



DARLINGTON

Borough Council

Statement of Accounts

2024/25

Statement of Accounts 2024/25 of Darlington Borough Council

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Narrative Report of Darlington Borough Council

Message from Elizabeth Davison - Executive Director of Resources and Governance

Darlington Borough Council is committed to the delivery of its vision, priorities and the core principles in the Council Plan which have been developed in consultation with our residents, our partners and stakeholders.

During 2024/25 the council continued to operate in an uncertain economic climate with financial instability, volatility and significant pressures on public sector finances. These pressures stemmed from the significant and unparalleled financial challenges following the reductions in public spending between 2010 and 2019 which saw a 36% reduction in Darlington's budget, £46m in real terms. This was further compounded in the aftermath of the pandemic as demand for services increased along with the unstable economic climate which saw the cost of living rise, inflation climb and energy costs soar.

The council has met these financial challenges head on through value for money service delivery, shared service provision, business transformation and strong economic growth which has allowed us to continue delivering services which are of a high standard and are well regarded, the most recent example being the Care Quality Commission Good rating for our Adult Social Care service.

However, there is no doubt the significant additional demand for services particularly in Children's and Adult social care and our homelessness service is putting an unprecedented pressure on affordability in the future. Our current Medium Term Financial Plan includes savings of £21.4m across its life including back office efficiencies, income generation and a transformation plan to reduce subsidies in our leisure and culture provision and business support which we will continue to build upon to protect front line services. The Government have committed to a funding review during 2025/26 and a multiyear settlement which will provide more certainty on resources available.

As the financial statements demonstrate the financial standing of the council continues to be robust. We have well established financial management processes and procedures that stand up well in the ever changing and challenging environment of continuous change.



Elizabeth Davison

Executive Director of Resources and Governance
Section 151 Officer
Darlington Borough Council

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An Introduction to Darlington

Darlington Borough Council is the third smallest Unitary local authority in the country but it has big ambitions and punches far above its weight. Inclusive economic growth is a key priority, aiming to attract new businesses creating more and better paid employment to benefit all residents. Darlington is on a roll with the arrival of Darlington Economic Campus and its seven government departments alongside a new government hub being built across the road. A university campus; the governments catapult bioscience facility and a growing manufacturing and logistics sector are just a few examples. The Darlington landscape is changing and new investment is being seen across the whole borough.

Darlington Borough Council is located in the western end of the Tees Valley, a sub-regional grouping that also includes the unitary authorities of Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees. Since becoming a unitary authority in 1997, Darlington Borough Council has consistently worked in partnership with the other Tees Valley authorities, through the agency of Tees Valley Unlimited (TVU), on strategic investment and regeneration planning. Furthermore, Darlington is also a member of the Tees Valley Combined Authority. Created in April 2016, it is a partnership of the five Tees Valley authorities and aims to drive economic growth and job creation in the area by working closely with the local business community and other partners to make local decisions to support economic growth. Under the devolution deal with the Government, the Combined Authority, chaired by the Tees Valley Mayor, has taken on responsibilities previously held by Westminster and Whitehall; for transport, infrastructure, skills, business investment, housing, culture and tourism.

Darlington is regarded as the 'gateway' to the Tees Valley and to the wider North-East region. Darlington station on the East coast mainline railway connects the Borough and Tees Valley with the rest of the UK, whilst Teesside International Airport, located within the Borough, provides links to Europe and the world through Amsterdam. Darlington sits at the crossing of the north-south A1 motorway and the east-west A66 trunk road. Location and excellent communications with a high quality of life in a sub-regional context are key assets in Darlington's attractiveness as a place to live and work.

Looking beyond the Tees Valley, Darlington is a place that has helped shape the modern world. The railway age started in Darlington and transformed global horizons. 'Made in Darlington' is stamped on bridges and installations across 6 continents and the Borough is now at the cutting edge of world-leading developments in sub-sea engineering, bio-medicine and digital business technologies. These are all essential connections for Darlington as a sustainable community - acting locally to build social, economic and environmental well-being with global mindfulness.

Darlington - About the Borough

Population - According to the 2021 Census Darlington has a population of 107,800 people and is growing. The population has grown 2.1% since the Census 2011 and is higher than the North East average at 1.9% and lower than the national average at 6.6%. There are more females than males: 51.1% of the population is female (55,100) and 48.9% male (52,700).

Demographics - The age structure of the population is changing, it is ageing and living longer. Compared with 2011 there are 11.8% more people aged 50-64 and 19.9% more aged 65 and over. The biggest decline was in the age group 15-24 at 10% and combined with a declining birth rate contribute to the growing older population.

Income - The average gross weekly pay for full time workers in Darlington is £652.2 compared to £661.2 in the North East (ONS annual survey of hours and earnings).

Gross disposable Income (GDHI) per head, which takes into account all forms of incomes not just earnings, in Darlington is estimated to be £18,376 per year, which is above the regional average.

The Darlington economy has a mix of businesses with the largest number 16.4% classed as within the human health and social work activities, 10.9% within retail and wholesale sectors, 10.9% within public administration and defence and 9.1% within transport and storage. There are 55,000 employee jobs in Darlington, 37,000 are full time and 17,000 part time. Just under a third of employees work in Health and Social Care and Retail.

Diversity - In comparison to other areas in the UK, Darlington's population is not ethnically diverse with just 5.6% of residents defining themselves as being non-white UK in the Census.

There is a significant Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community but its size is not fully known as it is understood these communities are under-represented in the Census.

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Your Council - Darlington Borough Council has a gross budget of £270m and employs around 2,100 staff in full time and part time contracts (excluding schools). Below is the make up of the workforce of the Council:

Headcount (excluding schools)

	Female	Male	Total
Full Time	670	564	1,234
Part Time	675	233	908
Total	1,345	797	2,142

This equates to 1,594.2 FTEs (excluding schools).

Political Structure - As of 31 March 2025, the Council is made up of 50 Councillors for 20 wards, with the political make up as follows:

•	Conservative	13
•	Labour	24
•	Liberal Democrats	2
•	Green Party	6
•	Independent	5
•	Vacant seat(s)	0

The Council has a statutory duty to set a balanced budget and this underwent scrutiny by the Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee in January 2024. The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan, Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy were all approved by Council in February 2024.

Council's Performance

Darlington Council's Plan outlines the ambitions for the Council. These are for 'an inclusive and sustainable economy, people living well and staying healthy, with thriving places and connected communities'. At the heart of the plan is our vision to be one of the best places to live, learn, work and invest - with a strong and sustainable economy, healthy thriving communities and opportunities for all. Delivery of the vision will be achieved by focussing on a number of key principles with partners, as outlined below.

The Council Plan is the overall vision for Darlington's future agreed by Council. At the heart of the plan are three core principles that will shape everything we do and lead to a better quality of life in the long term. The three principles are Addressing Inequalities, Tackling Climate Change and Efficient and Effective Use of Resources. All three are important and require multi-level stakeholder and community action.

The Plan also sets out six priorities for the next three years: economy, homes, living well, children and young people, communities and the local environment.

Economy

- A strong, sustainable economy and highly skilled workforce with opportunities for all.

Homes

- Affordable and secure homes that meet the current and future needs of residents.

Living Well

- A healthier and better quality of life for longer, supporting those who need it most

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Children and Young People

- The best start in life, realising potential and raising aspirations.

Communities

- Safer, healthier and more engaged communities.

Local Environment

- A well connected, clean and sustainable borough.

Delivery of the Council Plan is managed via a Performance Management Framework (PMF) of strategic performance measures and narrative updates against key actions, which are refreshed annually and reported half yearly to Cabinet and Council.

In terms of Core Principles the half yearly report states the following:

Inequalities

- The development of the new Health & Wellbeing Strategy has been underpinned by a consideration of health inequalities, building on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the recommendations of the Marmot review. The thematic priorities taken forward will explicitly include consideration of inequalities, understanding differences in outcomes across wards and targeting actions to population groups or geographical areas where need is greatest.
The Council has been taking an active role as a member of the the North East Child Poverty Commission, supporting the work of the collective to inform lobbying on key issues for the national Child Poverty Strategy. This has included taking part in themed roundtables, a workshop specifically organised for Tees Valley Partners and ensuring representation from the voluntary and community sector.

Tackling Climate Change

- Progress continues to deliver the climate change commitments through the delivery of the climate change action plan. We are following our trajectory of 40% reduction in council carbon emissions every five years.
- We have undertaken an Ecofair in June 2024 which was a big success with over 5,000 people being introduced to eco-friendly products and services and engaging with hands on activities such as crafts and science demonstrations.
- We have engaged with business to share sources of help, funding and success stories. We have done this through our business newsletter and council website.
- Elected members have been briefed in a seminar that included representatives from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.
- We continue to be an active member of Darlington Employers Environmental Partnership, a collaboration of businesses aimed at spreading good practice around the net zero challenge.
- Services across the Council have been engaged to trial a new report on our adaptation activities for the Department for Food & Rural Affairs to help ensure that we are resilient to future climate change.

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Efficient and Effective Use of Resources

- In December 2024 Cabinet agreed the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2025/26-2028/29 to go out for public consultation which concluded on 23rd January 2025. The MTFP then returned to Cabinet and was presented to full Council for approval in February 2025.
- A number of key strategies and plans are being reviewed and refreshed including the Asset Management Plan, Procurement Strategy, Workforce Strategy, Digital Darlington Strategy and the Customer Services Strategy. These are all due in 2025.
- Strategic Partnerships are important to delivering the Council Plan. Partnership working continues via Xentrall with recent work developing a bespoke management system for capital projects. Relationships with key stakeholders continue to be managed through the Public Sector Executive Group and Voluntary and Community Sector Engagement Group. The Council also continues to work in partnership with ESH Homes Ltd to develop a number of housing sites across the Borough.

With regards to Priorities the half yearly report states the following:

Economy

- The general economic outlook for Darlington is positive with unemployment levels remaining steady, employees and residents earnings on an upward trajectory and town centre footfall being higher in key months in 2024 when compared to 2023.
- The new government hub office development for Darlington Economic Campus on Brunswick Road now has planning approval. The complex will be home to 1,400 civil servants and is due to be complete in 2027.
- The Council delivered the first of two annual jobs fairs in October 2024 promoting good jobs and career opportunities available within the Borough. 2000 job seekers attended to meet around 100 employers and support organisations.
- The long term plan for the Towns Programme was confirmed by the Government in the Autumn Budget with some reforms and a focus on regeneration. The Council will receive £20m over 10yrs beginning in 2025/26 with a focus on capacity building. A board of local partners will provide strategic leadership for this programme, supported by the Council.
- Work continues to deliver the Towns Fund projects with improvements to Victoria Road and to shops and the public realm along Skinnergate and the Yards. Significant work will take place in the next nine months on the creation of the Adult Skills Hub within the former Northern Echo building refurbishment and the redevelopment of the Coniscliffe Road public realm.

Homes

- Challenges remain in relation to homelessness and rough sleeping, in particular in achieving positive outcomes to prevent homelessness due to the lack of move on accommodation. A new Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy has been developed with partners which proposes priorities for action and will involve the Council working in partnerships with charities and voluntary organisations, social housing providers, public health and statutory agencies to focus on prevention.
- Investment in Council Housing continues with work beginning on Phase 2 of Sherbourne Close. This will deliver 14 new homes including 11 affordable rented properties, 2 buy to rent and 1 for Childrens Services. The Neasham road site will deliver 130 council houses and the first 22 have already been occupied with further phases released during 2024 and 2025.
- Work continues to deliver greater energy efficiency savings in existing properties through the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) and the Housing Revenue Account.
- The Council has bid for further funding from the SHDF to deliver upgrades to council housing over a three year period. If successful this would significantly improve energy ratings to an EPC rating of C or above.

Living Well

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- The Health and Wellbeing Strategy has been developed with partners and takes a life approach underpinned by thematic priorities. The strategy was approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board in December 2024.
- Work is also ongoing to develop the public health approach to tackling health inequalities, working in partnership with key stakeholders. Priorities include delivering the Physical Activity Strategy and Health Weight Plan, delivering strategic priorities and actions on domestic abuse and sexual violence through a partnership board, refreshing domestic abuse safe accommodation strategy and working with the Combatting Drugs and Alcohol Partnership to monitor local plans.
- There is an increase in residential care for older people 65+. The Council is actively working to reduce the reliance on residential care through the strength based practice approach and through a home first approach to hospital discharges.
- Work on the Adult Social Care Transformation Plan is ongoing and the team have introduced Netcall to ensure timely, effective and efficient pathways for people contacting adult services. The new support plan review process has also been implemented to undertake reviews of support plans and needs, and ensure a timely review process. The adult social care engagement and co-production strategy has been developed and shared with local groups including Darlington Association on Disability, with an agreement to develop co-produced activities and plans.

Children and Young People

- The Council has increased the proportion of Children in Care who are being cared for by Local Authority Foster Carers to 20%, supported by an increase in the number of Approved Foster Carer Households to 64 (up from 50 in 2023). Short term placement instability has also reduced from 2023.
- The Council continues to work with multi-academy trust and schools to develop a high quality inclusive education sector. The Education Strategy Group launched the Darlington Inclusion Charter in June 2024 and a new Education Exploration Partnership will be facilitated by the Education Endowment Foundation to support the Council and schools to develop evidence informed practices and strategies to embed the commitment to inclusion.
- A Revised Children's and Young People Plan 2024-27 has been produced with extensive engagement with children, young people and key stakeholders. Five priorities were agreed: health, education, family and carers, employment and community. The plan will be launched in the second half of 2025.
- The Young Darlington Advisors Project has been established to bring together current work to involve young people in service development and design and enable it to happen on a wider scale. The young people will form a board aged 13-19 (or up to 25 for care leavers or those with an education healthcare plan/special education needs plan).
- The Council continues to successfully manage the Safety Valve Plan for the education budget and is on track to eliminate the deficit within the terms of the agreement by 2026/27.

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Communities

Work continues with partners to reduce the burden of the cost of living, supported by the government's Household Support Fund. Delivery is being supported by the voluntary and community sector and will deliver one off payments of £175 for 1,000 households living in food and fuel poverty,

- one off payments of £175 for 550 pensioners, home energy proffing for elderly residents via Age UK, food provision for Darlington foodbanks, vouchers for children in receipt of free school meals, support for care leavers and up to £100 support via Citizens Advice for residents experiencing financial crisis.

Combined total incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) have seen a decline compared to the previous quarter. The ASB trailblazer project focuses activity across 8 hotspot areas and 575 patrols were undertaken between 1 July and 22 October 2024.

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Whilst crime figures have declined, burglary, vehicle crime and shoplifting are areas being monitoed and targeted. Support for business is provided by the Shopwatch network which now has a membership of 167; and work is ongoing to ensure all retail and businesses have a means of communication outside of this membership.

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Council officers have continued to tackle problems associated with fly tipping and waste in back lanes with 118 environmental crime cases received. A range of actions have been taken including 11 prosecutions and 3 fixed penalty notices.

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To support community safety Future Pathways held the first of 3 community events in the Eastbourne Community Arena with sporting and intergenerational activities for young people, polcie and council staff. North Road and Northgate Community Cohesion Panel has been set up with financial support for locally driven community initiatives. For rural areas progress continues as rural crime co-ordinators have been appointed and support has been offered to Darlington's rural areas.

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Partnership working with key agencies continues to support communities to remain safe and resilient. Number 40 continues to provide a service to anyone who needs assistance on a night out in Darlington, supported by volunteers. Darlington Cares membership and volunteering continues to grow to support the delivery of a programme of activities focusing on 3 areas: environment, education and social justice.

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Local Environment

- Figures show high use of council-run cultural and sporting facilities, and in some cases such as the Theatre Hullabaloo significant growth. Hopetown Darlington is a new facility and opened to the public in July 2024. The railway based visitor attraction welcomed 55,000 visitors in the first 10 weeks.
- The Stockton and Darlington Railway 200 Festival was launched to the media in September 2024. This is a nine month international festival beginning March 2025 and Hopetown will be central to several key events.
- The annual events programme continues to be a success offering free welcoming activities to attract visitors to the town centre and customers to businesses. The Council is working with high street businesses to ensure the programme of events is planned to encourage movement around the town centre and increase dwell time. Events so far this year have included animation days such as a dinosaur day and large-scale music events using a stage in the market square.
- There has been a fall in the percentage of household waste collected by the Council that is sent to landfill. It is at its lowest level at 16.3% as more waste is sent to energy recovery and causes less environmental impact. However waste recycling continues to be a challenge, with the amount of waste that is recycled, composted or re-used falling slightly in recent years. There is ongoing work by Street Scene and communications teams to increase recycling and reduce contamination.
- A new weekly food waste collection service is due to be implemented towards the end of 2025/26. The team has been working on delivery options but there are some challenges with the resourcing of this service as Government funding will not be sufficient. The Chief Executive and MP for Darlington have both written to DEFRA expressing concerns and seeking clarification.
- Work is progressing with studies on flood risk in Darlington, with a particular focus on mitigating the impact of climate change. The Darlington Northumbria Integrated Drainage Partnership (NIDP) study has prioritised a scheme covering West Beck and Cocker Beck watercourses, including the Cockerton area. The Flood Asset Risk Study identified a scheme on West Beck which has been incorporated into the NIDP, and a business case is being assessed for a scheme at Killerby.

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Financial Performance

Economic climate

Since 2010 Darlington Borough Council has faced significant financial challenges due to reductions in funding from central government along with cost pressures and increasing demand within services. The process of balancing the Council's finances is ongoing and will last until at least 2026/27 whilst government policy is being developed.

In common with the rest of local government, the Council has seen a steady reduction in its core funding over many years.

Outturn (revenue and capital)

The financial standing of the Council is robust, with sound financial management practices.

Comparison of Actual with Budget - Revenue

Net Expenditure 2024/25	Budget £'000	Actual £'000	Variance £'000
<i>Departmental Resources</i>			
People Group	85,669	84,114	(1,555)
Environment, Highways & Community Services	27,051	25,544	(1,507)
Resources & Governance	14,411	14,850	439
Chief Executive	316	310	(6)
Economy & Public Protection	2,095	1,605	(490)
<i>Total Departmental Resources</i>	129,542	126,423	(3,119)
<i>Corporate Resources</i>			
Council Wide	179	(85)	(264)
Financing Costs	3,547	3,871	324
Joint Venture - Investment Return	(1,517)	(1,517)	0
Contingencies Budget	202	285	83
Unallocated Grant Income	0	(218)	(218)
<i>Total Corporate Resources</i>	2,411	2,336	(75)
<i>Net Expenditure</i>	131,953	128,759	(3,194)
<i>Reserves</i>			
Planned Use of General Reserve	(6,283)	(6,283)	0
Departmental Balances brought forward	(4,104)	(4,104)	0
Departmental Balances carried forward	0	4,096	4,096
Contribution from General Fund to Housing	(155)	0	155
Balance to Reserves	0	(1,057)	(1,057)
<i>Total Reserves</i>	(10,542)	(7,348)	3,194
Total Resources	121,411	121,411	0

Of the £4.104m departmental underspend, £4.096m is being carried forward. In 2024/25, there is a planned net contribution from reserves of £6.283m as set out in the 2024-28 Medium Term Financial Plan.

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Where The Money Comes From and How It Was Spent

The following table explains in more detail the Council's sources of income and what it was actually spent on:

2023/24 £'000	Gross Income	2024/25 £'000	%
(22,425)	Gross Council Rents	(24,145)	7.4
(4,288)	Revenue Support Grant	(4,572)	1.4
(16,089)	General Government Grants	(596)	0.2
(20,785)	Business Rates Income	(33,664)	10.3
(29,728)	Dedicated Schools Grant	(33,780)	10.4
(61,237)	Demand on Collection Fund	(65,510)	20.1
(65,344)	Specific Government Grants	(68,131)	20.9
(10,411)	Capital Grants	(22,988)	7.1
(4,194)	Capital Receipts	(2,275)	0.7
(4,193)	Interest and Investment Income	(6,444)	2.0
(58,926)	Income from Fees & Charges	(63,570)	19.5
(297,620)		(325,675)	100.0

How it was spent:

2023/24 £'000	Gross Expenditure	2024/25 £'000	%
283	Chief Executives Office	256	0.1
161,012	People Group	172,482	49.6
11,690	Economy & Public Protection Group	8,979	2.6
46,340	Environment, Highways & Community Services Group	97,041	27.9
67,706	Resources & Governance Group	68,326	19.6
0	Other	702	0.2
287,031		347,786	100.0
318	Precepts & Levies	355	
6,058	Interest Payable	6,989	
2,410	IAS 19 Pension cost adjustment	1,160	
9,329	Amount of non-current assets written off on disposal	4,788	
345	Investment property expenditure and change in fair value	242	
1,939	Other	0	
20,399		13,534	
307,430	Total Expenditure	361,320	
9,810	Deficit for year	35,645	

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Sources of Funds to meet Capital Expenditure Plans

The total resources available for capital schemes during 2024/25 totalled £164.552m; however not all of the resources were planned to be expended during 2024/25. Some schemes have a build life of longer than one year so the actual planned spend for 2024/25 was £72.827m with an actual spend of £52.664m. The main areas of slippage relate to major projects in Housing and the town centre regeneration schemes. The slippage into 202/26 will be financed by unsupported borrowing, grants carried forward, Usable Capital Receipts and Revenue and Capital Contributions.

	Capital Spend Available	Planned Spending 2024/25	Actual	Approved Capital Spend Carried Forward
Capital expenditure 2024/25	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Resources and Governance	82,336	30,864	29,064	53,272
Economy and Public Protection	17,248	13,340	7,234	10,014
Environment, Highways and Community Services	59,558	26,287	13,157	46,401
People	5,410	2,336	2,080	3,330
Leased Assets			1,129	(1,129)
Total	164,552	72,827	52,664	111,888
Financed by				
**Corporate Unsupported Borrowing			15,428	
HRA Borrowing			3,956	
Capital Grants			12,178	
Housing Revenue Contributions			13,455	
Capital Contributions			437	
Housing Revenue Account Capital Receipts			2,663	
General Fund Capital Receipts			3,145	
Revenue Contributions			1,402	
Total			52,664	

The following is a list of the major items of capital expenditure incurred during the year:

	£'000
Highways & Transport Infrastructure	5,571
Housing Stock - Improvements	22,169
Investment Properties	0
Operational Buildings - Improvements	13,980
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute (REFCUS)	2,620
Development Services	6,508
Children's Services Improvements to Schools	18
Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	1,798
Total	52,664

The Council is also committed to make payments estimated at £22.957m over the remaining term of the 25 year contract in respect of its PFI scheme (the Education Village and Harrowgate Hill Primary School). These became operational in March 2006 and August 2005 respectively. Both are part of the approved funding of £34.900m by the Department for Education. A recognition of the long-term contract entered into with partners Kajima Darlington Schools Limited can be found in Note 32 in the Notes to the Financial Statements and the liability relating to this contract can be found on the Balance Sheet.

Four Year Capital Programme

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The Council continues to deliver a significant capital investment programme in the main funded from the Housing Revenue Account and external funding which is targeted at specific schemes and programmes such as Transport and Schools. In addition there are a number of schemes financed from the Council's own resources.

The Council's 4 year capital programme and its funding can be summarised as follows:

Capital Expenditure and Funding

	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000	Total £'000
Capital Expenditure and funding					
Children, Families and Learning	67	67	67	67	268
Housing (HRA)	30,093	14,275	14,507	11,782	70,657
Transport	3,068	3,068	3,068	3,068	12,272
Other Capital Programmes	1,160	1,160	1,160	1,160	4,640
Council Funded Schemes	900	250	250	250	1,650
Self Financing	8,000	0	0	0	8,000
Total Spending Plans	43,288	18,820	19,052	16,327	97,487
Resources					
Capital Grants	4,295	4,295	4,295	4,295	17,180
HRA Revenue Contributions	15,948	13,975	14,207	11,482	55,612
HRA Investment Fund	0	0	0	0	0
HRA Capital Receipts	300	300	300	300	1,200
Corporate Resources	14,745	250	250	250	15,495
Self Financing	8,000	0	0	0	8,000
Total Resources	43,288	18,820	19,052	16,327	97,487

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Balance Sheet

The Council's summarised Balance Sheet is shown below:

	As at 31 March 2024 £m	As at 31 March 2025 £m
Non-current assets	543	543
Net current assets - debtors, stock, cash and short term investments less short term creditors and liabilities	(49)	(67)
Long Term Liabilities and Provisions	(157)	(138)
Total Net Assets	337	338
Represented by:		
Usable reserves	108	97
Unusable reserves	229	241
Total Reserves	337	338

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

Risk Management is an essential part of effective and efficient management and planning and it strengthens the ability of the Council to achieve its objectives and enhance the value of services provided. It is also an important element in demonstrating continuous improvement as well as being part of the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance that reflects the requirements of the CIPFA / SOLACE Framework of Corporate Governance.

A key element of the Council's planning process is that the areas of potential risk, which could adversely impact on the ability to meet objectives, are identified. These risks are plotted on to a standard likelihood and impact matrix with reference to management controls in place and working. The shaded part of the matrix signifies the area above the 'risk appetite line'. Risks in this region require further specific management i.e. are priorities for improvement that have an appropriate improvement action plan. The risk matrix shown below as reported to Audit Committee on 20 January 2025 highlights that the Council has 12 current Corporate risks that are above the 'risk appetite line'.

SR15 - Inability to cope with significant increase in homelessness cases.

Additional funding has been provided by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for homeless services. More accommodation and support has been commissioned to cope with increased demand and additional staff have been recruited to the Housing Options Team.

- However, demand for emergency accommodation has remained high with the shortage of appropriate move on accommodation exacerbating the issue. A new Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2025-2030 has been developed to address these issues.

SR16 - Inability to contain placement costs for children looked after due to lack of sufficient in house placements

A new Placement Sufficiency Strategy has been developed with the aim of increasing the number of in house foster care and residential placements. Whilst this strategy is being implemented there remain significant challenges.

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Narrative Report of Darlington Borough Council

SR20 - Increased demand for Adult Services impacts negatively on plans for budget efficiencies

There is increasing demand for adult social care and support specifically domiciliary care, aides, adaptations and support for people with significant learning disabilities. People are living with multiple conditions and disabilities and require intensive support to remain at home and as independent as possible. Covid has also had a significant impact on people's wellbeing and support needs. Adult Social Care will continue with the Transformation Programme and ensure that all assessments are strength based and outcome focussed with the support of the local community. Performance, practice and quality will be continuously monitored and reviewed to ensure we reduce, delay and prevent people from requiring care and support prematurely. Funding streams and grants from the Department of Health & Social Care will support the demand management and provide some temporary cost mitigation.

The increased demand in adult social care has resulted in waiting lists for reviews and assessments. These are mitigated by a risk management matrix to prioritise people with high needs or significant carer issues. With support from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) social discharge fund we have increased workforce capacity through agency, additional hours and fixed term contracts to manage demand, however this is currently short-term funding. We continue to monitor demand vs capacity. These are raised within the Darlington Local Oversight Group and explore utilisation of current funding arrangements e.g. Better Care Fund (BCF).

Due to recent High Court rulings on Ordinary Resident cases there is a risk to the Council for financial liability for people under this new rule. Adult Services have identified the current cases and are working with the relevant local authorities to agree responsibilities.

As part of the transition to adulthood we are working with Children's Services on a number of significant high cost packages of care – with primary aim of providing appropriate support within the available resources and less restrictive option for the individual.

SR21 - Increased demand for Children's Services impacts negatively on budget

Children's Services has a well established Strengthening Families Plan which is focused on effective management of demand for Children's Services Support. Quarterly Key Performance Indicators linked to the plan are reported to Children's and Young People's Children's Scrutiny Committee.

SR27 - Failure to respond appropriately to safeguard vulnerable children, in line with national legislation and safeguarding children, thresholds and procedures

Services are in place to screen contacts and referrals, and to respond should concerns be identified.

Pathways for intervention are both internal and multi-agency, and the Council ensures that its own staff understand and apply them robustly.

SR34 - Budget & resource implications arising from the ability to progress and complete schemes/projects in the event of further construction inflation, material supply and resource demands

Whilst inflation within the construction industry has softened, material prices remain high and demand for trades and resource to deliver projects of all sizes remains an issue. These issues are across all sectors, both private and public. Projects developed prior to these issues materialising may not have built in contingencies into the budget or programme to absorb this. Therefore, this will require Programmes & Projects to be reviewed on an individual basis for affordability and deliverability as costs and programmes are finalised and reported to Cabinet through the Project Position Statement. Future project budgets will have inflation allowance built in linked to the proposed start and finish dates. It is anticipated that as inflation reduces so too will the level of risk.

SR35 - Potential impact on public transport networks if commercial services do not recover or continue to receive support from Government and routes are withdrawn.

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Bus patronage suffered significantly through the pandemic and post covid passenger numbers have not recovered to previous levels, putting the viability of commercial services at risk. Additional

- Government funding has been made available to Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) as the Transport Authority to support services at risk and this has been used to secure a number of services in Darlington. Further funding from Government has been provided for 2025/26 and we will be working with TVCA and operators to establish the best way to support the network.

SR44 - April 2023 will see the implementation of the CQC inspection framework for Adult Social Care. The significant demands on adult social care, the pressures following covid and the workforce recruitment and retention issues may impact on the ratings resulting in a “requiring improvement” outcome.

Adult Services have an implementation plan in place, containing identified actions to complete including, user feedback and engagement, evidence of quality of practice and outcomes and strategic leadership and engagement. An annual self assessment and Local Authority Information Return has been completed and shared with CQC. Staff are being prepared for inspection which will take place week commencing 20 January.

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SR48 - Budget pressures, lack of funding and affordability of services impact on the Council’s ability to deliver its Council Plan objectives

The Council is facing unparalleled financial challenges stemming from a reductions in public funding and increases in demand. This has been further compounded by the current economic climate, the increase in the cost of living, income deprivation and poverty rising. There are a number of existing risks built in the risk matrix concerning demand (e.g. Children’s and Adult services), inflationary pressures (capital) and reduced income. A shortfall in funding to cover rising demand and cost of service provision is now impacting on all service areas and with limited discretionary service provision, without additional funding there is a high likelihood the Council will not be able to meet its statutory duties in their current form in the future. As part of MTFP planning the Council is facing these challenges, however with each increase in demand and uncertainty in Government funding this risk remains high.

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SR50 - Modified opinion in relation to 2022/23 accounts.

Due to national delays in the completion of the audit of accounts, following a consultation the new Government published proposals to address the significant backlog on 31 July. These measures included both legislative changes and the introduction of several statutory deadlines (backstop dates) to clear the backlog. For all outstanding accounts up to 2022/23 the deadline was set 13 December 2024, for 2023/24 the 28 February 2025 and 2024/25 27 February 2026. Further dates are provided for the 2025/26 to 2027/28 accounts.

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As our auditors were unable to complete a full audit of the 2022/23 accounts, Darlington were issued with a Disclaimer of opinion to complete the accounts within the first deadline. Darlington will also be issued with a disclaimed opinion for 2023/24 due to insufficient time to deliver audit procedures to give sufficient evidence for an unmodified opinion. The auditors are working with the Council to consider the practical steps to rebuild assurance in future years.

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As part of the backstop arrangements auditors are required to undertake value for money work and review the Annual Governance Statement (AGS). For 2022/23 our auditors have completed this work and not reported any significant weaknesses in arrangements to secure value for money in our use of resources and have confirmed that the AGS is not misleading or inconsistent.

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SR54 - (New Risk) Potential increased ICT costs as a result of the limited number of corporate system suppliers in the market place moving to Software as a Service (SaaS) model .

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We are actively monitoring supplier roadmaps where available and liaising with other local authorities to understand the financial implications that are emerging. Negotiations with system suppliers are common practice whenever contracts are renewed, but more time, planning, legal and procurement support for this may be required in the future. Alternative multi-council approaches to the purchase of corporate systems may need to be explored. The financial pressures the corporate software market is placing on local authorities and the limited competitive nature within the market will continue to be raised with Government through formal and informal channels.

SR55 - (New Risk) Likelihood of a Cyber Incident impacting on the Councils ability to deliver services to residents and fulfil its statutory obligations e.g. social care services, electoral services, benefit payments and council tax collection. Potentially leading to a risk to life, significant financial loss, reputational damage, or catastrophic operational disruption.

Xentrall ICT continue to invest time and resource in the continual review and where possible improvement of the Councils ICT security posture. This includes the participation in various internal and external audits such as the recently launched CAF (Cyber Assessment Framework). Additional monitoring services including Microsoft Secure Score and Microsoft Sentinel have recently been implemented which will alert ICT on various types of unauthorised and potentially malicious activity especially out of hours. In conjunction with Information Governance, Xentrall ICT run regular phishing exercises which help to raise awareness on the dangers of malicious emails. Xentrall ICT are also in the process of developing and implementing a Cyber Incident Response Plan, this was recently presented at Systems and Information Governance Group (SIGG) and will be launched and tested early in 2025. It should be noted that the impact to services will be dictated by the quality/preparedness of Service Areas individual Business Continuity Plans.

CORPORATE

LIKELIHOOD	A Very High				
	B High		SR50	SR21,SR48,SR54 SR55	
	C Significant			SR15,SR16,SR20 SR34,SR35,SR44	
	D Low				SR27
	E Very Low				
	F Almost Impossible				
		IV Negligible	III Marginal	II Critical	I Catastrophic
IMPACT					

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Pension Liabilities

Following the implementation of IAS 19, the accounts show the benefit entitlement earned by employees of the Local Government Pension Scheme in the relevant year rather than the charges to revenue based on employer's contributions payable and payments to pensioners in the year. The effect on the Balance Sheet is to reduce the net worth of the Council by the IAS 19 pension liability of £4.160m (in 2023/24 the IAS 19 pension liability was £29.420m). The Council's Pension fund has to be revalued every 3 years to set future contribution rates. The next valuation will be March 2025. Further information is available in Note 36 in the Notes to the Financial Statements.

Treasury Management

On 15 February 2024, Council approved the Treasury Management Strategy for 2024/25. Treasury management performance is reported to Cabinet and Council with detailed reviews being undertaken by Audit Committee.

The financial year 24/25 continued to prove a challenge with regards to treasury management. Interest rates remained fairly high due to continued uncertainties within the economic market as well as the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East. As a result of this the cost of borrowing remained high with the council therefore reducing its external investments to pay for capital expenditure rather than using borrowing. Internal borrowing has a positive effect on the MTFP's financing costs as generally investment rates are lower than borrowing rates and there would have been a cost of carrying those investments in addition to any counterparty risk there might have been. Investments continued to be made only where it was beneficial to do so and there was a low risk to the Council.

During 2024/25 the Council complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements. The need for borrowing was only increased for capital purposes.

At 31 March 2025, the Council's external debt was £172.738m which is £19.861m higher than the previous year, mainly due to the progression of various capital schemes. The average interest rate for borrowing was 3.41% up from 2.64% in 2023/24. Investments totalled £37.556m at 31 March 2025 (£36.369m at 31 March 2024) earning interest of 4.94% over the year. Included in the total investments figure were Property Fund units of £25.398m which provided an annualised net return of 0.36%.

Explanation of the Accounting Statements

This Statement of Accounts has been prepared in accordance with the 'Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom' (the code) which defines proper accounting practices for local authorities in England and also complies with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. The code is based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

Darlington Borough Council's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 are set out in the following pages and a glossary of terms is provided on pages 91 to 101.

Movement in Reserves Statement (page 21)

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other reserves. The Surplus/(deficit) on the Provision of Services line shows the true economic cost of providing the Council's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance and the Housing Revenue Account for council tax setting and dwellings rent setting purposes. The Net (Increase) / Decrease before Transfers (from)/to Earmarked Reserves line shows the statutory General Fund Balance and Housing Revenue Account Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves undertaken by the Council.

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Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (page 22)

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

Balance Sheet (page 23)

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council. The net assets of the Council (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Council. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves are usable reserves, i.e. those reserves that the Council may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use (for example the Capital Receipts Reserve that may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt). The second category of reserves are those that the Council is not able to use to provide services. This category of reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example, the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line 'Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'.

Cash Flow Statement (page 24)

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

Expenditure and Funding Analysis (page 26)

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

The Supplementary Financial Statements are as follows: (page 78-91)

Housing Revenue Account (page 78)

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) reflects a statutory obligation to maintain a revenue account for local authority housing provision in accordance with Part 6 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (England and Wales).

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Collection Fund (page 81)

The Collection Fund Statement is an agent's statement that reflects the statutory obligation for billing authorities to maintain a separate Collection Fund in accordance with section 89 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (as amended by the Local Government Finance Act 1992). The Collection Fund shows the transactions of the billing authority in relation to the collection from taxpayers and distribution to local authorities and the Government of council tax and non-domestic rates.

Group Accounts (page 83)

There are a number of criteria by which the Council must determine whether its interests in associates, joint ventures and joint arrangements are significant enough to be included in the Council's consolidated accounts. After consideration of these criteria the Council has determined that it does have material interests and consequently group accounts have been prepared.

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

Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts of Darlington Borough Council

The Council's Responsibilities

The Council is required to:

- make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Council that officer is the Executive Director - Resources and Governance;
- manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and to safeguard its assets; and
- approve the Statement of Accounts.

The Executive Director - Resources and Governance Responsibilities

The Executive Director - Resources and Governance is responsible for the preparation of the Council's Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom ('the Code').

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Executive Director - Resources and Governance has:

- selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently;
- made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent; and
- complied with the Local Authority Code.

The Executive Director - Resources and Governance has also:

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

Executive Director's Statement

I certify that this Statement of Accounts has been prepared in accordance with the statutory requirements and proper accounting practices. It presents a true and fair view of the Council's financial position as at 31 March 2025 and the income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2025.



Dated: 30-Jun-25

Movement in Reserves Statement for Darlington Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2025

	General Fund Balance £'000	Earmarked General Fund Reserves £'000	Housing Revenue Account £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Capital Grants Unapplied £'000	Total Usable Reserves £'000	Unusable Reserves £'000	Total Council Reserves £'000
Balance at 31 March 2023	(21,423)	(43,006)	(23,467)	(5,972)	(38,328)	(132,196)	(185,378)	(317,574)
<u>Movement in reserves during 2023/24</u>								
Deficit/(Surplus) on the Provision of Services	10,500	0	(689)	0	0	9,811	0	9,811
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0	(29,181)	(29,181)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	10,500	0	(689)	0	0	9,811	(29,181)	(19,370)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 5)	(6,377)	0	(1,791)	(1,685)	24,702	14,849	(14,849)	0
Net (Increase)/decrease before Transfers (to)/from Earmarked Reserves	4,123	0	(2,480)	(1,685)	24,702	24,660	(44,030)	(19,370)
Transfers from/(to) Earmarked Reserves (Note 6)	3,524	(3,524)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Decrease/(Increase) in 2023/24	7,647	(3,524)	(2,480)	(1,685)	24,702	24,660	(44,030)	(19,370)
Balance at 31 March 2024 carried forward	(13,777)	(46,530)	(25,947)	(7,657)	(13,626)	(107,537)	(229,409)	(336,946)
<u>Movement in reserves during 2024/25</u>								
Deficit/(Surplus) on the Provision of Services	33,602	0	2,043	0	0	35,645	0	35,645
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0	(37,360)	(37,360)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	33,602	0	2,043	0	0	35,645	(37,360)	(1,715)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 5)	(16,696)	0	559	3,533	(13,110)	(25,714)	25,714	0
Net decrease/(Increase) before Transfers from/(to) Earmarked Reserves	16,906	0	2,602	3,533	(13,110)	9,931	(11,646)	(1,715)
Transfers (to)/from Earmarked Reserves (Note 6)	(12,338)	12,338	0	0	0	0	0	0
(Increase)/decrease in 2024/25	4,568	12,338	2,602	3,533	(13,110)	9,931	(11,646)	(1,715)
Balance at 31 March 2025 carried forward	(9,209)	(34,192)	(23,345)	(4,124)	(26,736)	(97,606)	(241,055)	(338,661)

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for Darlington Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2025

2023/24				2024/25			
Gross Expenditure £'000	Gross Income £'000	Net Expenditure / (Income) £'000		Note	Gross Expenditure £'000	Gross Income £'000	Net Expenditure / (Income) £'000
283	(115)	168	Chief Executive	3	256	(147)	109
161,012	(91,949)	69,063	People	3	172,482	(99,569)	72,913
11,690	(3,469)	8,221	Economy & Public Protection	3	8,979	(3,983)	4,996
46,340	(17,610)	28,730	Environment, Highways & Community Services	3	97,041	(23,471)	73,570
67,706	(60,031)	7,675	Resources & Governance		68,326	(58,558)	9,768
0	(2,414)	(2,414)	Other	3	702	(458)	244
287,031	(175,588)	111,443	Cost of Services		347,786	(186,186)	161,600
318		318	Other operating expenditure	7	355		355
9,328	(4,193)	5,135	Losses/(Gains) on the disposal of non-current assets	7	4,788	(2,275)	2,513
10,752	(6,676)	4,076	Financing and investment income and expenditure	9	8,391	(9,885)	(1,494)
	(111,161)	(111,161)	Taxation and non-specific grant income	10		(127,329)	(127,329)
307,429	(297,618)	9,811	(Surplus)/deficit on Provision of Services		361,320	(325,675)	35,645
		69	Surplus/(Deficit) on revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment assets				(11,890)
		(29,250)	Actuarial (gains)/losses on pensions assets/liabilities	37			(25,470)
			Impairment losses on non-current assets charged to the revaluation reserve				0
		(29,181)	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				(37,360)
		(19,370)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				(1,715)

Balance Sheet of Darlington Borough Council as at 31 March 2025

As at 31 March 2024 £'000		As at 31 March 2025 £'000	Notes
486,683	Property, Plant and Equipment	481,728	16
12,642	Investment Properties	13,420	17
2,679	Heritage Assets	4,339	18
24,767	Long Term Investments	25,319	38
16,515	Long Term Debtors	18,643	38
543,286	Total Long Term Assets	543,449	
0	Short Term Investments	0	38
244	Inventories	300	20
42,876	Short Term Debtors	39,768	22
(9,142)	Cash and Cash Equivalents	3,812	23
33,978	Total Current Assets	43,880	
(34,109)	Short Term Borrowing	(54,334)	38
(45,687)	Short Term Creditors	(52,974)	24
(3,264)	Short Term Provisions	(3,265)	15
(83,060)	Total Current Liabilities	(110,573)	
(5,911)	Long Term Creditors	(8,986)	38
(843)	Long Term Provisions	(513)	25
(121,084)	Long Term Borrowing	(120,948)	38
(29,420)	Other Long Term Liabilities	(7,648)	37
0	Capital Grants Receipts In Advance	0	31
(157,258)	Total Long Term Liabilities	(138,095)	
336,946	Net Assets	338,661	
107,537	Usable Reserves	97,606	28
229,409	Unusable Reserves	241,055	29
336,946	Total Reserves	338,661	

Cash Flow Statement for Darlington Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2025

2023/24		2024/25
£'000		£'000
(19,370)	Surplus/(Deficit) on the provision of services	(35,645)
37,103	Adjustments to net deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	73,332
23,615	Depreciation and impairment	61,705
1,939	Change in the fair value of investments	(421)
515	Increase in Interest Creditors	224
(18,125)	Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	6,560
0	Increase in Interest and Dividend Debtors	0
16,613	(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	2,910
334	(Decrease) in Inventories	(56)
2,210	Movement in Pension Liability	210
828	Contributions to/(from) Provisions	(329)
0	Movement on the Dedicated Schools Adjustment Account	(1,515)
9,311	Carrying amount of non-current assets sold or derecognised	4,788
(137)	Movement in Investment Property Values	(744)
(14,587)	Adjustments for items included in the net (deficit) on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	(25,263)
(10,411)	Capital Grants credited to the surplus or deficit on provision of services	(22,988)
0	Premiums or Discounts on the repayment of financial liabilities	0
(4,176)	Proceeds from the sale of non-current assets and investment property	(2,275)
3,146	Net cash flow from/(used in) Operating Activities	12,424
	Investing Activities	
(45,482)	Purchase of property, plant and equipment and investment property	(34,277)
(273,802)	Purchase of short term investments	(268,815)
281,802	Proceeds from the sale of short term investments	262,321
4,176	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment and investment property	2,275
(6,942)	Other payments for investing activities	(6,635)
527	Other capital payments received	3,835
10,411	Capital grants received	22,988
0	Other receipts from investing activities	0
(29,310)	Net cash flow used in Investing Activities	(18,308)
	Financing Activities	
46,000	Cash receipts of short and long term borrowing	84,000
(1,819)	Billing Authorities - Council Tax and NNDR adjustments	11
(1,107)	Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases and on-Balance Sheet PFI contracts	(1,099)
(31,133)	Repayments of short and long term borrowing	(64,135)
3,021	Other (payments)/receipts for financing activities	61
14,962	Net cash flow from Financing Activities	18,838
(11,202)	Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	12,954
2,060	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	(9,142)
(9,142)	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period (Note 23)	3,812

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting Standards That Have Been Issued But Have Not Yet Been Adopted

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code) requires the disclosure of information relating to the expected impact of an accounting change that will be required by a new standard that has been issued but not yet adopted. This applies to the adoption of the following new or amended standards within the 2025/26 Code although there are no changes that are expected to have a significant effect on the Council's 2024/25 accounts.

IAS 21 The effects of Changes in Foreign Exchange Rate (Lack of Exchangeability) issued August 2023. The amendments clarify how an entity should assess whether a currency is exchangeable and how it should determine a spot exchange rate when exchangeability is lacking, as well as require the disclosure of information that enables users of the financial statements to understand the impact of a currency not being exchangeable.

IFRS17 Insurance Contracts issued May 2017. This replaces IFRS 4 and sets out principles for recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of insurance contracts.

The changes to the measurement of non-investment assets within the 2025/26 Code include adaptations and interpretations of IAS 16 Property, Plant and Equipment and IAS 38 Intangible Assets. These include setting out three revaluation processes for operational property, plant and equipment, requiring indexation for tangible non-investment assets and a requirement to value intangible assets using the historical cost approach. These have the same effect as requiring a change in accounting policy due to an amendment to standard, which would normally be disclosed under IAS 8. However, the adaptations also include a relief from the requirements of IAS 8 following a change in accounting policy as confirmed in para 3.3.1.4 of the Code.

2 Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies set out in note 41, the Council has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events:

The critical judgements made in the Statement of Accounts are:

- The Council has a number of interests in other entities that fall within the group boundary of the Council on the grounds of control and significant influence in line with the Code. During 2024/25 the Council has assessed its interests in the 8 Joint Ventures with Esh Homes Ltd of which the owns 50% of the share capital of the Companies and concluded that they will be consolidated into its group accounts.
- In line with accounting standards and the Code, all maintained schools in the Borough are now considered to be entities controlled by the Council. Rather than produce group accounts, the income, expenditure, assets, liabilities, reserves and cashflows of each school are recognised in the Council's single entity accounts.
- Where the land and building assets used by the school are owned by an entity other than the Council, school or School Governing Body then it is included on the Council's Balance Sheet.
- As at the 31 March 2025 the Council has no Voluntary Aided (VA) schools.
- In the current economic climate there is a high degree of uncertainty about future levels of funding for local government. However, the Council has determined that this uncertainty is not yet sufficient to provide an indication that assets of the Council might be impaired as a result of a need close facilities and reduce levels of service provision.
- The Council continues to assess the degree of componentisation within its non-current asset portfolio, as part of the 5 year rolling programme of non-current asset valuations. On an annual basis the Council will review capital expenditure to assess if any new material components have been added to the Council's non-current asset portfolio.
- Judgement is required to determine whether the Council can be reasonably assured that the conditions of grant and contribution income received have been met before recognising them as income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Where conditions require specified expenditure to have taken place, the grant monies will not be recognised until this has happened. Equally where conditions specify that a grant or contribution must be repaid in the event of non-expenditure, the income is not recognised until the conditions of the grant have been met.
- The Council is deemed to control the education services provided under the PFI agreement in the schools and also to control the residual value at the end of the agreement. The accounting policies and PFI schemes and similar contracts have been applied to the Education Village and Harrowgate Hill Primary School which became operational in March 2006 and August 2005 respectively. The Education Village transferred to Academy status on 1 April 2012. The Council have applied the principles of IFRS 16 Right of Use Assets Use Assets service concession arrangements to the PFI contract and recognised it as a Right of Use Asset.
- The Council has a 2.91% shareholding in Teesside International Airport and with the adoption of IFRS 9 Financial Instruments it is now classified at fair value and although the airport has been acquired by Goosepool 2019 Ltd which is a subsidiary of the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA), the Council's shareholding is unaffected as its valuation. The new standard sets out that investments in equity should be classified as fair value through profit and loss unless there is an irrevocable election to designate the asset as fair value through comprehensive income. The shareholding is a strategic investment and not held for trading and therefore the Council has opted to designate it as fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI). This means that there would be no impact on the revenue budget and that any gains or losses on the valuation of the shareholding will be transferred to a Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve.

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

3 Expenditure and Funding Analysis

2024/25	Reported for resource management	Adjustment to arrive at the net amount chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
Group	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Chief Executive	325	(211)	114	(5)	109
People	85,482	(11,777)	73,705	(792)	72,913
Economy & Public Protection	1,917	919	2,836	2,159	4,995
Environment, Highways & Community Services	27,388	1,028	28,416	45,154	73,570
Resources & Governance	15,207	(3,493)	11,714	(1,945)	9,769
Other	(3,704)	4,172	468	(224)	244
Net Cost of Services	126,615	(9,362)	117,253	44,347	161,600
Other income and expenditure	(119,275)	21,530	(97,745)	(28,210)	(125,955)
(Surplus)/deficit on Provision of Services	7,340	12,168	19,508	16,137	35,645
Opening General Fund, HRA and Earmarked Reserves Balance at 1 April 2024			(86,255)		
Add surplus on General Fund and HRA Balance in Year			19,508		
Closing General Fund, HRA and Earmarked Reserves Balance at 31 March 2025 **			<u>(66,747)</u>		

** For a split of this balance between the General Fund and the HRA - see the Movement in Reserves Statement.

2023/24 RESTATED	Reported for resource management	Adjustment to arrive at the net amount chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
Group	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Chief Executive	376	(207)	169	(1)	168
People	80,071	(11,019)	69,052	11	69,063
Economy & Public Protection	2,115	282	2,397	5,824	8,221
Environment, Highways & Community Services	26,538	(3,645)	22,893	5,837	28,730
Resources & Governance	14,802	(8,342)	6,460	1,215	7,675
Other	(5,184)	2,770	(2,414)	0	(2,414)
Net Cost of Services	118,718	(20,161)	98,557	12,886	111,443
Other income and expenditure	(108,197)	11,282	(96,915)	(4,717)	(101,632)
Deficit/(surplus) on Provision of Services	10,521	(8,879)	1,642	8,169	9,811
Opening General Fund, HRA and Earmarked Reserves Balance at 1 April 2023			(87,897)		
Plus surplus on General Fund and HRA Balance in Year			1,642		
Closing General Fund, HRA and Earmarked Reserves Balance at 31 March 2024			<u>(86,255)</u>		

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis 2024/25			
2024/25	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net change for Pensions Adjustments	Statutory Adjustments	Non Statutory Adjustments	Total Adjustments
Group	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Chief Executive	0	(5)	0	0	(5)
People	3,841	(397)	(1,530)	(2,707)	(793)
Economy & Public Protection	724	(46)	1,095	387	2,160
Environment, Highways & Community Services	46,284	(281)	(292)	(557)	45,154
Resources & Governance	(395)	(221)	(176)	(1,153)	(1,945)
Other	0	0	0	(224)	(224)
Net Cost of Services	50,454	(950)	(903)	(4,254)	44,347
Other income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(27,416)	1,160	(3,470)	1,516	(28,210)
Difference between General fund deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure deficit	23,038	210	(4,373)	(2,738)	16,137

Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement			Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis 2023/24		
2023/24 RESTATED	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net change for Pensions Adjustments	Statutory Adjustments	Non Statutory Adjustments	Total Adjustments
Group	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Chief Executive	0	(1)	0	0	(1)
People	3,602	(86)	(772)	(2,733)	11
Economy & Public Protection	4,323	(10)	1,134	377	5,824
Environment, Highways & Community Services	7,476	(57)	(241)	(1,341)	5,837
Resources & Governance	1,885	(46)	(176)	(448)	1,215
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Net Cost of Services	17,286	(200)	(55)	(4,145)	12,886
Other income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(11,849)	2,410	577	4,145	(4,717)
Difference between General fund (surplus)/deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure deficit	5,437	2,210	522	0	8,169

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

3b Expenditure and income analysed by nature

The Council's expenditure and income is analysed as follows:	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Expenditure		
Employee benefits expenses	88,437	88,616
Other service expenses	176,079	192,729
Depreciation, impairment & other capital charges	27,860	67,049
Interest payments	4,231	7,464
Precepts and levies	318	674
Payments to Housing Capital Receipts Pool	0	0
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal	9,329	4,788
Total expenditure	306,254	361,320
Income		
Fees, charges and other service income	(81,824)	(87,716)
Capital receipts	(4,194)	(2,275)
Interest and investment income	(4,193)	(6,444)
Income from council tax and business rates	(94,206)	(99,173)
Revenue grants and contributions	(101,615)	(107,079)
Capital grants and contributions	(10,411)	(22,988)
Total income	(296,443)	(325,675)
Deficit/(surplus) on the provision of services	9,811	35,645

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

The Statement of Accounts contains estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the Council about the future or 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 Council's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2025 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
Property, Plant and Equipment	Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about the level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual assets. The current economic climate makes it uncertain that the Council will be able to sustain its current spending on repairs and maintenance, bringing into doubt the useful lives assigned to assets.	If the useful life of assets is reduced, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the asset falls. It is estimated that the annual depreciation charge for buildings would increase by £0.057m for every year that useful lives had to be reduced.
Pensions Liability	Estimation of the net restricted surplus of £36.6m depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.	The effects on the net pensions liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured. For instance, a 0.1% increase in the discount rate assumption as advised by the Actuary would result in a decrease in the pension liability of £5.53m for funded LGPS benefits. However, the assumptions interact in complex ways.
Fair Value Measurements	When the fair value of financial assets and financial liabilities cannot be measured based on quoted prices in active markets (i.e. Level 1 inputs) their fair value is measured using the following valuation techniques: For Level 2 inputs, quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets at the balance sheet date; and for Level 3 inputs, valuations based on; most recent valuations adjusted to current valuation by the use of indexation and impairment review. Where possible, the inputs to these valuation techniques are based on observable data, but where this is not possible judgement is required in establishing fair values. These judgements typically include considerations such as uncertainty and risk. Changes in assumptions could affect the fair value of the Council's assets and liabilities.	The Council uses a combination of indexation techniques, beacon valuations and discounted cash flow (DCF) models to measure the fair value of its Investment Properties, Surplus Assets and Assets Held for Sale under IFRS13 depending on which technique it considers most appropriate. The significant unobservable inputs used in the fair value measurement include management assumptions regarding rent growth, occupancy levels, floor area repairs backlogs, beacon classifications and others. Significant changes in any of the unobservable inputs would result in a significantly lower or higher fair value measurement of these areas.

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

Business Rates Appeals	Since the introduction of the Business Rates Retention Scheme effective from 1 April 2013, local authorities are liable for successful appeals against business rates charged to businesses in 2024/25 and earlier years in their proportionate share. Therefore, a provision has been recognised for the best estimate of the amount that businesses have been overcharged up to 31 March 2025. The estimate has been calculated using the latest Valuation Office ratings list of appeals and the analysis of successful appeals to date. Following the 2017 revaluation a new check, challenge, appeal process has been introduced, the impact of which is still highly uncertain at the present moment. A provision of £1.564m has been made for the estimated success of future appeals for losses for the period ended 31/03/25.	An increase over the forthcoming year of 10% in value of successful appeals would have the effect of adding £0.319m to the overall provision.
Arrears	At 31 March 2024, the Council had a balance of sundry debtors of £11.552m. A review of significant balances suggested that an impairment of doubtful debts of 41.27% (£4.768m) was appropriate. However, in the current economic climate it is not certain that such an allowance would be sufficient.	If collection rates were to deteriorate, a doubling of the amount of the impairment of doubtful debts wouldn't require a substantial additional amount to be set aside as an allowance, due to the current policy in place.

5 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 Council in the year in accordance with proper accounting practice to the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to the Council to meet future capital and revenue expenditure.

2024/25	General Fund Balance £'000	Housing Revenue Account £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Major Repairs Reserve £'000	Capital Grants Unapplied £'000
Adjustments to the Revenue Resources					
Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements:					
Pension costs (transferred from the Pensions Reserve)	(197)	(13)	0	0	0
Financial instruments (transferred to the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account)	264	176	0	0	0
Council tax and NDR (transfers to Collection Fund)	621	0	0	0	0
Holiday pay (transferred to the Accumulated Absences Reserve)	16	0	0	0	0
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure (these items are charged to the Capital Adjustment Account)	(31,905)	(13,486)	0	0	(22,988)
Dedicated Schools Grant	1,515	0	0	0	0
Investment Funds	3,105	0	0	0	0
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	(26,581)	(13,323)	0	0	(22,988)
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources					
Transfer of non-current asset sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve	2,275	0	(2,275)	0	0
Statutory provision for the repayment of debt (transfer from the Capital Adjustment Account)	6,185	427	0	0	0
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)	1,425	13,455	0	0	0
Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources	9,885	13,882	(2,275)	0	0
Adjustments to Capital Resources					
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure	0	0	5,808	0	0
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	0	0	0	0	9,878
Cash payments in relation to deferred capital receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Total Adjustments to Capital Resources	0	0	5,808	0	9,878
Total Adjustments	(16,696)	559	3,533	0	(13,110)

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

2023/24 Comparative Figures	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adjustments to the Revenue Resources					
Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements:					
Pension costs (transferred from the Pensions Reserve)	(2,079)	(131)	0	0	0
Financial instruments (to/(from) the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account)	267	176	0	0	0
Council tax and NDR (transfers from Collection Fund)	66	0	0	0	0
Holiday pay (transferred to the Accumulated Absences Reserve)	(76)	0	0	0	0
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure (these items are charged to the Capital Adjustment Account)	(14,213)	(10,266)	0	0	(10,411)
Dedicated Schools Grant	848	0	0	0	0
Investment Funds	(1,939)	0	0	0	0
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	(17,126)	(10,221)	0	0	(10,411)
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources					
Transfer of non-current asset sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve	4,176	0	(4,176)	0	0
Statutory provision for the repayment of debt (transfer from the Capital Adjustment Account)	5,406	427	0	0	0
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)	1,167	8,003	0	0	0
Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources	10,749	8,430	(4,176)	0	0
Adjustments to Capital Resources					
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure	0	0	2,491	0	0
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	0	0	0	0	35,113
Cash payments in relation to deferred capital receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Total Adjustments to Capital Resources	0	0	2,491	0	35,113
Total Adjustments	(6,377)	(1,791)	(1,685)	0	24,702

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

6 Transfers to / from Earmarked Reserves

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund and HRA balances in earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back to earmarked reserves to meet General Fund and HRA expenditure in 2024/25.

	Balance at 31 March 2023 £'000	Transfers Out 2023/24 £'000	Transfers In 2023/24 £'000	Balance at 31 March 2024 £'000	Transfers Out 2024/25 £'000	Transfers In 2024/25 £'000	Balance at 31 March 2025 £'000
General Fund	21,424	(10,691)	3,046	13,779	(9,522)	4,952	9,209
Earmarked Reserves:	21,424	(10,691)	3,046	13,779	(9,522)	4,952	9,209
2025 Bicentennial Celebration Reserve	977	-120	0	857	(959)	455	353
2025 Rail Heritage Fund	472	-184	0	288	(340)	0	(52)
Academisation Costs	0	0	245	245	0	0	245
Balances held by schools under scheme of delegation	1,076	(1,074)	1,073	1,075	(1,073)	495	497
Biodiversity Net Gain Grant	39	0	2	41	(3)	0	38
Blackwell Pensions Reserve	70	0	5	75	0	6	81
Budget Support Reserve	325	(325)	0	0	0	0	0
Building Control	0	(58)	58	0	(46)	46	0
Business Central Planned Maintenance & Other Costs	3	0	0	3	0	0	3
CCG Joint Working	453	(319)	0	134	(134)	0	0
Civic Theatre Restoration Levy	(1,282)	(93)	0	(1,375)	(72)	0	(1,447)
Climate Change Reserve	77	(52)	0	25	(26)	1	0
Collection Fund Reserve	7,324	(11,393)	11,544	7,475	(12,295)	9,276	4,456
Covid Earmarked Reserve	826	0	0	826	(826)	0	0
Crematorium Refurbishment Fund	139	0	30	169	0	31	200
Crematorium - Mercury Abatement Additional Fees	721	0	0	721	(947)	226	0
Crematorium - Mercury Abatement Environmental Levy	74	0	0	74	(510)	436	0
Digital Apprenticeship Services Account	343	(343)	0	0	0	0	0
Direct Payments Contingency Reserve	220	0	0	220	0	97	317
DLO Provisions Earmarked Reserve	0	(137)	2,188	2,051	(2,290)	357	118
Dolphin Centre Planned Maintenance	168	0	74	242	0	43	285
Earmarked Departmental Reserves	4,961	(4,961)	4,104	4,104	(4,104)	4,096	4,096
Eastbourne 3G Playing Pitch Sinking Fund	104	0	26	130	0	27	157
Education Village	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Electronic Billboard	0	0	0	0	(11)	36	25
Enterprise Zone NNDR	1,212	(331)	490	1,371	(254)	368	1,485
Feethams House ERDF Payback	(109)	(110)	0	(219)	(128)	0	(347)
Feethams House Planned Maintenance	77	0	29	106	0	31	137
Feethams House TVCA Reserve	(171)	0	0	(171)	(16)	0	(187)
Former Blackwell Golf Club Grounds	5	0	0	5	0	0	5
Futures Fund	1,052	(646)	60	466	(330)	166	302
Hippodrome Activity Plan	80	(48)	0	32	0	0	32
Hippodrome Planned Maintenance	165	0	49	214	0	51	265
Hippodrome Systems Fund	41	0	17	58	0	21	79
Housing Budget Support Reserve	484	0	0	484	(72)	0	412
ICT Infrastructure	1,543	0	0	1,543	0	0	1,543
IFRS9 Property Funds Fair Value	500	0	2,390	2,890	(2,606)	53	337
Insurance Fund	3,430	(23)	130	3,537	(151)	461	3,847
Local Authority EU Exit Preparation	315	0	0	315	(315)	0	0
Local Council Tax Support Schemes	1,415	(1,415)	0	0	0	0	0
Morton Palms - Homes England	297	0	0	297	0	0	297
Municipal Elections Reserve	116	(18)	0	98	0	25	123
Organisational Headroom (Project Preparation)	90	0	0	90	0	0	90
Performance Reward Grant Reserve	(136)	0	136	0	0	0	0
Public Health Reserve	1,326	(146)	0	1,180	0	251	1,431
Redundancy & Decommissioning Reserve	505	(52)	0	453	(92)	0	361
Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay	1,893	(993)	453	1,353	(1,084)	1,114	1,383
Revenue Grants Unapplied	3,992	(3,992)	6,452	6,452	(6,452)	5,052	5,052
Ring-fenced Planning Fees	329	(36)	0	293	0	0	293
Risk Reserve	5,350	0	0	5,350	0	0	5,350
Salary Sacrifice	0	0	0	0	0	118	118
Street Scene Volunteering	41	(11)	25	55	0	0	55
Stronger Communities Fund	0	(50)	50	0	(46)	50	4
Town Support Fund	504	(96)	123	531	(204)	3	330
Trading Standards Legal Fees	42	0	58	100	0	0	100
Traffic Signal Replacements Reserve	165	0	34	199	(164)	34	69
Transformation Fund	200	0	0	200	0	0	200
VAT Reserve	1,163	(129)	757	1,791	(279)	0	1,512
Waste Management SPV-LA	0	0	75	75	0	67	142
	43,007	(27,155)	30,677	46,528	(35,829)	23,493	34,192
Housing Revenue Account	23,467	0	2,480	25,947	(2,602)	0	23,345
	23,467	(3,541)	0	25,947	(2,602)	0	23,345

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

7 Other Operating Expenditure

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Parish Council precepts	198	229
Levies	120	126
Payments to the Government Housing Capital Receipts Pool	0	0
(Gains)/Losses on the disposal of non-current assets	5,135	2,513
Total	5,453	2,868

8 Officers' Remuneration

8 a) Officer Remuneration in Bands

The number of employees in each salary band whose remuneration was £50,000 or more is set out below. Calculations are based on all sums paid to or receivable by an employee and sums due by way of taxable expenses, allowances and the monetary value of any other benefits received other than in cash. Pension contributions payable by either employee or employer are excluded.

Remuneration band	2023/24					2024/25			
	Number of employees			No. of redundancies included in total		Number of employees			No. of redundancies included in total
	Schools	Non - schools	Total			Schools	Non- schools	Total	
£50,000 - £54,999	8	63	71	0		10	61	71	0
£55,000 - £59,999	3	42	45	0		7	31	38	0
£60,000 - £64,999	5	10	15	0		2	21	23	1
£65,000 - £69,999	1	8	9	0		1	7	8	0
£70,000 - £74,999	0	2	2	0		1	7	8	1
£75,000 - £79,999	1	1	2	0		1	1	2	0
£80,000 - £84,999	0	1	1	0		0	0	0	0
£85,000 - £89,999	2	3	5	0		0	1	1	0
£90,000 - £94,999	1	1	2	0		2	2	4	0
£95,000 - £99,999	0	1	1	0		1	2	3	0
£100,000 - £104,999	1	2	3	0		0	4	4	0
£105,000 - £109,999	0	2	2	0		0	0	0	0
£110,000 - £114,999	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
£115,000 - £119,999	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
£120,000 - £124,999	0	0	0	0		0	1	1	0
£125,000 - £129,999	0	2	2	0		0	0	0	0
£130,000 - £134,999	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
£135,000 - £139,999	0	1	1	0		0	2	2	0
£140,000 - £144,999	0	0	0	0		0	1	1	0
£145,000 - £149,999	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
£150,000 +	0	1	1	0		0	1	1	0
	22	140	162	0		25	142	167	2

N.B. Senior employees are included above and have been shown in detail below.

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

8 b) Disclosure of Remuneration for Senior Employees 2024/25

	Post Holder (required if salary exceeds £150,000)	Salary	Expenses Allowances	Retirement Package	Total Remuneration (excl pension contributions)	Employer pension contributions	Total Remuneration (incl pension contributions)
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Chief Executive	Ian Williams	164,289	0	0	164,289	29,766	194,055
Executive Director of People		142,930	0	0	142,930	24,300	167,230
Executive Director of Resources & Governance		137,930	0	0	137,930	24,821	162,751
Executive Director Environment, Highways & Community Services		137,930	0	0	137,930	25,306	163,236
Director of Public Health		99,258	0	0	99,258	18,164	117,422
Executive Director Economy & Public Protection		110,487	0	0	110,487	18,850	129,337
Darlington Partnerships Director		61,927	0	0	61,927	11,333	73,260

Disclosure of Remuneration for Senior Employees 2023/24

	Post Holder (required if salary exceeds £150,000)	Salary	Expenses Allowances	Retirement Package	Total Remuneration (excl pension contributions)	Employer pension contributions	Total Remuneration (incl pension contributions)
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Chief Executive	Ian Williams	158,521	0	0	158,521	27,217	185,738
Group Director of People		139,566	0	0	139,566	23,876	163,442
Group Director of Operations		129,467	0	0	129,467	22,011	151,478
Group Director of Services		129,467	0	0	129,467	21,468	150,935
Director of Public Health		63,484	0	0	63,484	3,600	67,084
Assistant Director - Economic Growth		109,866	0	0	109,866	19,006	128,872
Director of Partnerships		60,418	0	0	60,418	11,056	71,474

8 c) Exit Packages

The costs included within the exit packages table below include termination benefits, all relevant redundancy costs including compulsory and voluntary redundancy costs, pension contributions in respect of added years, ex gratia payments and other departure costs.

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

Exit package cost band (including special payments)	Number of compulsory redundancies		Number of other departures agreed		Total number of exit packages by cost band		Total cost of exit packages in each band	
	2023/24	2024/25	2023/24	2024/25	2023/24	2024/25	2023/24	2024/25
							£	£
£0 - £20,000	0	3	8	9	8	12	56,826	106,298
£20,001 - £40,000	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	91,534
£40,001 - £60,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£60,001 - £80,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£80,001 - £100,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£100,001 - £150,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£150,001 +	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	3	8	12	8	15	56,826	197,832

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

9 Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Interest payable and similar charges	6,058	6,989
Pensions interest cost and expected return on pensions assets (Note 37)	2,410	1,160
Interest receivable and similar income	(4,193)	(6,444)
Income and expenditure in relation to investment properties and changes in their fair value (Note 17)	(1,030)	(1,742)
Gains on trading operations	(1,108)	(905)
Property Fund changes in fair value measurement	1,939	(552)
Total	4,076	(1,494)

10 Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Council tax income	(61,237)	(65,510)
Business rates income	(23,425)	(23,603)
Top Up Grant	(9,545)	(10,060)
Non-ringfenced government grants	(6,544)	(5,168)
Capital grants and contributions	(10,411)	(22,988)
Total	(111,162)	(127,329)

11 Material Items of Income and Expense

There are no material items of Income and Expenditure that are not disclosed elsewhere within the Statement of Accounts.

12 Trading Operations

The Council operates a number of trading operations, details of which are:

	2023/24			2024/25	
	Turnover £'000	Surplus / (Deficit) £'000		Turnover £'000	Surplus / (Deficit) £'000
Building Cleaning	676	(267)		908	(135)
Construction	11,895	650		14,039	508
Catering	2,075	414		2,556	420
Highways and Sewerage	8,175	435		8,301	388
Maintenance	6,713	493		7,283	548
Community Catering	248	(68)		265	(45)
Surplus on Trading Accounts	29,782	1,657		33,352	1,684

Building Cleaning - The service covers the internal cleaning of both the Council's property portfolio as well as a number of schools and academies.

Construction - Construction deals with all major building works carried out by the direct labour organisation (DLO). Works carried out is for both internal and external clients.

Catering - The catering service operates from the Dolphin Centre and provides catering and bar provision for the general public at this venue.

Highways and Sewerage - Routine road and street lighting maintenance and other scheme works to the road network are carried out by the direct labour organisation in liaison with engineering services.

Maintenance - Day to day repairs and cyclical maintenance carried out to the Council's housing stock.

School Meals-Best Value - This service provides school meals for a number of schools and academies throughout the borough as well as providing meals for extra care homes operated by Housing Services.

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

13 External Audit Costs

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

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Fees payable with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year	235	349
Fees payable with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the 20/21 year rebased	(1)	0
Fees payable with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the 21/22 year rebased	113	(27)
Fees payable with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the 22/23 year rebased	19	(40)
Fees payable for the certification of grant claims and returns for the year	35	46
Fees payable in respect of other services provided during the year	0	0
Total	401	328

14 Dedicated Schools Grant

The Council's expenditure on schools is funded primarily by grant monies provided by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). DSG is ringfenced and can only be applied to meet expenditure properly included in the Schools Budget, as defined in the School Finance and Early Years (England) Regulations 2018. The Schools Budget includes elements for a range of educational services provided on an authority-wide basis and for the Individual Schools Budget (ISB), which is divided into a budget share for each school/nursery provider.

Details of the deployment of DSG receivable for 2024/25 are as follows:

	Central Expenditure £'000	ISB £'000	Total £'000
Final DSG for 2024/25 before Academy and high needs recoupment			120,419
Academy & high needs recoupment recouped 2024/25			(86,676)
Total DSG after academy & high needs recoupment for 2024/25			33,743
Plus: Brought forward from 2023/24			4,047
Less: Carry-forward to 2025/26 agreed in advance			0
Agreed initial budgeted distribution in 2024/25	20,390	17,400	37,790
In-year adjustments	672	215	887
Final budget distribution in 2024/25	21,062	17,615	38,677
Less: Actual central expenditure	16,383	0	16,383
Less: Actual ISB deployed to schools	0	16,732	16,732
Plus: Local authority contribution for 2024/25	0	0	0
In -year carry-forward Surplus(Deficit) to 2025/26	4,679	883	5,562
Plus : Carry forward to 2025/26 agreed in advance			0
Carry-forward to 2025/26			5,562
DSG unusable reserve at the end of 2023/24			(5,896)
Addition to DSG unusable reserve at the end of 2024/25			0
Total of DSG unusable reserve at the end of 2024/25			(5,896)
Net DSG position at the end of 2024/25			(334)

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

15 Short Term Provisions

	NDR Appeals £'000	Other Provisions £'000	Total £'000
Balance at 1 April 2024	(1,564)	(1,700)	(3,264)
Additional Provisions made in 2024/25	(1,068)	0	(1,068)
Amounts Settled in 2024/25	1,067	0	1,067
Balance at 31 March 2025	(1,565)	(1,700)	(3,265)

NNDR appeals - A provision was created for potential outstanding appeals against NNDR ratings that should be settled in the next year. The provision is a requirement due to the change in legislation in the distribution of income of the new Business Rates Retention scheme as it used to be the responsibility of Central Government.

There is a provision of £1.700m that was created in 2019/20 to offset a potential repayment to HMRC.

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

16 Property, Plant and Equipment

Movements in 2024/25:	Council Dwellings	Other Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	Community Assets	Assets Under Construction	Surplus	Right of Use Asset	Total Property, Plant & Equipment
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or Valuation								
At 1 April 2024	190,790	106,969	31,097	8,279	60,291	60	3,904	401,390
Additions	22,168	9,211	1,798	25	5,211	0	1,504	39,917
Adjustment as at 1 April 2024 on transition to IFRS 16								0
Accumulated depreciation & impairment Written Off to Gross Carrying Amount	(2,105)	(2,078)	0	0	0	0	0	(4,183)
Revaluation increase recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	522	9,883	0	0	0	(23)	0	10,382
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Deficit on the Provision of Services	(11,386)	(37,790)	0	0	0	0	0	(49,176)
Derecognition - disposals	(2,056)	(1,327)	(2,492)	0	0	0	0	(5,875)
Derecognition - other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assets reclassified to/from Held for Sale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assets reclassified to/from Investment Properties	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other movements in cost or valuation	0	36,980	0	(153)	(36,980)	0	0	(153)
At 31 March 2025	197,933	121,848	30,403	8,151	28,522	37	5,408	392,302
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment								
At 1 April 2024	223	1,220	19,062	157	174	12	0	20,848
Depreciation charge	2,090	1,827	1,470	0	0	0	868	6,255
Depreciation & Impairment written out to the Deficit on the Provision of Services	(2,105)	(2,078)	0	0	0	0	0	(4,183)
Impairment losses recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	0		0			0	0	0
Impairment reversals recognised in the Deficit on the Provision of Services	0		0	566	3	0	0	569
Derecognition - disposals	(23)	(11)	(1,053)	0	0	0	0	(1,087)
Other movements in depreciation and impairment	0	(76)	0	0	76	0	0	0
At 31 March 2025	185	882	19,479	723	253	12	868	22,402
Net book value								
at 31 March 2025	197,748	120,966	10,924	7,428	28,269	25	4,540	369,900
at 31 March 2024	190,567	105,749	12,035	8,122	60,117	48	0	376,638

CIPFA has mandated that councils use a modified retrospective approach to adopting IFRS 16. Wherever applicable opening balances brought forward from 31 March 2024 have been adjusted on transition to IFRS 16 to show restated balances as at 1st April 2024.

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

Comparative Movements in 2023/24	Council Dwellings	Other Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	Community Assets	Assets Under Construction	Surplus	Total Property, Plant & Equipment	PFI Assets Included in Property, Plant & Equipment
Cost or Valuation	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
At 1 April 2023	188,055	125,940	29,747	8,256	29,590	60	381,648	8,885
Additions	13,799	7,891	1,445	27	23,111	0	46,273	14
Accumulated depreciation & impairment Written Off to Gross Carrying Amount	(2,036)	(2,180)	0	0	0	0	(4,216)	(217)
Revaluation increase recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	(105)	(232)	0	0	0	0	(337)	378
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Deficit on the Provision of Services	(8,204)	(8,207)	0	(0)	0	0	(16,410)	0
Derecognition - disposals	(720)	(4,236)	(95)	(4)	(4,417)	0	(9,472)	0
Assets reclassified to Investment Properties	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assets reclassified from Investment Properties	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other movements in cost or valuation	0	(12,007)	0	0	12,007	0	0	1
At 31 March 2024	190,790	106,969	31,097	8,279	60,291	60	397,485	9,061
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment								
At 1 April 2023	208	1,438	17,823	157	93	12	19,730	693
Depreciation charge	2,059	1,958	1,334	0	0	0	5,351	156
Depreciation written out to the Surplus on the Provision of Services	(2,036)	(2,180)	0	0	0	0	(4,216)	(217)
Impairment losses recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Impairment reversals recognised in the Surplus on the Provision of Services	0	67	0	0	58	0	125	0
Derecognition - disposals	(8)	0	(95)	0	(40)	0	(143)	0
Other movements in depreciation and impairment		(63)			63			
At 31 March 2024	223	1,220	19,062	157	174	12	20,847	632
Net book value								
at 31 March 2024	190,567	105,749	12,035	8,122	60,117	48	376,638	8,429
at 31 March 2023	187,847	124,502	11,924	8,099	29,497	48	361,918	8,192

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

Infrastructure Assets

In November 2022, CIPFA issued an Update to the 2021/22 (and 2022/23) Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting. This Update allows for the movement between the opening and closing balance of infrastructure assets to be presented on a net book value (rather than gross cost/accumulated depreciation) basis for a temporary period up to and including 2024/25, in recognition that authorities do not typically hold sufficiently granular detail regarding historical expenditure on their infrastructure assets in order to accurately account for derecognitions on a gross basis.

Furthermore, an amendment to the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations was also laid in November 2022 which permits local authorities, when they replace a component of an infrastructure asset, to determine the carrying amount to be derecognised in respect of that replaced component as nil. This statutory override also applies up to and including 2024/25. Darlington Borough Council has made this determination in respect of its 2024/25 Statement of Accounts.

Infrastructure assets have therefore been excluded from the previous tables which analyse the movement on Property, Plant and Equipment on a gross book value/accumulated depreciation basis. The movement on infrastructure assets is instead presented in the following note, along with a reconciliation to total Property, Plant and Equipment as reported on the Balance Sheet and elsewhere in these financial statements.

In accordance with the temporary relief offered by the Update to the Code on infrastructure assets this note does not include disclosure of gross cost and accumulated depreciation for infrastructure assets because historical reporting practices and resultant information deficits mean that this would not faithfully represent the asset position to the users of the financial statements.

Movements in 2024/25:	Infrastructure Assets		Other Property, Plant & Equipment		Total Property, Plant & Equipment
	£'000		£'000		£'000
Net Book Value					
At 1 April 2024	110,046		380,541		490,588
Additions	5,572		39,917		45,489
Depreciation Charge	(3,791)		(6,255)		(10,046)
Revaluation increase/decrease recognised in the Revaluation	0		10,382		10,382
Revaluation increase/decreases recognised in the Deficit on the Provision of Services	0		(49,176)		(49,176)
Impairment losses recognised in the Deficit on the Provision of Services	0		(569)		(569)
Disposals			(4,788)		(4,788)
Assets reclassified to/from Held for Sale	0		0		0
Assets reclassified to/from Investment Properties	0		0		0
Other movements in cost or valuation	0		(153)		(153)
At 31 March 2025	111,826	0	369,900	0	481,726

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

Movements in 2023/24:	Infrastructure Assets		Other Property, Plant & Equipment		Total Property, Plant & Equipment		PFI Assets Included in Property, Plant & Equipment
Net Book Value	£'000		£'000		£'000		£'000
At 1 April 2023	108,672		361,918		470,590		7,929
Additions	5,201		46,273		51,474		
Depreciation Charge	(3,791)		(5,351)		(9,143)		(156)
Revaluation increase recognised in the Revaluation Reserve			(337)		(337)		432
Revaluation (decreases)/increases recognised in the Deficit on the Provision of Services			(16,410)		(16,410)		0
Impairment losses recognised in the Deficit on the Provision of Services	(34)		(126)		(161)		
Disposals			(9,328)		(9,328)		0
Assets reclassified to/from Held for Sale					0		0
Assets reclassified to/from Investment Properties					0		0
Other movements in cost or valuation					0		0
At 31 March 2024	110,046	0	376,637	0	486,684	0	8,205

Depreciation

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

- Council Dwellings - 60 years.
- Other Land and Buildings - over the life of the property as estimated by the valuer. As an indication the majority of buildings are depreciated over 60 years, car parks for 20 years and Community Assets have indefinite lives;
- Vehicles, Furniture & Equipment - typically between 2 and 15 years
- Plant - over the life of the asset as estimated by the valuer
- Infrastructure Assets - typically up to 40 years

Revaluations

The Council carries out a rolling programme that ensures that all Property, Plant and Equipment required to be measured at fair value is revalued at least every five years.

All valuations were carried out by Align Property Partners, of Northallerton, North Yorkshire DL6 2YD with valuations of land and buildings carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. Valuations of vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment are based on current prices where there is an active second-hand market or latest list prices adjusted for the condition of the asset.

The significant assumptions applied in estimating the fair values are:

- The estimated amount for which a property should exchange on the date of valuation;
- Completion is not unduly delayed with vacant possession;
- The transaction is between a willing buyer and a willing seller;
- The transaction is at arms length with the parties acting knowledgeably, prudently and without compulsion;
- Prior to exchange the property was the subject of proper marketing; and
- The potential for an increase in value as a result of an alternative use is recognised (not applicable for assets valued by Existing Use).

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

	Council Dwellings	Other Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	Infrastructure Assets	Community Assets	Assets Under Construction	Surplus	Right of Use	Total Property, Plant & Equipment
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Carried at historical cost	0	4,906	10,924	111,827	7,428	28,270	25	4,541	167,921
valued at fair value as at:									
31 March 2025	197,748	39,185	0	0	0	0	0	0	236,933
31 March 2024	0	12,448	0	0	0	0	0	0	12,448
31 March 2023	0	1,944	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,944
31 March 2022	0	44,556	0	0	0	0	0	0	44,556
31 March 2021	0	17,925	0	0	0	0	0	0	17,925
Total Cost or Valuation	197,748	120,964	10,924	111,827	7,428	28,270	25	4,542	481,726

Capital Commitments

At 31 March 2025 the Council had entered into a number of contracts for the construction or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment that were budgeted to cost £43.288m in future years, of which £4.295m will be funded from grant, £16.248m from the Housing Revenue Account, £13.845m to be prudentially borrowed, £0.900m from corporate resources and £8.000m to be self financing. Similar commitments at 31 March 2024 were £35.798m. The commitments at 31 March 2025 are:

Scheme	Total Estimate £'000
Housing - new build	16,925
Housing - various other enhancements including heating replacement, internal planned maintenance & roofing	13,168
School condition allocations	67
Highway maintenance	1,206
Integrated Transport	1,862
Disabled Facilities	1,160
Economic Growth investment Fund (EGIF)	500
Capitalised Repairs	250
Other	150
Self Financing Schemes	8,000
	43,288

17 Investment Properties

The following items of income and expense have been accounted for in the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Rental income from investment property	1,238	1,240
Direct operating expenses arising from investment property	(345)	(242)
Net gain	893	998

There are no restrictions on the Council's ability to realise the value inherent in its investment property or on the Council's right to the remittance of income and the proceeds of disposal. The Council has no contractual obligations to purchase, construct or develop investment property or repairs, maintenance or enhancement.

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

The following table summarises the movement in the fair value of investment properties over the year:

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Balance at start of the year	12,483	12,642
Additions:		
Purchases	0	0
Subsequent Expenditure	22	34
Disposals	0	0
Net loss/gain from fair value adjustments	137	744
Transfers from Property, Plant and Equipment	0	0
Balance at end of the year	12,642	13,420

Fair Value Hierarchy

All the Council's investment portfolio has been assessed as level 3 for valuation purposes.

18 Heritage Assets

Reconciliation of the Carrying Value of Heritage Assets Held by the Council

	Art Collection £'000	Civic Regalia £'000	Railway Museum £'000	Piercebridge Roman Fort £'000	War Memorial £'000	Total Assets £'000
Cost or Valuation						
1 April 2023	1,091	540	780	0	0	2,411
Additions	0		268		0	268
31 March 2024	1,091	540	1,048	0	0	2,679
Cost or Valuation						
1 April 2024	1,091	540	1,048	0	0	2,679
Additions	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revaluation	0	46	1,461		0	1,507
Reclassification				121	32	153
31 March 2025	1,091	586	2,509	121	32	4,339

The Council holds a range of heritage assets comprising the Borough Art Collection, the Railway Museum Collection and various pieces of Civic Regalia. The Art Collection was valued by an external valuer in 19/20 at £1.091m. The Civic Regalia was valued by an external valuer in 24/25 at £0.586m. External valuations are reviewed periodically. The Railway Museum Collection is reported in the balance sheet at insurance valuation (based on market values) at £2.509m and is updated annually. In addition, the Council has on loan certain items from the National Railway Museum with an insurance valuation of £3.190m. Because of the nature of the loan agreement these assets are not included within the Council's Balance Sheet. The Council's heritage asset holdings are substantially static with low numbers of acquisitions or donations and no recent disposals.

In 2024/25 Piercebridge Roman Fort and Tubwell Row War Memorial were re-classified from Community Assets to Heritage Assets.

Further information

Darlington Borough Art Collection is a collection of artworks with a large variety of subject matter, medium and style. The collection spans over 150 years and features work by local, national and international artists and it has been acquired over many years through donation, bequest and purchase. More details can be found on the Council's website.

The Council owns over 150 items of Civic Regalia ranging from dinner and silverware to the Chains of Office.

The Railway Museum's existing collections are mostly limited to material illustrating the development and operation of railways in North East England. Although regional in scope, in some areas they are of national importance because of their association with the Stockton & Darlington Railway. Exhibits include a locomotive, wagons, archives, maps, photographs and models/toys. Further information about the collection can be obtained from the Council's website.

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

19 Impairment Losses

During 2024/25, the Council has recognised impairment losses of £0.569m (£0.143m in 2023/24) in relation to its land and buildings.

Where impairment losses are identified, they are initially set against any accumulated gains for each asset held in the Revaluation Reserve. Losses arising from impairments that cannot be absorbed by accumulated revaluation gains are charged to service lines in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Impairments have been charged as follows:

	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
Chief Executive & Economic Growth	109	569
Operations	0	0
People	0	0
Services	34	0
	143	569

20 Inventories

	Consumable Stores		Maintenance Materials		Client Services Work In Progress		Total	
	2023/24	2024/25	2023/24	2024/25	2023/24	2024/25	2023/24	2024/25
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance at start of year	183	186	492	182	(97)	(124)	578	244
Purchases	1,390	1,370	1,123	1,466	0	0	2,513	2,836
Recognised as an expense in the year	(1,387)	(1,367)	(1,433)	(1,349)	(27)	(64)	(2,847)	(2,780)
Balance at year-end	186	189	182	299	(124)	(188)	244	300

21 Pooled Budgets

The Better Care Fund (BCF) has been established by the Government to support the introduction of a fully integrated health and social care system. Section 75 of the National Health Services Act 2016 gives powers to Local Authorities and Integrated Commissioning Board (ICB) to establish and maintain pooled funds to support the outcomes of the BCF.

The Council has entered into a pooled budget arrangement with Darlington Integrated Commissioning Board for the provision of health and social care services to meet the needs of the population of the borough of Darlington.

The services being commissioned or provided by the Council or Darlington ICB depend upon the needs of the service recipient. The Council and Darlington CCG has an ongoing Section 75 agreement in place for funding these services and this is reviewed annually.

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Revenue Funding provided to the Pooled Budget		
Darlington Borough Council	261	253
Better Care Funding	3,160	3,339
Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group	1,030	719
	4,451	4,311
Expenditure met from the Pooled Budget		
Darlington Borough Council	252	243
Better Care Funding	2,951	3,211
Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group	1,030	680
	4,233	4,134
Net (deficit)/surplus arising on the Pooled Budget during the year	218	177
The Revenue surplus has been carried forward to be funded from 2020/21 commitments within the BCF.		
Capital Funding provided to the Pooled Budget		
Better Care Funding	1,063	1,160
Expenditure	1,063	1,160
Net Surplus arising on the Pooled Budget during the year	0	0

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

22 Short Term Debtors

	As at 31 March 2024 £'000	As at 31 March 2025 £'000
Central government bodies	3,190	4,638
Other local authorities	1,654	2,809
NHS bodies	1,355	2,494
Other Entities and Individuals	41,551	35,996
Payments in Advance	4,138	4,733
Provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts	(9,011)	(10,903)
	42,877	39,767

23 Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

	As at 31 March 2024 £'000	As at 31 March 2025 £'000
Cash held by the Council	163	153
Bank current accounts / (Overdraft)	(15,675)	(6,431)
Short-term deposits	6,370	10,090
Total cash and cash equivalents	(9,142)	3,812

24 Short Term Creditors

	As at 31 March 2024 £'000	As at 31 March 2025 £'000
Central government bodies	(4,988)	(4,118)
Other local authorities	(2,816)	(2,602)
NHS bodies	(1,822)	(799)
Other entities and individuals	(36,061)	(45,455)
Total	(45,687)	(52,974)

25 Long Term Provisions

	Other £'000	Total £'000
Balance at 1 April 2024	(843)	(843)
Additional provisions made in 2024/25	(206)	(206)
Amounts used in 2024/25	536	536
Unused amounts reversed in 2024/25	0	0
Balance at 31 March 2025	(513)	(513)

Insurance Provision - The Council insures against the risk of claims in respect of personal injury and property loss. These risks are insured externally, however there is a £50,000 excess in respect of each and every claim on the liability policy. A balance of £317,818 on this account represents claims made and still outstanding as at 31 March 2025 which are within these excesses.

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

26 Leases

Council as Lessee

• Finance Leases

The Council has a number of leases for vehicles and buildings which are recognised as Right of Use Assets carried on the balance sheet at the following net amounts:

Leased Assets	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
Property Plant and Equipment:		
Right of Use Assets	0	4,540
	0	4,540

The Council is committed to making minimum payments under these leases comprising settlement of the long-term liability for the interest in the property acquired by the Council and the finance costs that will be payable by the Council in future years while the liability remains outstanding. The minimum lease payments are made up of the following:

	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
Payable within one year	0	776
Payable after one year	0	10,328
	0	11,104

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

	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
Not later than 1 year	0	776
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	0	2,522
Later than 5 years	0	7,906
	0	11,204

CIPFA has mandated that councils use a modified retrospective approach to adopting IFRS 16. Wherever applicable opening balances brought forward from 31 March 2024 have been adjusted on transition to IFRS 16 to show restated balances as at 1st April 2024.

• Operating Leases

The Council has acquired vehicles, furniture and equipment under operating leases. Payments made during the year in respect of these leases amount to £0.751m (£0.471m in 2023/24).

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

	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
Not later than 1 year	471	0
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	812	0
Later than 5 years	0	0
	1,283	0

There are no contingent rents payable in respect of the leases.

The Council has not sub-let any of the vehicles, furniture and equipment under these operating leases.

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

• Right of Use Assets

The Council classifies contracts as leases based on their substance. Contracts and parts of contracts, including those described as contracts for services, are analysed to determine whether they convey the right to control the use of an identified asset, through rights to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits or service potential from that asset and to direct its use. Leases are recognised as right-of-use assets with a corresponding liability at the date from which the leased asset is available for use (or the IFRS 16 transition date if later). This includes arrangements with nil consideration, peppercorn or nominal payments

Leased Assets	Other Land & Buildings	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Property, Plant & Equipment				
Adjustment as at 1 April 2024 on transition to IFRS 16	2,317	1,587		3,904
Additions		1,504	0	1,504
Revaluations			0	0
Depreciation and amortisation	(133)	(734)	0	(867)
Disposals			0	0
Balance at year-end			0	4,540

Council as Lessor

• Finance Leases

The Council does not have any leases categorised as Finance Leases in its capacity as Lessor.

• Operating Leases

The Council leases various Land and Buildings to third parties under operating leases. The leases are primarily to provide suitable affordable accommodation for local businesses but also includes the lease of buildings that enable the delivery of community services such as Community Centres. During 2024/25 £0.0m (£1.768m in 2023/24) was received by the Council in relation to these leases.

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

	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
Not later than 1 year	1,768	0
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	4,549	0
Later than 5 years	7,630	0
	13,947	0

The minimum lease payments do not include rents that are contingent on events taking place after the lease was entered into, such as adjustments following rent reviews.

27 Contingent Liabilities

At 31 March 2023, the Council had the following contingent liabilities:

During 1992/93 Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI) ceased accepting new business. MMI and its policyholders, including local authorities, have established a Scheme of Arrangement for the orderly run down of the company. MMI's future liabilities under its old policies cannot be fully quantified until all of the claims, current and yet to be made, have been settled. There is a Scheme of Arrangement in place that if MMI does not have enough assets to meet the claims and liabilities it can clawback from major policy holders part of the claims paid from October 1993.

This scheme was triggered in November 2012 and Darlington Borough Council has paid £0.236m up to 31st March 2025. This represents 25% of claims paid by MMI excluding the first £0.050m of claims. During 2018/19 the Council commissioned a further actuarial report from a firm of advisors, independent of MMI, who estimate at this time that the clawback amount could be as much as 50% of all claims excluding the first £50,000, this could be as much as £0.472m. As a result the Council has a contingent liability of £0.236m, this being the 50% that the Council could be liable for less the amount paid over to MMI to date (£0.236m).

Furthermore, the Council will be liable for 25% of all new claims that have been incurred but not yet been reported but this could increase to 50% of all new claims, therefore, a figure for this contingent liability is unknown at this time. It is intended that further Actuarial reports will be commissioned on a regular basis.

Darlington is one of a consortium of partners, forming a Community Interest Company (CIC) Achieving Real Change for Communities (ARCC). The ARCC is a CIC without shareholdings supported by Darlington and 8 other organisations. There is a Deed of Guarantee in place of £14.120m in the event of significant failures in performance of which Darlington's potential liability is £2.450m rising to £3.530m in the unlikely event of failure by the private guarantors to meet their obligations.

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

28 Usable Reserves

Movements in the Council's usable reserves are detailed in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
General Fund	13,779	9,209
Earmarked Reserves	39,001	28,642
Housing Revenue Account	25,947	23,345
Schools Revenue Balances	1,076	497
Revenue Grant Unapplied	6,452	5,053
Capital Receipts Reserve	7,656	4,124
Capital Grants Unapplied	13,626	26,736
Total Usable Reserves	107,538	97,606

General Fund - Resources available to meet future running costs for services other than council housing.

Earmarked reserves - are shown in Note 6 and are resources set aside for future spending plans.

Housing Revenue Account - Resources available to meet future running costs for social housing.

Schools Revenue Balances - Surplus balances of locally managed schools which are committed to be spent on the education service.

Revenue Grant Unapplied - The balance is in respect of revenue grants that have been recognised as income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, but the expenditure to be financed from the grant has not been incurred at the Balance Sheet date.

Capital Receipts Reserve - Proceeds of non-current asset sales available to meet future capital investment.

Capital Grants Unapplied - The balance is in respect of capital grants that have been recognised as income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, but the expenditure to be financed from the grant has not been incurred at the Balance Sheet date.

29 Unusable Reserves

	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
Revaluation Reserve	46,035	56,791
Capital Adjustment Account	238,287	208,220
Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve	(5,233)	(2,128)
Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	(15,556)	(15,114)
Pensions Reserve	(29,420)	(4,160)
Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve	0	0
Collection Fund Adjustment Account	(2,151)	(1,530)
Accumulated Absences Account	(705)	(690)
Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account	(1,848)	(334)
Total Unusable Reserves	229,409	241,055

Revaluation Reserve

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

- 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 April 2007, the date that the Reserve was created. Accumulated gains arising before that date are consolidated into the balance on the Capital Adjustment Account.

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Balance at 1 April	49,128	46,035
Upward revaluation of assets	7,735	19,557
Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Deficit/(surplus) on the Provision of Services	(7,804)	(7,667)
Surplus on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Deficit/(surplus) on the Provision of Services	(69)	11,890
Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	(855)	(645)
Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	(2,169)	(489)
Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	(3,024)	(1,134)
Balance at 31 March	46,035	56,791

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

Capital Adjustment Account (CAA)

The CAA absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of non-current assets for financing and acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions. The CAA is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisation are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert fair value figures to a historical cost basis). The CAA is credited with the amounts set aside by the Council as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement. The CAA contains accumulated gains and losses on Investment Properties and gains recognised on donated assets that have yet to be consumed by the Council. The CAA also contains revaluation gains on accumulated Property, Plant and Equipment before 1 April 2007, the date that the Revaluation Reserve was created to hold such gains. Note 5 provides details of the source of all transactions posted to the CAA, apart from those involving the Revaluation Reserve.

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Balance at 1 April	217,545	238,287
Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(9,285)	(10,616)
Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	(20,427)	(59,723)
Revaluation gains used to reverse previous revaluation losses	4,034	6,028
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(2,101)	(1,834)
Capital Expenditure classed as De-minimis	(63)	(107)
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.	(7,160)	(4,299)
	(35,002)	(70,551)
Adjusting amount written out of the Revaluation Reserve	855	645
Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year	(34,147)	(69,906)
Capital financing applied in the year:		
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	2,491	5,808
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	0
Capital grants and contributions credited to the CIES that have been applied to capital financing	2,144	1,918
Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	35,113	9,878
	5,833	6,612
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	9,171	14,880
	54,752	39,096
Movements in the market value of Investment Properties debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	137	743
Balance at 31 March	238,287	208,220

Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve

The Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the Council arising from increases in the value of its investments that are measured at fair value through other comprehensive income. The balance is reduced when instruments with accumulated gains are revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost or disposed of and gains are realised.

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Balance at 1st April	(3,293)	(5,233)
Surplus on revaluation of Financial Instrument Revaluation Reserve	(3,293)	(5,233)
Financial Instruments held under Fair Value through Profit and Loss subject to MHCLG Statutory Over-ride *	(1,940)	368
Termination of Fund		2,737
Balance at 31st March	(5,233)	(2,128)

* The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) introduced a statutory over-ride to protect the General Fund balance from any fluctuations in fair value movements in quoted investment funds. This over-ride expired on 31 March 2025 but has been extended to 1 April 2029 for property funds which were in place prior to 1st April 2024. The Council has 2 such property funds for which this override is in place, namely CCLA

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

The Financial Instruments Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for income and expenses relating to certain financial instruments and for bearing losses or benefiting from gains per statutory provisions. The Council uses the Account to manage premiums paid on the early redemption of loans. Premiums are debited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when they are incurred, but reversed out of the General Fund Balance to the Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Over time, the expense is posted back to the General Fund Balance in accordance with statutory arrangements for spreading the burden on council tax. In the Council's case, this period is the unexpired term that is outstanding on the loans when they were redeemed. As a result, the balance on the Account at 31 March 2025 will be charged to the General Fund over the next 35 years.

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Balance at 1 April	(15,998)	(15,556)
Premiums incurred in the year and charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	0	0
Proportion of premiums incurred in previous financial years to be charged against the General Fund in accordance with statutory requirements	442	442
Balance at 31 March	(15,556)	(15,114)

Pensions Reserve

The Pensions Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. The Council accounts for post employment benefits in the CIES as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs. However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed as the Council makes employer's contributions to 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 Council has set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid.

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Balance at 1 April	(56,460)	(29,420)
Actuarial (losses) / gains on pensions assets and liabilities	29,250	25,470
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	(12,630)	(11,150)
Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	10,420	10,940
Balance at 31 March	(29,420)	(4,160)

Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve

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

	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000
Balance at 1 April	0	0
Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	0	0
Transfer to the Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash	0	0
Balance at 31 March	0	0

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

Collection Fund Adjustment Account

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

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Balance at 1 April	(2,217)	(2,151)
Amount by which council tax and non-domestic rates income credited to the CIES is different from council tax and non-domestic rates income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	66	621
Balance at 31 March	(2,151)	(1,530)

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, for example, annual leave entitlement carried forward at 31 March. Statutory arrangements require that the impact on the General Fund Balance is neutralised by transfers to or from the Account.

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Balance at 1 April	(629)	(705)
Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	629	705
Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	(705)	(690)
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	(705)	(690)
Balance at 31 March	(705)	(690)

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Adjustment Account

The dedicated Schools Grant adjustment account holds accumulated deficits relating to the schools budget. Where the authority has incurred a deficit on its schools budget in years beginning 1 April 2020 ending 31 March 2026, the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations do not allow for such amounts to be included in the General Fund and instead must be held in this adjustment account.

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Balance at 1st April	(2,697)	(1,848)
Transfer of High Needs Block deficit balance at 1 April from Dedicated Schools Grant earmarked reserve		
Restated Opening Balance	(2,697)	(1,848)
In year High Needs Block	175	842
Safety Valve	674	672
Balance at 31st March	(1,848)	(334)

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

30 Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

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

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	228,658	233,973
Capital Investment		
Property, Plant and Equipment	52,465	48,005
Investment Properties	22	35
Long Term Debtors	6,055	5,907
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute	1,961	2,630
Other	63	107
Sources of Finance		
Capital receipts	(2,491)	(5,808)
Repayment of JV loans	(500)	(3,820)
Government grants and other contributions	(37,257)	(12,592)
Sums set aside from revenue:		
Direct revenue contributions	(9,170)	(14,880)
MRP/loans fund principal	(4,727)	(4,844)
Deferred liabilities movement	(1,106)	(1,099)
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	233,973	247,614
Explanation of movements in year		
Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)	(5,833)	(5,943)
Increase in underlying need to borrowing (unsupported by government financial assistance)	11,147	19,584
Increase in Capital Financing Requirement	5,314	13,641

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

31 Grant Income

The Council credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2023/24:

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income		
Council Tax income	61,237	65,510
Business Rates Income	23,425	23,603
Business Rates Top Up Grant	9,545	10,060
Non-ringfenced Government grants	6,544	5,168
Capital Grants and Contributions	10,411	22,988
	111,162	127,329
Non-Ringfenced Grant Detail		
Revenue Support Grant	4,288	4,572
New Homes Bonus Grant	567	436
Services Grant	927	160
SF Grant	500	0
Local Council Tax Support Schemes	262	0
	6,544	5,168
Capital Grant Income		
Railway Heritage Quarter	1,991	5,081
Towns Fund Capital	0	3,744
DFT Local Plan	2,473	2,644
S106	0	2,439
Indigenous Growth Fund	0	1,210
Weekly Food Collections Grant	0	1,183
Homes England Neasham Road	0	1,173
Hybrid Business Innovation Centre	2,873	0
High Needs Capital Funding	1,467	0
Basic need Grant	1,035	0
Other	572	5,514
	10,411	22,988
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	111,162	127,329
Credited to Net Cost of Services		
Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)	29,728	33,780
Housing Benefit Subsidy (Rent Allowances & Rebates)	22,654	21,763
Social Care Grant	8,445	10,906
Public Health Grant	9,119	9,540
Better Care Fund	4,488	4,488
The Private Finance Initiative (PFI)	3,200	3,200
Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund	1,174	2,193
Household Support Fund	2,353	1,828
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children Grant	1,467	1,254
Pupil Premium	1,241	1,181
Adult Social Care Discharge Fund	629	1,049
Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment & Recovery	518	1,000
Adult Education & 16-19 Funding from Education & Skills Funding Agency	744	822
Supporting Families	0	612
Adult Education Funding from Tees Valley Combined Authority	844	559
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	0	489
DSG Safety Valve Grant	1,010	470
Holiday Activities and Food Programme	553	469
Asylum Dispersal Grant	288	431
Core Schools Budget Grant	0	384
Rough Sleeping Initiative (Cold Weather Fund)	101	369
Wraparound Childcare Programme Costs	0	359
Housing Benefit and Localised Council Tax Support Administration Subsidy Funding	348	336
Homelessness Prevention Grant	305	307
Teachers Pension Employer Contributions Grant Special Schools	0	302
Youth Justice Grant	287	288
Long-term Plan for Towns	0	250
Staying Close Childrens Social Care Grant	241	233
Domestic Abuse Support to Victims	228	232
Simpler Recycling Food Waste Collecction Grant	0	222
Homes for Ukraine Sponsor Thank You Grant	142	207
Levy Surplus Grant	0	192
Implementation of Supported Accommodation Reforms	0	180
Discretionary Housing Payments	104	174
Virtual School Heads Social Worker Implementation Grant	100	128
Local Stop Smoking & Services Grant	0	122
Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund - Workforce Development	762	0
Early Years Supplementary Grant	408	0

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

Levy Account Surplus Grant	192	0
Teachers Pay Grant	192	0
Recovery Premium Funding	187	0
Mayoral Income	149	0
Towns Fund	147	0
Capability Fund Project	137	0
Homes for Ukraine Tariff Grant	136	0
Streamline Grant	130	0
Individual Placement Support	121	0
Universal Infant Free School Meals	116	0
Mainstream Schools Additional Grant	112	0
Other	1,972	1,592
Total	95,072	101,911
Total Credited to Net Cost of Services	95,072	101,911

The Council has received a number of grants, contributions and donations that have yet to be recognised as income as they have conditions attached to them that will require the monies or property to be returned to the giver. The balance at the year-end is as follows:

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Capital Grants Receipts in Advance		
Developer Contribution	0	0
	0	0

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Revenue Grants Receipts in Advance		
Sales, Fees & Charges Grant	0	0
Council Tax Rebate Grant - Discretionary element	0	0
Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Support	0	0
Practical Support for Self-Isolation	0	0
Energy Support Bills	0	0
Other	0	0
	0	0

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

32 Private Finance Initiative

Education PFI Scheme

2024/25 was year 20 of the Council's 25 year PFI scheme for the construction, maintenance and operation of four schools, the Education Village (a federation of schools comprising Springfield, Beaumont Hill and Haughton Schools) and Harrowgate Hill Primary School, which became operational in March 2006 and August 2005 respectively. The Education Village Schools converted to Academy status on 1 April 2012 under the provisions of the Academies Act 2010.

(1) Harrowgate Hill

The Council has certain exclusive use rights for the use of the school during specific times during school terms. The contract specifies minimum standards for the services to be provided by the contractor, with deductions from the fee payable being made if facilities are unavailable or performance is below the minimum standards. The contractor took on the obligation to construct the centres and maintain them in a minimum acceptable condition and to procure and maintain the plant and equipment needed to operate the centres. The buildings and any plant and equipment installed in them at the end of the contract will be transferred to the Council for nil consideration. The Council only has rights to terminate the contract if it compensates the contractor in full for costs incurred and future profits that would have been generated over the remaining term of the contract.

(2) Education Village

The Education Village Academy Trust has certain exclusive use rights for the use of the centres by schools during specific times during school terms. The contract specifies minimum standards for the services to be provided by the contractor, with deductions from the fee payable being made if facilities are unavailable or performance is below the minimum standards. The contractor took on the obligation to construct the centres and maintain them in a minimum acceptable condition and to procure and maintain the plant and equipment needed to operate the centres. The buildings and any plant and equipment installed in them at the end of the contract will be transferred to the Academy Trust for nil consideration. The Council continues to be the primary contracting party with the contractor but the Academy Trust has taken over a large part of the monitoring responsibilities for the three schools it serves. The payment arrangements are that the Council makes the payment to the contractor and receives the PFI credits and contributions from the schools involved to cover the majority of the costs with the remainder being top sliced from the Dedicated Schools Grant.

Property, Plant and Equipment

The assets used to provide services at the schools are recognised on the Council's Balance Sheet. Movements in their value over the year are detailed in the analysis of the movement on the Property, Plant and Equipment balance in Note 16.

Payments

The Council makes an agreed payment each year, part of which is increased each year by inflation and can be reduced if the contractor fails to meet availability and performance standards in any year but which is otherwise fixed. Payments remaining to be made under the PFI contract at 31 March 2025 (excluding any estimation of inflation and availability/performance deductions) are as follows:

	Payment for Services	Reimbursement of Capital Expenditure	Interest	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Payable in 2025/26	2,817	1,095	282	4,194
Payable within 2 to 5 years	11,990	4,371	607	16,968
Payable within 6 to 10 years	1,328	446	21	1,795
Total	16,135	5,912	910	22,957

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

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Balance outstanding at start of year	8,118	7,012
Payments during the year	(1,106)	(1,099)
Balance outstanding at end of year	7,012	5,913

33 Members' Allowances

Details of the amounts paid to each Member of the Council are published annually and can be viewed on the Darlington Borough Council website. The total amount paid to Members in respect of basic, special responsibility and travel and subsistence allowance was £675,411 (2023/24 £602,623).

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

34 Related Parties

The Council is required to disclose material transactions with related parties - bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence the Council or to be controlled or influenced by the Council. Disclosure of these transactions allows readers to assess the extent to which the Council 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 Council.

Central Government

Central government has effective control over the general operations of the Council - it is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Council operates, provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties (e.g. council tax bills, housing benefits). Grants received from government departments are included within Note 31 and the amounts outstanding from/to various government departments are summarised in Notes 22/24.

Members

Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. The total of members' allowances paid in 2024/25 is shown in Note 33. Councillors are subject to the Council's Member Code of Conduct. The Register of Members' Interests and declarations of interests relating to specific items of discussion at meetings are available for inspection.

During 2024/25, the Council had transactions with the following entities in which Members were deemed to have the potential to control or have significant influence over that entity;

	Expenditure		Income		Creditors		Debtors	
	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
St Aidan's Church of England Academy	151	161	(49)	(35)	0	0	8	1
TOTAL	151	161	(49)	(35)	0	0	8	1

During 2024/25, the Council paid £4.119m (£3.867m in 2023/24) to and received £0.027m (£0.024m in 2023/24) from other entities in which Members declared an interest on their Members' Interest forms but in which they were not deemed to have the potential to control or have significant influence over those entities. At the end of the year the Council was owed £0.207m from these entities (£0.181m in 2023/24) and was owed £0.015m from these

Senior Officers

The Council's senior managers may influence financial and operating policies through the professional advice to elected Members and through the management decisions they make under delegated powers. Such officers are subject to the Council's Employee Code of Conduct and professional bodies' standards. There are no related party transactions between the Council and its senior managers that require disclosure in 2024/25 (none in 2023/24).

Other Public Bodies

The Council received £6,304,801 (£6,474,985 in 2023/24) from the NHS. The Council paid £5,932,769 (£6,794,658 in 2023/24) to the NHS. At the year end there was £840,632 (£14 in 2023/24) owed to the NHS and there was £535,818 (£1,559,948 in 2023/24) owed to the NHS.

Entities Controlled or influenced by the Council

The Council has financial relationships with a number of related companies, those considered significant due to the level of investment are detailed below.

Eastbourne Joint Venture Limited

This is a joint venture arrangement with Esh Homes Limited of which the Council owns 50% of the share capital of the Company. The Company was established to develop 60 homes on the former Eastbourne School land that was declared surplus in July 2016.

Heighington Joint Venture Limited

This is a joint venture arrangement with Esh Homes Limited of which the Council owns 50% of the share capital of the Company. The Company was established to develop 43 homes (including 9 affordable) at Heighington.

Middleton St George Joint Venture Limited

This is a joint venture arrangement with Esh Homes Limited of which the Council owns 50% of the share capital of the Company. The Company was established to develop 55 homes (including 5 affordable) at Middleton St George.

West Park Joint Venture Limited

This is a joint venture arrangement with Esh Homes Limited of which the Council owns 50% of the share capital of the Company. The Company was established to develop 224 homes (including affordable) at West Park.

Neasham Road Joint Venture Limited

This is a joint venture arrangement with Esh Homes Limited of which the Council owns 50% of the share capital of the Company. The Company was established to develop 155 homes at Neasham.

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

Esh/DBC Joint Venture

This is a joint venture arrangement with Esh Homes Limited of which the Council owns 50% of the share capital of the Company. The Company was established to develop 71 homes (including affordable) at Springwell.

Blackwell Grange Joint Venture Limited

This is a joint venture arrangement with Esh Homes Limited of which the Council owns 50% of the share capital of the Company. The Company was established to develop 44 homes at Blackwell Grange.

Hurworth Grange Joint Venture Limited

This is a joint venture arrangement with Esh Homes Limited of which the Council owns 50% of the share capital of the Company. The Company was established to develop 144 homes at Neasham Cell C (Hurworth Gardens).

Teesside International Airport Limited (TIAL) (formerly Durham Tees Valley Airport Limited (DTVA))

89% shareholding of the Airport is owned by Goosepool 2019 Limited, who is in turn a 75% subsidiary of Tees Valley Combined Authority. The other 11% of the shares are held by the Tees Valley local authorities of which the Council holds 2.91% of the total shareholding in the airport. For the year ended 31 March 2024, Teesside International Airport Limited made an operating loss of £6.625m (£4.456m for year ended 31 March 2023) and a loss of £6.625m after taxation (loss of £4.456m for the year ended 31 March 2023).

Further information regarding the Company's accounts can be obtained from Companies House or its registered office at Teesside Airport Business Suite, Teesside International Airport Ltd, Darlington, DL2 1LU.

35 Pension Schemes Accounted for as Defined Contribution Schemes

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

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

In 2024/25, the Council paid £0.887m to Teachers' Pensions in respect of teachers' retirement benefits, representing 28.68% of pensionable pay. The figures for 2023/24 were £0.971m and 23.68%. There were no contributions remaining payable at the year-end.

The Council is responsible for the costs of any additional benefits awarded upon early retirement outside of the terms of the teachers' scheme. These costs are accounted for on a defined benefit basis and detailed in Note 37.

During 2013/14, Public Health staff transferred to the Council and these staff have maintained their membership in the NHS pension scheme. The Scheme provides these staff with sufficient benefits upon their retirement and the Council contributes towards the costs by making contributions based on a percentage of members' pensionable salaries.

The scheme is an unfunded defined benefit scheme. However, the Council is not able to identify its share of the underlying financial position and performance of the scheme with sufficient reliability for accounting purposes and it is therefore accounted for on the same basis as a defined contribution scheme.

In 2024/25 the Council paid £0.010m to the NHS Pension scheme in respect of former NHS staff retirement benefits, representing 14.38% of pensionable pay. The figures for 2023/24 were £0.014m and 14.38%. There were no contributions remaining payable at the year end.

36 Defined Benefit Pension Schemes

Participation in Pension Schemes

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

The Council participates in two post employment schemes.

The disclosures below relate to the funded liabilities within the Durham County Council Pension Fund which is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit plan with benefits earned up to 31 March 2014 being linked to salary. Benefits after 31 March 2014 are based on a Career Average Revalued Earnings scheme. Details of the benefits earned over the period covered by this disclosure are set out in 'The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013' and 'The Local Government Pension Scheme (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment)

There are arrangements in place for the award of discretionary post retirement benefits upon early retirement. This is an unfunded defined benefit arrangement, under which liabilities are recognised when awards are made. However, there are no investment assets built up to meet these pensions liabilities, and cash has to be generated to meet actual pensions payments as they eventually fall due.

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

Funding / Governance Arrangements of the LGPS

The funded nature of the LGPS requires participating employers and its employees to pay contributions into the Fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension liabilities with investment assets. Information on the framework for calculating contributions to be paid is set out in LGPS Regulations 2013 and the Fund's Funding Strategy Statement.

An actuarial valuation of the Fund was carried out at 31 March 2022 and as part of that valuation a new Rates and Adjustment Certificate has been produced for the three year period from 1 April 2023.

The Fund Administering Authority, Durham County Council is responsible for the governance of the Fund.

Assets

The assets allocated to the Employer in the Fund are notional and are assumed to be invested in line with the investments of the Fund for the purposes of calculating the return to be applied to those notional assets over the accounting period. The Fund is large and holds a significant proportion of its assets in liquid investments. As a consequence there will be no significant restriction on realising assets if a large payment is required to be paid from the Fund in relation to an employers' liabilities. The assets are invested in a diversified spread of investments and the approximate split of assets for the Fund as a whole is shown in the disclosures split by quoted and unquoted investments.

Transactions Relating to Post-Employment Benefits

We recognise 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 against council tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of post employment/retirement benefits is reversed out of the General Fund via the Movement in Reserves Statement. The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the General Fund Balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement during the year:

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Discretionary Benefits Arrangements	
	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement				
Cost of Services:				
• current service cost	(10,180)	(9,990)	0	0
• gains from settlements	(40)	0	0	0
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure				
• net interest expense	(2,160)	(940)	(250)	(220)
Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Deficit/(Surplus) on the Provision of Services	(12,380)	(10,930)	(250)	(220)
Other Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement				
• return on plan assets (excl the amount included in the net interest expense)	12,810	(11,880)	0	0
• actuarial losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	14,540	71,380	(40)	(250)
• actuarial gains/(losses) arising on changes in demographic assumptions	6,690	3,060	150	(30)
• actuarial gains/(losses) due to liability experience	(5,220)	(760)	(240)	10
• actuarial gains/(losses) due to restriction of surplus		(36,600)		
Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	16,440	14,270	(380)	(490)
Movement in Reserves Statement				
• reversal of net charges made to the Deficit/(Surplus) on the Provision of Services for post employment benefits in accordance with the Code	12,380	10,930	250	220
Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year:				
• employers' contributions payable to the scheme	9,730	10,320		
• retirement benefits payable to pensioners			690	620

The cumulative amount of actuarial gains and losses recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2024 is a loss of £127.040m (to 31 March 2024 a loss of £152.540m).

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

Pensions Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Discretionary Benefits Arrangements	
	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Fair value of assets	404,030	405,600	0	0
Present value of funded defined benefit obligation	(428,620)	(369,000)	(4,830)	(4,160)
Restriction of surplus		(36,600)		
Net liability recognised on the balance sheet	(24,590)	0	(4,830)	(4,160)

Assets and Liabilities in Relation to Post Employment Benefits

Pension Scheme Assets comprised:

The Discretionary Benefits arrangements have no assets to cover its liabilities. The Local Government Pension Scheme's assets consist of the following categories, by proportion of the total assets held:

	Asset Split at 31 March 2024				Asset Split at 31 March 2025		
	Quoted %	Unquoted %	Total %		Quoted %	Unquoted %	Total %
Equities	47.5	6.8	54.3		45.9	8.9	54.8
Property	1.4	5.2	6.6		1.7	4.9	6.6
Government Bonds	10.3	0.0	10.3		10.9	0.0	10.9
Corporate Bonds	9.6	0.0	9.6		8.9	0.0	8.9
Multi Asset Credit	15.2	0.0	15.2		0.0	15.5	15.5
Cash	1.8	0.0	1.8		0.8	1.4	2.2
Other	2.2	0.0	2.2		1.1	0.0	1.1
	88.0	12.0	100.0		69.3	30.7	100.0

Reconciliation of present value of the scheme liabilities (defined benefit obligation):

	Funded Liabilities: Local Government Pension Scheme			Unfunded Liabilities: Discretionary Benefits	
	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000		2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Opening defined benefit obligation balance at 1 April	(428,400)	(428,620)		(5,700)	(4,830)
Current service cost	(10,180)	(9,990)		0	0
Interest expense on defined benefit obligation	(19,820)	(20,200)		(250)	(220)
Contributions by scheme participants	(3,360)	(3,580)		0	0
Actuarial gains on liabilities - financial assumptions	14,540	71,380		40	250
Actuarial losses/(gains) on liabilities - demographic assumptions	6,690	3,060		150	30
Actuarial losses/(gains) on liabilities - experience	(5,220)	(760)		240	(10)
Net Benefits paid out	17,170	19,710		690	620
Past Service cost (inc curtailments)	(40)	0		0	0
Closing defined benefit balance at 31 March	(428,620)	(369,000)		(4,830)	(4,160)

Reconciliation of fair value of the scheme assets:

	Local Government Pension Scheme			Discretionary Benefits	
	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000		2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Opening fair value of assets balance at 1 April	377,640	404,030		0	0
Interest income on assets	17,660	19,260		0	0
Remeasurement (losses)/gains on assets	12,810	(11,880)		0	0
Contributions by the employer	9,730	10,320		690	620
Contributions by scheme participants	3,360	3,580		0	0
Net Benefits paid out	(17,170)	(19,710)		(690)	(620)
Closing fair value of assets balance at 31 March	404,030	405,600		0	0

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

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.

The actual gain on scheme assets in the year was £25.20m (2023/24: gain of £29.25m).

The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the Council has in the long run to pay post employment (retirement) benefits. The total liability of £4.160m has an impact on the net worth of the Council as recorded in the Balance Sheet. Statutory arrangements for funding the deficit mean that the financial position of the Council remains healthy:

- the deficit on the local government scheme will be made good by increased contributions over the remaining working life of employees (i.e. before payments fall due), as assessed by the scheme actuary.
- finance is only required to be raised to cover discretionary benefits when the pensions are actually paid.

The total contributions expected to be made to the Local Government Pension Scheme by the Council in the year to 31 March 2026 is £6.3500m. Expected contributions for the Discretionary Benefits scheme in the year to 31 March 2026 are £0.220m.

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. Both the Local Government Pension Scheme and Discretionary Benefits liabilities have been assessed by AonHewitt Limited, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the County Council Fund being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2022.

The principal assumptions used by the actuary have been:

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Discretionary Benefits	
	2023/24	2024/25	2023/24	2024/25
Mortality assumptions:				
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners:				
• Men	21.7	21.6	21.7	21.6
• Women	24.0	23.9	24.0	23.9
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners (aged 45 at accounting date):				
• Men	23.0	22.5	n/a	n/a
• Women	25.1	24.7	n/a	n/a
Rate of Inflation (CPI)	2.6%	2.5%	2.6%	2.5%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.6%	3.5%	n/a	n/a
Rate of increase in pensions	2.6%	2.5%	2.6%	2.5%
Pension accounts revaluation rate	2.6%	2.5%	n/a	n/a
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	4.8%	5.8%	4.8%	5.8%

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. The sensitivity analyses below have been determined based on reasonably possible changes of the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period and assumes for each change that the assumption analysed changes while all the other assumptions remain constant. The 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.

	Impact on the Defined Benefit Obligation in the Scheme	
	Increase in Assumption	Decrease in Assumption
	£m	£m
Longevity (increase or decrease by 1 year)	8.49	(8.49)
Rate of increase in salaries (increase or decrease by 0.1% p.a.)	0.74	(0.74)
Rate of increase in pensions (increase or decrease by 0.1% p.a.)	4.80	(4.80)
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities (increase or decrease by 0.1% p.a.)	(5.53)	5.53

The liability calculated above includes an allowance for the McCloud/Sargeant judgement in line with last years valuation, as well as an allowance for full indexation on all Guaranteed Minimum Pension's (GMP).

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

37 Financial Instruments

Categories of Financial Instruments

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

	Long-term		Current	
	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
Cash Equivalents Short Term Deposits (See Note 23)	0	0	(9,142)	3,812
Short Term Investments (Per Balance Sheet)	0	0	0	0
Loans and Receivables at amortised cost	0	0	(9,142)	3,812
Fair Value through Profit and Loss	24,767	17,872	0	0
Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income		6,547		
Total Investments	24,767	17,872	(9,142)	3,812
Debtors				
Loans and Receivables	16,515	18,642	0	0
Financial assets carried at contract amounts (Debtors)	0	0	11,322	11,552
Total Debtors	16,515	18,642	11,322	11,552
Borrowings				
Financial liabilities (principal amount)	121,103	120,964	32,000	52,000
Add Accrued Interest	1,623	1,450	486	884
Less Other accounting adjustments	(19)	(15)	0	0
Financial Liabilities at amortised cost	122,707	122,399	32,486	52,884
Total Borrowings (Per Balance Sheet)	122,707	122,399	32,486	52,884
PFI and finance lease liabilities	5,911	4,816	1,100	1,095
Total other long term creditors (Per Balance Sheet)	5,911	4,816	1,100	1,095
Financial liabilities carried at contract amount	0	0	3,433	5,503
Total Creditors	0	0	3,433	5,503

Items of Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

	2023/24		2024/25	
	Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services £'000	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure £'000	Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services £'000	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure £'000
Net gains/(losses) on:				
Financial Assets measured at fair value through profit and loss		(1,939)		(2,196)
Financial Assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income	0	0	0	53
Total gains / (losses)	0	(1,939)	0	(2,143)
Interest Income:				
Financial Assets measured at amortised cost		(4,193)		(6,444)
Other Financial Assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income	0	0	0	0
Total interest income	0	(4,193)	0	(6,444)
Interest Expense		0		0

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

Fair Value of Financial Assets

Reclassification and remeasurement of financial assets at 31st March 2025

This note shows the effect of reclassification of financial assets following the adoption of IFRS 9 Financial Instruments by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting.

The Teesside International Airport (TIAL) shareholding is a strategic investment and not held for trading and therefore the Council has opted to designate it as fair value through Other Comprehensive Income. This means that there is no impact on the revenue budget and any gains or losses will be therefore transferred to the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve.

The Council holds a £26.494m pooled investment in 3 separate property funds and as a result of the change in accounting standards in 2018/19, under IFRS 9 the MHCLG had agreed a temporary override to allow Local Authorities time to adjust their portfolio of all pooled investments. This statutory override is in place until March 2025. The statutory override has not been applied to the UBS Triton pooled investment of £6.494m.

Some of the Council's financial assets are measured at fair value on a recurring basis and are described in the following table, including the valuation techniques to measure them.

Financial assets measured at fair value				
Recurring fair value measurements	Input level in fair value Hierarchy	Valuation technique used to measure fair value	As at 31 March 2024 £'000	As at 31 March 2025 £'000
Fair Value through Profit and Loss Property Funds	Level 2	Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical shares - Bid price	24,767	24,419

Fair Values of Assets and Liabilities

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

- for loans from both PWLB and non PWLB payable, borrowing rates from PWLB have been applied to provide the fair value under PWLB debt redemption procedures;
- no early repayment or impairment is recognised;
- where an instrument will mature in the next 12 months, carrying amount is assumed to approximate to fair value; and
- the fair value of trade and other receivables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.

The fair values calculated are as follows:

	31 March 2024		31 March 2025	
	Carrying amount £'000	Fair Value £'000	Carrying amount £'000	Fair Value £'000
Financial Liabilities:				
PWLB Debt	108,278	94,286	108,278	86,278
Non PWLB debt	44,600	47,072	64,600	66,568
PFI	7,011	7,011	5,911	10,762
Total Debt	159,889	148,369	178,789	163,608
Creditors	3,433	3,433	5,503	5,503

The fair value of the liabilities is lower than the carrying amount because the Council's portfolio of loans includes a number of fixed rate loans where the interest rate payable is lower than the rates available for similar loans in the market at the Balance Sheet date. This shows a notional future gain (based on economic conditions at 31st March 2025) arising from a commitment to pay interest to lenders below current market rates.

	31 March 2024		31 March 2025	
	Carrying amount £'000	Fair Value £'000	Carrying amount £'000	Fair Value £'000
Financial Assets				
Debtors	11,322	11,322	11,552	11,552

Short term debtors and creditors are carried at cost as this is a fair approximation of their value.

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

38 Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments

Key Risks

The Council'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 Council
- liquidity risk – the possibility that the Council might not have funds available to meet its commitment to make payments
- market risk – the possibility that financial loss might arise for the Council as a result of changes in such measures as interest rates and stock market movements.

Overall Procedures for Managing Risk

The Council's overall risk management programme focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the resources available to fund services. The procedures for risk management are set out in a legal framework in the Local Government Act 2003 and associated regulations. These require the Council to comply with the CIPFA Prudential Code, the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management in the Public Services and investment guidance issued through the Act. Overall these procedures require the Council to manage risks in the following

- by formally adopting the requirements of the Code of Practice;
- by the adoption of a treasury policy statement and treasury management clauses within the Constitution;
- by approving annually in advance prudential indicators for the following three years limiting the Council's overall borrowing including:
 - its maximum and minimum exposures to fixed and variable rates;
 - its maximum annual exposure to investments maturing beyond 1 year
- by approving an investment strategy for the forthcoming year setting out its criteria for both investing and selecting investment counterparties in compliance with Government Guidance.

These are required to be reported and approved at or before the Council's annual Council Tax setting budget. These items are reported with the annual treasury management strategy which outlines the detailed approach to managing risks in relation to the Council's financial instrument exposure. Actual performance is also reported half-yearly to Members.

The annual treasury management strategy which incorporates the prudential indicators was approved by Council on 16 February 2023 and is available on the Council's website. The key issues within the strategy were:

- The Authorised Limit for 2024/25 was set at £273.111m. This was the maximum amount of external borrowings and other long term liabilities allowed. This was subsequently updated to £259.628m in the revised strategy.
- The Operational Boundary was expected to be £183.973m. This is the expected level of borrowing and other long term liabilities during the year. This was subsequently updated to £179.323m in the revised strategy.
- The maximum amounts of fixed and variable interest rate exposure were set at 100% and 40% based on the Council's net debt.
- The maximum and minimum exposure to the maturity structure of debt are shown in the note relating to refinancing and maturity risk.

Risk Management is carried out by a central treasury team under policies approved by the Council in the Annual Treasury Management Strategy. The Council provides written principles for overall risk management, as well as written policies covering specific areas, such as interest rate risk, credit risk, and the investment of surplus cash through Treasury Management Practices (TMPs). These TMPs are a requirement of the Code of Practice and are reviewed regularly.

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the Council's customers. Deposits are not made with banks and institutions unless they meet the minimum requirements of investment criteria outlined below.

This risk is minimised through the Annual Investment Strategy, which requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet identified minimum credit criteria, as laid down by Credit Ratings Services. The Annual Investment Strategy also imposes a maximum sum to be invested with a financial institution located within each category. Additional selection criteria are also applied after these initial criteria are applied. Full details of the Investment Strategy can be found on the Council's website. The key areas of the investment Strategy are the minimum criteria for investment counterparties which include:

- UK institutions Credit rating of Short Term F1, Long Term A- or equivalent
- Non UK institutions Credit rating of Short Term F1+, Long Term AA- or equivalent
- UK institutions provided with support from the UK Government.

The full Investment Strategy for 2024/25 was approved by full Council on 15 February 2024 and is available on the Council's website.

The following analysis summarises the Council's potential maximum exposure to credit risk, based on experience of default assessed by the ratings agencies and the Council's experience of its customer collection levels over the last five financial years, adjusted to reflect current market conditions:

	Amount at 31 March 2025 £'000	Historical experience of default %	Lowest Long Term and Fund Rating	Estimated maximum exposure to default and uncollectability at 31 March 2024 £'000	Estimated maximum exposure at 31 March 2025 £'000
Deposits with banks and Financial Institutions					
BNP Paribas MMF	90	0.000	AAA	0	0
Federated MMF	5,000	0.000	AAA	0	0
Insight Liquidity MMF	5,000	0.000	AAA	0	0
Total	10,090				

No breaches of the Council's counterparty criteria occurred during the reporting period and the Council does not expect any losses from non-performance by any of its counterparties in relation to deposits.

The Council does not generally allow credit for customers, such that £10.557m of the £11.552m balance shown in the balance sheet as part of short term debtors is past its due date for payment. The past due but not impaired amount can be analysed by age as follows:

	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
Debts on Payment plans	1,948	1,870
Less than 3 months	1,007	1,455
3 to 6 months	806	767
6 months to 1 year	2,363	2,073
More than 1 year	3,753	4,392
	9,877	10,557

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

Liquidity Risk

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

The maturity analysis of financial assets is as follows:

	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
Less than 1 year	6,370	10,090
	6,370	10,090

All trade and other payables are due to be paid in less than one year and are not shown in the table above.

Refinancing and Maturity Risk

The Council maintains a significant debt and investment portfolio. Whilst the cash flow procedures above are considered against refinancing risk procedures, longer-term risk to the Council relates to managing the exposure to replacing financial instruments as they mature. This risk relates to both the maturing of longer term financial liabilities and longer term financial assets.

The approved treasury indicators limits for the maturity structure of debt and the limits placed on investments placed for greater than one year in duration are the key parameters used to address this risk. The Council approved treasury and investment strategies address the main risks and the central treasury team address the operational risks within the approved parameters. This includes:

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

The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is as follows, with the maximum and minimum limits for fixed interest rates maturing in each period (approved by Council in the Treasury Management Strategy)

	Approved Maximum Limits	31 March 2025	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
Less than 1 year	40%	30%	32,000	52,141
Between 1 and 2 years	50%	0%	0	142
Between 2 and 5 years	60%	9%	8,000	15,277
Between 5 and 10 years	80%	1%	7,372	1,332
More than 10 years	100%	60%	105,506	103,846
Total			152,878	172,738

Market Risk

Interest Rate Risk

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

- borrowings at variable rates – the interest expense charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement will rise;
- borrowings at fixed rates – the fair value of the liabilities borrowings will fall (no impact on revenue balances);
- investments at variable rates – the interest income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement will rise; and
- investments at fixed rates – the fair value of the assets will fall (no impact on revenue balances).

Borrowings are not carried at fair value on the balance sheet, 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 subject to influences from Government grants (HRA). Movements in the fair value of fixed rate investments that have a quoted market price will be reflected in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

The Council has a number of strategies for managing interest rate risk. The Annual Treasury Management Strategy brings together the Council's prudential and treasury indicators and its expected treasury operations, including an expectation of interest rate movements. From this Strategy, a treasury indicator is set which provides limits for fixed and variable rate exposure. The central treasury team will monitor market and forecast interest rates within the year to adjust exposures appropriately. For instance during periods of falling interest rates and where economic circumstances make it favourable, fixed rate investments may be taken for longer periods to secure better long term returns, similarly the drawing of longer term fixed rates borrowing would be postponed.

According to this assessment strategy, at 31 March 2025, if interest rates had been 1% higher with all other variables held constant, the financial effect would be:

	£'000
Increase in interest payable on variable rate borrowings	995
Increase in interest receivable on variable rate investments	(937)
Impact on Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	58
Share of overall impact debited to the HRA	577
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).	13,147

The impact of a 1% fall in interest rates would be as above but with the movements being reversed. These assumptions are based on the same methodology as used in the note Fair value of Assets and Liabilities carried at Amortised Cost.

Price Risk

The Council, excluding the Pension Fund, does not generally invest in equity shares or marketable bonds and therefore does not have exposure to price risk in its investments.

The Council holds investment units in property funds that have been classified as Fair Value through Profit and Loss. The Council has elected to use the statutory override as allowed by CIPFA (and the Government) for property funds taken out prior to 1st April 2024 and allocate any gains or losses on prices to to Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income and taken to the Financial Instrument Revaluation Reserve. A gain of £0.367m was recognised in 2024/25 in relation to the Council's holding in these property funds.

The Council also holds investment units in a property fund taken out after 1st April 2024 for which there is no statutory override and any gains or losses are recognised in the CIES. Any gains on these funds are subsequently transferred to an earmarked reserve. A gain on £0.053m was recognised in 2024/25

A general shift of 5% in the general price of units (positive or negative) would have resulted in a £0.894m gain or loss in the Financial Instrument Revaluation Reserve, and a gain or loss of £0.327m in the CIES.

Foreign Exchange Risk

The Council has no financial assets or liabilities denominated in foreign currencies and thus has no exposure to loss arising from movements in exchange rates.

39 Events After the Balance Sheet Date

The Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Executive Director of Resources and Governance on 30 June 2025. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or notes. Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31 March 2025, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information.

There are no significant post balance sheet events to be disclosed.

40 Statement of Accounting Policies

a) General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2024/25 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2025. The Council 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. The principal accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year.

These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 (the Code), supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and statutory guidance issued under section 12 of the 2003 Act.

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

The Statement of Accounts has been prepared on a 'going concern' basis, which assumes that the functions of the Council will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The provisions in the Code in respect of going concern reporting requirements reflect the economic and statutory environment in which the Council operates. As a result of this, it would not therefore be appropriate for the financial statements to be provided on anything other than a going concern basis

The mitigating factor underpinning the going concern assessment is that the Council continues to have available general fund balances to balance the budget where necessary. At the end of 25/26 the general fund balance is forecast to be £8.389m. Additionally, the Council's cash flow forecasts anticipate that cash balances will remain in a positive position for at least 12 months following the date of the audit opinion and do not forecast a need to borrow apart from potentially replacing short term borrowing that will mature in the period. The Council has undertaken cash flow modelling through to June 2026 which demonstrates the Council's ability to work within its Capital Financing Requirement and cash management framework with a minimum cash balance forecast during the period of £5m.

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

b) Accruals of Income and Expenditure

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

- Revenue from contracts with service recipients, whether for services or the provision of goods, is recognised when (or as) the goods or services transferred to the service recipient in accordance with the performance obligations in the contract.
- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed – where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.
- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.
- Interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure on the basis of the interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.
- Where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where debts may not be settled, the balance is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected. The Council has adopted a de minimis level of £500 for year-end accruals which means that they are not included in the accounting statements.
- Income and expenditure are credited and debited to the relevant service revenue account, unless they properly represent capital receipts or capital expenditure.

The only exceptions to these principles where costs are not apportioned between years are:

- housing rents are shown in whole weeks
- quarterly accounts e.g. electricity are reflected on the basis of four payments per year

This policy is consistently applied each year and does not materially affect the accounts.

c) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions, including on-call accounts and deposits with Money Market Funds, repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours held to meet short-term cash commitments. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months or less from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

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

d) Prior Period Adjustments, Changes In Accounting Policies and Estimates and Errors

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

Changes in accounting policies are only made when required by proper accounting practices or the change provides more reliable or relevant information about the effect of transactions, other events and conditions on the Council's financial position or 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 figures are corrected retrospectively by amending opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period.

e) Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

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

- depreciation attributable to the assets used by the relevant service;
- revaluation and impairment losses on assets used by the service where there are no accumulated gains in the Revaluation Reserve against which the losses can be written off, and
- amortisation of intangible fixed assets attributable to the service.

The Council is not required to raise council tax to 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 Council 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), by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

f) Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

Billing authorities act as agents, collecting council tax and non-domestic rates (NDR) on behalf of major preceptors (including government for NDR) and, as principals, collecting council tax and NDR 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 is the Council's share of accrued income for the year. However, regulations determine the amount of council tax and NDR that must be included in the Council's General Fund. Therefore the difference between the income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement 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 Movement in Reserves

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

Where debtor balances for the above are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a past event that payments due under the statutory arrangements will not be made (fixed or determinable payments), the asset is written down and a charge made to the Financing and Investment Income an Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount and the revised future cash flows.

g) Employee Benefits

Benefits Payable During Employment

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

An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements (or any form of leave, e.g. flexi time or time off in lieu) earned by employees but not taken before the year-end which employees can carry forward into the next 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 Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, but then reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement so that holiday benefits are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs.

Termination Benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Council to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy in exchange for those benefits and are charged on an accruals basis to the relevant service line or, where applicable, to a corporate service line at the earlier of when the Council can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when the Council recognises costs for a restructuring.

Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the General Fund to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the pension fund or pensioner in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards although it is the Council's policy not to award any such enhancements.

Post Employment Benefits

Employees of the Council are members of three separate pension schemes:

- The Teachers' Pension Scheme, administered by Capita Teachers' Pensions on behalf of the Department of Education (DfE).
- The NHS Pension Scheme, administered by NHS Pensions
- The Local Government Pensions Scheme, administered by Durham County Council.

The schemes provide defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions) earned as employees of the Council.

However, the arrangements for the teachers' and the NHS schemes mean that liabilities for these benefits cannot ordinarily be identified specifically to the Council. The schemes are therefore accounted for as if they were a defined contribution scheme and no liability for future payments of benefits is recognised in the Balance Sheet. The Childrens' and Adults Services line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is charged with the employer's contributions payable to Teachers' Pensions in the year as is the employer's contributions payable to the NHS Pension scheme in the year.

The Local Government Pension Scheme

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

- The liabilities of the Durham County Council pension fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method - i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc, and projections of projected earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate of 5.8% (based on the indicative rate of return on high quality corporate bonds).
- The assets of Durham County Council pension fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

- quoted securities – current bid price
- unquoted securities – professional estimate
- unitised securities – current bid price
- property – market value.

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

- Service cost comprising:
 - current service cost - the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year - allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the services for which the employees worked;
 - past service cost - the increase in liabilities as a result of a scheme amendment or curtailment whose effect relates to years of service in earlier years, debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
 - net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset), i.e. net interest expense for the Council - the change during the period in the net benefit liability (asset) that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement - this is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined obligation the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit of the period taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.
- Remeasurements comprising:
 - the return on plan assets - excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined liability (asset) charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
 - actuarial gains and losses - changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions - charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
- Contributions paid to the Durham County Council pension fund - cash paid as employer's contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities not accounted for as an expense.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the pension fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means that there are transfers to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement 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 Council also has restricted powers to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirements. Any liabilities estimated to arise as a result of an award to any member of staff (including teachers) are accrued in the year of the decision to make the award and accounted for using the same policies as are applied to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

h) Events After the Reporting Period

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; and
- those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period - the Statement of Accounts is not adjusted to reflect such events, 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 effect.

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

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

i) Financial Instruments

Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council 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 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments over the life of the instrument to the amount at which it was originally recognised.

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

Gains and losses on the repurchase or early settlement of borrowing are credited and debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year of repurchase/settlement. However, where repurchase has taken place as part of a restructuring of the loan portfolio that involves the modification or exchange of existing instruments, the premium or discount is respectively deducted from or added to the amortised cost of the new or modified loan and the write-down to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is spread over the life of the loan by an adjustment to the effective interest rate.

Where premiums and discounts have been charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, regulations allow the impact on the General Fund Balance to be spread over future years. The Council has a policy of spreading the gain or loss over the term that was remaining on the loan against which the premium was payable or discount receivable when it was repaid. The reconciliation of amounts charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net charge required against the General Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost

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

The Council has the facility to make loans at less than market rates (soft loans). When soft loans are made, a loss is recorded in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (debited to the appropriate service) for the present value of the interest that will be foregone over the life of the instrument, resulting in a lower amortised cost than the outstanding principal.

Interest is credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement at a marginally higher effective rate of interest than the rate receivable from the recipients of the loans, with the difference serving to increase the amortised cost of the loan in the Balance Sheet. Statutory provisions require that the impact of soft loans on the General Fund Balance is the interest receivable for the financial year - the reconciliation of amounts debited and credited to the Comprehensive Income and expenditure Statement to the net gain required against the General Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Any gains or losses that arise on the derecognition of an asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

Expected Credit Loss Model

The Council recognises expected credit losses on all of its financial assets held at amortised cost (or where relevant FVOCI), either on a 12-month or lifetime basis. The expected credit loss model also applies to lease receivables and contract assets. Only lifetime losses are recognised for trade receivables (debtors) held by the Council.

Impairment losses are calculated to reflect the expectation that the future cash flows might not take place because the borrower could default on their obligations. Credit risk plays a crucial part in assessing losses. Where risk has increased significantly since an instrument was initially recognised, losses are assessed on a lifetime basis. Where risk has not increased significantly or remains low, losses are assessed on the basis of 12-month expected

The Council has a portfolio of a number of loans to local businesses. It does not have reasonable and supportable information that is available without undue cost or effort to support the measurement of lifetime losses on an individual instrument basis. It has therefore assessed losses for the portfolio on a collective basis.

Financial assets measured at Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income (FVOCI)

Financial assets that are measured at FVOCI are recognised on the balance sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured and carried at fair value. Fair value gains and losses are recognised as they arise in other comprehensive income.

Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Profit and Loss (FVPL)

Financial assets that are measured at FVPL are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured and carried at fair value. Fair value gains and losses are recognised as they arise in the surplus or deficit on the provision of services.

Fair value measurements of financial assets

Fair value of an asset is the price that would be received to sell an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurements of the Council's financial assets are based on the following techniques:

- instruments with quoted market prices - the market price
- other instruments with fixed and determinable payments - discounted cash flow analysis.

The inputs to the measurement techniques are categorised in accordance with the following three levels:

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

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

An equity instrument can be elected into a FVOCI treatment rather than a FVPL treatment if it is not held for trading. The Council has reviewed its assets that would be measured at FVPL on the basis of the business model and has elected to classify instruments as either FVPL or FVOCI on an instrument by instrument basis based on the assessed benefit to the Council from the chosen classification.

As far as Teesside International Airport shares are concerned the Council has elected to treat them as an equity instrument which is not held for trading and therefore will be utilising the FVOCI treatment.

Instruments entered into before 1st April 2006

The Council has a financial guarantee that is not required to be accounted for as a financial instrument. This guarantee is reflected in the Statement of Accounts to the extent that it is shown in contingent liabilities (note 27).

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

j) Government Grants and Contributions

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

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

Amounts recognised as due to the Council are not credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement 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 received 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. When conditions are satisfied, the grant or contribution is credited to the relevant service line (attributable revenue grants and contributions) or Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income (non-ringfenced revenue grants and all capital grants) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where capital grants are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Where the grant has yet to be used to finance capital expenditure, it is posted to the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve. Where it has been applied, it is posted to the Capital Adjustment Account. Amounts in the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account once they have been applied to fund capital expenditure.

k) Heritage Assets

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

Heritage assets are accounted for in accordance with the Council's accounting policies on property, plant and equipment except 'where it is not practical to obtain a valuation at a cost which is commensurate with the benefits to users of the financial statements, heritage assets shall be measured at historic cost.' Valuations may also be made by any method that is appropriate and relevant.

The carrying amounts of heritage assets are reviewed where there is evidence of impairment for heritage assets e.g. where an item has suffered physical deterioration or breakage or where doubts arise as to its authenticity. Any impairment is recognised and measured in accordance with the Council's general policies on impairment (see page 65). If any heritage assets are disposed of then the proceeds are accounted for in accordance with the Council's general provisions relating to the disposal of property, plant and equipment. Disposal proceeds are disclosed separately in the notes to the financial statements and are accounted for in accordance with statutory accounting requirements relating to capital expenditure and capital

l) Interests in Companies and Other Entities

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2024/25 requires local authorities to produce group accounts to reflect significant activities provided to council taxpayers by other organisations in which an authority has an interest. The Council has reviewed its interests in companies and other entities that have the nature of subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures against the criteria in the Code and concluded that there are such material interests that require the preparation of group accounts. In the Council's own single-entity accounts, the interest in companies and other entities are recorded as financial assets at cost, less any provision for losses.

m) Inventories and Long Term Contracts

Inventories are included in the Balance Sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value, with the exception of stores held at Allington Way Depot, which are valued at last price paid. This is a departure from the Code of Practice but the effect of the different treatment is not material. Work in progress is subject to an interim valuation at the year-end and recorded in the balance sheet at cost plus any profit reasonably attributable to the

n) Investment Properties

Investment properties are those that are used solely to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation. The definition is not met if the property is used in any way to facilitate the delivery of services or production of goods or is held for sale.

Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value, being the price that would be received to sell such an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. As a non-financial asset, investment properties are measured at highest and best use. Properties are not depreciated but are revalued annually according to market conditions at year-end. Gains and losses on revaluation are posted to the Financing and Investment Income and expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The same treatment is applied to gains and losses on disposal.

Rentals received in relation to investment properties are credited to the Financing and Investment Income line and result in a gain for the General Fund Balance. However, revaluation and disposal gains and losses are not permitted by statutory arrangements to have an impact on the General Fund balance. The gains and losses are therefore reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement and posted to the Capital Adjustment Account and (for any sale proceeds greater than £10,000) the Capital Receipts Reserve.

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

o) Leases

The Council as Lessee

The Council classifies contracts as leases based on their substance. Contracts and parts of contracts, including those described as contracts for services, are analysed to determine whether they convey the right to control the use of an identified asset, through rights both to obtain substantially all the economic benefits or service potential from that asset and to direct its use. The Code expands the scope of IFRS 16 Leases to include arrangements with nil consideration, peppercorn or nominal payments.

Initial Measurement

Leases are recognised as right-of-use assets with a corresponding liability at the date from which the leased asset is available for use (or the IFRS 16 transition date, if later). The leases are typically for fixed periods in excess of one year but may have extension options.

The Authority initially recognises lease liabilities measured at the present value of lease payments, discounting by applying the authority's incremental borrowing rate wherever the interest rate implicit in the lease cannot be determined. Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability include:

- fixed payments, including in-substance fixed payments
- variable lease payments that depend on an index or rate, initially measured using the prevailing index or rate as at the adoption date
- amounts expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee
- the exercise price under a purchase option that the authority is reasonably certain to exercise
- the lease payments in an optional renewal period if the authority is reasonably certain to exercise an extension option
- penalties for early termination of a lease, unless the authority is reasonably certain not to terminate early.

The right-of-use asset is measured at the amount of the lease liability, adjusted for any prepayments made, plus any direct costs incurred to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or restore the underlying asset on the site on which it is located, less any lease incentives received. However, for peppercorn, nominal payments or nil consideration leases, the asset is measured at fair value.

Subsequent Measurement

The right-of-use asset is subsequently measured using the fair value model. The authority considers the cost model to be a reasonable proxy except

- assets held under non-commercial leases
- leases where rent reviews do not necessarily reflect market conditions
- leases with terms of more than five years that do not have any provision for rent reviews
- leases where rent reviews will be at periods of more than five years.

For these leases, the asset is carried at a revalued amount. In these financial statements, right-of-use assets held under index-linked leases have been adjusted for changes in the relevant index, while assets held under peppercorn or nil consideration leases have been valued using market prices or rentals for equivalent land and properties.

The right-of-use asset is depreciated straight-line over the shorter period of remaining lease term and useful life of the underlying asset as at the date of adoption.

The lease liability is subsequently measured at amortised cost, using the effective interest method. The liability is remeasured when:

- there is a change in future lease payments arising from a change in index or rate
- there is a change in the group's estimate of the amount expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee
- the authority changes its assessment of whether it will exercise a purchase, extension or termination option, or
- there is a revised in-substance fixed lease payment.

When such a remeasurement occurs, a corresponding adjustment is made to the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset, with any further adjustment required from remeasurement being recorded in the income statement.

Low value and short lease exemption

As permitted by the Code, the authority excludes leases: .

- for low-value items that cost less than £5,000 when new, provided they are not highly dependent on or integrated with other items, and
- for with a term shorter than 12 months (comprising the non-cancellable period plus any extension options that the authority is reasonably certain to exercise and any termination options that the authority is reasonably certain not to exercise).

Lease expenditure

Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement includes interest, straightline depreciation, any asset impairments and changes in variable lease payments not included in the measurement of the liability during the period in which the triggering event occurred. Lease payments are debited against the liability. Rentals for leases of low-value items or shorter than 12 months are expensed.

Depreciation and impairments are not charges against council tax, as the cost of non-current assets is fully provided for under separate arrangements for capital financing. Amounts are therefore appropriated to the capital adjustment account from the General Fund balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The Council as lessor

Finance leases

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

Where the Council grants a finance lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the relevant asset is written out of the balance sheet as a disposal. At the commencement of the lease, the carrying amount of the asset in the balance sheet (whether property, plant and equipment or assets held for sale) is written off to the other operating expenditure line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. A gain, representing the Council's net investment in the lease, is credited to the same line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement 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), matched by a lease (long term debtor) asset in the Balance Sheet.

Lease rentals receivable are apportioned between:

- a charge for the acquisition of the interest in the property - applied to write down the lease debtor (together with any premiums received; statement).

The gain credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement on disposal is not permitted by statute to increase the general fund balance and is required to be treated as a capital receipt. Where a premium has been received, this is posted out of the general fund balance to the capital receipts reserve in the movement in reserves statement. Where the amount due in relation to the lease asset is to be settled by the payment of rentals in future financial years, this is posted out of the general fund balance to the deferred capital receipts reserve in the movement in reserves statement. When the future rentals are received, the element for the capital receipt for the disposal of the asset is used to write down the lease debtor. At this point, the deferred capital receipts are transferred to the capital receipts reserve.

The written-off value of disposals is not a charge against council tax, as the cost of non-current assets is fully provided for under separate arrangements for capital financing. Amounts are therefore appropriated to the capital adjustment account from the general fund balance in the movement in reserves statement.

Operating Leases

Where the Council grants an operating lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the asset is retained in the balance sheet. Rental income is credited to the other operating expenditure line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement. Credits are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease, even if this does not match the pattern of payments (e.g. there is a premium paid at the commencement of the lease). Initial direct costs incurred in negotiating and arranging the lease are added to the carrying amount of the relevant asset and charged as an expense over the lease term on the same basis as rental income.

p) Overheads and Support Services

The costs of overheads and support services are charged to service segments in accordance with the Council's arrangements for accountability and financial performance.

q) Property, Plant and Equipment

Assets that have physical substance and are held for use in the production or supply of goods or services, for rentals 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.

Capital expenditure under £5,000 is classified as de-minimis and is charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The de-minimis expenditure is financed using existing capital resources or by borrowing, this is posted out of the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement so there is no impact on the levels of council tax.

Recognition

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

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

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

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

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

Donated assets are measured initially at fair value. The difference between fair value and any consideration paid is credited to the Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, unless the donation has been made conditionally. Until conditions are satisfied, the gain is held in the Donated Assets Account. Where gains are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

- infrastructure, community assets and assets under construction - depreciated historical cost;
- dwellings - current value, determined using the basis of existing use value for social housing (EUV- SH);

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

- school buildings - current value, but because of their specialised nature, are measured at depreciated replacement cost which is used as an estimate of current value;
- surplus assets - the current value measurement basis is fair value, estimated at highest and best use from a market participant's perspective;
- all other assets - current value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value - EUV).

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

Where non-property assets 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 sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their current value at the year-end, but as a minimum every five years. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. Exceptionally, gains might be credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement where they arise from the reversal of a loss previously charged to a service.

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

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

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

Impairment

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

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

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

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

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 certain Community Assets) and assets that are not yet available for use (i.e. assets under construction).

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- dwellings and other buildings - straight-line allocation over the useful life of the property as estimated by the valuer;
- vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment - a percentage of the value of each class of assets in the Balance Sheet, as advised by a suitably officer; and
- infrastructure - straight-line allocation over 30 years.

Where an item of property, plant and equipment has major components whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately. Assets valued higher than £1m that are made up from different components and whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the item are depreciated on a component by component basis. The components used are host (structure), externals, services and roof. Once separated, depreciation is charged across each components useful life as appropriate.

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

Disposals and Non-current Assets Held for Sale

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

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

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

Assets that are to be abandoned or scrapped are not reclassified as assets held for sale.

When an asset is disposed of or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (whether property, plant and equipment or assets held for sale) is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals (if any) are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement 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). Any revaluation gains accumulated for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts. A proportion of capital receipts relating to housing disposals is payable to the Government. The balance of receipts remains within the Capital Receipts Reserve, and can then only be used for new capital investment or set aside to reduce the Council's underlying need to borrow (the capital financing requirement). Receipts are appropriated to the Reserve from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

r) Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and Similar Contracts

PFI and similar contracts are agreements to receive services, where the responsibility for making available the property, plant and equipment needed to provide the services passes to the PFI contractor. As the Council is deemed to control the services that are provided under its PFI schemes, and as ownership of the property, plant and equipment will pass to the Council at the end of the contract for no additional charge, the Council carries the assets used under the contract on its Balance Sheet as part of property, plant and equipment (unless the PFI scheme is a school that has subsequently transferred to Academy status and then it will be removed from the Council's Balance Sheet).

The original recognition of these assets at fair value (based on the cost to purchase the property, plant and equipment) was balanced by the recognition of a liability for amounts due to the scheme operator to pay for the capital investment.

Non-current assets recognised on the Balance Sheet are revalued and depreciated in the same way as property, plant and equipment owned by the Council.

The amounts payable to the PFI operators each year are analysed into three elements:

- fair value of the services received during the year - debited to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement,
- finance cost - an interest charge of 4.77% on the outstanding Balance Sheet liability, debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, and
- payment towards liability - applied to write down the Balance Sheet liability towards the PFI operator (the profile of write-downs is calculated using the same principles as for a finance lease).

s) Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Provisions

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

Provisions are charged as an expense to the appropriate service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when the Council 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.

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

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

Contingent Liabilities

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

Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in note 27 to the accounts.

Contingent Assets

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

Contingent assets are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts where it is probable that there will be an inflow of economic benefits or service potential although at present the Council doesn't have any Contingent Assets.

Notes to the Financial Statements of Darlington Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2025

t) Reserves

The Council sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. Reserves are created by transferring amounts out of the General Fund Balance. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service in that year to score against the Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The reserve is then transferred back into the General Fund Balance so that there is no net charge against council tax for the expenditure.

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

u) Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute

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

v) Value Added Tax (VAT)

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

If the Council was unable to recover exempt input tax it would be included as an expense in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

w) Schools

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom confirms that the balance of control for local authority maintained schools (i.e. those categories of school identified in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, as amended) lies with the local authority.

The Code also stipulates that those schools' assets, liabilities, reserves and cash flows are recognised in the local authority financial statements. Therefore schools' transactions, cash flows and balances are recognised in each of the financial statements of the Council as if they were the transactions, cash flows and balances of the Council.

x) Fair Value Measurement

The Council measures some of its non-financial assets such as surplus assets and investment properties and some of its financial instruments such as equity shareholdings at fair value at each reporting date. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurement assumes that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability takes place either:

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

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

When measuring the fair value of a non-financial asset, the Council takes into account a market participant's ability to generate economic benefits by using the asset in its highest and best use or by selling it to another market participant that would use the asset in highest or best use.

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

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

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

y) Exceptional Items

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

Housing Revenue Account for Darlington Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2025

HRA Income and Expenditure Statement

As at 31 March 2024		As at 31 March 2025	Notes
£'000		£'000	
	<u>Expenditure</u>		
(6,054)	Repairs and maintenance	(7,044)	
(8,587)	Supervision and management	(9,432)	
(160)	Rent, rates, taxes and other charges	(264)	
(199)	Increased provision for bad and doubtful debts	(86)	7
	<u>Depreciation of non-current assets:</u>		
(2,059)	On HRA dwellings	(2,090)	6
0	On Non-HRA dwellings	0	6
0	Impairment of Fixed Assets	0	3
(8,204)	Revaluation (Loss) / Gain on Fixed Assets	(11,386)	3
0	Revenue Expenditure funded from Capital under Statute	0	4
0	Debt management costs	0	
(25,263)	Total Expenditure	(30,301)	
	<u>Income</u>		
21,896	Dwelling rents	23,562	
529	Non-dwelling rents	584	
4,312	Charges for services & facilities	4,330	
1,159	Contribution towards Expenditure	1,372	
27,896	Total Income	29,847	
2,633	Net Expenditure or Income of HRA Services as included in the whole authority Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(454)	
(70)	HRA Share of other amounts included in the whole Authority net costs of services	(70)	
2,563	Net income for HRA Services	(524)	
	HRA Share of Operating income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
(2,339)	Interest Payable and Similar Charges	(2,498)	
	Gain on sale on HRA non-current assets		
526	Interest and Investment Income	933	
(144)	Pension Interest Cost and Expected Return on Pension Assets	(144)	
606	Surplus for the Year on HRA Services	(2,234)	

Housing Revenue Account for Darlington Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2025

Movement on the HRA Statement

As at 31 March 2024		As at 31 March 2025	As at 31 March 2025
£'000		£'000	£'000
23,467	Balance on the HRA at the end of the previous year		25,947
606	Surplus for the year on the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement	(2,243)	
	Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statute:		
(176)	Difference between amounts charged to Income and Expenditure for amortisations of premiums and discounts and the charge for the year determined in accordance with statute	(176)	
10,266	Difference between any other item of income and expenditure determined in accordance with the Code and determined in accordance with statutory HRA requirements	13,485	
(427)	Voluntary set aside for debt repayment	(427)	
(8,003)	Capital expenditure funded by the HRA	(13,455)	
2,266	Net decrease before transfers to reserves	(2,816)	
	Transfers (to) or from earmarked reserves:		
752	Net charges made for retirement benefits in accordance with IAS19	752	
0	Other transfers from/(to) earmarked reserves		
(538)	Employer's contributions payable to the Durham County Council Pension Fund and retirement benefits payable direct to pensioners.	(538)	
214	Transfers from reserves	214	
2,480	Increase in year on the HRA		(2,602)
25,947	Balance on the HRA at the end of the current year		23,345

Notes to the Housing Revenue Account for Darlington Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Housing Stock

1 April 2024		31 March 2025
	<u>Number and types of dwellings</u>	
2,567	Houses	2,561
2,335	Flats	2,338
13	Maisonettes	13
344	Bungalows	344
<hr/> 5,259	Total dwellings	<hr/> 5,256
	<u>Balance Sheet values</u>	
£000		£000
48	Land	64
189,681	Houses	196,368
837	Other property	1,316
<hr/> 190,566	Total net Balance Sheet value	<hr/> 197,748
	Operational Assets	
189,681	Dwellings	196,368
<hr/> 0	Other Land & buildings	<hr/>
189,681		196,368
885	Non-operational assets	1,380
<hr/> 190,566	Total net Balance Sheet value	<hr/> 197,748

2 Vacant Possession Values

The vacant possession value of dwellings as at 31st March in the financial year is £438.654m (£424.131m in 2023/24).

The vacant possession value of a property is defined as an opinion of the best price at which the sale of an interest in the property would have been completed unconditionally for cash consideration on the date of the valuation.

The vacant possession value most naturally relates to sale of a single owner-occupied dwelling. Therefore it must be adjusted to obtain the balance sheet or social housing value. The social value housing value reflects a valuation for a property if it were disposed of with sitting tenants enjoying sub-market rents and tenants' rights. Rents in the private sector reflect capital values quite well since they are market rents. Rents set by local authorities are unlikely to reflect the market position as they have been arrived at through a combination of historic practice and current policy.

The difference between the vacant possession value and the balance sheet value therefore shows the economic cost to the Government of providing council housing at less than open market value.

3 Impairment/Revaluation of Non-current assets

These charges occur where there is a material reduction in the value of a non-current asset during an accounting period. Impairment/revaluation charges of £11.386m (£8.204m in 2023/24) were charged to the Income and Expenditure Statement in 2024/25. This represents £0.000m (£0.000m in 2023/24) of capital expenditure incurred in the year that did not add value to the current housing stock valuation and £11.386m (£8.204m in 2023/24) following a re-valuation exercise carried out during the year.

Notes to the Housing Revenue Account for Darlington Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2025

4 Revenue Expenditure funded from Capital under Statute

Capital expenditure in 2024/25 included expenditure incurred during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provisions but does not result in the creation of fixed assets and has been charged as expenditure to the HRA Income and Expenditure Account. Grants received towards the cost of this expenditure can be regarded as revenue grants despite their classification as capital. In 2024/25 Revenue Expenditure funded from Capital under Statute was nil (nil in 2023/24), capital grants treated as revenue totalled nil (nil in 2023/24).

5 Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditure within the HRA during 2024/25 was as follows :

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
13,761	Houses	22,949
27	Other property	24
13,788	Total capital expenditure	22,973

Total capital expenditure on land, houses and other property within the HRA during 2023/24 was funded via the following

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
0	Usable capital receipts	2,663
8,003	Revenue	13,455
5,785	Other Grant Funding	2,899
0	Capital Contribution	3,956
13,788	Total capital expenditure	22,973

A summary of total capital receipts from disposals is as follows :

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
1,087	Houses	1,735
1,087	Total capital receipts	1,735

6 Depreciation of Non-current Assets

Depreciation charges also form part of the New Financial Framework. They reflect the consumption of HRA assets over their useful life and are as follows:

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
2,059	Houses	2,090
0	Vehicle, Plant & Equipment	0
2,059	Total charge for depreciation	2,090
2,059	Operational Assets	2,090
0	Dwellings	0
0	Vehicle, Plant & Equipment	0
2,059	Total charge for depreciation	2,090

Notes to the Housing Revenue Account for Darlington Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2025

7 Rent Arrears

Details of gross rent arrears, which include garages, heating and water charges are:

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
1,217	Gross rent arrears as at 31 March	1,832

A provision in respect of uncollectable rent debts is included in the consolidated balance sheet.

Year Ended 31 March 2024 £'000		Year Ended 31 March 2025 £'000
654	Opening provision for uncollectable debts	644
(165)	Amounts written off in the year	(100)
155	Increase/(decrease) in provision for the year	128
<hr/> 644	Closing provision for uncollectable debts	<hr/> 672

Collection Fund for Darlington Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2025

2023/24		2024/25			Notes
		Council Tax	Non-domestic rates	Total	
Total					
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	
	<u>Income</u>				
(74,698)	Income from Council Tax	(79,983)	0	(79,983)	2
(29,579)	Income from Business Rates	0	(33,047)	(33,047)	3
	Contributions				
(2,548)	Darlington Borough Council	(796)	(495)	(1,291)	
(1,861)	Central Government	0	(505)	(505)	
(103)	Office of Durham Police Crime & Victims' Commissioner	(115)	0	(115)	
(84)	County Durham and Darlington Fire & Rescue Authority	(51)	(10)	(61)	
(108,873)	Total Income	(80,945)	(34,057)	(115,002)	
	<u>Expenditure</u>				
	Precepts and demands				
78,117	Darlington Borough Council	66,101	16,300	82,401	
16,349	Central Government	0	16,613	16,613	
8,886	Office of the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner	9,469	0	9,469	
4,320	County Durham and Darlington Fire & Rescue Authority	4,170	332	4,502	
(1,354)	Transitional Protection payment - NNDR	0	(223)	(223)	
	Business Rates				
144	Costs of collection	0	147	147	
	Impairment of Bad or Doubtful Debts / Appeals				
686	Write offs	798	318	1,116	
72	Movement in net provision	160	(281)	(121)	
1,424	Increase in Provision for Appeals	0	1	1	
108,644	Total Expenditure	80,698	33,207	113,905	
(229)	Collection Fund deficit for the year	(247)	(850)	(1,097)	
3,974	Collection Fund deficit balance b/fwd	936	2,809	3,745	
(229)	Collection Fund deficit for the year	(247)	(850)	(1,097)	
3,745	Collection Fund deficit balance c/fwd	689	1,959	2,648	
	Allocated to:				
2,180	Darlington Borough Council	570	960	1,530	
1,377	Central Government	0	979	979	
111	Office of the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner	82	0	82	
77	County Durham and Darlington Fire & Rescue Authority	37	20	57	
3,745		689	1,959	2,648	

Notes to the Collection Fund of Darlington Borough Council for year ended 31 March 2025

1 Collection Fund

In order to comply with the terms of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (as amended by the Local Government Finance Act 1992), local authorities must maintain a separate Collection Fund. The purpose of the Collection Fund therefore, is to isolate the income and expenditure relating to Council Tax and National Non-domestic Rates.

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

2 Income From Council Tax

The Council Tax is a tax based on property bandings (A to H).

There is a basic tax for the middle band (Band D) with proportionately higher and lower taxes for the other bands.

The Council's tax base i.e. the number of chargeable dwellings in each band (adjusted for discounts and exemptions) and converted to an equivalent number of Band D dwellings was calculated as follows and approved by Full Council in February 2025:

Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Chargeable Dwellings	10,376	7,002	5,937	5,818	4,051	1,871	1,080	79
Ratio	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9

The Council set a basic council tax in 2024/25 of £1,866.02 (£1,777.33 in 2023/24), being the amount payable in respect of properties in Band D for services provided by Darlington Borough Council.

The Office of the Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner set a Band D council tax in 2024/25 of £268.24 (£255.24 in 2023/24) for their services.

County Durham and Darlington Fire & Rescue Service set a Band D council tax in 2024/25 of £118.12 (£114.69 in 2023/24) for their services.

A small additional charge is also payable in respect of parish council services in certain areas of the borough.

3 Income Collectable From Business Rate payers

Under the national system for non-domestic rates, the Council collects from local businesses an amount equal to the rateable value of their property multiplied by a uniform rate set by the Government. In previous financial years the total amount due, less certain allowances, was paid to a central pool (the NNDR pool) administered by Central Government, which in turn, paid to Local Authorities their share of the pool, such shares being based on a standard amount per head of

The Council retains 49% with the remainder distributed to Central Government (50%) and the other 1% to the County Durham Fire & Rescue Authority.

Central Government set a baseline level for each authority identifying the expected level of retained business rates and a top up or tariff amount to ensure that all authorities receive their baseline amount. Tariffs due from authorities payable to Central Government are used to finance the top ups to those authorities who do not achieve their targeted baseline funding. Darlington is a top up authority and in 2024/25 it received a grant of £8.390m.

In addition to the local management of business rates, authorities are expected to finance appeals made in respect of rateable values as defined by the Valuation Office and hence business rates outstanding as at 31 March 2025. As such authorities are required to make a provision for these amounts in the same proportion as the precepting shares (49:50:1). In 2024/25 the total provision was reviewed and increased to £3.193m.

The total national non-domestic rateable value at 31st March 2025 was £91.074m (£90.316m in 2023/24). The non-domestic rating multiplier for 2024/25 was 54.6p per £ (51.2p per £ in 2023/24) and the small business non-domestic rating multiplier for 2024/25 was 49.9p per £ (49.9p per £ in 2023/24).

Group Accounts of Darlington Borough Council as at 31 March 2025

Group Accounts

Introduction

The CIPFA Code of Practice requires that where a Council has material financial interests and significant level of control over one or more entities, it should prepare group accounts. The aim of these statements is to give an overall picture of the Council's financial activities and the resources employed in carrying out those activities.

The Group Accounts show the full extent of the Council's wider assets and liabilities. Whilst the Group Accounts are not primary statements, they provide transparency and enable comparison with other entities that have different corporate entities.

Joint Venture

"A joint venture is a joint arrangement whereby the parties that have joint control of the arrangements have rights to the net assets of the arrangement".

The Council has a number of joint venture arrangements with Esh who is a house building developer and these arrangements have been incorporated into the group accounts of the Council. These comprise the following:

- Eastbourne JV Limited
- Heighington JV Limited
- Middleton St George JV Limited
- West Park JV Limited
- Neasham Road JV Limited
- EshDBC JV Limited
- Blackwell Grange JV Limited
- Hurworth Grange JV Limited

The objective of the joint ventures is first and foremost to develop various sites within the borough with a view to providing housing (including affordable housing) and secondly to provide the Council with an income stream to supplement its resources.

The Council's share of all of the joint ventures is 50% and each joint venture is registered as a separate entity in its own right with each of the shareholders having equal rights to the profits (or losses) of each entity.

The Group Accounts include the following:

- Group Movement in Reserves - shows the movement in the year on the Council's single entity usable and unusable reserves together with the Council's share of the Group reserves.
- Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement - summarises the resources that have been generated and consumed in providing services and managing the Group during the year.
- Group Balance Sheet - summarises the financial position of the Council and its joint ventures as a whole. It shows the value of the group assets and liabilities at the end of the financial year.
- Group Cash Flow Statement - shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Group during the year

Group Accounting Policies

The joint ventures have prepared their financial statements in compliance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102. This gives the entity certain disclosure exemptions, subject to certain conditions, but this doesn't materially effect the Council's Group Accounts.

Group Movement in Reserves Statement for Darlington Borough Council for year ended 31 March 2025

	General Fund Balance £'000	Earmarked General Fund Reserves £'000	Housing Revenue Account £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Capital Grants Unapplied £'000	Total Usable Reserves £'000	Unusable Reserves £'000	Total Council Reserves £'000	Authority's share of the reserves of joint ventures £'000	Total Council Reserves (Group Accounts) £'000
Balance at 31 March 2023	(21,423)	(43,006)	(23,467)	(5,972)	(38,328)	(132,196)	(185,378)	(317,574)	(2,350)	(319,924)
<u>Movement in reserves during 2023/24</u>										
Deficit/(Surplus) on the Provision of Services	10,500	0	(689)	0	0	9,811	0	9,811	0	9,811
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0	(29,181)	(29,181)	(2,009)	(31,190)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	10,500	0	(689)	0	0	9,811	(29,181)	(19,370)	(2,009)	(21,379)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 5)	(6,377)	0	(1,791)	(1,685)	24,702	14,849	(14,849)	0	0	0
Net (Increase)/decrease before Transfers (to)/from Earmarked Reserves	4,123	0	(2,480)	(1,685)	24,702	24,660	(44,030)	(19,370)	(2,009)	(21,379)
Transfers from/(to) Earmarked Reserves (Note 6)	3,524	(3,524)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Decrease/(Increase) in 2023/24	7,647	(3,524)	(2,480)	(1,685)	24,702	24,660	(44,030)	(19,370)	(2,009)	(21,379)
Balance at 31 March 2024 carried forward	(13,777)	(46,530)	(25,947)	(7,657)	(13,626)	(107,537)	(229,409)	(336,946)	(4,359)	(341,305)
<u>Movement in reserves during 2024/25</u>										
Deficit/(Surplus) on the Provision of Services	33,602	0	2,043	0	0	35,645	0	35,645	0	35,645
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0	(37,360)	(37,360)	309	(37,051)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	33,602	0	2,043	0	0	35,645	(37,360)	(1,715)	309	(1,406)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 5)	(16,696)	0	559	3,533	(13,110)	(25,714)	25,714	0	0	0
Net (Increase)/decrease before Transfers (to)/from Earmarked Reserves	16,906	0	2,602	3,533	(13,110)	9,931	(11,646)	(1,715)	309	(1,406)
Transfers (to)/from Earmarked Reserves (Note 6)	(12,338)	12,338	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(Increase)/decrease in 2024/25	4,568	12,338	2,602	3,533	(13,110)	9,931	(11,646)	(1,715)	309	(1,406)
Balance at 31 March 2025 carried forward	(9,209)	(34,192)	(23,345)	(4,124)	(26,736)	(97,606)	(241,055)	(338,661)	(4,050)	(342,711)

Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for Darlington Borough Council for year ended 31 March 2025

RESTATED 2023/24			2024/25				
Gross Expenditure £'000	Gross Income £'000	Net Expenditure / (Income) £'000		Note	Gross Expenditure £'000	Gross Income £'000	Net Expenditure / (Income) £'000
283	(115)	168	Chief Executive	3	256	(147)	109
161,012	(91,949)	69,063	People	3	172,482	(99,569)	72,913
11,690	(3,469)	8,221	Economy & Public Protection	3	8,979	(3,983)	4,996
46,340	(17,610)	28,730	Environment, Highways & Community Services	3	97,041	(23,471)	73,570
67,706	(60,031)	7,675	Resources & Governance	3	68,326	(58,558)	9,768
0	(2,414)	(2,414)	Other	3	702	(458)	244
287,031	(175,588)	111,443	Cost of Services		347,786	(186,186)	161,600
318	0	318	Other operating expenditure	7	355	0	355
9,329	(4,194)	5,135	Losses/(Gains) on the disposal of non-current assets	7	4,788	(2,275)	2,513
10,752	(6,676)	4,076	Financing and investment income and expenditure	9	8,391	(9,885)	(1,494)
0	(111,161)	(111,161)	Taxation and non-specific grant income	10	0	(127,329)	(127,329)
307,430	(297,619)	9,811	(Surplus)/deficit on Provision of Services		361,320	(325,675)	35,645
		(2,009)	Joint ventures accounted for on an equity basis				309
		69	Surplus on revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment assets				(11,890)
		(29,250)	Actuarial losses on pensions assets/liabilities	37			(25,470)
		0	Impairment losses on non-current assets charged to the revaluation reserve				0
		(31,190)	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				(37,051)
		(21,379)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				(1,406)

Group Balance Sheet of Darlington Borough Council as at 31 March 2025

As at 31 March 2024 £'000		As at 31 March 2025 £'000	
486,684	Property, Plant and Equipment	481,728	
12,642	Investment Properties	13,420	
2,679	Heritage Assets	4,339	
24,767	Long Term Investments	25,319	
4,359	Investments in joint ventures	4,050	
16,515	Long Term Debtors	18,643	
547,646	Total Long Term Assets	547,499	
0	Short Term Investments	0	
244	Inventories	300	
42,877	Short Term Debtors	39,768	
(9,142)	Cash and Cash Equivalents	3,812	
33,978	Total Current Assets	43,880	
(34,109)	Short Term Borrowing	(54,334)	
(45,687)	Short Term Creditors	(52,974)	
(3,264)	Short Term Provisions	(3,265)	
(83,060)	Total Current Liabilities	(110,573)	
(5,911)	Long Term Creditors	(8,986)	
(843)	Long Term Provisions	(513)	
(121,084)	Long Term Borrowing	(120,948)	
(29,420)	Other Long Term Liabilities	(7,648)	
0	Capital Grants Receipts In Advance	0	
(157,258)	Total Long Term Liabilities	(138,095)	
341,305	Net Assets	342,711	
107,537	Usable Reserves	97,606	
4,359	Usable Reserves - Group Accounts	4,050	
229,409	Unusable Reserves	241,055	
341,305	Total Reserves	342,711	

Group Cash Flow Statement for Darlington Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2025

2023/24		2024/25
£'000		£'000
(19,370)	(Surplus)/Deficit on the provision of services	(35,645)
37,103	Adjustments to net deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	73,332
23,615	Depreciation and impairment	61,705
1,939	Change in the fair value of investments	(421)
515	Decrease in Interest Creditors	224
(18,125)	Increase in Creditors	6,560
0	Increase in Interest and Dividend Debtors	0
16,613	Decrease in Debtors	2,910
334	Increase/(Decrease) in Inventories	(56)
2,210	Movement in Pension Liability	210
828	Contributions to/(from) Provisions	(329)
0	Movement on the Dedicated Schools Adjustment Account	(1,515)
9,311	Carrying amount of non-current assets sold or derecognised	4,788
(137)	Movement in Investment Property Values	(744)
(14,587)	Adjustments for items included in the net (deficit) on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	(25,263)
(10,411)	Capital Grants credited to the surplus or deficit on provision of services	(22,988)
0	Premiums or Discounts on the repayment of financial liabilities	0
0	Proceeds from the sale of non-current assets and investment property	(2,275)
(4,176)		0
3,146	Net cash flow from/(used in) Operating Activities	12,424
	Investing Activities	
(45,482)	Purchase of property, plant and equipment and investment property	(34,277)
(273,802)	Purchase of short term investments	(268,815)
281,802	Proceeds from the sale of short term investments	262,321
4,176	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment and investment property	2,275
(6,942)	Other payments for investing activities	(6,635)
527	Other capital payments received	0
0	Proceeds from short term and long term investments	3,835
10,411	Capital grants received	22,988
(29,310)	Net cash flow used in Investing Activities	(18,308)
	Financing Activities	
46,000	Cash receipts of short and long term borrowing	84,000
(1,819)	Billing Authorities - Council Tax and NNDR adjustments	11
(1,107)	Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases and on-Balance Sheet PFI contracts	(1,099)
(31,133)	Repayments of short and long term borrowing	(64,135)
3,021	Other (payments)/receipts for financing activities	61
14,962	Net cash flow from Financing Activities	18,838
(11,202)	Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	12,954
2,060	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	(9,142)
(9,142)	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period (Note 23)	3,812

Independent Auditor's report to the Members of Darlington Borough Council

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Glossary of Darlington Borough Council

Accounting Period

The period of time covered by the accounts, normally a period of twelve months commencing on 1 April and ending as at the balance sheet date, 31 March.

Accruals

The concept that income and expenditure is accounted for as it is earned or incurred, not as money is received or paid.

Accounting Policies

Those principles, bases, conventions, rules and practices applied by an entity that specify how the effects of transactions and other events are to be reflected in its financial statements through:

- recognising
- selecting measurement bases for, and
- presenting assets, liabilities, gains, losses and changes to reserves.

Accounting policies do not include estimation techniques.

Accounting policies define the process whereby transactions and other events are reflected in financial statements.

Actuarial Gains and Losses

Actuaries assess financial and non-financial information provided by the Pension Authority to project levels of future pension fund requirements. For a defined benefit pension scheme, the changes in actuarial deficits or surpluses can arise because:

- events have not coincided with the actuarial assumptions made for the last valuation (experience gains or losses) or
- the actuarial assumptions have changed.

Agency

The provision of a service by an authority on behalf of another authority, which is legally responsible for providing that service. The responsible authority reimburses the authority providing the service in the first instance.

Asset

An item owned by the Council, which has a monetary value. Assets are defined as current or non-current.

- Current assets will be consumed or cease to have value within the next financial year, e.g. stocks and debtors;
- Non-current assets provide benefits to the Council and to services it provides for a period of more than one year, for example, land, buildings, vehicles and equipment;
- intangible assets are non-financial fixed assets, such as software licences, that do not have physical substance but are identifiable and are controlled through custody or legal rights.

Associate

An entity other than a subsidiary or joint venture in which the reporting authority has a participating interest and over whose operating and financial policies the reporting authority is able to exercise significant influence.

Audit

An independent examination of the Council's activities, either by internal audit or the Council's external auditor, who are Ernst & Young LLP.

Authorised Limit

This represents the legislative limit on the Council's external debt under the Local Government Act 2003.

Balance Sheet

A statement of the recorded assets, liabilities and other balances at the end of an accounting period.

Balances

The capital or revenue reserves of the Council made up of the accumulated surplus of income over expenditure on the General fund or any other fund.

Budget

The forecast of the net revenue and capital expenditure over the accounting period. Members approve budgets, based on policies, linked to the corporate plan.

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Capital Adjustment Account

This account accumulates the write-down of the historical cost of Property, Plant and Equipment as they are consumed by depreciation and impairments or written off on disposal. It accumulates the resources that have been set aside to finance capital expenditure. The same process applies to capital expenditure that is only capital by statutory definition (revenue expenditure funded by capital under statute). The balance on the account thus represents timing differences between the amount of the historical cost of fixed assets that has been consumed and the amount that has been financed in accordance with statutory requirements.

Capital Charges

A charge to services for the use of non-current assets, which comprises:

- a capital financing charge equivalent to notional interest on the net value of the assets; and
- a depreciation charge based on the remaining finite life of the asset.

Capital Expenditure

Expenditure on the acquisition of a fixed asset, which will be used in providing services beyond the current accounting period or, expenditure which adds to an existing non-current asset.

Capital Financing

The raising of money to pay for capital expenditure. There are various methods of financing capital expenditure including borrowing, leasing, direct revenue financing, usable capital receipts, capital grants, capital contribution, revenue reserves and earmarked reserves.

Capital Financing Requirement

The capital financing requirement is one of the indicators that must be produced as part of the CIPFA prudential code. This measures the Council's underlying need to borrow for a capital purpose. In order to ensure that over the medium term net borrowing will only be for a capital purpose, the local authority should ensure that net external borrowing does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of capital financing requirement in the preceding year plus the estimate of any additional capital financing requirement for the current and the next two financial years.

Capital Grants

Grants received toward capital expenditure on a particular service or project.

Capital Receipts

The proceeds from the disposal of land or other capital assets. Proportions of capital receipts can be used to finance new capital expenditure, within rules set down by the Government, but they cannot be used for revenue purposes.

Carry-forwards

Unspent revenue budgets which, upon approval, services can use in future years.

Carrying Amount

The Balance Sheet value recorded of either an asset or liability.

CIPFA

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. This is the professional institute governing how public money is used and how it has to be reported.

CoP - 'Code of Practice on Local Authority accounting in the United Kingdom'

The Code of Practice specifies the principles and practices of accounting required to prepare a Statement of Accounts which 'presents fairly' the financial position and transactions of a local authority.

Collection Fund

The Collection Fund is an agent's statement that reflects the statutory obligation of billing authorities to maintain a separate Collection Fund. The statement shows the transactions of the billing authority in relation to the collection from taxpayers of Council Tax and NDR and its distribution to other local government bodies and Central Government.

Community Assets

This is a category of Property, Plant and Equipment that the Council intends to hold in perpetuity, that have no determinable useful life, and that may have restrictions on their disposal. Examples of community assets are parks and historic buildings.

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Consistency

The concept that the accounting treatment of like items within an accounting period and from one period to the next are the same.

Contingency

A condition which exists at the balance sheet date, where the outcome will be confirmed only on the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain events.

Contingent Asset

A contingent asset is a possible asset arising from past events whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the Council's control.

Contingent Liability

A condition which exists at the balance sheet date, which may arise in the future but where the outcome will be confirmed only on the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more future events.

Corporate and Democratic Core (CDC)

The corporate and democratic core comprises all activities which local authorities engage in specifically because they are elected, multi-purpose authorities. The cost of these activities are thus over and above those which would be incurred by a series of independent, single purpose, nominated bodies managing the same services. There is therefore no logical basis for apportioning these costs to services.

Council Tax

This is a banded property tax which is levied on domestic properties throughout the Borough. The banding is based on estimated property values as at 1 April 1991.

Council Tax Requirement

This is the estimated revenue expenditure on General Fund services that needed to be financed from the Council Tax after deducting income from fees and charges, certain specific grants and any funding from reserves.

Creditor

Amounts owed by the Council for works done, goods received or services rendered before the end of the accounting period but for which payments have not been made by the end of that accounting period.

Current Service Costs (Pensions)

The increase in the present value of a defined benefit scheme's liabilities expected to rise from employee service in the current period.

Curtailment

Curtailments will show the cost of the early payment of pension benefits if any employee has been made redundant in the previous year.

Debt Outstanding

Amounts borrowed to finance capital expenditure that are still to be repaid.

Debtor

Amounts due to the Authority for works done, goods received or services rendered before the end of the accounting period but for which payments have not been received by the end of that accounting period.

Deferred Capital Receipts

These represent capital income still to be received after disposals have taken place and wholly consists of principal outstanding from the sale of council houses.

Deferred Charges

Expenditure of a capital nature, met from borrowing, but where there is no tangible asset, e.g. improvement grants. This includes loans outstanding on assets sold in cases where the sale proceeds were used for new capital investment.

Defined Benefit Pension Scheme

Pension schemes in which the benefits received by the participants are independent of the contributions paid and are not directly related to the investment of the scheme.

Defined Contribution Scheme

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A Defined Contribution Scheme is a pension or other retirement benefit scheme into which an employer pays regular contributions as an amount or as a percentage of pay and will have no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions if the scheme does not have sufficient assets to pay all of the employee benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Depreciation

The measure of the wearing out, consumption, or other reduction in the useful economic life of a fixed asset, whether arising from use, the passage of time or obsolescence through technological or other changes.

Discretionary Benefits (Pensions)

Retirement benefits which the employer has no legal, contractual or constructive obligation to award and are awarded under the authority's discretionary powers such as The Local Government (Discretionary Payments) Regulations 1996.

Earmarked Reserves

The Council holds a number of reserves earmarked to be used to meet specific, known or predicted future expenditure.

Entity

A body that is delivering a service, or carrying on a trade or business, with or without a view to profit.

Estimation Techniques

The methods adopted by an entity to arrive at estimated monetary amounts, corresponding to the measurement bases selected, for assets, liabilities, gains, losses and changes to reserves.

Estimation techniques implement the measurement aspects of accounting policies. An accountancy policy will specify the basis on which an item is to be measured; where there is uncertainty over the monetary amount corresponding to that basis, the amount will be arrived at by using an estimation technique. Estimation techniques include, for example:

- methods of depreciation, such as straight line and reducing balance, applied in the context of a particular measurement basis, used to estimate the proportion of the economic benefits of a tangible fixed asset consumed in a period; and
- different methods used to estimate the proportion of debts that will not be recovered, particularly where such methods consider a population as a whole rather than individual balances.

Exceptional Items

Material items that derive from events or transactions that fall within the ordinary activities of the Council and which need to be disclosed separately by virtue of their size or incidence to give fair presentation of the accounts.

Expected Return on Pension Assets

For a funded defined benefit scheme, the average rate of return, including both income and changes in fair value but net of scheme expenses, expected over the remaining life of the related obligation on the actual assets held by the scheme.

Expenditure

Amounts paid by the Council for goods received or services rendered of either a capital or revenue nature. This does not necessarily involve a cash payment, as expenditure is deemed to have been incurred once the goods or services have been received, even if they have not yet been paid for.

Extraordinary Items

Material items, possessing a high degree of abnormality, which derive from events or transactions that fall outside the ordinary activities of the authority and which are not expected to recur. They do not include exceptional items, nor do they include prior period items merely because they relate to a prior period.

Events after the Balance Sheet Date

Events after the balance sheet date are those events, favourable or unfavourable, that occur between the balance sheet date and the date when the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue.

Fair Value

The fair value of an asset is the price at which it could be exchanged in an arm's length transaction less, where applicable, any grants receivable towards the purchase or use of the asset.

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Finance Lease

A lease that transfers substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of a fixed asset to the lessee.

Financial Instruments

A financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another. The term 'financial instrument' covers both financial assets and financial liabilities and includes both the most straightforward financial assets and liabilities such as trade receivables and trade payables and the most complex ones such as derivatives and embedded derivatives.

Fixed Assets

Tangible assets that yield benefits to the local authority and the services it provides for a period of more than one year.

General Fund

This is the main revenue fund of the Council and includes the net cost of all services financed by local taxpayers and Government Grants.

Going Concern

The concept that the statement of accounts are prepared on the assumption that the Council will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

Government Grants

Grants made by the Government towards either revenue or capital expenditure to support the cost of the provision of the Council's services. These grants may be specifically towards the cost of particular schemes or to support the revenue spend of the Council.

Heritage Assets

An asset with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that is held and maintained principally for its contribution to knowledge and culture.

Housing Act Advances

Loans made by an authority to individuals or Housing Associations towards the cost of constructing, acquiring or improving dwellings. Loans to individuals are termed mortgages.

Housing Benefits

A system of financial assistance to individuals toward certain housing costs administered by authorities and subsidised by Central Government.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

A statutory account maintained separately to the General Fund. It includes all revenue expenditure and income relating to the provision, maintenance and administration of council housing and associated areas.

IFRS

Defined Accounting Standards that must be applied by all reporting entities to all financial statements in order to provide a true and fair view of the entity's financial position, and a standardised method of comparison with financial statements of the other entities.

Impairment

A reduction in the value of a non-current asset, below its carrying amount on the balance sheet.

Income

Amounts which the Council receives or expects to receive from any source, including fees, charges, sales and grants.

Income and Expenditure Account

The revenue account of the Council that reports the net cost for the year of the functions for which it is responsible, and demonstrates how that cost has been financed from precepts, grants and other income.

Infrastructure Assets

A class of fixed assets belonging to the Council whose life is of indefinite length and which are not usually capable of being sold. Examples include roads, highways, footpaths, bridges and water facilities.

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Intangible Assets

These are non-financial fixed assets, such as software licences, that do not have physical substance but are identifiable and are controlled by custody or legal rights.

Interest Cost (Pensions)

For a defined benefit scheme, the expected increase during the period in the present value of the scheme liabilities because the benefits are one period closer to the settlement.

IAS 1 - Presentation of Financial Statements

The objective of this Standard is to prescribe the basis for presentation of general purpose financial statements, to ensure comparability both with the Council's financial statements of previous periods and with the financial statements of other entities. To achieve this objective, this Standard sets out overall requirements for the presentation of financial statements, guidelines for their structure and minimum requirements for their content.

IAS 7 - Cash Flow Statements

The objective of this standard is to require the provision of information about the historical changes in cash and cash equivalents of an entity by means of a cash flow statement which classifies cash flows during the period from operating, investing and financing activities.

IAS 8 - Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors

The objective of this Standard is to prescribe the criteria for selecting and changing accounting policies, together with the accounting treatment and disclosure of changes in accounting policies, changes in accounting estimates and correction of errors. The Standard is intended to enhance the relevance and reliability of an entity's financial statements, and the comparability of those financial statements over time and with the financial statements of other entities.

Disclosure requirements for accounting policies, except those for changes in accounting policies, are set out in IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements.

IAS 16 - Property, Plant and Equipment

The objective of this Standard is to prescribe the accounting treatment for property, plant and equipment so that users of the financial statements can discern information about an entity's investment in its property, plant and equipment and the changes in such investment. The principal issues in accounting for property, plant and equipment are the recognition of the assets, the determination of their carrying amounts and the depreciation charges and impairment losses to be recognised in relation to them.

IAS 17 - Leases

The objective of this Standard is to prescribe, for lessees and lessors, the appropriate accounting policies and disclosure to apply in relation to leases.

IAS 19 - Employee Benefits

The objective of this Standard is to prescribe the accounting treatment and disclosure requirements for employee benefits. The Standard requires an entity to recognise:

- (a) a liability when an employee has provided service in exchange for employee benefits to be paid in the future; and
- (b) an expense when the entity consumes the economic benefit arising from service provided by an employee in exchange for employee benefits.

IAS 24 - Related Party Disclosures

The objective of this Standard is to ensure that an entity's financial statements contain the disclosures necessary to draw attention to the possibility that its financial position and profit and loss may have been affected by the existence of related parties and by transactions and outstanding balances with such parties.

IAS 32 Financial instruments: Presentation

The objective of this Standard is to establish principles for presenting financial instruments as liabilities or equity and for offsetting financial assets and financial liabilities. It applies to the classification of financial instruments, from the perspective of the issuer, into financial assets, financial liabilities and equity instruments; the classification of related interest, dividends, losses and gains, and the circumstances in which financial assets and financial liabilities should be offset.

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IAS 36 - Impairment of Assets

The objective of this Standard is to prescribe the procedures that an entity applies to ensure that its assets are carried at no more than their recoverable amount. An asset is carried at more than its recoverable amount if its carrying amount exceeds the amount to be recovered through use or sale of the asset. If this is the case, the asset is described as impaired and the Standard requires the entity to recognise an impairment loss. The Standard also specifies when an entity should reverse an impairment loss and prescribes disclosures.

IAS 37 - Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

The objective of this Standard is to ensure that appropriate recognition criteria and measurement bases are applied to provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets and that sufficient information is disclosed in the notes to enable users to understand their nature, timing and amount.

Inventories

Items of raw materials and stores the Council has produced to use on a continuing basis and which it has not yet used. Examples are consumable stores, raw materials and components purchased for incorporation into products for sale.

Investments (Pension Fund)

The investments of the Pension Fund will be accounted for in the statements of that fund. However, authorities are also required to disclose, as part of the disclosures relating to retirement benefits, the attributable share of pension scheme assets associated with their underlying obligations.

Investments - Long Term

A long-term investment is an investment that is intended to be held for use on a continuing basis in the activities of the Council. Investments should be so classified only where an intention to hold the investment for the long term can be clearly demonstrated or where there are restrictions as to the investors ability to dispose of the investment.

Investment Properties

Interest in land and/or buildings in respect of which construction work and development have been completed, and which is held for its investment potential.

Joint Venture

An entity in which the reporting authority has an interest on a long-term basis and is jointly controlled by the reporting authority and one or more other entities under a contractual or other binding arrangement.

Liability

A liability is where an authority owes payment to an individual or another organisation:

- A current liability is an amount which will become payable or could be called in within the next accounting period, e.g. creditors or cash overdrawn.
- A deferred liability is an amount which, by arrangement is payable beyond the next year at some point in the future, or to be paid off by an annual sum over a period of time.

Lender Option Borrower Option (LOBO)

The common feature of these loans is a reduced interest rate for an initial period and then a stepped increase to the end of the term. The lender can opt to increase the interest rate payable at the end of the initial period. If the lender opts to increase the interest rate payable above the fixed rate then the borrower can either agree to this increase and continue to repay the loan up to the maturity date or can reject the new terms and repay the loan in full (without penalty). The inclusion of options within LOBO's means the loans effectively become variable rate instruments and under FRS 4, interest should be averaged over the period to the earliest date at which the instrument would be redeemed or cancelled on exercise of such an option rather than the original term of the instrument where there is uncertainty over the term of the instrument.

Loans Outstanding

The total amounts borrowed from external lenders for capital and temporary revenue purposes but not repaid at the balance sheet date.

Materiality

The concept that the Statement of Accounts should include all amounts which, if omitted or mis-stated, could be expected to lead to distortion of the financial statements to a reader of the statements.

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

Represents the minimum amount that must be charged to a revenue account in each financial year to repay external borrowings.

Net Book Value

The amount at which fixed assets are included in the balance sheet, i.e. their historical cost or current value less the cumulative amount provided for depreciation and any impairment losses.

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Net Current Replacement Cost

The cost of replacing an asset in its existing condition and use.

Net Realisable Value

The open market value of the asset in its existing use (or open market value in the case of non-operational assets), less the expenses to be incurred in realising the asset.

National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR)

NNDR Poundage is set annually by Central Government based on the assessed value of properties used for business purposes and is collected by charging authorities. The proceeds are redistributed by the Government in accordance with the new business rates retention scheme.

Net Worth

The Council's value of total assets less total liabilities.

Non-Distributed Costs

These are overheads for which no user now benefits and as such are not apportioned to services.

Non-Operational Assets

Fixed assets held by the Council but not directly occupied, used or consumed in the delivery of services. Examples of Non-Operational Assets are investment properties and assets that are surplus to requirements pending sale or development.

Operating Lease

An agreement in which the Council derives the use of an asset in exchange for rental payments, but where the risks and rewards of ownership are not transferred.

Operational Assets

Fixed assets held and occupied, used or consumed by the Council in the direct delivery of those services for which it has a statutory or discretionary responsibility.

Past Service Costs (Pensions)

For a defined benefit pension scheme, the increase in the present value of the scheme liabilities related to employee service in prior periods arising in the current period as a result of the introduction of, or the improvement to, retirement benefits.

Pension Scheme Liabilities

The liabilities of a defined benefit scheme for outgoings due after the valuation date. Scheme liabilities measured using the projected unit method reflect the benefits that the employer is committed to provide for service up to the valuation date.

Post Balance Sheet Events

Those events, both favourable and unfavourable, which occur between the balance sheet date and the date on which the Statement of Accounts is signed by the responsible financial officer.

Precept

The levy made by precepting authorities on billing authorities, requiring the latter to collect income from council taxpayers on their behalf e.g. Police Authority, Fire Authority and Parish Councils.

Prior Year Adjustment

Material adjustments applicable to prior years arising from changes in accounting policies or from the correction of fundamental errors. This does not include normal recurring corrections or adjustments of accounting estimates made in prior years.

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Private Finance Initiative (PFI)

PFI's are a method of funding/acquiring assets such as schools, but the supplier of the building is usually an agreed contractor or bidder, usually over a 25 year term. The Council pays for the use of the asset by means of a unitary charge and can acquire the asset after the term if included in the terms of the contract. Up until this point the Council does not own the asset and simply pays for the use of the asset. Government grant is available to assist authorities who enter into these agreements, however, known as PFI credits. These have a direct impact upon the level of government grant paid each year to help pay for the schemes.

Projected Unit Method

An accrued benefits valuation method in which the pension scheme liabilities make allowance for projected earnings. The accrued benefits are the benefits for service up to a given point in time, whether vested rights or not.

Property, Plant & Equipmnet (PPE)

Assets that yield benefits to the Council and the services it provides for a period of more than one year. Examples include land, buildings and vehicles

Provision

An amount put aside in the accounts for liabilities or losses which have occurred but uncertainty surrounds the exact amounts involved or the dates on which they will arise.

Provision for Credit Liabilities

This represents the sum set aside for the repayment of debt. This provision is subsumed within the capital financing reserve.

Prudence

The concept that revenue is not anticipated but is recognised only when realised in the form either of cash or of other assets, the ultimate cash realisation of which can be assessed with reasonable certainty.

Prudential Framework

One of the principal features of the Local Government Act 2003 was to provide the primary legislative requirements to introduce a new prudential regime for the control of Local Authority capital expenditure. The regime relies upon both secondary legislation in the form of regulations, and a prudential code which has been published by CIPFA.

Under the prudential framework local authorities are free to borrow without specific government consent if they can afford to service the debt without extra government support. The basic principle is that authorities will be free to invest as long as their capital spending plans are affordable, sustainable and prudent. As a control mechanism to ensure this occurs all authorities must follow the prudential code published by CIPFA. This involves setting various prudential limits and indicators that must be approved by the Council before the start of the relevant financial year as part of their budget setting process.

Public Works Loan Board (PWLb)

This is a Central Government Agency which provides loans for one year and above to authorities at interest rates only slightly higher than those at which the Government itself can borrow.

Rateable Value

The annual assumed rental value of a hereditament, (inheritable property), which is used for NDR purposes.

Related Parties

Two or more parties are related, when at any one time during the financial period:

- one party has direct or indirect control of the other party; or
- the parties are subject to common control from the same source; or
- one party has influence over the financial and operational policies of the other party might be inhibited from pursuing at all times its own separate interests; or
- the parties, in entering a transaction, are subject to influence from the same source to such an extent that one of the parties to the transaction has subordinated its own separate interests.

Related Party Transactions

A related party transaction is the transfer of assets or liabilities or the performance of services by, to or for a related party irrespective of whether a charge is made. Examples of related party transactions include:

- the purchase, sale, lease, rental or hire of assets between related parties;
- the provision by a pension fund to a related party of assets of loans, irrespective of any direct economic benefit to the pension fund;
- the provision of a guarantee to a third party in relation to a liability or obligation of a related party;
- the provision of services to a related party, including the provision of pension fund administration services;
- transactions with individuals who are related parties of an authority or a pension fund, except those applicable to

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other members of the community or the pension fund, such as council tax, rents and payments of benefits.

The materiality of related party transactions is judged not only in terms of their significance to the Council, but also in relation to its related party.

Remuneration

Includes taxable salary payments to employees less employees' pensions contributions, together with non-taxable payments when employment ends, taxable expense allowances and any other taxable benefits.

Reserves - Usable

The accumulation of surpluses, deficits and appropriations over past years. Useable Reserves of a revenue nature can be released to spend on services or added to for future spending on services.

Reserves - Unusable

Unuseable reserves are reserves that in simple terms balance the Council's Balance Sheet and cannot be released to spend on services e.g. the Revaluation Reserve records the effect of revaluing fixed assets and is not available for general use in the financing of capital expenditure.

Residual Value

The net realisable value of an asset at the end of its useful life. Residual values are based on prices prevailing at the date of the acquisition (or revaluation) of the asset and do not take account of expected future price changes.

Retirement Benefits

All forms of consideration given by an employer in exchange for services rendered by employees that are payable after the completion of employment.

Revaluation Reserve

This Reserve records the accumulated gains on the fixed assets held by the Council arising from increases in value as a result of inflation or other factors (to the extent that these gains have not been consumed by subsequent downward movements in value).

Revenue Balances

These are accumulated surpluses on the General Fund. They can be applied to reduce borrowing, reduce council tax, or held to be applied in future years.

Revenue Contributions

The method of financing capital expenditure directly from revenue. The Council may determine that certain capital schemes should be financed in this way or alternatively may include a prescribed sum in the revenue budget for this purpose.

Revenue Expenditure

The day-to-day expenses of providing services. It is usually of a constantly recurring nature and produces no permanent asset, e.g. salaries, wages, supplies and services, and debt charges.

Revenue Expenditure Funded by Capital Under Statute (REFCUS)

Items of capital expenditure, which do not result in, or remain matched by, tangible fixed assets. Revenue Expenditure funded by Capital under Statute is charged to revenue in the year in which the expenditure is incurred.

Revenue Support Grant

This is a Central Government grant to authorities, contributing towards the cost of their services. It is based on the Government's assessment of how much an authority needs to spend to provide a standard level of service.

Right of Use Asset

A Right of Use Asset represents a lessee's right to use an underlying asset for the lease term. It is recognised on the Balance Sheet when a lease is initially recognised under IFRS 16, essentially replacing the previous accounting for operating leases. The ROU asset is initially measured at cost which includes the lease liability, payments made at or before the commencement of the lease, initial direct costs and estimated restoration costs.

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SeRCOP

CIPFA's Service Reporting Code of Practice establishes proper practices with regard to consistent financial reporting for services in England and Wales. It is given legislative backing by regulations which identify the accounting practices it propounds as proper practice under the Local Government Act 2003. It aims to:

- Modernise the system of local authority accounting and reporting to meet the changed and changing needs of local government, particularly the duty of to secure and demonstrate Best Value in the provision of services to the community;
- Facilitate accurate comparison between both services and authorities;
- Strengthen the arrangements for recharging all support costs which may be reasonably charged to front-line services and in so doing bringing efficiency pressures to support services comparable to those of service providers to the community; and
- Represent best practice.

Scheme Liabilities

The liabilities of a defined benefit scheme for outgoings due after the valuation date. Scheme liabilities measured using the projected unit method reflect the benefits that the employer is committed to provide for service up to the valuation date.

Specific Grants

Government grants to Local Authorities in aid of particular services.

Temporary Borrowing / Investment

Money borrowed or invested for an initial period of less than one year.

Total Cost

The total cost of a service or activity includes all costs which relate to the provision of the service (directly or bought in) or to the undertaking of the activity. Gross total cost includes employee costs, expenditure relating to premises and transport, supplies and services, third party payments, support services and overheads, which need to be apportioned.

Trust Funds

Funds administered by the Council for such purposes as charities and specific projects.

Unapportionable Central Overheads

These are overheads for which no user now benefits and should not be apportioned to services.

Useful Life

The period over which the Local Authority will derive benefits from the use of a fixed asset.

Work In Progress

The cost of work done on an uncompleted project at the balance sheet date, which should be accounted for.

A copy of the Statement of Accounts is available on the Council's website on www.darlington.gov.uk