

# DRAFT ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2023/24

## Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service



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# Introductory Statements



# Narrative Statement

## 1. Foreword

Our purpose is **Safer People, Safer Places** in both our communities and our workplaces.

We must understand who our service users are and what services they need to ensure we can continue to deliver a well-managed service, focused on the end users and to direct our resources efficiently and effectively.

The corporate plan sets out how we will achieve our purpose and describes our service priorities and aims; departmental and district plans will detail how we will successfully achieve our desired outcomes.

Our prevention, protection and response teams will continue to manage the number and impact of incidents and will react effectively when they do happen. Our support teams will enable prevention, protection and response to deliver.

Our staff and our communities must feel safe and have confidence in the quality of the service that we provide and the way in which we deliver it. We've agreed a range of activities within our plan to make sure we continue to achieve our statutory duties and deliver an excellent fire and rescue service.

## 2. Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland cover an area of more than 979 square miles. It has a network of major motorways, an international airport, large scale businesses, buildings of historical importance and protected wildlife sites.

It has a mix of urban, semi-rural and rural localities. The population is growing and ageing; at present it stands at just over 1.1 million people living in over 435,000 domestic properties. There are over 34,000 business premises.

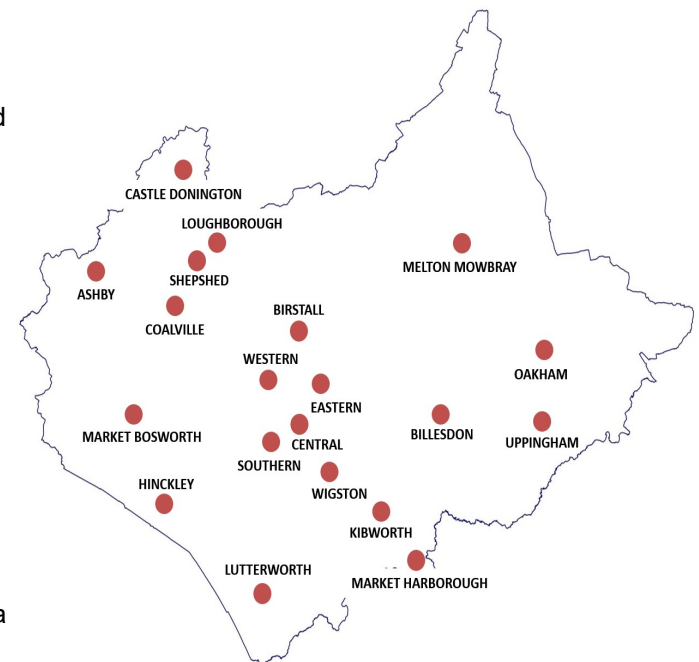
## 3. The Combined Fire Authority

The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority (CFA) govern the Fire and Rescue Service. The CFA is responsible for delivering both an effective fire and rescue service to Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and the Corporate Plan and Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP). It provides clear leadership for residents and communities to ensure we operate with transparency and accountability.

## 4. About Us

We have 20 fire stations throughout Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, as shown in the map, and a fleet of fire engines and other operational vehicles. We employ just over 688 **total** staff; circa 525 are firefighters, 27 Fire Control Staff and the remainder are non-firefighting staff. We attend and resolve over 9,000 emergency incidents each year:

fires in buildings, complex rescue incidents involving road traffic collisions, hazardous materials, buildings collapsing and rescuing people trapped in water.



## Narrative Statement (continued)

### 5. Performance/ Achievements

Performance	2022/23	2023/24		2022/23	2023/24
<b>Incidents</b>			<b>Fire Protection</b>		
Fires	2,650	2,087	Fire safety audits	1,413	1,268
Road Traffic Collisions	710	787	Building regulations inspections	711	643
False Alarms	3,290	3,389	Fire safety concerns	664	771
Special Services	2,790	3,082	Specific inspections	244	372
	<b>9,440</b>	<b>9,345</b>	Desk based inspections	109	175
			Licensing consultations	242	245
			Fire safety advice requests	403	496
				<b>3,786</b>	<b>3,970</b>
<b>Prevention</b>			<b>Enforcement</b>		
Home fire safety checks	13,660	14,823	Prohibition notices	22	42
Smoke alarms fitted	4,767	4,894	Enforcement (formal) notices	62	64
	<b>18,427</b>	<b>19,717</b>	Action plans	138	151
			Deficiency notices	290	255
			Alteration notices	12	14
			Interim measures	37	5
				<b>561</b>	<b>531</b>

Incident numbers have been slightly lower this year compared to the 3 year average. Fire incidents have decreased, this is primarily due to a reduction in secondary fires as a result of the wet weather experienced in the last 12 months. Fire false alarms have also been higher than expected this year, although when you consider the increase in the number of alarms now installed, many of which are hard wired in new build properties, this isn't surprising. There was a continued increase in 'special service' incidents, particularly with Road Traffic Collisions and effecting entry/exit. There was also an increase in flooding incidents, again linked to the weather.

Prevention and Protection activities have continued to increase significantly in the past 12 months. The number of home safety checks reached 14,823 and the number of fire safety audits completed in the Risk Based Inspection Programme also increased to 1,268, both exceeding the 3-year average.

Total Average response times:	2022/23	2023/24
Life Threatening Incidents	10 mins 39 secs	11 mins 44 secs
Non-Life Threatening Incidents	9 Mins 56 Secs	10 mins 5 secs

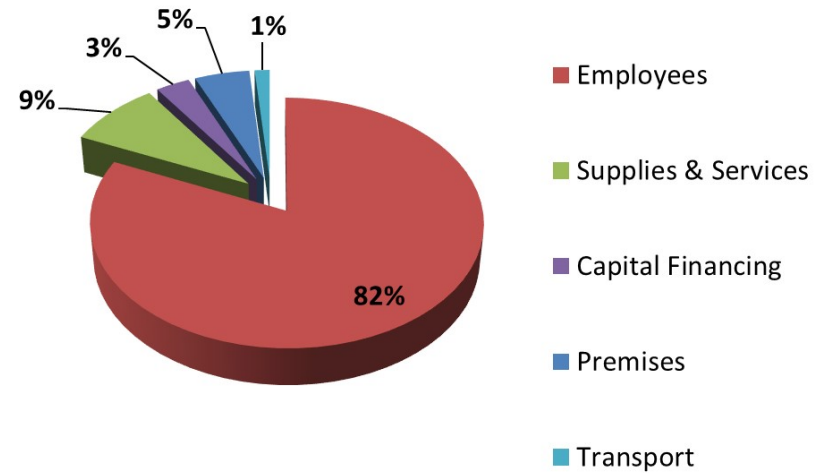
## Narrative Statement (continued)

### 6. Financial Performance

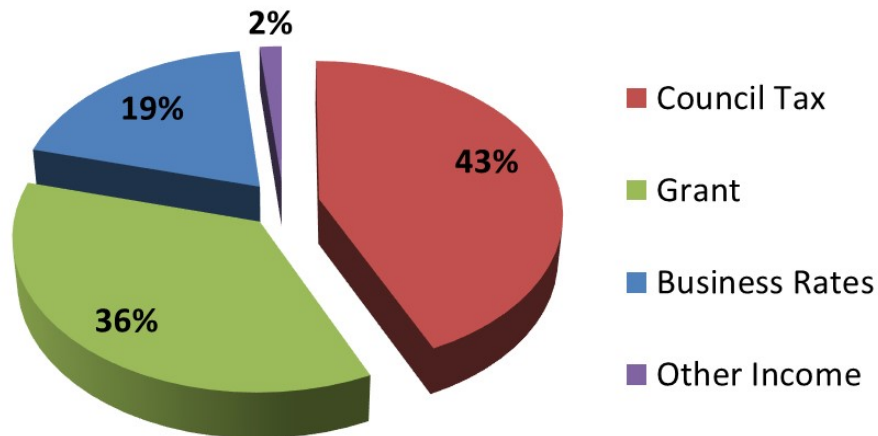
The budget for 2023/24 was set without knowing what level of funding would be available beyond 2023/24, nor how the effect of the agreed higher pay awards and economic downturn would impact us. The CFA addressed the budget pressures in 2023/24 through the use of the budget strategy reserve.

Net expenditure on provision of services was £39,221k in 2023/24 and £42,671k in 2022/23. The chart to the right sets out the spend by subjective description.

### 2023/24 Spend by Category



### 2023/24 Sources of Funding



The expenditure above is funded through various resources as demonstrated to the left: The Expenditure and Funding analysis in note 2 shows the relationship between the outturn position above and what is reported in the Combined Fire Authority's (CFA's) Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. As part of the governance process the CFA's Revenue Outturn report is reported to the CFA.

## **Narrative Statement (continued)**

### **7. Pension Liabilities**

#### **Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)**

The CFA is a member of the Leicestershire local government pension scheme. In previous years the CFA has shown a significant liability on the pension fund, however since 2022/23 the CFA's share of the pension fund assets, exceeds the CFA's obligations due to the rise in long term interest rates leading to expected higher returns on investments. Despite this, the CFA's minimum funding contribution for future years are still more than the future years service cost. Therefore, following the asset ceiling requirements, this year the final position is still shown as a net liability.

#### **Firefighters Pensions**

The CFA recognises a significant liability in respect of the four statutory unfunded firefighter pension schemes. There is no requirement, or legal powers, for the CFA to fund this deficit, and any costs not financed by future levels of employee or employer contributions will be met by grant from the Home Office.

More details on pensions can be found in Note 36.

## Narrative Statement (continued)

### 8. Net Assets

2023/24			2022/23		
<b>Non-current Assets</b> (Property, Plant & Equipment) £56m <b>Net Current Assets</b> (Debtors, Creditors and Cash) £18m <b>£75m</b>	<b>Long Term Liabilities</b> Pensions (£375m) <b>Long Term Liabilities</b> Provisions and Borrowing (£11m) <b>(£387m)</b>	Funded by: Useable Reserves £23m Unusable Reserves (£334m) <b>(£311m)</b>	<b>Non-current Assets</b> (Property, Plant & Equipment) £52m <b>Net Current Assets</b> (Debtors, Creditors and Cash) £19m <b>£71m</b>	<b>Long Term Liabilities</b> Pensions (£370m) <b>Long Term Liabilities</b> Provisions and Borrowing (£11m) <b>(£383m)</b>	Funded by: Useable Reserves £22m Unusable Reserves (£333m) <b>(£311m)</b>
<b>Net Liability 31st March 2024</b> £311m			<b>Net Liability 31st March 2023</b> £311m		



## Narrative Statement (continued)

### 9. Capital

Capital expenditure of £3.9M was incurred in 2023/24. Details of the spending can be seen in the table.

A number of projects initiated in 2023/24 are expected to continue into the next financial year, these include the purchase of 4 appliances, the major refurbishment at Western Station, operational equipment and ICT purchases.

Capital Spend 2023/24		
Category	£000	Spend Includes:
Vehicles	1,741	7 new appliances and 2 variable response vehicles
Property	1,314	Western, Eastern and Market Bosworth Stations refurbishment with some initial costs for the new L&D build
Firefighting Equipment	90	Minor equipment items
ICT	549	New ICT equipment and upgrades to support systems and servers
Mobilisation System	169	New replacement mobilising system costs
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,863</b>	

## Narrative Statement (continued)

### 10. Governance

Details regarding the CFA governance arrangements can be found in the Annual Governance Statement (page 97) along with the significant risks facing the authority.

### 11. Looking Ahead

The CFA has set a balanced budget for 2024/25. The Revenue and Capital programme for the following 3 years was reported to the CFA on 14/02/2024.

When setting the 2024/25 budget the CFA recognised the need to set a sustainable budget. However, it recognised the budget was under pressure from increased costs from pay awards, inflation and the Day Crewing Shift system and there was a need to have a significant transformation and efficiency programme.

### 12. Conclusion

The Authority's Finance and Resources strategy aims to deliver value for money quality services. The Authority will need to continue to ensure that it uses its cash and fixed asset resources in the most efficient and effective way possible. This will be important in maximising available resources whilst operating with prudent financial disciplines.

Further details on the Authority's organisational structure, corporate plans and strategic issues can be found in the Annual Governance Statement.

## Narrative Statement (continued)

### 13. Structure of the Statement of Accounts and Core Accounting Statements

The Statement of Accounts sets out the CFA's income and expenditure for the year, at its financial position at 31 March 2024. It comprises core and supplementary statements, together with disclosure notes. The format and content of the financial statements are prescribed by the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24. This is based on International Financial Reporting Standards adopted for use in the public sector context.

The Core Statements are:

- The **Comprehensive Income and Expenditure (CIES) Statement** - this shows the net cost of providing services. This statement is prepared on the accounting basis. The Expenditure and Funding Analysis compares the CIES with level of income and expenditure which are taken into account when setting the annual budget and council tax, since certain amounts are disregarded under statute.
- The **Movement in Reserves Statement** is a summary of the changes in the CFA's reserves over the course of the year. Reserves are divided into usable reserves which can be used to fund future expenditure and unusable reserves which are maintained to meet statutory responsibilities.
- The **Balance Sheet** shows the CFA's assets and liabilities at the year end. Net assets are matched by reserves which may be usable or unusable.
- The **Cash Flow Statement** shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents during the year and explains the reasons.

The Supplementary Financial Statements are:

- The **Annual Governance Statement** provides an overview of the CFA's key governance arrangements and updates readers on the conclusions of the annual review of these, including any changes and improvements that are being made.

The notes to these financial statements provide more detail about the CFA's accounting policies and individual transactions.

# Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

## THE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Combined Fire Authority is required to;

- i) 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 the CFA that officer is the Treasurer,
- ii) manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets,
- iii) approve the Statement of Accounts.

**These accounts are not yet approved by the Combined Fire Authority**

**CLlr Nicholas Rushton - CHAIR OF THE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY**

## THE TREASURER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

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

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Treasurer has:

- i) selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently,
- ii) made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent,
- iii) complied with the local authority Code,
- iv) kept proper accounting records which were up to date,
- v) taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**Amy Oliver**

**TREASURER OF THE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY**

**Date: 12/08/2024**

# Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority

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# Core Financial Statements



# Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

The **Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement** shows the CFA's actual financial performance for the year on the accounting basis, measured in terms of the resources consumed and generated over the financial period under the relevant accounting standards. This statement is prepared on the accounting basis and shows a deficit on the Provision of Services in 2023/24 of £2.34m.

Total comprehensive income and expenditure includes various transactions which illustrate aspects of the CFA's financial position but do not impact on the 'bottom line' amounts chargeable to taxpayers, in particular deficits on the revaluation of pension liabilities and deficits on revaluation of property assets.

## Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (continued)

2022/23			2023/24				
Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure		Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
£000	£000	£000	Note	£000	£000	£000	
46,425	(3,754)	42,671	Combined Fire Authority	42,866	(3,645)	39,221	
<b>46,425</b>	<b>(3,754)</b>	<b>42,671</b>	<b>Cost of Services</b>	<b>42,866</b>	<b>(3,645)</b>	<b>39,221</b>	
	(135)	(135)	Other Operating Expenditure		(38)	(38)	
14,118	(385)	13,733	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	12	17,415	(648)	16,767
	(48,319)	(48,319)	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income and Expenditure	13		(53,529)	(53,529)
<b>60,543</b>	<b>(52,593)</b>	<b>7,950</b>	<b>(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services</b>		<b>60,281</b>	<b>(57,860)</b>	<b>2,421</b>
		(2,271)	(Surplus) or Deficit on Revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment Assets	24b			(1,622)
		(154,038)	Remeasurement of the Net Defined Benefit Liability	24d			(231)
		<b>(156,309)</b>	<b>Other Comprehensive Income &amp; Expenditure</b>				<b>(1,853)</b>
		<b>(148,359)</b>	<b>Total Comprehensive Income &amp; Expenditure</b>				<b>568</b>

# Movement in Reserves Statement

The Movement in Reserves Statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the authority, analysed into ‘usable reserves’ (those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other unusable reserves which contain items that illustrate the difference between the authority’s financial position under accounting standards (“the accounting basis”) and the amount charged to the taxpayer for the year (“the funding basis”).

2023/24	General Fund Balance	Earmarked Reserves	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
Note	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Note</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>24</b>	
<b>Balance at 31st March 2023 brought forward</b>	<b>(3,408)</b>	<b>(19,086)</b>	<b>(22,494)</b>	<b>333,190</b>	<b>310,696</b>
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	2,421	-	<b>2,421</b>	(1,853)	<b>568</b>
Adjustments between accounting basis & Funding basis under regulations	9 (2,994)	-	<b>(2,994)</b>	2,994	-
Transfers to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	10 573	(573)	-	-	-
<b>Balance at 31st March 2024 carried forward</b>	<b>(3,408)</b>	<b>(19,659)</b>	<b>(23,067)</b>	<b>334,331</b>	<b>311,264</b>

## Movement in Reserves Statement (continued)

2022/23		General Fund Balance	Earmarked Reserves	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
	Note	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Note		23	10		24	
<b>Balance at 31st March 2022 brought forward</b>		(2,987)	(19,167)	(22,154)	481,209	459,055
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income		7,950	-	7,950	(156,309)	(148,359)
Adjustments between accounting basis & Funding basis under regulations	9	(8,290)	-	(8,290)	8,290	-
Transfers to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	10	(81)	81	-	-	-
<b>Balance at 31st March 2023 carried forward</b>		(3,408)	(19,086)	(22,494)	333,190	310,696

# Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows the CFA's assets and liabilities.

The top of the Balance Sheet shows the CFA's net assets. Assets include property, plant & equipment, intangible assets, amounts owed to the CFA and the CFA's cash and financial investments. Liabilities include amounts owed by the CFA (including conditional funding received), provisions made in respect of future events, the CFA's borrowing and the deficit on the CFA's pension fund.

The bottom of the Balance Sheet shows how the CFA's net assets are financed by reserves, which are divided into usable and unusable reserves.

<b>31st March 2023</b>		<b>Note</b>	<b>31st March 2024</b>
<b>£000</b>			<b>£000</b>
52,183	Property, Plant & Equipment	15	55,765
194	Intangible Assets	16	528
<b>52,377</b>	<b>Long Term Assets</b>		<b>56,293</b>
489	Inventories	18	457
7,510	Short Term Debtors	19	6,707
15,282	Cash and Cash Equivalents	20	16,159
<b>23,281</b>	<b>Current Assets</b>		<b>23,323</b>
(44)	Short Term Borrowing	17a	(1,024)
(4,367)	Short Term Creditors	21	(4,183)
(50)	Provisions (<1 year)	22	(79)
<b>(4,461)</b>	<b>Current Liabilities</b>		<b>(5,286)</b>
(333)	Provisions (>1 year)	22	(338)
(11,211)	Long Term Borrowing	17a	(10,191)
(370,349)	Net Pensions Liability	24d	(375,065)
<b>(381,893)</b>	<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>		<b>(385,594)</b>
<b>(310,696)</b>	<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>(311,264)</b>
	<u>Represented by:</u>		
(22,494)	Usable Reserves	23	(23,067)
333,190	Unusable Reserves	24a	334,331
<b>310,696</b>	<b>Total Reserves</b>		<b>311,264</b>



# Cash Flow Statement

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

<b>2022/23</b>		<b>2023/24</b>
<b>£000</b>		<b>£000</b>
	<b>Note</b>	
7,950	Net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services	2,421
(12,936)	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	(7,510)
-	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing or financing activities	451
<b>(4,986)</b>	<b>Net cash flows from Operating Activities</b>	<b>(4,638)</b>
2,637	Net cash flows from Investing Activities	3,412
1,389	Net cash flows from Financing Activities	349
<b>(960)</b>	<b>Net (increase) or decrease in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>(877)</b>
14,322	Cash in hand, (overdraft) and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	15,282
<b>15,282</b>	<b>Cash in hand, (overdraft) and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>	<b>16,159</b>

# Explanatory Notes To The Core Financial Statements

# Note 1 Accounting Policies

## Changes in Accounting Policies

Only minor amendments have been made to the 2023/24 accounting policies to provide users with greater clarity.

## Accounting Policies for 2023/24

### 1. General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the CFA's transactions for the 2023/24 financial year and its position at the year-end of the 31st March 2024. The CFA is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 which those regulations require to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 as applicable to Fire Authorities and the Service Reporting Code of Practice 2023/24 (SeRCOP), supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

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

All figures in the Statement have been rounded to the nearest £1,000, which may result in some rounding errors.

### 2. Recognition of Income and Expenditure

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

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the CFA 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 CFA.

Revenue from the provision of services is recognised when the CFA 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 CFA.

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

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

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

Where revenue or expenditure has been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the

Balance Sheet. Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.

### 3. Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

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

## Note 1 Accounting Policies (continued)

### 4. Prior Year Adjustments, Changes in Accounting Policies and Estimates and Errors.

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

Changes in accounting policies are only made when required by proper accounting practices or the change provides more reliable or relevant information about the effect of transactions, other events and conditions on the CFA's financial position or financial performance.

Where a change is made, it is applied retrospectively (unless stated otherwise) by adjusting opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period as if the new policy had always been applied.

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

### 5. Charges to Revenue for Non-current Assets

Services and support services are debited with the following amounts to record the cost of holding non-current assets during the year:

- Depreciation attributable to the assets used
- Revaluation and impairment losses on assets where there are no accumulated gains in the Revaluation Reserve against which the losses can be written off
- Amortisation of intangible assets.

The CFA is not required to raise council tax to fund depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisation. However, it is required to make an annual contribution from revenue towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement equal to an amount calculated on a prudent basis determined by the CFA in accordance with statutory guidance.

Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisation are therefore replaced by the contribution in the General Fund Balance (Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) or the Statutory Repayment of Loans Fund Advances, by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement (MIRS) for the difference between the two.

### 6. Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates

Billing authorities act as agents, collecting council tax and non-domestic rates (NDR) on behalf of the major preceptors (including government for NDR) and, as principals, collecting NDR and council tax for themselves. Billing authorities are required by statute to maintain a separate fund (i.e. the Collection Fund) for the collection and distribution of amounts due in respect of council tax and NDR. Under the legislative framework for the Collection Fund, billing authorities, major preceptors and central government share proportionately the risks and rewards that the amount of council tax and NDR collected could be less or more than predicted.

#### **Accounting for Council Tax and NDR**

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

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

## Note 1 Accounting Policies (continued)

### 7. Employee Benefits

#### Benefits Payable During Employment

Short-term employee benefits are those due to be settled wholly within 12 months of the year-end. They include wages, salaries, paid annual leave and paid sick leave, bonuses and non-monetary benefits (e.g. provided cars) for current employees and are recognised as an expense for services in the year in which employees render service to the CFA.

An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlement earned by the employee but not taken before the end of the financial year. The accrual is made at the wage and salary rates applicable in the following accounting year, being the period in which the employee takes the benefit. The accrual is charged to Services and reversed into the period when the entitlement is taken. To avoid an impact on balances this is reversed in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

#### Termination Benefits

Termination benefits are payable as a result of a decision by the CFA to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy.

These costs are charged on an accruals basis to the appropriate service when the CFA is committed to the termination, or makes an offer to encourage voluntary redundancy.

Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, the General Fund Balance is required to be charged, however this is adjusted (in line with regulations) in the Movement in Reserves Statement to reflect the cash paid rather than the liability incurred under accounting standards.

#### Post - Employment Benefits

Employees of the CFA are members of one of two pension schemes, all of which are accounted for as defined benefits schemes.

- The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), for which Hymans Robertson calculate the liability as at the 31st March 2024 and which Leicestershire County Council administer.

- The Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2015, for which the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) calculate the liability:

The Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2015 does not have the usual type of pension fund found in the private sector which uses investments to help meet scheme liabilities. The CFA is required to maintain a Firefighters' pension fund which:

~ receives employee and employer contributions and transfer values from other schemes, and

~ pays out benefits and transfer values to other schemes.

The CFA does not have the power to invest assets in the Firefighters' pension scheme as would normally be the case with a pension fund. If the fund has insufficient money to meet all of its pension liabilities, the Secretary of State will make up the shortfall; if the fund is in surplus, the Secretary of State will take the excess to cover any shortfall in the funds of other Authorities.

The liabilities attributable to the CFA are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method - i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates etc, and projections of earnings for current employees.

Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate of 4.85% for the LGPS and 4.75% for the Firefighter's schemes.

The assets of the LGPS attributable to the CFA are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value: The change in the pensions asset/liability is analysed into the following six components:

- Current service cost - the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year - allocated in the CIES to the services for which the employees worked

- Past service costs - the increase in liabilities arising from current year decisions whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years - debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the CIES

- Net interest on the net defined benefit liability – the net of the expected increase in the present value of liabilities over the year arising from the passage of time and the expected return on scheme assets discounted at the discount rate used for the liabilities. This is part of Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure.

## Note 1 Accounting Policies (continued)

- Gains/ Losses on settlements and curtailments – the results of actions to relieve the CFA of liabilities or events that reduce the expected future service or accrual of benefits of employees – debited to the Net Cost of Services as part of Non-Distributed Costs.

- Re-measurements of the net defined benefit obligation – this is the change in the net pensions liability over the year attributable to changes in demographic and financial assumptions.

- Contributions paid to the Leicestershire County Council Pension Fund – cash paid as employer's contributions to the pension fund.

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

### Discretionary Benefits

The CFA also has restricted powers to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirements. Any liabilities estimated to arise as a result of an award to any member of staff are accrued in the year of the decision to make the award and accounted for using the same policies as are applied to the LGPS scheme.

### 8. Events After the Balance Sheet Date

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

- those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period - the Statement of Accounts is adjusted to reflect such events.

- those indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period - the Statement of Accounts is not adjusted to reflect such events, but where a category of events would have a material effect, disclosure is made in the notes of the nature of the events and their estimated financial effect.

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

### 9. Financial Instruments

#### Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the CFA becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value and are carried at their amortised cost. Annual charges to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES for interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability.

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

#### Financial Assets

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

- Amortised Cost
- Fair value through profit or loss (FVPL), and
- Fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI)

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

## Note 1 Accounting Policies (continued)

### 10. Government Grants and Contributions

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

- the CFA will comply with the conditions attached to payments, and
- the monies will be received.

Amounts recognised as due to the CFA are not credited to the CIES until conditions attached to the grant or contribution have been satisfied. Conditions are stipulations that specify that the future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the asset in the form of the grant or contribution are required to be consumed by the recipient as specified, or future economic benefits or service potential must be returned to the transferor.

Monies advanced as grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried in the Balance Sheet as creditors.

### 11. Intangible Assets

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

### 12. Interests in Companies and Other Entities

The CFA is one of twelve members of the Fire & Rescue Indemnity Company Limited (FRIC). The CFA's risk protection arrangements are provided through the pooled funds of the company. Further details of payments to FRIC are provided in Note 34.

### 13. Value Added Tax

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

### 14. Leases

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

Where a lease covers both land and buildings, each element is considered separately for classification. Arrangements that do not have the legal status of a lease but convey a right to use an asset in return for payment are accounted for under this policy.

#### CFA as Lessor

The following agreements with the CFA remain:

- East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) for the occupation of an area within Headquarters & Coalville Fire Station.

- Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire for the occupation of an area within Coalville Fire Station.

#### CFA as Lessee

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

Lease payments are apportioned between;

- A charge for the acquisition of the interest in the property, plant or equipment - applied to write down the lease liability, and
- A finance charge (debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES).



## Note 1 Accounting Policies (continued)

### 15. Property Plant and Equipment

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

#### Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of property, plant and equipment is capitalised on an accruals basis, provided it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the CFA and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. Expenditure that maintains but does not add to an asset's potential to deliver future economic benefits or service potential (i.e. repairs and maintenance) or is under a £5k de-minimus limit is charged as an expense when it is incurred.

#### Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising all expenditure that is directly attributable to bringing the asset into working condition for its intended use. The CFA does not capitalise borrowing costs incurred whilst assets are under construction.

The cost of assets acquired other than by purchase is deemed to be its fair value. Assets are then carried in the Balance Sheet using the following measurement bases:

- Offices and workshops - current value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use
- Fire stations - due to the specialised nature of the asset existing use value (EUV) cannot be assessed so it is held at depreciated replacement cost (DRC)

- assets under construction - depreciated historical cost

- All other assets - current value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset under EUV.

Where there is no market-based evidence of current value because of the specialist nature of an asset, depreciated replacement cost (DRC) is used as an estimate of current value.

Where non-property assets that have short useful lives or low values (or both), depreciated historical cost basis is used as a proxy for current value.

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at current value are revalued annually. The latest valuation exercise was carried out by Cameron Butler BLE (Hons) MRICS of FHP Property Consultants. The asset values used in the accounts are based on a certificate issued by FHP Property Consultants on all properties as at the 31st March 2024.

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

#### Impairment

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

#### Depreciation

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

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- Buildings - straight line allocation over the useful life of the property as estimated by the valuer.
- Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment - a percentage of the value of each asset in the Balance Sheet

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

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

#### Disposals and Non-Current Assets Held for Sale

When it becomes probable that the carrying amount of an asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through its continuing use, it is reclassified as an Asset Held for Sale. The asset is revalued immediately before reclassification and then carried at the lower of this amount and fair value less costs to sell.



## Note 1 Accounting Policies (continued)

Where there is a subsequent decrease to fair value less costs to sell, the loss is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the CIES. Depreciation is not charged on assets held for sale.

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

When an asset is disposed of or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the CIES as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals (if any) are credited to the same line in the CIES also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal). Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts.

The written-off value of disposals is not a charge against council tax, as the cost of non-current assets is fully provided for under separate arrangements for capital financing.

### 16. Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

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

Provisions are charged as an expense to the appropriate service line in the CIES when the CFA has an obligation, and are measured at the best estimate at the balance sheet date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

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

A contingent asset arises where an event has taken place that gives the authority 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 authority.

Both contingent assets & liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts.

### 17. Reserves

The CFA sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. Reserves are created by appropriating amounts out of the General Fund Balance.

Certain unusable reserves are kept to manage the accounting processes for non-current assets, financial instruments, local taxation, retirement and employee benefits and do not represent usable resources for the CFA – these reserves are explained in note 24.

## Note 2 Expenditure and Funding Analysis

The expenditure and funding analysis shows how annual expenditure is used and funded from resources (government grants, rents, council tax and business rates) by the CFA in comparison with those resources consumed or earned in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices are presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

2023/24	Net Expenditure Charged to the General Fund Balance	Adjustments Between Accounting & Funding Basis	Net Expenditure on the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement
	£000	£000	£000
Fire Authority	43,622	(4,401)	39,221
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>43,622</b>	<b>(4,401)</b>	<b>39,221</b>
Other Operating Expenditure	(39)	1	(38)
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	579	16,188	16,767
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	(44,735)	(8,794)	(53,529)
<b>(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services</b>	<b>(573)</b>	<b>2,994</b>	<b>2,421</b>
<b>Movement in Balances</b>	<b>Usable Reserves</b>		
Opening Balance	(22,494)		
Surplus or Deficit in the Year	(573)		
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>(23,067)</b>		

## Note 2 Expenditure and Funding Analysis (continued)

2022/23	Net Expenditure Charged to the General Fund Balance	Adjustments Between Accounting & Funding Basis	Net Expenditure on the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement
	£000	£000	£000
Fire Authority	39,079	3,592	42,671
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>39,079</b>	<b>3,592</b>	<b>42,671</b>
Other Operating Expenditure	-	(135)	(135)
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	822	12,911	13,733
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	(40,241)	(8,078)	(48,319)
<b>(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services</b>	<b>(340)</b>	<b>8,290</b>	<b>7,950</b>
<b>Movement in Balances</b>	<b>Usable Reserves</b>		
Opening Balance	(22,154)		
Surplus or Deficit in the Year	(340)		
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>(22,494)</b>		

## Note 3 Accounting Standards Issued But Not Yet Adopted

Under the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 (the Code), the Council is required to disclose information setting out the impact of an accounting change required by a new accounting standard that has been issued but not yet adopted by the Code.

At the balance sheet date, the following new standards and amendments to existing standards have been published but not yet adopted by the Code of Practice of Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom:

- **IAS 1 (Presentation of Financial Statements)** - amendments seeks to improve the information provided about long term debt through disclosures in the notes to the accounts.
- **IAS 7 (Statement of Cash Flows) and IFRS 7 (Financial Instruments)** - amendments add a requirement to provide qualitative and quantitative information regarding supplier finance arrangements.
- **IAS 12 (Income Taxes)** - the amendment provides a temporary exception to recognise and disclose deferred tax assets and liabilities for multinational entities affected by the 15% global minimum tax, together with related disclosure requirements.

These changes are not envisaged to have a significant affect on our accounts when implemented from 1st April 2024.

## Note 4 Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 1 of this Statement of Accounts, the CFA has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions and/or those involving uncertainty about future events.

The critical judgements made in the Statement of Accounts are:

### **Accounts prepared on a going concern basis**

These accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis. The concept of a going concern assumes that an organisation, its functions and service will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. However, there is a high degree of uncertainty about future funding levels for local government and the future economic outlook. The CFA's management has used its judgement and determined that its financial strategy is robust and that this is not yet sufficient to affect the assumptions underpinning the strategy and the authority will continue as a going concern.

## Note 5 Assumptions Made about the Future and Other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

The Statement of Accounts contains estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the CFA about the future or that are otherwise uncertain.

Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates.

The items in the CFA's Balance Sheet at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
Pensions Liability	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements by the actuary relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement rates, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. On behalf of the CFA, the Local Government Pension Scheme employs the Actuary, Hymans Robertson, and the Firefighter's Pension Schemes are valued by Government Actuary's Department (GAD). These actuaries provide expert advice on assumptions to be applied.	The effects in the net pensions liability of changes in the individual assumptions can be measured. For instance a 0.5% increase in the discount rate assumption would result in an increase in the pension liability £29,765K ( £3,765K LGPS and £26,000K Firefighters schemes). However, the assumptions interact in complex ways.

## **Note 6** Material Items of Income and Expense

There are no material items of income and expenditure other than those disclosed elsewhere in these statements.

## **Note 7** Events After the Balance Sheet Date

There were no significant events at the time of publishing these accounts.

## Note 8 Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis

The following tables provide reconciliations between the main adjustments to Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund balance to arrive at the amounts in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Adjustments Between Accounting & Funding Basis						
2023/24	Net Expenditure on the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Adjustments for Defined Benefit Pensions	Other Adjustments	Total	Net Expenditure Charged to the General Fund Balance
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Combined Fire Authority	39,221	1,844	2,607	(50)	4,401	43,622
<b>Cost of Services</b>	<b>39,221</b>	<b>1,844</b>	<b>2,607</b>	<b>(50)</b>	<b>4,401</b>	<b>43,622</b>
Other Operating Expenditure	(38)	(1)	-	-	(1)	(39)
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	16,767	499	(16,687)	-	(16,188)	579
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	(53,529)	75	9,133	(414)	8,794	(44,735)
<b>(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services</b>	<b>2,421</b>	<b>2,417</b>	<b>(4,947)</b>	<b>(464)</b>	<b>(2,994)</b>	<b>(573)</b>



## Note 8 Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis (Continued)

Adjustments Between Accounting & Funding Basis						
2022/23	Net Expenditure on the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Adjustments for Defined Benefit Pensions	Other Adjustments	Total	Net Expenditure Charged to the General Fund Balance
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Combined Fire Authority	42,671	606	(4,217)	19	(3,592)	39,079
<b>Cost of Services</b>	<b>42,671</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>(4,217)</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>(3,592)</b>	<b>39,079</b>
Other Operating Expenditure	(135)	135	-	-	135	-
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	13,733	698	(13,609)	-	(12,911)	822
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	(48,319)	-	8,532	(454)	8,078	(40,241)
<b>(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services</b>	<b>7,950</b>	<b>1,439</b>	<b>(9,294)</b>	<b>(435)</b>	<b>(8,290)</b>	<b>(340)</b>

## Note 8 Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis (continued)

### Adjustments for Capital Purposes

This column adds depreciation, impairment and revaluation gains and losses into the services line, and for:

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

### Net Change for Pensions Adjustments

This column adds in depreciation and impairment and revaluation gains and losses in the services line, and:

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

### Other Adjustments

Other differences between amounts debited/credited to the CIES and amounts payable/receivable to be recognised under statute:

- For Financing and investment income and expenditure - the other differences column recognises adjustments to the General Fund for the timing differences for premiums and discounts.
- The charge under Taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure represents the difference between what is chargeable under statutory regulations for council tax and NDR that was projected to be received at the start of the year and the income recognised under generally accepted accounting practices in the Code. This is a timing difference as any difference will be brought forward in future

Surpluses or Deficits on the Collection Fund.

## Note 9 Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations

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

### General Fund Balance

The General Fund is the statutory fund into which all the receipts of an authority are required to be paid and out of which all liabilities of the authority are to be met, except to the extent that statutory rules might provide otherwise.

These rules can also specify the financial year in which liabilities and payments should impact on the General Fund Balance, which is not necessarily in accordance with proper accounting practice. The General Fund Balance therefore summarises the resources that the CFA is statutorily empowered to spend on its services or on capital investment (or the deficit of resources that the CFA is required to recover) at the end of the financial year.

Adjustment	2023/24	
	General Fund Balance	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£000	£000
<b>Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account:</b>		
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account:		
Charges for depreciation, impairment and amortisation of non-current assets	(2,218)	<b>2,218</b>
Revaluation losses on Property Plant and Equipment	649	<b>(649)</b>
Capital grants and contributions applied	75	<b>(75)</b>
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(377)	<b>377</b>
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	376	<b>(376)</b>
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account:		
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	499	<b>(499)</b>
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund balance	3,413	<b>(3,413)</b>
<b>Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:</b>		
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(376)	<b>376</b>
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	376	<b>(376)</b>

## Note 9 Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations

Adjustment Continued	2023/24	
	General Fund Balance	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£000	£000
<b>Adjustments primarily involving the Pensions Reserve:</b>		
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(20,215)	20,215
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	15,268	(15,268)
<b>Adjustment primarily involving the Accumulated Absences Account:</b>		
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(50)	50
<b>Adjustment primarily involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account:</b>		
Amount by which Council Tax and NDR income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from Council Tax and NDR income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(414)	414
<b>Total Adjustments</b>	<b>(2,994)</b>	<b>2,994</b>

## Note 9 Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations (continued)

Adjustment	2022/23	
	General Fund Balance	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£000	£000
<b>Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account:</b>		
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account:		
Charges for depreciation, impairment and amortisation of non-current assets	(2,320)	<b>2,320</b>
Revaluation losses on Property Plant and Equipment	288	<b>(288)</b>
Capital grants and contributions applied		-
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(25)	<b>25</b>
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	160	<b>(160)</b>
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account:		
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	698	<b>(698)</b>
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund balance	2,638	<b>(2,638)</b>
<b>Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:</b>		
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(160)	<b>160</b>
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	160	<b>(160)</b>

## Note 9 Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations (continued)

Adjustment Continued	2022/23	
	General Fund Balance	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£000	£000
<b>Adjustments primarily involving the Pensions Reserve:</b>		
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(23,352)	23,352
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	14,058	(14,058)
<b>Adjustment primarily involving the Accumulated Absences Account:</b>		
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	19	(19)
<b>Adjustment primarily involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account:</b>		
Amount by which Council Tax and NDR income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from Council Tax and NDR income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(454)	454
<b>Total Adjustments</b>	<b>(8,290)</b>	<b>8,290</b>

## Note 10 Movement in Earmarked Reserves

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund in earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans.

Additional information on the earmarked reserves can be found in the authority's outturn report.

<b>2023/24</b>	<b>Balance at 31st March 2023</b>	<b>Transfers In 2023/24</b>	<b>Transfers Out 2023/24</b>	<b>Balance at 31st March 2024</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Capital Fund Reserve	(6,608)	(5,056)	3,933	(7,731)
Estates Strategy Reserve	(8,584)			(8,584)
Recruitment Over - Establishment Reserve	(394)		48	(346)
Budget Strategy Reserve	(2,140)	(79)	214	(2,005)
Grenfell Reserve	(403)	(27)	179	(251)
ESN Infrastructure Reserve	(957)		215	(742)
<b>Total Earmarked Reserves</b>	<b>(19,086)</b>	<b>(5,162)</b>	<b>4,589</b>	<b>(19,659)</b>

## Note 10 Movement in Earmarked Reserves (continued)

<b>2022/23</b>	<b>31st March 2022</b>	<b>Transfers In 2022/23</b>	<b>Transfers Out 2022/23</b>	<b>Balance at 31st March 2023</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Capital Fund Reserve	(7,605)	(1,570)	2,567	(6,608)
Estates Strategy Reserve	(6,347)	(3,067)	830	(8,584)
Recruitment Over - Establishment Reserve	(400)	-	6	(394)
Budget Strategy & Covid 19 Reserve	(2,732)	(763)	1,355	(2,140)
Grenfell Reserve	(400)	(290)	287	(403)
ESN Infrastructure Reserve	(920)	(45)	8	(957)
Covid 19 - Deficit Reserve	(763)	-	763	-
<b>Total Earmarked Reserves</b>	<b>(19,167)</b>	<b>(5,735)</b>	<b>5,816</b>	<b>(19,086)</b>



## Note 11 Other Operating Expenditure

	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
Total (gains)/losses on the disposal of non-current assets	(135)	(38)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(135)</b>	<b>(38)</b>

## Note 12 Financing and Investment Income & Expenditure

	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
Interest payable and similar charges	509	480
Net interest on the defined benefit liability	13,609	16,935
Interest receivable	(385)	(648)
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,733</b>	<b>16,767</b>

## Note 13 Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income & Expenditure

### NOTE 13 - Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income and Expenditure

	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
Council Tax income	(25,030)	(26,952)
Non domestic rates	(9,661)	(12,076)
Pensions Top Up Grant	(8,532)	(9,133)
Non-ringfenced government grants	(5,096)	(5,368)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(48,319)</b>	<b>(53,529)</b>

## Note 14 Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature

The CFA's expenditure and income reported in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement is analysed by nature in the table below.

	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Employee Benefit Expenses	49,587	48,388
Other Services expenses	8,127	9,194
Depreciation, amortisation, impairment	2,320	2,218
Interest Payments	509	480
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>60,543</b>	<b>60,280</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Fees, charges and other service income	(457)	(319)
Interest & Investment Income	(385)	(648)
Income from Council Tax, non domestic rates	(34,691)	(39,028)
Government grants & contributions	(16,925)	(17,826)
Gain on the disposal of assets	(135)	(38)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(52,593)</b>	<b>(57,859)</b>
<b>(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services</b>	<b>7,950</b>	<b>2,421</b>

# Note 15 Property, Plant and Equipment - Movement on Balances in 2023/24

## Depreciation

The following useful lives have been used in the calculation of depreciation:

- Land and Buildings - 5-65 years
- Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment - 5-15 years

Asset remaining lives have been reviewed and no alterations have been considered necessary for these accounts.

## Capital Commitments

As at 31st March 2024 a total amount of £1,831k was contracted relating to fleet replacement. This includes 3 new appliances, 2 variable response vehicles, 2 workshops vans and director/officer vehicles. These commitments will be paid in 2024/25.

## Valuation

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at current value are revalued annually. The latest valuation exercise was carried out by Cameron Butler BLE (Hons) MRICS of FHP Property Consultants. The asset values used in the accounts are based on a certificate issued by FHP Property Consultants on all properties as at the 31st March 2024.

Movements on Balances in 2023/24	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	Assets Under Construction	Total Property, Plant and Equipment
	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Cost or Valuation</b>				
At 1st April 2023	44,678	21,102	162	<b>65,942</b>
Additions	857	2,252	488	<b>3,597</b>
Revaluation				
Increases/(Decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	1,882	-	-	<b>1,882</b>
Revaluation				
Increases/(Decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(649)	-	-	<b>(649)</b>
De-recognition – disposals	-	(377)	-	<b>(377)</b>
Transfers (to)/from In Construction	(1,366)	-	1,366	-
Other movements in cost or valuation			(93)	<b>(93)</b>
<b>As at 31st March 2024</b>	<b>45,402</b>	<b>22,977</b>	<b>1,923</b>	<b>70,302</b>

## Note 15 Property, Plant and Equipment - Movement on Balances in 2023/24 (continued)

Movements on Balances in 2023/24	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	Assets Under Construction	Total Property, Plant and Equipment
	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Accumulated Depreciation &amp; Impairment</b>				
At 1st April 2023	143	13,616	-	<b>13,759</b>
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	(1,039)			<b>(1,039)</b>
Depreciation Charge	981	1,158	54	<b>2,193</b>
De-recognition – disposals		(376)		<b>(376)</b>
De-recognition – other				-
Assets reclassified to/(from) Held for Sale				-
<b>As at 31st March 2024</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>14,398</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>14,537</b>
<b>Net Book Value as at 31st March 2024</b>	<b>45,317</b>	<b>8,579</b>	<b>1,977</b>	<b>55,765</b>
<b>As at 1st April 2023</b>	<b>44,535</b>	<b>7,486</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>52,183</b>

## Note 15 Property, Plant and Equipment - Movement on Balances in 2022/23

Movements on Balances in 2022/23	Land & Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment	Restated Assets Under Construction	Restated Total Property, Plant & Equipment
	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Cost or Valuation</b>				
At 1st April 2022	42,209	19,587	1,007	<b>62,803</b>
Additions	830	1,848	46	<b>2,724</b>
Revaluation Increases/(Decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	1,351	-	-	<b>1,351</b>
Revaluation Increases/(Decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	288	-	-	<b>288</b>
De-recognition – disposals	-	(1,224)	-	<b>(1,224)</b>
Transfers (to)/from In Construction	-	891	(891)	-
<b>As at 31st March 2023</b>	<b>44,678</b>	<b>21,102</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>65,942</b>

## Note 15 Property, Plant and Equipment - Movement on Balances in 2022/23 (continued)

Movements on Balances in 2022/23	Land & Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment	Restated Assets Under Construction	Restated Total Property, Plant & Equipment
	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Accumulated Depreciation &amp; Impairment</b>				
At 1st April 2022	32	13,551	-	<b>13,583</b>
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	(921)			<b>(921)</b>
Depreciation Charge	1,032	1,263		<b>2,295</b>
De-recognition – disposals		(1,198)		<b>(1,198)</b>
<b>As at 31st March 2023</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>13,616</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,759</b>
<b>Net Book Value as at 31st March 2023</b>	<b>44,535</b>	<b>7,486</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>52,183</b>
As at 1st April 2022	<b>42,177</b>	<b>6,036</b>	<b>1,007</b>	<b>49,220</b>

## Note 16 Intangible Assets

The CFA accounts for software licences as intangible assets, to the extent that these are part of particular IT systems. The CFA's intangible assets are amortised over 5 years on a straight line basis and charged to gross expenditure.

As at the 31st March 2023 there are no contractual commitments for the acquisition of intangible assets.

	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
Balance at 1st April		
Gross Carrying Amounts	1,810	1,883
Accumulated Amortisation	(1,664)	(1,689)
<b>Net carrying amount at start of year</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>194</b>
Additions (Purchases)	73	266
Reclassified from other asset classifications	-	93
Amortisation applied in Year	(25)	(25)
Gross Carrying Amount at 31st March	1,883	2,242
Accumulated Amortisation	(1,689)	(1,714)
<b>Net Carrying Amount at 31st March</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>528</b>

## Note 17a Financial Instruments - Classifications

A financial instrument is a contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. Non-exchange transactions, such as those relating to taxes and government grants, do not give rise to financial instruments.

Category	Amount	Amount	Comment / Reference
	31st March 2023	31st March 2024	
	£000	£000	
<b>Short Term Borrowing</b>			
<b>Amount in Balance Sheet</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>1,024</b>	Balance Sheet
Amounts covered in Note 17b:	44	1,024	Note 17b
<b>Long Term Borrowing</b>			
<b>Amount in Balance Sheet</b>	<b>11,211</b>	<b>10,191</b>	Balance Sheet
Amounts covered in Note 17b:	11,211	10,190	Note 17b
<b>Other Long Term Liabilities</b>			
<b>Amount in Balance Sheet</b>	<b>363,113</b>	<b>375,403</b>	Balance Sheet
Amounts not covered in Note 17:	333	338	Note 22 - Provisions
Liability related to defined benefit pension schemes	362,780	375,065	Note 36 - Defined Benefit Pensions



## Note 17b Financial Instruments - Balances

The financial assets disclosed in the Balance Sheet are analysed across the following categories:

Financial Assets	Long Term		Short Term	
	31st March 2023	31st March 2024	31st March 2023	31st March 2024
	£000	£000	£000	£000
- Cash (including bank accounts)			15,282	16,159
<b>Total Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	-	-	<b>15,282</b>	<b>16,159</b>
Loans and receivables:				
- Trade receivables	-	-	77	128
<b>Included in Debtors</b>	-	-	<b>77</b>	<b>128</b>
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	-	-	<b>15,359</b>	<b>16,287</b>

The financial liabilities disclosed in the Balance Sheet are analysed across the following categories:

Financial Liabilities	Long Term		Short Term	
	31st March 2023	31st March 2024	31st March 2023	31st March 2024
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Loans at amortised cost:				
- Principal sum borrowed	11,137	10,139	-	1,000
<b>Total Borrowing</b>	<b>11,137</b>	<b>10,139</b>	-	<b>1,000</b>
Liabilities at amortised cost:				
- Finance leases	74	52	44	24
<b>Total Other Liabilities</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Total Borrowing &amp; Other Liabilities</b>	<b>11,211</b>	<b>10,191</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>1,024</b>
Liabilities at amortised cost:				
- Trade payables	-	-	374	294
<b>Included in Creditors</b>	-	-	<b>374</b>	<b>294</b>
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>	<b>11,211</b>	<b>10,191</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>1,318</b>

## Note 17c Financial Instruments - Gains and Losses

The gains and losses recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in relation to financial instruments consist of the following items:

	Financial Liabilities	Financial Assets		
	Amortised Cost	Loans & Receivables	2023/24 Total	2022/23 Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Interest expense	479	-	479	509
<b>Interest payable and similar charges</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>509</b>
Interest income	-	648	648	(385)
<b>Interest and investment income</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>(385)</b>
<b>Net (Gain)/Loss for the Year</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>1,127</b>	<b>124</b>

## Note 17d Financial Instruments - Fair Values

Financial assets classified as available for sale and all derivative assets and liabilities are carried in the Balance Sheet at fair value. For most assets, including bonds, treasury bills and shares in money market funds, the fair value is taken from the market price.

Some of the authority's financial assets are measured at fair value on a reoccurring basis and are described below:

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

The table shows the amounts held at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 and the fair value reported in the 2023/24 accounts.

	31st March 2023		31st March 2024	
	Balance Sheet	Fair Value	Balance Sheet	Fair Value
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Assets for which fair value is not disclosed *	16,685	-	18,021	-
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	<b>16,685</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,021</b>	<b>-</b>
Long-term investments				
Short-term debtors	1,403	-	1,862	-
Cash and cash equivalents	15,282	-	16,159	-
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	<b>16,685</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,021</b>	<b>-</b>

\*The fair value of short-term financial assets including trade receivables is assumed to be approximate to the carrying amount.

## Note 17d Financial Instruments - Fair Values (continued)

	31st March 2023		31st March 2024	
	Balance Sheet	Fair Value	Balance Sheet	Fair Value
	£000	£000	£000	£000
<i>Financial liabilities held at fair value:</i>				
<i>Financial liabilities held at amortised cost:</i>				
Long-term loans from PWLB	11,137	11,111	11,138	11,868
Lease payables	118	118	76	76
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,255</b>	<b>11,229</b>	<b>11,214</b>	<b>11,944</b>
Liabilities for which fair value is not disclosed*	371,111	-	377,045	-
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>	<b>382,366</b>	<b>11,229</b>	<b>388,259</b>	<b>11,944</b>
<i>Recorded on balance sheet as:</i>				
Short-term creditors	2,031	-	1,980	-
Short-term borrowing	44	-	1,024	-
Long-term borrowing	11,211	-	10,190	-
Other long-term liabilities	369,080	-	375,065	-
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>	<b>382,366</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>388,259</b>	<b>-</b>

\*The fair value of short-term financial liabilities including trade payables is assumed to be approximate to the carrying amount.

## Note 18 Inventories

The value of inventories as at 31<sup>st</sup> March:

	Balance at 31st March 2023	Balance at 31st March 2024
	£000	£000
Operational equipment	285	260
Vehicle Parts	137	144
Other	67	53
<b>Total</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>457</b>

## Note 19 Debtors

### Short-Term Debtors

The value of short-term debtors as at 31<sup>st</sup> March:

	Balance at 31st March 2023	Balance at 31st March 2024
	£000	£000
Central Government bodies	3,623	3,068
Other Local Authorities	2,966	2,237
All Other	921	1,402
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,510</b>	<b>6,707</b>

## Note 20 Cash and Cash Equivalents

The value of cash and cash equivalents as at 31<sup>st</sup> March:

	Balance at 31st March 2023	Balance at 31st March 2024
	£000	£000
Cash held by the CFA	24	26
Bank current accounts	20	20
Short-term investments	15,238	16,113
<b>Total Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>15,282</b>	<b>16,159</b>

## Note 21 Creditors

The value of creditors as at 31<sup>st</sup> March:

	Balance at 31st March 2023	Balance at 31st March 2024
	£000	£000
Central Government bodies	513	687
Other Local Authorities	2,106	1,765
All Other	1,748	1,731
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,367</b>	<b>4,183</b>

## Note 22 Provisions

The table below provides a list of provisions made by the authority at the end of the financial year:

### *Payment of Insurance Claims*

The CFA holds an insurance provision for claims in progress. Timing of payment of these claims is difficult to predict as they may be subject to legal process. The amounts put aside are decided upon by reviewing the current level of claims and assessing the likelihood of their success. There are currently no material unfunded risks.

### *Pay Award*

A provision was established in 2022/23 in respect of the uncertainty surrounding the Chief & Assistant Fire Officers pay awards. The pay award has now been settled for both 2022/23 and 2023/24, so a provision is no longer required.

### *Business Rate appeals*

A provision is also made for the CFA's share of any defaults on business rates. This is calculated by the Billing Authorities.

	Insurance	Pay Award	Short Term Total	Business Rate Appeals	Long Term Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Balance at 1st April 2022</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>439</b>
2022/23 Provisions/(Reductions)	-	24	24	(106)	(106)
Amounts used in 2022/23	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Balance at 1st April 2023</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>333</b>
2023/24 Provisions/(Reductions)	53	-	53	5	5
Amounts used in 2023/24	-	(24)	(24)	-	-
<b>Balance at 31st March 2024</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>338</b>

## Note 23 Usable Reserves

Movements in the CFA's usable reserves are detailed in the table below, which indicates the statement or note that provides further detail.

	Opening Balance	Movement	Closing Balance	Supporting Note
	£000	£000	£000	
General Fund	(3,408)	-	(3,408)	MIRS
Earmarked Reserves	(19,086)	(573)	(19,659)	Note 10
<b>Total Usable Reserves</b>	<b>(22,494)</b>	<b>(573)</b>	<b>(23,067)</b>	



## Note 24a Unusable Reserves

Unusable reserves contain items that illustrate the difference between the Authority's financial position under accounting standards (the "accounting basis") and the amount charged to the taxpayer for the year (the "funding basis")

	<b>31st March 2023</b>	<b>31st March 2024</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Revaluation Reserve	(14,136)	(15,378)
Capital Adjustment Account	(22,958)	(25,755)
Pensions Reserve	370,349	375,065
Collection Fund Adjustment Account	(329)	85
Accumulated Absences Account	264	314
<b>Total Unusable Reserves</b>	<b>333,190</b>	<b>334,331</b>

## Note 24b Unusable Reserves (continued)

### Revaluation Reserve

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

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

The reserve contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007, the date that the reserve was created with a balance of zero. Accumulated gains arising before that date are consolidated into the balance on the Capital Adjustment Account.

	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
<b>Balance at 1st April</b>	<b>(12,206)</b>	<b>(14,136)</b>
Upward revaluation of assets	(2,290)	(2,008)
Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the (Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services	19	386
<b>(Surplus) or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>	<b>(2,271)</b>	<b>(1,622)</b>
Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	341	380
<b>Balance at 31st March</b>	<b>(14,136)</b>	<b>(15,378)</b>

## Note 24c Unusable Reserves (continued)

### 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. The account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or subsequent costs as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the CIES (with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert fair value figures to a historical cost basis). The Account is credited with the amounts set aside by the CFA as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and subsequent costs.

The account also contains revaluation gains accumulated on Property Plant and Equipment before the 1st April 2007, the date that the Revaluation Reserve was created to hold such gains.

This account represents amounts set aside from revenue resources or capital receipts, which have been used to finance expenditure on non-current assets, or for the repayment of external loans and other capital financing transactions. The table below provides details of the source of all the transactions posted to the account.

	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
<b>Balance at 1st April</b>	<b>(21,178)</b>	<b>(22,958)</b>
<b>Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:</b>		
Charges for depreciation & impairment	2,295	2,193
Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	(288)	(649)
Amortisation of intangible assets	25	25
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the (gain)/loss on disposal to the Income and Expenditure Statement	25	377
	<b>(19,121)</b>	<b>(21,012)</b>
<b>Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve</b>	<b>(341)</b>	<b>(380)</b>
<b>Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year</b>	<b>(19,462)</b>	<b>(21,392)</b>
<b>Capital financing applied in the year:</b>		
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	(160)	(376)
Capital Grants, Contributions & Donated Assets credited to the Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital financing	-	(75)
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund	(698)	(499)
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund	(2,638)	(3,413)
<b>Balance at 31st March</b>	<b>(22,958)</b>	<b>(25,755)</b>

## Note 24d Unusable Reserves (continued)

### *Pensions Reserve*

The Pensions Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post-employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions.

The CFA accounts for post-employment benefits in the CIES as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs. However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed as the CFA makes employer's contributions to pension funds or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible. The debit balance on the Pensions Reserve therefore shows a substantial shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the CFA has set aside to meet them.

The statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid.

	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
<b>Balance at 1st April</b>	<b>515,093</b>	<b>370,349</b>
Remeasurement of the Net Defined Benefit Liability	(154,038)	(231)
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	23,352	20,215
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(14,058)	(15,268)
<b>Balance at 31st March</b>	<b>370,349</b>	<b>375,065</b>

## Note 24e&f Unusable Reserves (continued)

### Collection Fund Adjustment Account

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

<b>24e Collection Fund Adjustment Account</b>		
	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b>Balance at 1st April</b>	<b>(783)</b>	<b>(329)</b>
Amount by which council tax income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	454	414
<b>Balance at 31st March</b>	<b>(329)</b>	<b>85</b>

	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b>Balance at 1st April</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>264</b>
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(19)	50
<b>Balance at 31st March</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>314</b>

### Accumulated Absences Account

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

## Note 25 Cash Flow Statement - Operating Activities

	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
Interest received	(385)	(648)
Interest paid	509	480
<b>Net interest</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>(168)</b>
The surplus on the provision of services has been adjusted for the following non-cash movements:		
	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
Depreciation	(2,295)	(2,193)
Downward revaluations, impairment losses and reversal of prior year impairments	288	649
Amortisation	(25)	(25)
(Increase) / decrease in creditors	(979)	(124)
Increase / (decrease) in debtors	(863)	(803)
(Increase) / decrease in provisions	82	(34)
Increase / (decrease) in inventories	175	(32)
Movement in pension liability	(9,294)	(4,947)
Carrying amount of non-current assets, sold or de-recognised	(25)	(1)
<b>Adjustments to net surplus deficit on the provisions of services for non cash movements Items classified elsewhere in the statement</b>	<b>(12,936)</b>	<b>(7,510)</b>
	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
Capital Grants credited to surplus or deficit on the provision of services	-	75
Proceeds from the sale of property plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	-	376
<b>Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing or financing activities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>451</b>

## Note 26 Cash Flow Statement Investment Activities

	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
Purchase of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets	2,797	3,863
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets	(160)	(376)
Other receipts from investing activities		(75)
<b>Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>	<b>2,637</b>	<b>3,412</b>

## Note 27 Cash Flow Statement Financing Activities

	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
Repayments of short and long-term borrowing	1,229	41
Other payments for financing activities	160	308
<b>Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities</b>	<b>1,389</b>	<b>349</b>

## Note 28 Members' Allowances

The CFA paid the following amounts to members of the CFA during the year:

	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
Basic Allowance Payments	57	54
Special Responsibility Payments	19	19
General Expense Payments	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>73</b>



## Note 29 Officers' Remuneration

This note comprises two parts. The first discloses the remuneration of the CFA's most senior officers. The second part discloses the total number of 'higher paid' CFA officers whose remuneration exceeded £50k during 2023/24, shown in bands and excluding those senior officers in the first part.

### **Part 1 - Senior Employees' Remuneration**

The table shows the amounts paid to the holders of senior posts in 2023/24 with comparative data from 2022/23 where applicable.

Senior employees are defined as certain statutory chief officer posts, those earning over £150k per annum and those earning less than this sum but reporting directly to the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer. There are two such officers, in 2023/24, which represents no change from 2022/23.

Remuneration in this table (as defined in statutory regulations) includes salary, fees/allowances, employer's pension contributions, taxable benefits and any compensation for loss of office.

Post	Financial Year	Salary, Fees and Allowances	Pension Contributions	Total
		£000	£000	£000
Chief Fire Officer	2023/24	169	49	<b>218</b>
	2022/23	137	40	<b>177</b>
Assistant Chief Fire and Rescue Officer - Service Delivery	2023/24	135	39	<b>174</b>
	2022/23	110	32	<b>142</b>
Assistant Chief Fire and Rescue Officer - Service Support (Note 1)	2023/24	-	-	-
	2022/23	85	17	<b>102</b>
Assistant Chief Fire and Rescue Officer - Service Support (Note 2)	2023/24	122	27	<b>149</b>
	2022/23	30	6	<b>36</b>

Notes:

- 1) The Assistant CFO Service Support ended the role in January 2023
- 2) The new Assistant CFO Service Support started on 12th December 2022

## Note 29 Officers' Remuneration (continued)

### Part 2 - Higher Paid Employees

The number of other CFA employees receiving more than £50,000 remuneration for the year is shown in the table to the right. In line with the relevant regulations, the table excludes the senior officers listed in the previous table.

It should be noted that the definition of remuneration in this table differs from that in the previous table (in line with regulations) as it excludes employer's pension contributions.

The table includes compensation for loss of office, so employees who left in the year may appear in a higher band than the equivalent role would appear in based on a normal year's salary. Equally, some posts would not be included in the table based on a normal year's salary, but are included because of payments for compensation for loss of office.

The threshold for inclusion in this report is defined in regulations and remains static at £50k annually. Salaries paid to staff include annual pay increases as and when these are awarded, increasing the scope of the report over time.

Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service buy in the services of the Chief Financial Officer and the Monitoring Officer from neighbouring authorities. These roles are recharged to the Authority.

Remuneration Band £	Number of Employees	
	2022/23	2023/24
50,000-54,999	35	45
55,000-59,999	26	22
60,000-64,999	17	27
65,000-69,999	12	12
70,000-74,999	3	7
75,000-79,999	1	2
80,000-84,999	1	-
85,000-89,999	1	2
90,000-94,999	-	-
95,000-99,999	-	1
100,000-104,999	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>119</b>

## Note 30 External Audit Costs

The CFA has incurred the following costs in relation to the audit of the Statement of Accounts, certification of grant claims and statutory inspections and to non-audit services provided by the CFA's external auditors:

	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Fees payable with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year	39	89
	<b>39</b>	<b>89</b>

## Note 31 Grant Income

The CFA credited the following grants to the CIES:

### Revenue grants recognised in the year

	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
<b>Credited to Cost of Services</b>		
Fire Pensions Grant	1,795	1,795
ESN Infrastructure Grant	31	-
New Dimensions Grant	851	851
Grenfell Grants	262	262
Fire Link Grant	267	201
Building Safety Regulator Grant	-	150
Other Grants	90	140
<b>Total Credited to Cost of Services</b>	<b>3,296</b>	<b>3,399</b>
<b>Credited to Taxation &amp; Non-Specific Grant Income</b>		
Revenue Support Grant	4,475	4,929
Services Grant	621	364
Capital Grants	-	75
<b>Total Credited to Taxation &amp; Non-Specific Grant Income</b>	<b>5,096</b>	<b>5,368</b>
<b>Total Recognised in Year</b>	<b>8,392</b>	<b>8,767</b>

## Note 32 Related Parties

The CFA is required to disclose material transactions with related parties - bodies or individuals that have the potential to control, or to be controlled or influenced by the CFA. Disclosures of these transactions assesses the extent to which the CFA might have been constrained in its ability to operate independently or might have secured the ability to limit another party's ability to bargain freely with the CFA.

### Central Government

The Home Office has significant influence on the general operation of the CFA - it is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the CFA operates, provides a large proportion of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the CFA has with other parties (e.g. council tax). Grant funding received from central government is shown within Note 31 to the accounts.

### Members

Members of the CFA have direct control over the CFA's financial and operating policies. The total of members' allowances paid in 2023/24 is shown in note 28. During 2023/24, no works and services were commissioned from companies in which members declared an interest.

### Officers

Officers of the CFA have significant influence over the CFA's financial and operating policies. During 2023/24, no works and services were commissioned from companies in which officers declared an interest.

### Entities Controlled or Significantly Influenced by the CFA

#### Forge Health Limited

Forge Health Limited was controlled by the CFA as a wholly owned subsidiary during 2023/24. Forge Health ceased trading in September 2023.

#### Fire and Rescue Indemnity Company Limited

Twelve fire and rescue authorities, including Leicestershire, are members of the Fire and Rescue Indemnity Company Limited (FRIC). The CFA's risk protection arrangements are provided through the pooled funds of the company. Payments amounting to £401k were paid to FRIC in 2023/24 (£380k in 2022/23).

## Note 33 Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

The CFA had an opening capital financing requirement of £15,282k at the 1st April 2023 and a closing capital financing requirement of £14,782k at the 31st March 2024

Details of capital expenditure incurred during the year and how it was financed shown in the table.

This includes property, plant and equipment and intangible assets (Notes 15 and 16).

	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
<b>Opening Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>15,981</b>	<b>15,282</b>
<b>Capital Investment</b>		
Land and Buildings	830	857
Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	1,848	2,252
Assets In Construction	46	488
Intangibles	73	266
<b>Total Capital Investment</b>	<b>2,797</b>	<b>3,863</b>
<b>Sources of Finance</b>		
Capital Receipts	(160)	(376)
Grants	-	(75)
Sums set aside from revenue:		
Direct Revenue Contributions	(2,638)	(3,413)
MRP	(698)	(499)
<b>Total Sources of Finance</b>	<b>(3,496)</b>	<b>(4,363)</b>
<b>Closing Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>15,282</b>	<b>14,782</b>
<b>Increase/(Decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>(699)</b>	<b>(500)</b>

## Note 34 Leases

### CFA as Lessee

#### Finance Leases

Finance lease rentals paid to lessors relating to 2023/24 totalled £44k (£240k 2022/23) of which £1k was interest and £43k was principal. All finance leases relate to Vehicles, Plant and Equipment and the net book value of these assets at the 31st March 2024 is £340k.

	Minimum Lease Payments		Finance Lease Liabilities	
	31st March	31st March	31st March	31st March
	2023	2024	2023	2024
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Within one year	42	42	44	24
Within 2 to 5 years	71	47	74	52
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>76</b>

### CFA as Lessor

#### Operating Leases

Operating lease rentals received relating to 2023/24 totalled £20k (£20k 2022/23). Part of Birstall HQ and Coalville station are leased to EMAS for £7k & £13k per annum respectively. Part of Coalville Station is leased to Leicestershire Police at a Peppercorn rent.

	31st March	31st March
	2023	2024
	£000	£000
Not later than one year	20	20
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	68	62
Later than five years	25	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>95</b>

## Note 35 Termination Benefits

The CFA did not terminate the contract of any employees in 2023/24. (3 employees costing £47k in 2022/23).

Band	Total number of exit	Total cost of	Total number of exit	Total cost of
	packages by cost band	exit packages -	packages by cost band	exit packages -
£000	2022/23	£000	2023/24	£000
<b>Compulsory</b>				
0-20,000	1	18	-	-
<b>Total Compulsory</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Voluntary</b>				
0-20,000	1	5	-	-
20,001 - 40,000	1	24	-	-
<b>Total Voluntary &amp; Other</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>



## Note 36 Defined Benefit Pension Schemes

### ***Participation in Pension Schemes***

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

The two pension schemes provide members with defined benefits related to pay and service and are detailed below:

### **(i) Uniformed Firefighters**

Employees are eligible to join the Firefighters Pension Scheme 2015. This is an unfunded scheme which means that there are no investment assets to match with the liability thus cash has to be generated to meet actual pension payments as they fall due.

### **(ii) Control and Support Staff**

Employees, subject to certain qualifying criteria are eligible to join the LGPS administered by Leicestershire County Council. This is a funded defined benefit scheme meaning that the CFA and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension liabilities with investment assets.

## Note 36 Defined Benefit Pension Schemes (continued)

### Transactions Relating to Post-Employment Benefits (LGPS)

The CFA 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.

However, the charge we are required to make in the accounts 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 MIRS.

The following transactions have been made in the CIES and the general fund balance via the MIRS during the year:

<b>Local Government Pension Scheme</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
<b>Cost of Services</b>		
Current service cost	2,129	1,220
Past service cost	64	-
Settlements and curtailments	-	-
<b>Total Service Cost</b>	<b>2,193</b>	<b>1,220</b>
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure		
Expected return on scheme assets	-	-
Interest cost	369	55
<b>Net Interest Cost</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Total Post-employment Benefit charged to the (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>	<b>2,562</b>	<b>1,275</b>
Other post-employment benefit charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
Return on plan assets excluding amounts included in net interest	771	(1,937)
Actuarial (gains)/losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	(293)	(215)
Actuarial (gains)/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	(20,949)	(2,426)
Other Experience adjustments	2,223	1,113
Effect of Asset Ceiling Adjustment	5,220	9,832
<b>Total remeasurements recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</b>	<b>(13,028)</b>	<b>6,367</b>
<b>Total post-employment Benefit charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure statement</b>	<b>(10,466)</b>	<b>7,642</b>
Movement in Reserves Statement		
Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit for the Provision of Services for post-employment benefits	(2,562)	(1,275)
Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year (Employers contributions paid to the scheme)	1,238	1,418
<b>Total Movement in Reserves</b>	<b>(1,324)</b>	<b>143</b>

## Note 36 Defined Benefit Pension Schemes (continued)

2023/24	Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992	Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2006	Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2015	Injury Benefit Scheme	Consolidated Firefighters' Pension Schemes
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement					
<u>Cost of Services</u>					
Current service cost			1,980	80	2,060
Past service cost	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Service Cost</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,980</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>2,060</b>
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure					
Interest cost	15,020	790	920	150	16,880
<b>Net Interest cost</b>	<b>15,020</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>920</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>16,880</b>
<b>Total Post-employment Benefit charged to the (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>	<b>15,020</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>18,940</b>
Other post-employment benefit charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement					
Actuarial (gains)/losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	-	-	-	-	-
Actuarial (gains)/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	(5,690)	(350)	(780)	(50)	(6,870)
Other Experience adjustments	3,900	310	1,790	(260)	5,740
<b>Total remeasurements recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</b>	<b>(1,790)</b>	<b>(40)</b>	<b>1,010</b>	<b>(310)</b>	<b>(1,130)</b>
<b>Total post-employment Benefit charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure statement</b>	<b>13,230</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>3,910</b>	<b>(80)</b>	<b>17,810</b>
Movement in Reserves Statement					
Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit for the Provision of Services for post-employment benefits	(15,020)	(790)	(2,900)	(230)	(18,940)
Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year (Employers contributions paid to the scheme)	14,870	140	(1,220)	140	13,930
<b>Total Movement in Reserves</b>	<b>(150)</b>	<b>(650)</b>	<b>(4,120)</b>	<b>(90)</b>	<b>(5,010)</b>

## Note 36 Defined Benefit Pension Schemes (continued)

2022/23	Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992	Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2006	Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2015	Injury Benefit Scheme	Consolidated Firefighters' Pension Schemes
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement					
<u>Cost of Services</u>					
Current service cost	-	-	7,290	180	7,470
Past service cost	10,450	1,270	(11,720)	-	-
Transfers In	-	-	80	-	80
<b>Total Service Cost</b>	<b>10,450</b>	<b>1,270</b>	<b>(4,350)</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>7,550</b>
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure					
Interest cost	11,000	770	1,350	120	13,240
<b>Net Interest cost</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>13,240</b>
<b>Total Post-employment Benefit charged to the (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>	<b>21,450</b>	<b>2,040</b>	<b>(3,000)</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>20,790</b>
Other post-employment benefit charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement					
Actuarial (gains)/losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	(7,470)	(1,790)	(6,960)	(70)	(16,290)
Actuarial (gains)/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	(118,380)	(12,500)	(25,890)	(940)	(157,710)
Other Experience adjustments	25,840	1,090	180	(420)	26,690
<b>Total remeasurements recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</b>	<b>(100,010)</b>	<b>(13,200)</b>	<b>(32,670)</b>	<b>(1,430)</b>	<b>(147,310)</b>
<b>Total post-employment Benefit charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure statement</b>	<b>(78,560)</b>	<b>(11,160)</b>	<b>(35,670)</b>	<b>(1,130)</b>	<b>(126,520)</b>
Movement in Reserves Statement					
Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit for the Provision of Services for post-employment benefits	(21,450)	(2,040)	3,000	(300)	(20,790)
Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year (Employers contributions paid to the scheme)	13,970	200	(1,480)	130	12,820
<b>Total Movement in Reserves</b>	<b>(7,480)</b>	<b>(1,840)</b>	<b>1,520</b>	<b>(170)</b>	<b>(7,970)</b>

## Note 36 Defined Benefit Pension Schemes (continued)

### Pensions Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet:

LGPS	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
Present value of the defined benefit obligation	35,780	36,599
Fair value of plan assets	(39,731)	(44,406)
Asset Ceiling Adjustment	5,220	9,832
<b>Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation</b>	<b>1,269</b>	<b>2,025</b>

### Reconciliation of Present Value of the scheme liabilities (defined benefit obligation):

LGPS	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
<b>Balance at 1st April</b>	<b>53,098</b>	<b>35,780</b>
Current service cost	2,129	1,220
Past service costs (including curtailments)	64	-
Interest cost	1,483	1,714
Contributions by scheme participants	318	368
Benefits paid	(751)	(955)
Remeasurements arising from changes in assumptions	(20,561)	(1,528)
<b>Balance at 31st March</b>	<b>35,780</b>	<b>36,599</b>

### Reconciliation of fair value of the scheme (plan) assets:

LGPS	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
<b>Balance at 1st April</b>	<b>40,125</b>	<b>39,731</b>
Interest income	1,114	1,907
Contributions by scheme participants	318	368
Employer contributions	1,238	1,418
Benefits paid	(751)	(955)
Return on plan assets excluding amounts included in net interest	(771)	1,937
Remeasurements from other experiences	(1,542)	-
<b>Balance at 31st March</b>	<b>39,731</b>	<b>44,406</b>

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

## Note 36 Defined Benefit Pension Schemes (continued)

### Reconciliation of Present Value of the Scheme Liabilities - Firefighters Schemes

	Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992	Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2006	Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2015	Injury Benefit Scheme	Consolidated Firefighters' Pension Schemes
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Opening balance at the 1st April 2022	416,840	28,360	52,380	4,540	502,120
Current service costs (net of employee contributions)	-	-	7,290	180	7,470
Past service costs	10,450	1,270	(11,720)	-	-
Contributions by scheme participants	-	-	1,870	-	1,870
Transfers In	-	-	80	-	80
<b>Remeasurement gain:</b>					
Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	(7,470)	(1,790)	(6,960)	(70)	(16,290)
Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	(118,380)	(12,500)	(25,890)	(940)	(157,710)
Other experience	25,840	1,090	180	(420)	26,690
Finance Interest cost	11,000	770	1,350	120	13,240
Benefits paid	(13,970)	(200)	(390)	(130)	(14,690)
<b>Closing balance at the 31st March 2023</b>	<b>324,310</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>18,190</b>	<b>3,280</b>	<b>362,780</b>
Current service costs (net of employee contributions)	-	-	1,980	80	2,060
Past service costs	-	-	-	-	-
Contributions by scheme participants	-	-	2,120	-	2,120
Transfers In	-	-	80	-	80
<b>Remeasurement gain:</b>					
Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	-	-	-	-	-
Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	(5,690)	(350)	(780)	(50)	(6,870)
Other experience	3,900	310	1,790	(260)	5,740
Finance Interest cost	15,020	790	920	150	16,880
Benefits paid	(14,870)	(140)	(900)	(140)	(16,050)
<b>Closing balance at the 31st March 2024</b>	<b>322,670</b>	<b>17,610</b>	<b>23,400</b>	<b>3,060</b>	<b>366,740</b>

## Note 36 Defined Benefit Pension Schemes (continued)

The Local Government Pension Scheme's assets consist of the categories in the table, by proportion of

	2022/23		2023/24	
	Bid Values	Percentage of Total Assets	Bid Values	Percentage of Total Assets
	£000		£000	
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>				
All	2,006	5%	999	2%
<b><u>Quoted prices in active markets</u></b>				
<b>Equity Securities</b>				
Consumer	46	0%	5	0%
Manufacturing	6	0%	22	0%
Energy and Utilities	57	0%	46	0%
Financial Institutions	80	0%	14	0%
Information Technology	16	0%	8	0%
Health and Care	32	0%	9	0%
Other	93	0%	36	0%
<b>Debt Securities</b>				
UK Government	1,990	5%	2,039	5%
Other	74	0%	188	0%
<b>Investment Fund and Unit Trusts</b>				
Equities	11,386	29%	19,349	44%
Other	3,378	9%	6,038	14%
<b>Derivatives</b>				
Foreign Exchange	83	0%	20	0%
<b><u>Quoted prices not in active markets</u></b>				
<b>Debt Securities</b>				
UK Government	5	0%	5	0%
<b>Real Estate</b>				
UK Property	3,057	8%	3,147	7%
<b>Private Equity</b>				
All	2,657	7%	3,040	7%
<b>Investment Fund and Unit Trusts</b>				
Equities	6,908	17%	95	0%
Commodities	997	3%	1,141	3%
Other	4,783	12%	4,572	10%
Infrastructure	2,077	5%	3,633	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,731</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>44,406</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Note 36 Defined Benefit Pension Schemes (continued)

### 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 fund liabilities have been assessed by Hymans Robertson LLP for LGPS, and independent firm of actuaries, based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31st March 2024.

The Firefighter Pension Scheme has been assessed by the Government Actuary's Department (GAD).

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table. The sensitivity analysis overleaf have been determined based on reasonable possible changes of the assumptions occurring at the end of the year, 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 overleaf did not change from those used in the previous year.

The main assumptions used by the actuary have been:

	LGPS		Fire Pension Scheme	
	2022/23	2023/24	2022/23	2023/24
Mortality assumptions:				
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners (years):				
Men	21.4	21.2	21.2	21.3
Women	24.2	24.0	21.2	21.3
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners (years):				
Men	22.4	22.2	22.9	22.9
Women	25.9	25.7	22.9	22.9
Benefit entitlement assumptions:				
Rate of increase in salaries	3.5%	3.0%	3.9%	4.8%
Rate of increase in pensions	3.0%	2.8%	2.6%	3.0%
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	4.8%	4.9%	4.7%	2.7%
Take-up of option to convert annual pension into retirement lump-sum	55.0%	55.0%	-	-
Rate of inflation (firefighters schemes)	-	-	2.6%	3.0%



## Note 36 Defined Benefit Pension Schemes (continued)

### Impact on the Defined Benefit Obligation in the Plan/Scheme

The table opposite provides details on the impacts in relation to any changes in assumptions.

	Change in Assumption	
	LGPS	Fire Pension Schemes
	£000	£000
Longevity (change of 1 year)	1,464	9,000
Rate of increase in salaries (change of 0.5%)	495	4,000
Rate of increase in pensions (change of 0.5%)	3,335	24,000
Rate of discounting scheme liabilities (increase of 0.5%)	3,765	(25,000)

### Impact on the CFA's Cash Flows

#### Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded scheme. The liabilities section shows the underlying commitments that the Authority has in the long run to pay post-employment (retirement) benefits. In previous years the CFA has shown a significant liability on the pension fund, however this year the CFA's share of the pension fund assets, exceeds the CFA's obligations due to the rise in long term interest rates leading to expected higher returns on investments. However, the accounting standards require this to be shown as nil due to the CFA's minimum funding contribution for future years being more than the future years service cost. Therefore, following the asset ceiling requirements this year the final position shown is neither an asset nor a liability.

#### Firefighters Pension Scheme

The Fire Pension schemes are unfunded schemes and therefore have no target funding level.

The methodology for calculating employer contribution rates to the Fire Pensions Schemes for the 2012 valuation is set out in 'The Public Services (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014'.

## Note 37 Contingent Liabilities

As a result of the McCloud/Sargeant pensions age discrimination ruling, fire services are required to remedy pensions for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2022. This will give firefighters the opportunity to revert to their legacy scheme over this 7 year period.

In addition, certain on-call firefighters employed between 2000 and 2006 will be given an opportunity to buy back their pension from the date they started their on-call role. This is known as the second options exercise, arising from a ruling under the Part-time Workers Regulations (the Matthews/ O'Brien judgement). At the current time there is uncertainty around what funding will be provided to pay for backdated employer pension contributions, tax, interest and potentially legal claims.

## Note 38 Nature and Extent of Risks arising from Financial Instruments

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

~ Credit risk - the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the CFA

~ Liquidity risk - the possibility that the CFA might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments

~ Market risk - the possibility that financial loss might arise as a result of changes in, for example, interest rates

The CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management has been adopted by the CFA and a Treasury Management Strategy is approved by the CFA each year. In addition, annual reports are presented to CFA which highlight investment and borrowing progress and explain departures from the strategy. In this way, the risks are actively managed.

## Note 38 Nature and Extent of Risks arising from Financial Instruments (continued)

### a) Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions and from providing chargeable services to customers. The CFA publishes criteria for lending surplus cash in the Medium Term Financial Strategy. The facilities applicable in this financial year are:

*Other than money retained in the bank for day to day purposes, all investments are made with Leicester City Council.*

Invoices to customers for chargeable services are of relatively low value.

The following analysis summarises the CFA's potential maximum exposure to credit risk based on actual experience in terms of deposits and percentage of debt which has been written off as unrecoverable over the last three years in terms of debtors. All deposits shown on the Balance Sheet as at the 31st March 2023 were repaid to the CFA before the date the Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue where repayment was due in this period. There is no reason to doubt the credit quality of any of the customers amounts, whether current or past due for payment.

The majority of the CFA's liquid cash is invested with Leicester City Council, who also govern the CFA's Treasury Management activities.

Loans and Receivables	1st April 2023	31st March 2024	Est. Maximum Exposure to Credit Risk	Historical Experience of Default
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Deposits with banks, financial institutions	1,283	2,058	0	0.00
Deposits with local authorities	13,975	14,075	0	0.00
Trade Debtors				
- not yet due for payment	67	127	0	0.00
- past due date for payment	10	1	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,335</b>	<b>16,261</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## Note 38 Nature and Extent of Risks arising from Financial Instruments (continued)

The past due amount is analysed by age as follows:

	1st April 2023 31st March 2024	
	£000	£000
Less than 1 month overdue	-	-
1-2 months overdue	6	-
2-6 months overdue	3	-
Over 6 months overdue	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>

### Maturity Structure of Fixed Interest Rate Borrowing 2023/24

	Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Less than 1 year	0%	30%
12 months to 2 years	0%	40%
2 years to 5 years	0%	60%
5 years to 10 years	60%	60%
10 years and above	60%	100%

### Liquidity Risk

The CFA has a comprehensive cash flow management system that seeks to ensure that cash is available as needed. If unexpected movements happen, the CFA is able to access borrowings from Leicester City Council, money markets and the PWLB. There is no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance in order to meet its commitments under financial instruments. Instead the risk is that the CFA is exposed to is that it will be bound to replenish a significant proportion of its borrowings when interest rates are unfavourable. The CFA sets limits on the proportion of borrowings during specified periods. The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is as follows:

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

## Note 38 Nature and Extent of Risks arising from Financial Instruments (continued)

### Market Risk

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

- ~ borrowings at fixed rates – the fair value of the liabilities borrowings will fall
- ~ investments at variable rates – the interest income credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services will rise
- ~ investments at fixed rates – the fair value of the assets will fall.

Borrowings are not carried at fair value, so nominal gains and losses on fixed rate borrowings would not impact on the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services or Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. However, changes in interest payable and receivable on variable rate borrowings and investments will be posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services and affect the General Fund Balance. Movements in the fair value of fixed rate investments that have a quoted market price will be reflected in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

The CFA has a number of strategies for managing interest rate risk. Policy is to aim to have no borrowings in variable rate loans. During periods of falling interest rates, and where economic circumstances make it favourable, fixed rate loans will be repaid early to limit exposure to losses.

The team responsible for Treasury Management has an active strategy for assessing interest rate exposure that feeds into the setting of the annual budget and which is used to revise the budget during the year. This allows any adverse changes to be accommodated.

According to this assessment strategy, at the 31st March 2024 if interest rates had been 1% higher with all other variables held constant, the financial effects would be:

	£000
Additional interest receivable on variable rate investments (has a positive impact on the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services)	206
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate borrowings liabilities (no impact on the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services or Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure)	1,257

An average rate of 1.95% (£403k) was achieved for investments, therefore this is the maximum amount which could be lost.

# Pension Fund Statement

## Firefighters' Pension Fund

Fund Account	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
<b>Income to the fund</b>		
<b>Contributions receivable:</b>		
Fire authority contributions in relation to pensionable pay	(4,425)	(4,717)
Ill health contributions	(67)	-
Firefighters' contributions	(2,033)	(2,122)
Transfers in from other schemes	(90)	(16)
<b>Income to the fund</b>	<b>(6,615)</b>	<b>(6,855)</b>
<b>Spending by the fund</b>		
<b>Benefits payable:</b>		
Pensions	12,387	13,766
Commutation and lump-sum retirement benefits	2,778	2,378
Other payments	171	146
Payments To and On Behalf of Leavers	-	-
Transfers out to other schemes	-	-
<b>Spending by the fund</b>	<b>15,336</b>	<b>16,290</b>
<b>Deficit for the year before top up grant receivable from Home Office</b>	<b>8,721</b>	<b>9,435</b>
Top-up grant received	(5,490)	(7,055)
<b>Net Grant Receivable</b>	<b>3,231</b>	<b>2,380</b>
<b>Firefighters' Pension fund net assets statement</b>		
	<b>31st March 2023</b>	<b>31st March 2024</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Net current assets and liabilities:		
Pensions top up grant receivable from Home Office	3,231	2,380
<b>Net grant receivable</b>	<b>3,231</b>	<b>2,380</b>

## Pension Fund Statement (continued)

1. In accordance with the requirements of IAS19 the actual cost of pensions required for council tax setting purposes is replaced by the current service cost of pensions in CIES, and reversed out in the MIRS.
2. Employee contributions, and employer contributions are paid into a separate account out of which pensions are paid. This is administered on behalf of the CFA by West Yorkshire Pension Fund. Any deficit on this account is made up by direct government funding from the Home Office.
3. It is these employer contributions (rather than the net cost of pensions) that are replaced in the CIES.
4. The Government has determined that this account is deemed a pension fund separate from the CIES and is thus reported on separately. There are no assets in this scheme and the difference between income and expenditure is met by direct government funding to balance the account to nil each year, and therefore there is no surplus or deficit on this fund to impact on overall CFA reserves.
5. Employer's and employee contribution levels are based on percentages of pensionable pay set nationally by the Government Actuary's Department and the Home Office respectively. They are both subject to triennial revaluation by the Government Actuary's Department.
6. The pensions fund's accounts do not take account of liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits after the 31st March 2024. These can be found in note 36 in the notes to the accounts.
7. The accounts are prepared in accordance with the same code of practice and accounting policies as outlined in the Statement of Accounting policies starting on page 26.
8. Any Government funding payable is paid in two instalments, 80% of the estimated annual amount in July and any further surplus or deficit settled with the Home Office following audit of the accounts for the year.
9. The fund is in deficit by £375,065k as at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 (£370,349k as at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023).

# Final Statement & Glossary



# CFA Annual Governance Statement 2023/24

the Annual Governance Statement.

## 1. Introduction

The Combined Fire Authority (CFA) is committed to good corporate governance and complies with the CIPFA/SOLACE “Delivering Good Governance Framework” (2016). The Framework requires local authorities to be responsible for ensuring that:

- their 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

This statement is produced in fulfilment of the requirements under the Accounts and Audit Regulations, 2015, to prepare an annual governance statement.

## 2. The Arrangements

The CFA works within the governance framework summarised in Appendix 1, and has an approved Local Code of Corporate Governance. The following details how the CFA meets the requirements of the Framework through the core principles, systems, policies and procedures it has in place. Appendix 2 demonstrates how this has been assessed to inform

### We have the following codes and rules:

- Finance and Contract Procedure Rules
- Code of Conduct for Members
- Code of Conduct for Employees
- Anti-fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Organisational Risk Management

**Our purpose is Safer People, Safer Places in both our communities and our workplaces. Our five key corporate strategies identified in our corporate plan and Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) (Our Plan 2024-28) sets out how we will achieve this in each priority area. The strategies are:**

- Safer Communities
- Response
- Finance and Resources
- People
- Governance

### We monitor:

- Delivery of Our Plan
- Performance indicators
- Delivery of the budget
- Organisational Risk Register

### We are transparent in our decision making through:

- Open CFA & committee meetings with published agenda, meeting papers and minutes
- Published Senior Leadership Team decisions
- Scrutiny of our project development programme through committees
- Stakeholder engagement on our budget; IRMP; key projects and partnership working
- Publication of Freedom of Information Act responses and transparency data

## CFA Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 (continued)

### We are supported by:

- Leicester City Council who provide the position of Treasurer to make arrangements for the proper administration of the CFA's financial affairs
- Leicestershire County Council who provide the position of Monitoring Officer to maintain the constitution, ensure lawfulness and fairness in decision-making, supporting members and development
- A staff intranet, which provides guidance and policy documentation
- Senior Leadership Team, Tactical Management Team, Project Boards and Project Teams led by senior, middle and supervisory managers to implement effective delivery of service priorities
- Support provided by specialist teams e.g Finance, IT, HR, Estates etc

### We review processes and delivery throughout the year supported by:

- Internal Audit
- External Audit
- Corporate Governance Committee
- Revenue and Capital Monitoring Reports

## 3. Significant Governance Issues

The CFA's review of processes enables the identification of any areas of the CFA's activities where there are significant weaknesses in financial controls, governance arrangements or the management of risk. Overall from this year's work, it can be concluded that controls are operationally effective and that the authority's financial management arrangements conform to the governance requirements of the CIPFA 'Statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government'. This has been supported by the internal audit opinion which stated:

*"The HoIAS gives reasonable assurance that overall the control environment remained adequate and effective. Whilst there were isolated high risk rated weaknesses identified in some areas, controls to mitigate key risks are generally operating effectively. The HoIAS was on the whole satisfied with management's response to resolving identified issues and welcomed the Committee's support and engagement over them. However, the arrangements to enable the Corporate Governance Committee to effectively monitor the progression and implementation of Internal Audit Service high importance recommendations require improvement.*

*This is because of lengthy delays to implementing some previously agreed high importance recommendations. It is proposed that on receipt of*

*the Internal Audit update reports, the Chair should discuss and agree with the HoIAS (and where necessary the Treasurer or Monitoring Officer) whether relevant officers should be requested to attend the Committee meeting to provide an update and reasons for any delays that may have arisen."*

Risk management and internal control are a significant part of the governance framework and are designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. We cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives, however the above controls provide reasonable but not absolute assurance of effectiveness.

Areas of significant risk or priorities for action have been identified and are listed on the following pages, along with an update of the issues identified last year.

## CFA Annual Governance Statement 2023/24 (continued)

### Follow Up of Issues Identified in 2022/23

Last year the following areas were identified as significant governance issues. The table below sets out the action that has been taken to address these issues in the current year:

Issue Identified	Action taken to date:
<p><b>Budget Strategy</b> - There are no government spending plans beyond 2023/24.</p>	<p>The CFA has a balanced budget for 2024/25. The CFA approved an increase in the Band D Council tax for 2024/25 to £81.65, an increase of just below 3%, which is in line with the Central Government referendum principles.</p>
<p><b>Economic instability and rising inflation</b> – A weak national economy and high inflation pushes up costs, and limits the supply of goods, supplies and services.</p> <p>Significantly increased costs for services and for capital schemes can result in over-spends, budget pressures and inability to meet demand.</p> <p>Lack of availability of key supplies, goods and services and relevant skills and expertise can cause delays and risk ability to deliver services and capital schemes</p>	<p>An inflation provision was created as part of the 2024/25 budget setting process in order to mitigate any increases in the costs of providing services. This includes an assumption of a 4% Pay award and a sum of £0.5m for known and expected price inflation.</p>

**CFA Annual Governance Statement 2023/24 (continued)**

**Issues Identified in 2022/23 (continued)**

<b>Issue Identified</b>	<b>Action taken to date:</b>
<p><b>Firefighters pensions remedy</b> – All fire &amp; rescue authorities could potentially see significant one-off cost pressures relating to the two firefighter pension schemes remedies that will allow firefighters to buy back pensions over a number of years.</p> <p>The two pensions remedies are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>McCloud/ Sargeant</li><li>Matthews/ O’Brien</li></ul> <p>There is uncertainty around how much funding will be provided by central government to cover additional costs in relation to employer pension contributions, tax, interest and legal action.</p>	<p>Through the Local Pension Board, the CFA continued to monitor developments with the Firefighters pensions remedies, following the enactment of new legislation and regulations from October 2023. Whilst the Government has provided significant assurances about funding, some areas of uncertainty remain. The CFA received grant towards the costs of additional staffing resources. A regional pensions group including Leicestershire, Derbyshire &amp; Nottinghamshire fire &amp; rescue services met frequently to discuss developments and required actions. The Local Government Association delivered regular updates.</p>

## CFA Annual Governance Statement 2023/24 (continued)

### Issues Identified in 2023/24

The areas of significant risk or priorities for action that have been identified are listed below:

Issue Identified	Planned Action:
<p><b>Budget Strategy</b> - There are no government spending plans beyond 2024/25.</p>	<p>The CFA will continue to monitor its finances and the wider public spending environment closely during 2024/25.</p>
<p><b>Cost and supply pressures</b> – Whilst inflation is returning to lower levels, ongoing cost pressures, future pay awards and lack of availability of key supplies and expertise remain a risk.</p>	<p>The CFA will continue to monitor capital budgets and ensure during inception of projects that provision for inflation is built into funding allocations. An inflation provision is built into the 2024/25 revenue budget.</p>
<p><b>Firefighters pensions remedy</b> – All fire &amp; rescue authorities could potentially see significant one-off cost pressures relating to the two firefighter pension schemes remedies that will allow firefighters to buy back pensions over a number of years.</p> <p>The two pensions remedies are:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">McCloud/ Sargeant</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Matthews/ O’Brien</p> <p>There is uncertainty around how much funding will be provided by central government to cover additional costs in relation to employer pension contributions, tax, interest and legal action.</p>	<p>Through the Local Pension Board, the CFA will continue to monitor developments with the Firefighters pensions remedies, following the enactment of new legislation and regulations from October 2023. Whilst the Government has provided significant assurances about funding, some areas of uncertainty remain. The CFA received grant towards the costs of the additional staffing resources, which will be required into 2025 and potentially beyond. A regional pensions group including Leicestershire, Derbyshire &amp; Nottinghamshire fire &amp; rescue services meets frequently to discuss developments and required actions, supported by a regional adviser employed by Derbyshire. The Local Government Association hosts online update meetings on a fortnightly basis, together with a monthly bulletin.</p>

## CFA Annual Governance Statement 2023/24 (continued)

### Issues Identified in 2022/23 (continued)

The areas of significant risk or priorities for action that have been identified are listed below:

Issue Identified	Planned Action:
<p><b>New Procurement Act 2023</b> - The Government are introducing a new Procurement Act 2023 with a go-live date of 28 October 2024.</p> <p>Key drivers of the Act are to realise better value for money, identify cost savings and monitor signs of waste and inefficiency. Procurement spend will also be more transparent to the public with how much is being spent, with whom and how.</p> <p>The Act brings both challenges and opportunities for the public sector/CFA.</p>	<p>An officer working group has been established to oversee the transition to the new Act and recognise that the short implementation timetable and inevitable change will be a challenge.</p> <p>Whilst the Act reduces administrative burdens on suppliers and the type of regulations, it also emphasises the importance of robust scrutiny and monitoring to ensure that procurement activities are conducted ethically, transparently and compliantly.</p> <p>During the transition stage it is an opportunity for the officer working group to review procurement policies and procedures.</p>
<p><b>CFA Treasurer</b> – the CFA have received notification that the Director of Finance will be stepping back from the Treasurer role and took the decision to recruit a S112 internally. This requires a smooth transition to the new role to ensure good financial governance, particularly in areas of treasury management, budget strategy and monitoring</p>	<p>A qualified interim S112 Officer, with expertise, to oversee the finance function. She will work with Leicester City Council for the handover and will become S112 at the end of September. Appropriate resources are currently being identified to support the transition back to CFA. For example the use of external advisors in the short-term for treasury advice.</p>

## CFA Annual Governance Statement 2023/24 (continued)

### 4. Conclusion

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 as part of our next annual review.

..... (Chair)  
12/08/24

..... (Chief Fire and  
12/08/24 Rescue Officer)

..... (Treasurer)  
12/08/24

## CFA Annual Governance Statement 2023/24 (continued)

The Combined Fire Authority had the following governance arrangements in place during 2023/24.

Appendix 1

### Key Elements of the Governance Framework at the Combined Fire Authority are summarised below:

#### Combined Fire Authority

- Provide leadership, develop and set policy

#### Decision making

- Decisions are recorded on the CFA's website

#### Risk management

- Risk registers identify both operational and strategic risks
- Key risks are considered by the Senior Leadership Team

#### Scrutiny and review

- Corporate Governance Committee:

Oversees the financial reporting process and ensures that an adequate risk management framework and control environment is in place.

Approves the Internal Audit Annual report and opinion.

- Employment Committee will make:  
recommendations to the CFA on key appointments of senior officers and will hear grievances and disciplinary proceedings against these officers.

- Pension Board ensures:

the effective governance and administration of Pension Schemes and compliance with any requirements imposed by the Pensions Regulator.

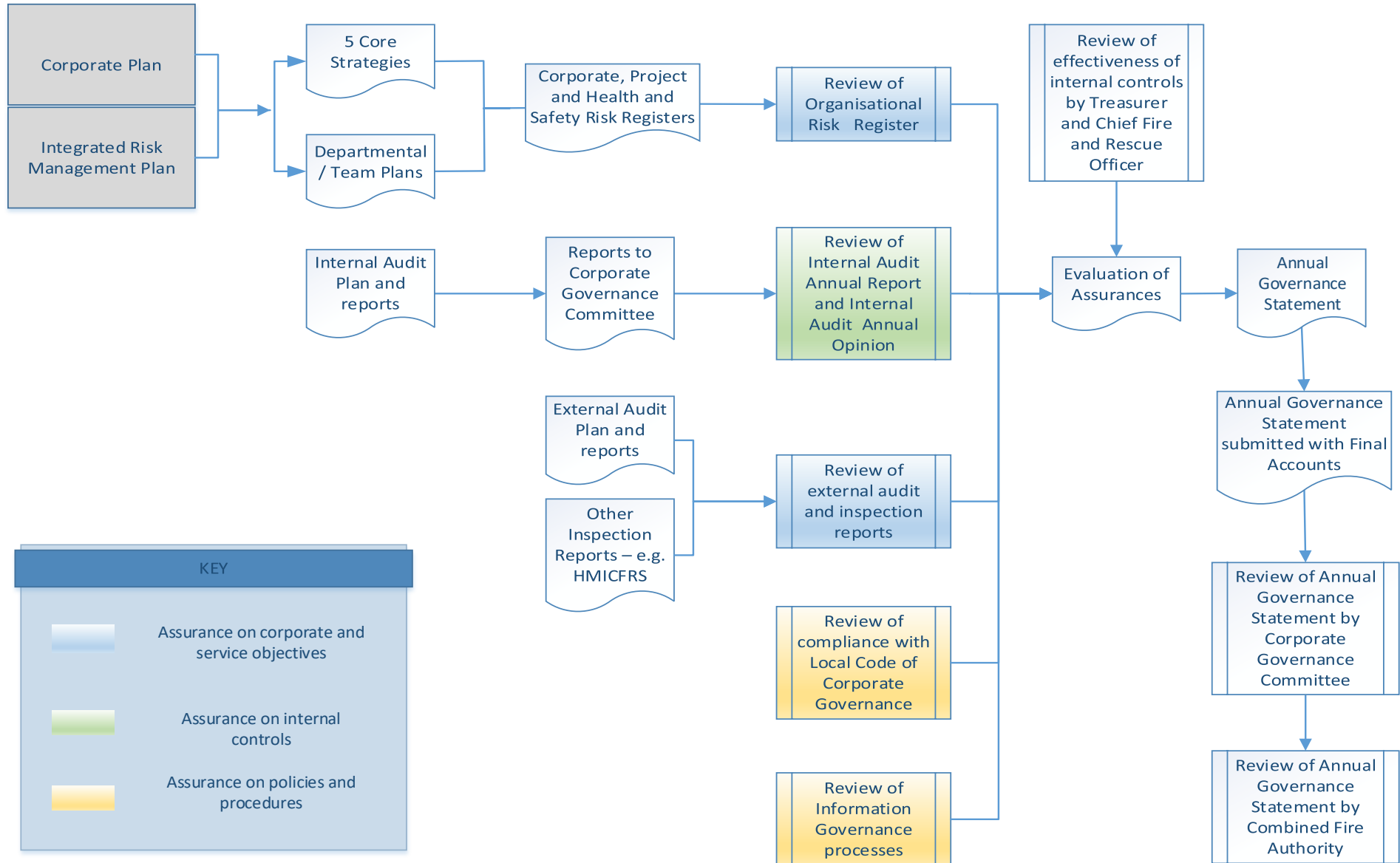
#### Senior Leadership Team

- Provide service level management and interface with the political leadership
- Head of Paid Service is the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer, who is responsible for leading an effective senior leadership team (SLT)
- The Treasurer is the s.151 Officer at Leicester City Council and is responsible for safeguarding the CFA's financial position and ensuring value for money
- Monitoring Officer is the Leicestershire County Council Director Law and Governance who is responsible for ensuring legality and promoting high standards of public conduct
- SLT includes all operational directors and service area managers.



## CFA Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 (continued)

### Governance Arrangements to inform the Annual Governance Statement



# Glossary

This Glossary explains terms that may be encountered in discussion of Local Government finance. Definitions are intended to assist a general audience, rather than reflecting exactly the technical sense in which the terms are used.

## **Accruals**

The concept that income and expenditure are recognised as they are earned or incurred, not as money is received or paid.

## **Amortisation**

The reduction of the value of an intangible asset by pro-rating its cost over a period of years.

## **Capital Expenditure**

Expenditure on the acquisition of non current assets or expenditure which adds to and not merely maintains the value of existing non current assets.

## **Capital Receipts**

Income from the sale of assets. Such income may only be used to repay loan debt or to finance new capital expenditure.

## **Cash Equivalents**

Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

## **Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)**

The principal accountancy body dealing with Local Authority and Public Sector finance.

## **Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting (The Code)**

A publication produced by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) that provides comprehensive guidance on the content of the Authority's Statement of Accounts.

## **Contingent Liability**

A possible obligation arising from past events whose existence will be confirmed by the occurrence of an uncertain future event not wholly within the CFA's control. It can also be a present obligation arising from past events where it is not probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required or where the amount of the obligation is uncertain.

## **Creditors**

Amounts owed by the CFA for which payment has not been made by the end of the financial year.

## **Debtors**

Amounts due to the CFA but unpaid at the end of the financial year.

## **Depreciation**

The measure of the wearing out, consumption, or other reduction in the usual economic life of a non current asset during the accounting period.

## **Finance Lease**

A method of financing the acquisition of assets. Legally the assets are owned by the lessor, although

the risks and rewards of ownership of the assets pass to the lessee. The assets are shown on the Balance Sheet of the CFA.

## **Financial Instrument**

Any contract which gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability of another. Typical financial instruments are: trade payables, bank deposits, trade receivables and investments.

## **General Fund**

The CFA's main revenue account, covering the net cost of all services.

## **Government Actuary's Department**

A Government Department that provides advice upon public sector pension arrangements, social security provision and regulators of private pension policies.

# Glossary (continued)

## **Impairment**

A reduction in the value of an asset, which is additional to the expected depreciation of that asset. Impairment may be a result of, for example, physical damage or reducing prices.

## **Non- Current Assets**

Property, plant and equipment that yield benefits to the CFA for a period of more than one year.

## **Operating Lease**

A method of financing the acquisition of assets, notably equipment, vehicles, plant etc. which involves the payment of a rental by the user for a period which is normally substantially less than the useful economic life of the asset.

## **Provision**

A liability or loss relating to a past event which is likely or certain to be incurred but uncertain as to the date when it will arise, which can be reasonably estimated.

## **Reserve**

An amount set aside for purposes falling outside the definition of a provision. Reserves include earmarked reserves set aside for specific policy purposes and balances which represent resources set aside for general contingencies.

## **Revenue Expenditure and Income**

Expenditure and income arising from the day to day operation of the CFA.

## **Special Services**

Incidents not relating to fires or road traffic collisions including the rescue of people and animals, gaining entry to properties and any other requests for assistance from other emergency services such as Leicestershire Police and The East Midlands Ambulance Service.

# Note References

Note 1	Accounting Policies	Note 20	Cash and Cash Equivalents
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Note 3	Accounting standards issued but not yet adopted	Note 22	Provisions
Note 4	Critical judgments in applying accounting policies	Note 23	Usable Reserves
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