses the carrying amounts of financial assets and liabilities by category and net assets statement heading.

Fair value through profit and loss	Financial Instruments at Amortised Cost		Fair value through profit and loss	Financial Instruments at Amortised Cost
2018/19	2018/19		2019/20	2019/20
£m	£m		£m	£m
Financial assets				
	1.4	Other share capital		1.4
0.0		LGPS Central Managed	428.8	
361.5		Fixed interest securities	211.1	
715.7		Equities	307.9	
1,291.0		Pooled investment vehicles	1,126.0	
171.8		Pooled property investments	149.8	
159.4		Pooled Infrastructure investments	299.1	
12.4		Pooled Debt investments	38.0	
32.1		Derivatives – Futures	42.8	
0.1		Derivatives – Forward FX	0.0	
	58.7	Cash		29.6
9.1		Other investment Balances	5.3	
	13.4	Current assets		31.2

Fair value through profit and loss	Financial Instruments at Amortised Cost		Fair value through profit and loss	Financial Instruments at Amortised Cost
2018/19	2018/19		2019/20	2019/20
£m	£m		£m	£m
	1.5	Non-current assets		2.0
2,753.1	75.0		2608.9	64.2
		Financial liabilities		
(20.8)		Derivatives – Futures	(21.4)	
(2.8)		Derivatives – Forward FX	(0.0)	
(5.4)		Other investment balances	(0.0)	
	(3.8)	Current liabilities		(6.3)
(29.0)	(3.8)		(21.4)	(6.3)
2,724.1	71.2		2587.5	57.9

NOTE 15B: Net Gains and Losses on Financial Instruments

31 March 2019		31 March 2020	
£m		£m	
Financial assets			
97.2	Fair value through profit and loss		(185.0)
4.3	Financial Assets at Amortised Cost		4.2
Financial liabilities			
(24.0)	Fair value through profit and loss		21.7
77.5	Total		(159.1)

Fair value through profit and loss is the combination of realised and unrealised profit and loss.

The Fund has not entered into any financial guarantees that are required to be accounted for as financial instruments.

NOTE 16: Nature and Extent of Risks arising from Financial Instruments

In the course of every day operating, the Fund is subject to a number of risk factors arising from the holding of financial instruments. The main risks arising from the holding of the Fund's financial instruments are market risk, credit risk and liquidity risk.

As detailed in the Investment Strategy Statement, the Fund holds equity and bond instruments in order to meet its investment objectives. The Fund's investment objectives and risk management policies are as follows;

- i) The investment objective for the Fund is to:-
 - a. Ensure that sufficient assets are available to meet liabilities as they fall due;
 - b. Maximise the return at an acceptable level of risk.
- ii) Risk management is mostly concerned with:
 - c. Avoiding the possibility of loss, or
 - d. Limiting a deficiency in the underlying Fund, or
 - e. Avoiding a contribution rate increase in the future.

Market Risk

Market risk is the risk of loss from fluctuations in equity and commodity prices, interest and foreign exchange rates and credit spreads. The Fund is exposed to market risk from its investment activities, particularly through its equity holdings. The level of risk exposure depends on market conditions, expectations of future price and yield movements and the asset mix. The objective of the Fund's risk management strategy is to identify, manage and control market risk exposure within acceptable parameters, whilst optimising the return on risk. There are three main types of market risk that the Fund is exposed to as at 31 March 2020:

- Equity Risk
- Interest Rate Risk
- Foreign Exchange Risk

Equity risk refers to the risk arising from the volatility in stock prices; this can be systematic risk, the risk due to general market factors and affects the entire industry, or unsystematic risk, which refers to the risk specific to a company that arises due to the company specific characteristics. Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of a security will fall as a result of increase in interest rates. Foreign exchange risk arises because of fluctuations in the currency exchange rates.

The Fund reduces its unsystematic equity risk by diversifying investments across global markets, investing in over 1,000 companies worldwide through active segregated mandates and passive pooled funds. Investment restrictions are built into contracts held with each investment manager to ensure risk concentration is minimal and gearing of the Fund's equity and fixed income assets cannot take place. An Equity Protection Strategy has also been implemented to protect against significant market falls in its passive equity portfolio.

Interest rate risk has been reduced through the holding of fewer bonds as a percentage of the Fund's total assets.

Foreign Exchange risk exists in relation to the Fund's overseas equity investments. The Fund runs un-hedged equity portfolios and therefore is subject to currency fluctuations. It is the Administering Authority's view that in the long-run currency volatility trends to an average of nil against Sterling and therefore any hedging of currency would just be an additional cost to the Fund.

The Fund contracts Portfolio Evaluation Ltd to measure the Fund's investment returns, absolute and relative risk for each portfolio and also for the Fund as a whole independently. The Fund receives quarterly reports from Portfolio Evaluation Ltd listing returns and risk. The Fund's Independent Investment Adviser also provides a yearly report to the Pension Investment Advisory Panel, providing details of the Fund's risk and comparisons to other LGPS Funds.

Equity Risk Analysis

Following analysis of historical data and expected investment return movement during the financial year, in consultation with the Fund's Independent Investment Adviser and Portfolio Evaluation Ltd, the Fund has determined that the following movements in market price risk are reasonably possible for the 2019/20 reporting period:

Asset Type	Potential Market Movements (+/-)
Fixed interest securities	5.7%
Global Bonds	5.7%
UK equities	14.1%
Overseas equities	11.9%
UK pooled investment vehicle	14.1%
Overseas pooled investment vehicle	12.5%
Global pooled investment vehicle	12.5%
Emerging Markets Pooled Equities	12.5%
Pooled property investments	15.0%
Pooled Infrastructure investments	6.5%
Pooled Debt Investments	6.5%

The potential price changes disclosed above are broadly consistent with a one standard deviation movement in the value of the assets. The analysis assumes that all other variables, in particular foreign exchange rates and interest rates, remain the same.

If the market price of the Fund's investments increases/decreases in line with the potential market movements above, the change in the net assets available to pay benefits will be as follows (the actual prior year movement in all asset classes is shown in note 12):

Asset Type	Value as at 31 March 2020	Percentage change	Value on increase	Value on decrease
	£m	%	£m	£m
Cash and cash equivalents	25.5	0.0%	25.5	25.5
Investment portfolio assets:				
UK fixed interest securities	211.2	5.7%	223.2	199.2
Overseas fixed interest securities	0.0	5.7%	0.0	0.0
Global Bonds	143.6	5.7%	151.8	135.4
UK equities	8.8	14.1%	10.0	7.6
Overseas equities	293.1	11.9%	328.0	258.2
UK pooled investment vehicle	285.9	14.1%	326.2	245.6
Overseas pooled investment vehicle	454.4	12.5%	511.2	397.6
Global pooled investment vehicle	389.0	12.5%	437.6	340.4
Emerging Market Pooled Equities	287.9	12.5%	323.9	251.9
Pooled property investments	149.8	15.0%	172.2	127.4
Pooled Infrastructure investments	299.1	6.5%	318.6	279.6
Pooled Debt Investments	38.0	6.5%	40.5	35.5
Net derivative assets	11.0	0.0%	11.0	11.0
Investment income due	5.3	0.0%	5.3	5.3
Amounts receivable for sales	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Amount payable for purchases	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Total	2,602.6		2885.1	2320.1

Prior-year Comparators

Asset Type	Value as at 31 March 2019	Percentage change	Value on increase	Value on decrease
	£m	%	£m	£m
Cash and cash equivalents	32.9	0.0%	32.9	32.9
Investment portfolio assets:				
UK fixed interest securities	227.4	3.3%	234.9	219.9
Overseas fixed interest securities	134.1	3.3%	138.5	129.7
UK equities	13.2	9.2%	14.4	12.0
Overseas equities	702.5	12.1%	787.5	617.5
UK pooled investment vehicle	375.0	9.2%	409.5	340.5
Overseas pooled investment vehicle	498.2	10.5%	550.5	445.9
Global pooled investment vehicle	417.8	10.5%	461.7	373.9
Pooled property investments	171.8	6.1%	182.3	161.3
Pooled Infrastructure investments	159.4	6.1%	169.1	149.7
Pooled Debt Investments	12.4	6.1%	13.2	11.6
Net derivative assets	8.6	0.0%	8.6	8.6
Investment income due	7.3	0.0%	7.3	7.3
Amounts receivable for sales	1.8	0.0%	1.8	1.8
Amount payable for purchases	(5.4)	0.0%	-5.4	-5.4
Total	2,757.0		3,006.8	2,507.2

Interest Rate Risk Analysis

The Fund's direct exposure to interest rate movements is set out below. These disclosures present interest rate risk based on the underlying financial assets at fair value:

Asset Type	Value as at 31 March 2019	Value as at 31 March 2020
	£m	£m
Cash and cash equivalents	32.9	25.5
Cash balances	25.8	4.1
Fixed interest securities	361.5	211.2
Total	420.2	240.8

Interest Rate Risk Sensitivity Analysis

The Fund recognises that interest rates can vary and can affect both income to the Fund and the value of the net assets available to pay benefits. The Fund's performance reporting advisor, Portfolio Evaluation Limited, has advised that medium to long-term average rates are expected to move less than 100 basis points from one year to the next and experience suggests that such movements are likely.

The analysis that follows assumes that all other variables, in particular exchange rates, remain constant, and shows the effect in the year on the net assets available to pay benefits as at 31 March 2020 of a +/- 100 Basis Points (BPS) change in interest rates:

Asset Type	Carrying amount as at 31 March 2020	Change in year in the net assets available to pay benefits	
	£m	+100 BPS	-100 BPS
	£m	£m	
Cash and cash equivalents	25.5	25.8	25.2
Cash balances	4.1	4.1	4.1
Fixed interest securities	211.2	213.3	209.1
Total change in assets available	240.8	243.2	238.4

Asset Type	Carrying amount as at 31 March 2019	Change in year in the net assets available to pay benefits	
		+100 BPS	-100 BPS
	£m	£m	
Cash and cash equivalents	32.9	33.2	32.6
Cash balances	25.8	26.1	25.5
Fixed interest securities	361.5	365.1	357.9
Total change in assets available	420.2	424.4	416.0

A 1% increase in interest rates will not affect the interest received on fixed income but will reduce their fair value and vice versa. Changes in interest rates do not impact the value of cash deposits/cash and cash equivalent balances but they will have a small effect on the interest income received on those balances. Charges to both the fair value of assets and the income received from investments impact on the net assets available to pay benefits.

Currency Risk

The following table summarises the Fund's currency exposure:

Currency exposure – asset type	Asset value as at 31 March 2019	Asset value as at 31 March 2020
	£m	£m
Overseas quoted securities	702.5	293.1
Overseas pooled investment vehicle	483.0	454.4
Global pooled investment vehicle	433.0	389.0
Global Bonds and Pooled EM Equities	0.0	431.5
Overseas pooled property investments	85.0	74.6
Total overseas assets	1,703.5	1,642.6

Overseas bonds are 100% hedged to GBP at 31 March 2020.

Currency Risk – Sensitivity Analysis

Following analysis of historical data in consultation with the Fund’s performance measurement provider, the Fund considers the likely volatility associated with foreign exchange rate movements to be 10.2% (as measured by one standard deviation).

This analysis assumes that all other variables, in particular interest rates, remain constant.

An 10.2% strengthening/weakening of the pound against various currencies in which the Fund holds investments would increase/decrease the net assets available to pay benefits as follows:

Currency exposure – asset type	Asset value as at 31 March 2020	Change to net assets available to pay benefits	
		+10.2%	-10.2%
	£m	£m	
Overseas quoted securities	293.1	323.0	263.2
Overseas pooled investment vehicle	454.4	500.7	408.1
Global pooled investment vehicle	389.0	428.7	349.3
Global Bonds and Pooled EM Equities	431.5	475.5	387.5
Overseas pooled property investments	74.6	82.2	67.0
Total change in assets available	1,642.6	1,810.1	1,475.1

Currency exposure – asset type	Asset value as at 31 March 2019	Change to net assets available to pay benefits	
		+11.0%	-11.0%
	£m	£m	
Overseas quoted securities	702.5	779.9	625.1
Overseas pooled investment vehicle	498.2	553.1	443.3
Global pooled investment vehicle	417.8	463.8	371.8
Overseas pooled property investments	85.0	94.4	75.6
Total change in assets available	1,703.5	1,891.2	1,515.8

Credit Risk

Credit risk is an investor's risk of loss arising from a borrower who does not make payments as promised. In essence the Fund's entire investment portfolio is exposed to some form of credit risk, with the exception of the derivatives position, where the risk equates to the net market value of a positive derivative position. However the selection of high quality counterparties, brokers and financial institutions minimises credit risk that may occur through the failure to settle a transaction in a timely manner. Investment restrictions are listed in the contract held with the manager, which limit the amount of credit risk the manager is allowed to take and also states an average credit rating with regards to bonds held that should be maintained.

The bond manager provides a quarterly investment report to the Fund, which details the credit risk held in the portfolio. The Fund's Independent Investment Adviser also provides a yearly report to the Pension Investment Advisory Panel, providing details of the Fund's bond portfolio absolute and relative risk.

Deposits are not made with banks and financial institutions unless they are rated independently and have a strong credit rating. In addition, the Fund invests an agreed percentage of its funds in the money markets to provide diversification. Money market funds chosen all have an 'AAA' rating from a leading rating agency.

The Fund's cash holding at 31 March 2020 was £29.6 million (31 March 2019: £58.4 million). This was held with the following institutions:

Summary	Rating	Balances as at 31 March 2019	Balances as at 31 March 2020
		£m	£m
Money market funds			
BNY Mellon US Dollar Liquidity Fund	AAA	6.4	6.9
JPM GBP Liquidity LVNAV	AAA	6.7	0.0
JPM liq-USD Liquidity-XDI	AAA	1.7	0.0
Bank deposit accounts			
The Bank of New York Mellon	A-1+	17.8	18.6
Bank current accounts			
Barclays Bank PLC	A-1	25.8	4.1
Total		58.4	29.6

The above Assets are held at Amortised Cost and are either liquid or very short dated securities in high-quality counterparties. Therefore the expected loss is assessed as a trivial sum and no allowance has been set aside for this.

Liquidity Risk

Market liquidity risk is the risk that a given security or asset cannot be traded quickly enough in the market to prevent a loss (or make the required profit) or to meet the financial obligations of the Fund as they fall due. The Fund's investment managers purchase quoted and tradable securities. Equities held are listed on major world stock markets and managers employed are highly experienced in equity trading. The liquidity risk relating to the bond holdings is monitored and managed by the bond manager on an on-going basis. The Council also takes steps to ensure that the pension fund has adequate cash resources to meet commitments.

NOTE 17: Current Assets

	2018/19	2019/20
	£m	£m
Contributions due from employer in respect of:		
Employer	8.8	6.9
Members	1.7	1.8
Magistrates Courts Bulk Transfer Payment Due	0.6	0.0
Augmentation	0.1	0.0
Cash balances	25.8	4.1
Other Debtors	2.2	22.5
	39.2	35.3

The above Assets are carried at Amortised cost, other than cash balances and other debtors (see below), the funds are due from Government institutions and therefore no allowance for expected losses has been set aside. The other debtors increase in 2019/20 mainly relate to the withdrawal of part of our Equity portfolio with River & Mercantile.

NOTE 18: Non-current Assets

	2018/19	2019/20
	£m	£m
Magistrates Courts Bulk Transfer Payment Due	0.0	0.0
*LGPS Central Capital Advance treated as loan	0.7	0.7
**Reimbursement of lifetime tax allowances	0.2	0.2
Contributions from Employers	0.0	0.1
Augmentation	0.6	1.0
	1.5	2.0

**This was part of the regulatory capital required to set up the company LGPS Central Limited.*

***This includes debtor in relation to the lifetime tax allowance limit as the fund pays all the tax upfront on behalf of the pensioner and is reimbursed from additional pension deductions over time*

NOTE 19: Current Liabilities

	2018/19	2019/20
	£m	£m
Investment management expenses	(3.6)	(0.8)
Payroll and external vendors	(0.2)	(1.0)
Other expenses	(0.0)	(4.5)
	(3.8)	(6.3)

NOTE 20: Related Party Transactions

Worcestershire County Council

The Fund is administered by Worcestershire County Council. Consequently there is a strong relationship between the Council and the Fund.

The Council incurred costs of £1.5 million in 2019/2020 (2018/2019: £1.0 million) in relation to the administration of the Fund and was subsequently reimbursed by the Fund for these expenses. The Council is also the single largest employer of members of the Fund and contributed £10.0 million to the Fund in 2019/2020 (2018/2019: £9.4 million).

LGPS Central Limited has been established to manage investment assets on behalf of eight LGPS funds across the Midlands. It is jointly owned in equal shares by the eight Administering Authorities participating.

The annual running costs of £0.6 million was charged to the Fund in 2019/20 by LGPS Central (£0.5 million in 2018/19).

Key Management Personnel

The posts of Chief Financial Officer, Senior Finance Manager and HR Service Centre Manager are deemed to be key management personnel with regards to the Fund. The financial value of their relationship with the Fund (in accordance with IAS24) is set out below:

	2018/19	2019/20
	£000	£000
Short term benefits*	50	49
Long term/ post-retirement benefits**	389	429
	439	478

*This is the pension's element of short term remuneration for key management personnel, i.e. annual salary, benefits in kind and employer contributions

**This is the accrued pension benefits, expressed as cash equivalent transfer value.

Governance

The Pensions Committee Employer Representative, Employee Representative and Chief Financial officer are active members of the Fund.

NOTE 21: Contingent Liabilities

A contingent liability arises where an event has taken place prior to the year-end giving rise to a possible financial obligation whose existence will only be confirmed or otherwise by the occurrence of future events.

Outstanding capital commitments (investments) at 31 March 2020 totalled £147.5 million (31 March 2019: £294.5 million).

These commitments relate to outstanding call payments due on unquoted limited partnership funds held in the Pooled Property Investments, Pooled Infrastructure investments and Pooled Debt Investments part of the portfolio. The amounts 'called' by these funds are irregular in both size and timing over a period of between one and three years from the date of the original commitment.

NOTE 22: Contingent Assets

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

Contingent assets are not recognised in the financial statements but are disclosed as a note to the accounts.

The Councils below have provided guarantees to a number of organisations that have been admitted to the Fund to fund any potential pension liability. The organisations with a pension liability more than £195,000 (which the Fund considers to be material for these purposes) are:-

- HALO Leisure (£1.273million), **Herefordshire Council**
- Wychavon Leisure Community Association (£0.509 million), **Wychavon District Council**
- Bromsgrove District Housing Trust (£0.679 million), **Bromsgrove District Council**
- Community Housing Group (£5.835 million), **Wyre Forest District Council**

There are a further 15 organisations with a pension liability less than £195,000. The Fund has considered various factors in determining the potential risk of having to fund any future liability, including risk of failure of the business and membership profile, and is satisfied that they do not represent a significant potential liability. There are also 10 organisations with a guarantee via pass through arrangements. As new contractors, these employers will all commence fully funded with no initial funding deficit. In line with the 'Initial pension guarantee' employers above, we are assuming that the active members would remain active on termination of the contract and be transferred back to the relevant school/academy or to the new service provider. On this basis, the amount for all these employers is reflected as nil for this year's accounts.

Eleven admitted body employers in the Fund hold insurance bonds to guard against the possibility of being unable to meet their pension obligations. These bonds are drawn in favour of the Fund and payment will only be triggered in the event of employer default. No bonds were called upon in this financial year.

Note that the existing bonds and guarantees from the previous financial year have all been discussed with the Actuary 'Mercers' and updated where necessary.

NOTE 23: Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs)

The Fund provides an in-house AVC scheme for its members. In 2019/2020 some members of the Fund paid voluntary contributions and transfers to Scottish Widows and Utmost Life (Was Equitable Life until the 1 January 2020) to buy extra pension benefits when they retire. Retirement benefits were also purchased during the year. The contributions are paid directly from scheme employers to the AVC provider. Each AVC contributor receives an annual statement showing the amount held in their account and the movements in the year.

AVCs are not included in the pension fund accounts in accordance with Regulation 4(1)(b) of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of funds) Regulations 2016 but are disclosed as a note only.

The amounts administered under AVC arrangements are as follows:

	2018/19	2019/20
	£m	£m
Contributions received	0.2	0.2
Investments purchased	0.2	0.2
Change in market value	0.2	(0.2)
Retirement benefits paid or transferred	0.3	0.2

The combined value of the AVC funds at 31 March 2020 was £2.6 million, (31 March 2019 £2.8 million).

NOTE 24: Agency Services

The Fund pays discretionary awards to the former employees of Herefordshire County Council. The amounts paid are not included within the Fund's Accounts but are provided as a service and fully reclaimed from the employer. The sums are disclosed below.

	2018/19	2019/20
	£m	£m
Payments on behalf of Herefordshire County Council	0.1	0.1
	0.1	0.1

NOTE 25: Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

The Fund's liabilities are calculated every three years by the appointed Actuary. The methodology used is in line with accepted guidelines and in accordance with IAS 19. Assumptions underpinning the valuations are agreed with the Actuary and are summarised in note 2. This estimate is subject to significant variances based on changes to the underlying assumptions.

There were no significant changes to the CIPFA code of practice on local authority accounting (the code). IFRS 9 requires the investment assets to be accounted for at fair value within the accounts. The adoption of IFRS 9 in 2018 had no impact on the accounts for pension funds as the investment assets were already held at fair value through profit and loss as directed by the code.

The adoption of IFRS 15 revenue from customers with contracts was also introduced from 1 April 2018. This had no impact on the pension fund accounts as the Funds revenue is primarily Investment Interest and Contributions, both of which are outside the scope of the standard.

NOTE 26: Assumptions Made About the Future and any Other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities at the year-end date and the amounts reported for the revenues and expenses during the year. Estimates and assumptions are made considering historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, the nature of estimation means that the actual outcomes could differ from the assumptions and estimates.

The item in the notes to the accounts at 31 March 2020 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year is as follows.

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits (Note 2)	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Fund with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.	<p>The effects on the net pension liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured. For instance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a 0.5% increase in the discount rate assumption would result in an 8% decrease in the pension liability, which is equivalent to £229m ▪ a 0.25% increase in assumed earnings inflation would result in a 0.8% increase in the value of liabilities, which is equivalent to £23m ▪ a one-year increase in assumed life expectancy would result in a 2% increase in the value of liabilities, which is equivalent to £69m.
Property and infrastructure valuations. (Level 3 investments)	The Funds directly held investment properties are valued at fair value by independent valuers in accordance with RICS valuation professional standards, whilst infrastructure investments are valued at fair value by independent experts. For 2019-20 there is additional uncertainty regarding the property valuations due to the time that it will take to fully realise the impact of Covid-19 upon illiquid assets such as property. The valuations have been updated based on the information available as at 31 March 2020 and may be subject to variations as further market information becomes available.	<p>The total value of direct property investments in the financial statements is £149.8m (£171.8m in 2018-19). There is a risk that this investment may be under or overstated in the accounts.</p> <p>The total value of direct infrastructure investment in the financial statements is £299.1m (£159.4m in 2018-19). There is a risk that this investment may be under or overstated in the accounts.</p>

VALUATION OF INVESTMENTS LEVEL 3

Financial instruments at level 3 are those where at least one input could have a significant effect on the instrument's valuation is not based on observable market data. Such instruments would include unquoted equity investments, pooled property investments and pooled infrastructure investments which are valued using various valuation techniques that require significant judgement in determining appropriate assumptions. As well as the details in the table above, further detail is provided in Notes 14a to c above.

Independent Auditor’s Report to the members of Worcestershire County Council on the Pension Fund Financial Statements of Worcestershire Pension Fund

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Worcestershire Pension Fund (the ‘pension fund’) administered by Worcestershire County Council (the ‘Authority’) for the year ended 31 March 2020 which comprise the Fund Account, the Net Assets Statement and Notes to the Accounts, which include significant accounting policies. 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 2019/20.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the pension fund during the year ended 31 March 2020 and of the amount and disposition at that date of the fund’s assets and liabilities,
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20; and
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the ‘Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements’ section of our report. We are independent of the Authority in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the pension fund’s financial statements in the UK, including the FRC’s Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The impact of macro-economic uncertainties on our audit

Our audit of the pension fund financial statements requires us to obtain an understanding of all relevant uncertainties, including those arising as a consequence of the effects of macro-economic uncertainties such as Covid-19 and Brexit. All audits assess and challenge the reasonableness of estimates made by the Chief Financial Officer and the related disclosures and the appropriateness of the going concern basis of preparation of the financial statements. All of these depend on assessments of the future economic environment.

Covid-19 and Brexit are amongst the most significant economic events currently faced by the UK, and at the date of this report their effects are subject to unprecedented levels of uncertainty, with the full range of possible outcomes and their impacts unknown. We applied a standardised firm-wide approach in response to these uncertainties. However, no audit should be expected to predict the unknowable factors or all possible future implications for a fund associated with these particular events.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

- The Chief Financial Officer’s use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the pension fund’s financial statements is not appropriate; or
- The Chief Financial Officer has not disclosed in the pension fund’s financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Authority’s ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for the pension fund for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the pension fund’s financial statements are authorised for issue.

In our evaluation of the Chief Financial Officer’s conclusions, and in accordance with the expectation set out within the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20 that the pension fund financial statements shall be prepared on a going concern basis, we considered the risks associated with the Fund’s operating model, including effects arising from macro-economic uncertainties such as Covid-19 and Brexit, and analysed how those risks might affect the Fund’s financial resources or ability to continue operations over the period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue. In accordance with the above, we have nothing to report in these respects.

However, as we cannot predict all future events or conditions and as subsequent events may result in outcomes that are inconsistent with judgements that were reasonable at the time they were made, the absence of reference to a material uncertainty in this auditor’s report is not a guarantee that the Fund will continue in operation.

Other information

The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts other than the pension fund’s financial statements, our auditor’s report thereon and our auditor’s report on the Authority’s financial statements. Our opinion on the pension fund’s financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the pension fund’s financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the pension fund’s financial statements or our knowledge of the pension fund obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the pension fund’s financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matter required by the Code of Audit Practice published by the National Audit Office on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (the Code of Audit Practice)

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit of the pension fund's financial statements and our knowledge of the pension fund the other information published together with the pension fund's financial statements in the Statement of Accounts the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the pension fund's financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Under the Code of Audit Practice, we are required to report to you if:

- We issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- We make a written recommendation to the Authority under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- 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 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or;
- We issue an advisory notice under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- We make an application for judicial review under Section 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit.

We have nothing to report in respect of the above matters.

Responsibilities of the Authority, the Chief Financial Officer and Those Charged with Governance for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities set out on pages 30-31, the Authority is required to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this authority, that officer is the Chief Financial Officer The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the pension fund's 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 2019/20, for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Chief Financial 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 pension fund's financial statements, the Chief Financial Officer is responsible for assessing the pension fund'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 there is an intention by government that the services provided by the pension fund will no longer be provided.

The Audit and Governance Committee is Those Charged with Governance. Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Authority's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the members of the Authority, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and as set out in paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Authority's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Authority and the Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Peter Barber

Peter Barber Key Audit Partner
for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Local Auditor
Birmingham

27 October 2020



Please contact us if you need this document in another format,
or if you have any questions.

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Find out more online:
www.worcestershire.gov.uk