

Statement of Accounts 2022/23



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Narrative Report

This report provides information on Redbridge Council's:

- Non-financial Strategies and Performance
 - Population and geography, main strategic objectives and plans including 2022/23 performance indicators, and
 - The principal risks that it faces.
- Financial Position, Performance and Strategy
 - An overview of the Key Financial Statements included in the detailed Statement of Accounts.
 - A review on how the Council has used its resources to achieve its desired outcomes, demonstrating value for money in the use of its resources
 - The financial outlook for the council and highlights of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy

About Redbridge

Population and Geography

- Redbridge is estimated to have a population of 310,261 as per the 2021 Census¹. This is expected to continue to rise with the Elizabeth line bringing residents to Ilford and surrounding neighbourhoods.
- Redbridge has the third most diverse community in London² with 65.2% of the population from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups³ with 86 main languages spoken⁴.
- Redbridge has become less deprived between 2015 to 2019⁵, in comparison to the rest of the country, ranking 11th out of 32 boroughs for overall deprivation and 5th best for an increase in rank out the last four years for overall deprivation.
- Redbridge is one of London's greenest boroughs with more than 35 parks, playgrounds and other open spaces to enjoy. Six parks have attained the prestigious Green Flag Award⁶.

Council Management and Reporting Structure

The Council's management structure of Directorates support the Strategic Delivery Plan's priority to build a brilliant Council. The Directorate structure during the year was as follows:

- Communities which includes Housing, Civic Pride and Customer Services
- People which includes Adult Social Services, Children and Families, Education and Inclusion and Public Health
- Regeneration & Culture which includes Regeneration & Property and Leisure & Culture
- Resources which includes Finance, Information Technology and Revenue, Benefits and Transactional Centre
- Strategy which includes Policy, Equalities and Communications, Assurance, Intelligence, Insights & Change Service, Communications and Human Resources. Costs in relation to the Chief Executive are also reported under Strategy.

¹ [Census 2021](#)

² [Census 2021](#)

³ [Census 2021](#)

⁴ [Census 2021](#)

⁵ [The English Indices of Deprivation 2019](#)

⁶ [The Story of Redbridge](#)

Redbridge's Corporate Plan 2022-26

In 2022 the [Redbridge Plan](#) was approved by Cabinet. The Plan sets out the Council's priorities for the period up until 2026. The Council's key ambitions are tackling poverty and building a cleaner, greener, fairer, and healthier borough, as, while unleashing its untapped potential following a period of uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The plan was built on engagement and research with residents; engagement with staff and partners; and engagement with elected representatives. It contains commitments from the Administration and the priorities of all the service areas across the Council. These priorities are structured into themes, namely:

- Homes and Neighbourhoods
- Clean and Green
- Safe and Healthy
- Jobs and Skills
- One Brilliant Council

Under each theme is a set of objectives, which we will work to achieve in the four-year period to make Redbridge a great place for everyone.

Overview of Corporate Performance

The new Corporate Performance Scorecard reflects the Council's priorities Redbridge Plan 2022-2026. The Performance as outlined in the Scorecard shows the end of year performance for 2022/23, against the Redbridge Plan key themes.

The table below summarises the end of year Corporate Performance Scorecard RAG rating for the Council's priorities as outlined in the Redbridge Plan.

Themes	Data Only	Not Available	Red	Amber	Green
Homes & Neighbourhoods	1	2	3	1	5
Clean & Green	-	-	3	2	11
Safe & Healthy	1	3	7	4	6
Jobs & Skills	1	6	1	1	3
One Brilliant Council	-	-	-	2	2
	3	11	14	10	27

Red	The KPI is over 10% below target
Amber	The KPI is currently within 10% of the set target
Green	The KPI is meeting or exceeding the set target

Within the corporate scorecard there are 65 indicators; 14 are not RAG rated as are data only, or data was awaited due to a time lag in being available. Of the measures that are RAG rated 53% (27) are considered to be Green and on target. 20% (10) are Amber meaning that they are within 10% of the agreed target, and 27% (14) are Red and in excess of 10% off of achieving their target.

The full set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for each theme including the target and outturn position are reported below.

Homes and Neighbourhoods

Ref	Indicator	Target 2022/23	Outturn 2022/23
A1	Number of new builds starts in the year (Council Homes through capital deliver and small sites)	11	212
A1a	Number of new builds delivered by the Local Authority	96	44
A2	Number of registered provider affordable, new build started (Housing associations, what they're building themselves)	90	251
A2a	Registered provider affordable homes delivered (housing associations)	-	-
A3	Other (section 106) affordable housing build starts (private and sold to housing assoc.) (annual June)	(see A3a)	NA
A3a	Other (section 106) affordable housing build delivered	493	NA
B1	Number of times we prevent or relieve homelessness by enabling people to remain in their own homes or securing alternative accommodation	275 (44%)	211 (30%)
B2	Internal council Referrals to Work Redbridge	600	705
B3	% Of young people now aged 19, 20 or 21, living in suitable accommodation who were looked after when aged 16	90%	96.90%
C1	Hazards resolved out of total hazards identified during Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) inspections of rented properties (%)	90%	98.8%
C2	% of housing related enforcement notices served which are complied with within each relevant timeline	50%	31.9%
C3	Property licences issued by type vs number applied for (this measures the number of licences applied for and approved within set timescales)	90%	85%

Clean & Green

Ref	Indicator	Target 2022/23	Outturn 2022/23
F1	Streets Meeting Acceptable Cleanliness (%)	95%	95%
F2	Proportion of fly-tipping closed cases where action has been taken	100%	100%
F3	Number of Volunteer Hours (Parks and Nature Conservation)	5000	5645
G1	Reduction in LBR fleet fuel use (902,563.5 litres 21/22)	5% reduction = 857,435.32	3% reduction = 872,348.74
G2	Number of schools engaged/ accredited in TfL STARS travel plan process (annual)	60%	59%
H1	Total Household Waste (refuse and recycling) (tonnes)	102,535 (< 955kg per HH)	98,895.80
H2	Recycling rate (%)	35%	30.85%
H3	Residual HH Waste per HH (kg)	655	636.13
I1	Miles of mandatory cycle routes in the borough	13.4km	8.4km
I2	Rollout of school streets - Schools.	10	4
J1	Days in the quarter where Air Pollution from large particle matter exceeds an acceptable level (PM10) exceeds (high) 76	<18 days per quarter (72 EOY)	39
J1.1	Days in the quarter where Air Pollution from small particle matter exceeds an acceptable level (PM2.5) exceeds 54 in Redbridge	<40 days per quarter 160 EOY	48
J2	Number of anti-idling PCNs/polite conversations (PCs)	1000 PCs	PCNs =10 1036 PCs
J3	Number of Council provided publicly accessible Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCPs) per 100,000 Population.	120.5	20.6
K1	Individual existing green spaces which were improved	30	32
K2	Number of children and young people participating in outdoor classroom education sessions	280	313

Safe & Healthy

Ref	Indicator	Target 2022/23	Outturn 2022/23
L1	Prevent Training Sessions delivered to professionals across the wider Partnership inc schools	80	98
M1	Proportion (%) of eligible children who received a 12 month health visiting review	35%	28.7%
M2	Proportion (%) of the eligible population 40-74 who received an NHS Health Check in current year	11%	7.30% Q1-3
N1	% children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time (within 2 years of the previous plan's end date)	8.30%	14.00%
N1	% children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time (within 2 years of the previous plan's end date)	8.30%	14.00%
N2	Number of Children Looked After who are Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children (UASC).	76 cases	67 cases
O1	Proportion (%) of physically active adults (PHOF) (annual sport England)	63.30%	(Available April 2024)
O2	Fit For Fun number per year go though the service	450	584
O3	Numbers of smokers who quit at four weeks	310	NA
O4	Successful completion of drug treatment - opiate users	10%	9.1%
O5	Successful completion of drug treatment - non-opiate users	43%	33.7%
O6	Successful completion of alcohol treatment	47%	42.4%
P1	% of ASC clients in receipt of long term services who are based in the community	77.40%	76.30%
P2	The number of ASC clients in receipt of long term services		2971
Q1	Increase sanctioned detection rate (% of people arrested and charged) for robbery	10%	Q1-3 9.10%
Q2	% of people that think the police do a good job in the local area	49% (benchmark)	NA
R1	Repeat MARAC rate (the case panel for the highest risk cases of domestic abuse.)	Below 28%	16%
R2	Number of referrals e.g. Refuge service (currently commissioning, change to new front door in April)	850 referrals	776 referrals
R3	Proportion feeling safer after accessing support (service e.g. refuge asks this)	92%	94% Q1-3
S1	Number of Active Library Members (ANNUAL)	27,500	27,778
S2	Number of Leisure Facility Attendances	905,000	895,032
S3	Number of visits to Valentines Mansion	8,704	9,590

Jobs and Skills

Ref	Indicator	Target 2022/23	Outturn 2022/23
T1	One year Business survival rate (annual April ONS, year in arrears)	92%	Available April 2024
T2	Number of businesses supported to start up' (e.g. registering with HMRC/companies house after talking to Business and enterprise team)	NEW	NEW
T3	Number of businesses supported to grow i.e. moving into bigger premises, increasing turnover, taking over new staff.	NEW	NEW
T4	'How satisfied are you that Redbridge is the right place for you to be doing business?' (Business survey feedback (bi-annual)	NEW	NEW
U1	Number of residents supported into work and self employment	280	455
U2	Number of households in work on universal credit	NEW	1,789 households includes 2635 children
V1	Number of Redbridge residents that engage with Adult Education Budget funded training that we provide for 19+ (annual August- July)	2216	NA
V2	Number of adults on roll for 'adults' skills courses' at Redbridge Institute	450	551
V3	Borough qualification rates (level 2) vs London average (annual Jan-Dec)	London average	NA
V4	Proportion of Young People (18-21years) in employment, education or training who were Looked After when aged 16	66%	70.20%

Ref	Indicator	Target 2022/23	Outturn 2022/23
V5	The proportion of ASC clients with a Primary Support Reason of Learning Disability who are in paid employment (aged 18-64)	5.20%	2.20%
W1	Proportion of pupils attending a good or outstanding school	95%	93.10%

One Brilliant Council

Ref	Indicator	Target 2022/23	Outturn 2022/23
X1	Collection rate of council tax	97.25%	96.94%
X2	Collection rates of business rates	98.00%	94.84%
X3	Time taken to process housing benefit claims	5.5 days	5.3 days
X4	Time taken to process council tax reduction claims	8 days	5.51 days

Key successes

In the face of unprecedented challenges posed by rising inflation, increasing demand, and reduced funding, Redbridge Council has achieved significant successes, the highlights include:

Homes and Neighbourhoods

- 212 New Council Homes were started in 2022/23, far exceeding the target of 11 predominately due to Loxford Lane development.
- Percentage of Care Leavers living in suitable accommodation increased from 95.6% last year to 96.9% this year, exceeding the London average of 87.2%.
- 98.8% of hazards identified during Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) inspections of rented properties were resolved, an improvement on 91% achieved in the previous year.
- £3.8m in Household Support Fund utilised to support families, households and school free meals. This included:
 - ✓ 1,550 families supported with the rising cost of living;
 - ✓ 31,000 free-school-meals provided outside of term time to 10,000 pupil;
 - ✓ £0.540m of targeted support delivered to 4,472 low-income pensioner households through winter stay safe packs to help residents stay warm and safe in winter;
 - ✓ Delivery of targeted support to 792 single vulnerable adults ahead of the winter months to enable them to prepare and to 99 households with children that are deemed in crisis;
 - ✓ £0.230m provided to foodbanks to provide for emergency food needs across the borough; and
 - ✓ £0.025m invested in the Ilford Community Grocery to ensure it was strongly established and able to serve up to 1,800 member households in the borough.
- A network of 17 community living rooms were established across the borough which provided warm welcoming spaces for residents to use, and cool spaces in the summer months.

Clean and Green

- 95% of our Streets are deemed to have acceptable levels of cleanliness in accordance with the national Code of Practice for Litter and Refuse when inspected independently, and 100% of fly tips reported were cleared.
- 98,895 tonnes of household waste were collected, 30.85% of which was recycled.
- There has been 5,645 volunteer hours spent in our parks and nature areas, and 32 green spaces were improved against a target of 30.
- 59% of our schools are either engaged or have accreditation in Transport for London STARS Travel Plans, this is one of the highest rates in London. 4 of the projected 'Schools Street' schemes have been delivered against a target of 10 in 2022/23.
- Secured nearly £1.4m in parks, tennis and cricket facilities for delivery in 2023/24 and £7m of external investment in Hainault Forest, including £0.050m for a Changing Places toilet.

- £7m restoration project of Hainault Forest has now delivered fully restored buildings including woodland trust visitor centre, workshops, café, corporate events facility which are fully open to the public, together with lakeside pathways and new forest trails. A new bespoke playground has been installed and fully open. New farm buildings have been completed, with hay barn and heavy horse stables outstanding; farm licence issued.
- £1.6m invested on upgrade of Ashton Playing Fields, bringing the local football team back to their home ground and providing a new gym, athletics and sports facilities for resident use.
- Refurbished the playground equipment delivered at Clayhall Park and Manford Way Park
- Invested £0.830m to protect households from flash flooding.
- Around £0.450m committed to build new mandatory cycle routes, along with funding from Transport for London to boost our cycle infrastructure by providing cycle storage and delivering local routes that are safe for cyclists without segregation. This includes the upgrade for the Ilford to Barking route, Woodford New Road cycle segregation scheme that links to Waltham Forest's cycle route which are nearing completion.

Safe and Healthy

- 98 Prevent sessions have been delivered against a target of 80 for the year. The Prevent sessions were delivered in schools, to support the government's Prevent strategy to tackle the causes of radicalisation and respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism. This includes safeguarding and support those most at risk of radicalisation through early intervention, identifying them and offering support.
- 584 users completed 'Fit for Fun' sessions; uptake has far exceeded the target of 450. The Fit for Fun scheme provides 20 weeks of free exercise classes for voluntary and community sector groups, or groups of families or friends, in Redbridge.
- 2,971 adult social care clients were in receipt of long-term services, this is up 59 in the year. 76.3% of these clients are based in the community, this has remained relatively consistent and is in line with the London average.
- Visitor numbers to Libraires, leisure facilities and Valentines Mansion, are all showing increasing, and a positive return to pre-pandemic numbers.
- Opened new Engagement Hubs in Hainault and Ilford in June 2022, open 9am – 7pm Monday to Friday providing a range of public services from the Council and its partners. At the core of the hubs will be Police Safer Neighbourhood teams and council enforcement staff who use the Hubs to engage residents, ensuring that there is a physical designated space where residents can talk to enforcement agencies about local issues.
- New Community Protection Taskforce launched to promote Women's Safety, Intelligence Based Problem Solving, prevent antisocial behaviour (ASB) and public nuisance in and around licensed premises.
- £1.5m invested in 41 ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Readers) and over 600 CCTV cameras, for example upgrading 170 Public Surveillance cameras to high-definition (HD) resolution.
- Mobile CCTV Challenger Vehicle targeting antisocial behaviour hotspots, including begging, street drinking, prostitution and street harassment and one vehicle with a mounted camera and CPTF and police officers patrol jointly using this.
- New 25-officer police team in Ilford Town Centre launched in March 2022, has been successfully tackling drugs, violence and anti-social behaviour.
- Refurbished South Woodford and Woodford Green libraries, and kept every library open
- Two new leisure centres opened in Goodmayes and Loxford.
- Commenced delivery of 4 School Streets schemes in October 2022, with 4 more progressing in September 2023. We are also consulting on a further tranche.

Jobs and Skills

- 455 residents have been supported into work, a considerable increase on prior year's 403 residents.
- 1,789 households, supporting 2,635 children, are in work and on universal credit. By supporting them to increase their earned income, decreases their reliance on the benefits system.
- 551 adults aged 19+ have enrolled on to a level 2/3 adult education programmes at Redbridge Institute, funded through the Mayor of London's Adult Education Budget.
- 70.2% of our care leavers aged 18-21 are successfully in employment, education or training.
- 2.2% of our learning-disabled adult social care clients are now in paid employment, just under the national average of 5.2%.
- 77 state-funded schools have been Ofsted inspected in Redbridge. Of these, 95% have been rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.

One Brilliant Council

- 96.94% of council tax has been collected in year, up on last year's position of 96.69%. Business rate collection is up on last year from 92.23% to 94.84% as at year end.
- Introduced living wage for all council-employed care workers.
- One of only 5 councils in the country with top-rated children's and adult's social care.

The financial challenge to local government persists, with significant Government investment needed to protect the future delivery of vital services and key infrastructure projects. Redbridge Council will continue to innovate to deliver more with less, but Government support is essential to begin to cover the gulf in local government funding which has emerged over the past decade.

Redbridge Council is continuing to invest in infrastructure, deliver over 400 vital services and expand support for local people through the cost of living crisis, despite a decade of Government austerity reducing grant settlement funding to London councils by an average of 63% since 2010.

Redbridge currently receives £182.31 less government funding per person than the London average, if this disparity were addressed Redbridge Council could provide an additional £57m worth of services for local people.

Overview of Financial Performance

The sections below introduce some of the key features of the Council's Statement of Accounts and financial performance in 2022/23, covering revenue and capital outturn positions, borrowing and investment strategies.

General Fund Revenue Budget

The General Fund revenue budget relates to the day to day running expenses of the services that the Council provides during the year. The General Fund outturn position against the net budget expenditure is shown below, the figures are consistent with service headings reported within the Expenditure and Funding Analysis Statement at Note 7 in the Statement of Accounts.

Directorate	Revised Outturn £m	Outturn £m	Variance £m
Communities	19.064	26.174	7.110
People	116.242	127.344	11.102
Regeneration & Culture	7.665	9.479	1.814
Resources	13.466	12.506	(0.960)
Strategy	9.816	11.211	1.395
Total Directorate Budgets	166.253	186.714	20.461
Corporate Budgets	37.009	14.330	(22.679)
Net Budget	203.262	201.044	(2.218)
Contribution to / (from) Reserves	(1.657)	0.311	1.968
Total	201.605	201.355	(0.250)

Overall, the General Fund outturn position is an underspend of £0.250m as shown in the table above. The outturn position for the year showed an overspend of £20.461m from Service Directorate revenue budgets offset by an underspend on Corporate Budgets of £22.679m, resulting in a net underspend position of £2.218m. Including the planned contribution to reserves of £1.968m this leaves a General Fund underspend of £0.250m to be transferred to top up the General Fund reserve.

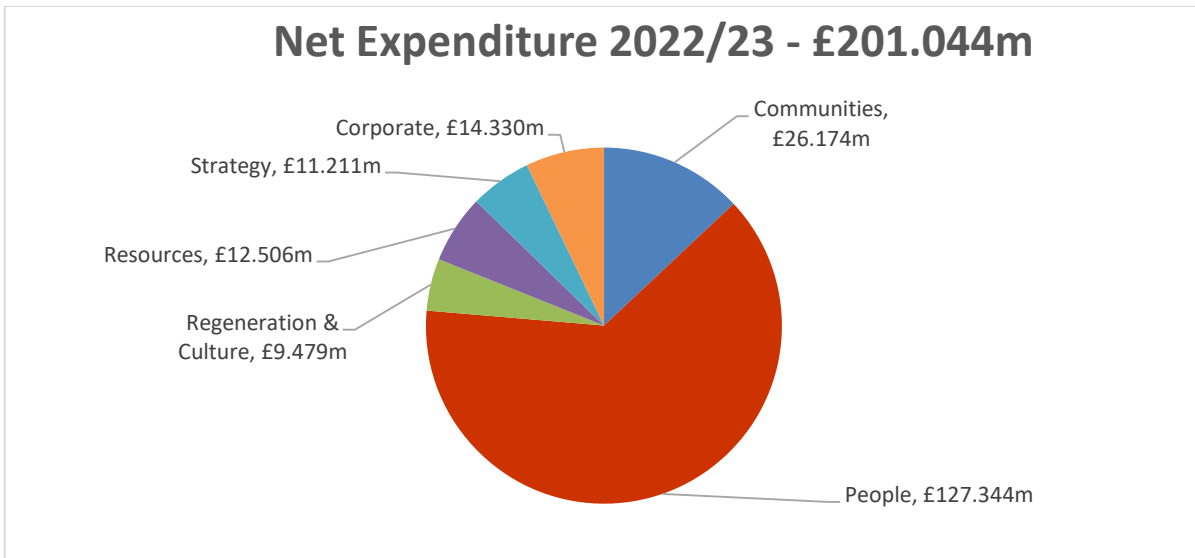
The most significant areas of overspend are:

- Housing General Fund with a net overspend of £2.738m mostly due to the use of Temporary Accommodation.
- Highways, Parking and Transportation with a net overspend of £3.639m mostly due to Highways Preventative Maintenance and repairs.
- Adult Social Care with a net overspend of £2.545m mostly due to demand on care purchasing.
- Children & Families with a net overspend of £6.176m due to increased demand of services.

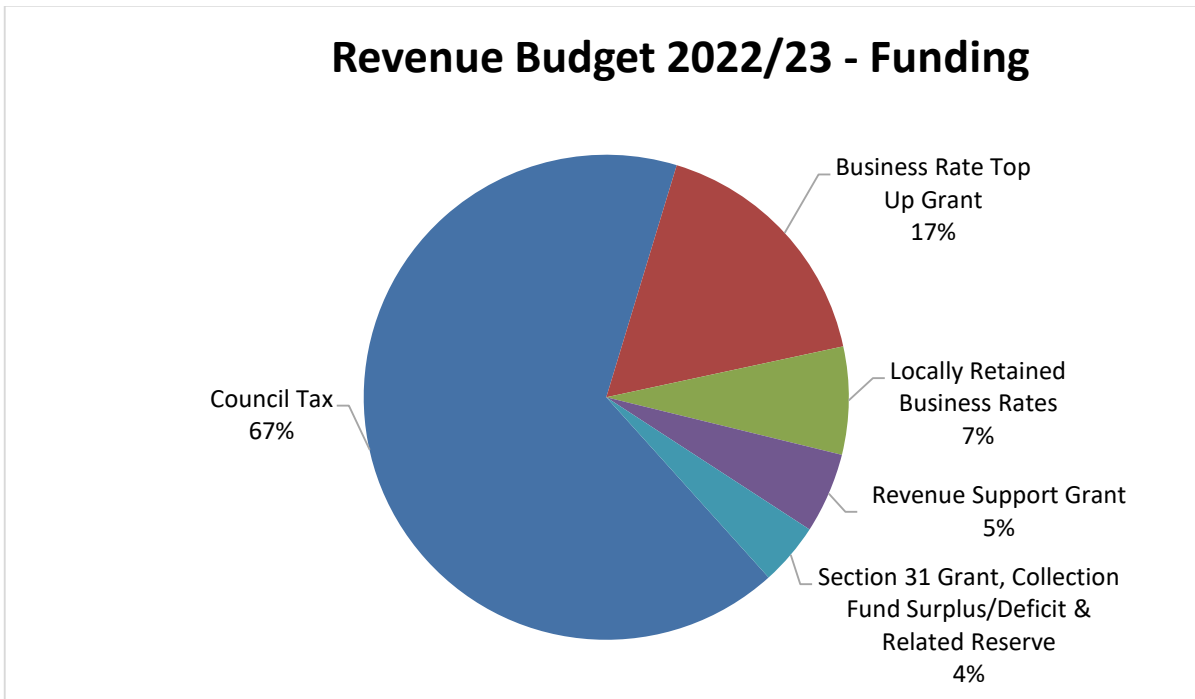
Corporate budgets (including contingencies) were used to manage the Service Directorate overspends as set out below:

	£m
<i>Service Directorate Overspend</i>	20.461
Contingency & Risk Provision	(10,707)
Savings on interest and borrowing repayment	(6,346)
Growth Held for Services	(2,309)
Other items	(1,349)
<i>Total</i>	(0.250)

The Council received income from a wide variety of sources, including Council Tax, Business Rates, Government grants, grants from other entities, fees, charges and rental Income. In most cases where this funding is specific to a service, the biggest of which is Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) of £274,069m, it is accounted for within that service; this gives a net controllable service cost which for 2022/23 was £186.714m as well as £14.330m of corporate items to give a £201.044m balance to be funded from Business Rates (including a top-up grant) and Council Tax. These amounts are represented in the graphs below. Further analysis can be found on the Expenditure and Funding Analysis Statement at Note 7 in the Statement of Accounts

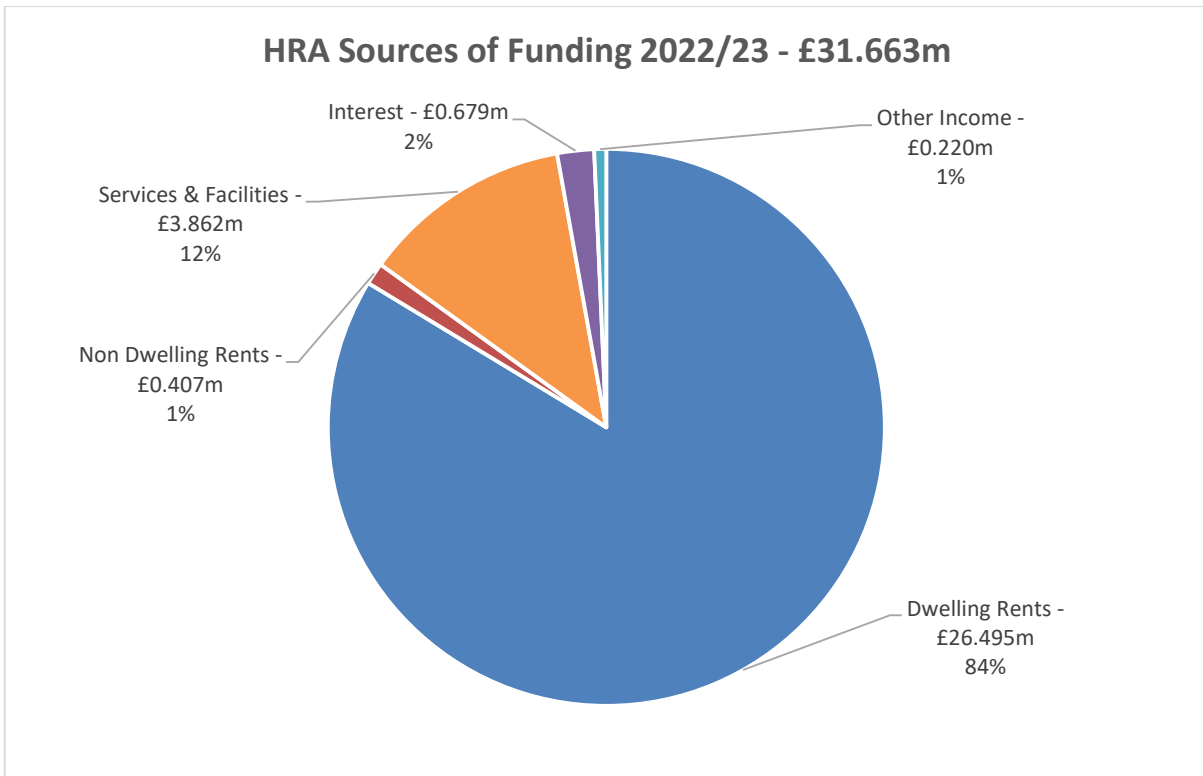


The main source of funding for the 2022/23 financial year is Council Tax which makes up 67% of core funding, followed by Business Rates including Top Up Grant at 17%.



Housing Revenue Account

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a ring-fenced Income and Expenditure account within the Statement of Accounts, showing the provision for Council housing. The HRA had a surplus of £0.319m against budget in 2022/23. This is a net position resulting from improved interest rates on HRA balances. The source of funding for the HRA is shown graphically below.



Capital Expenditure

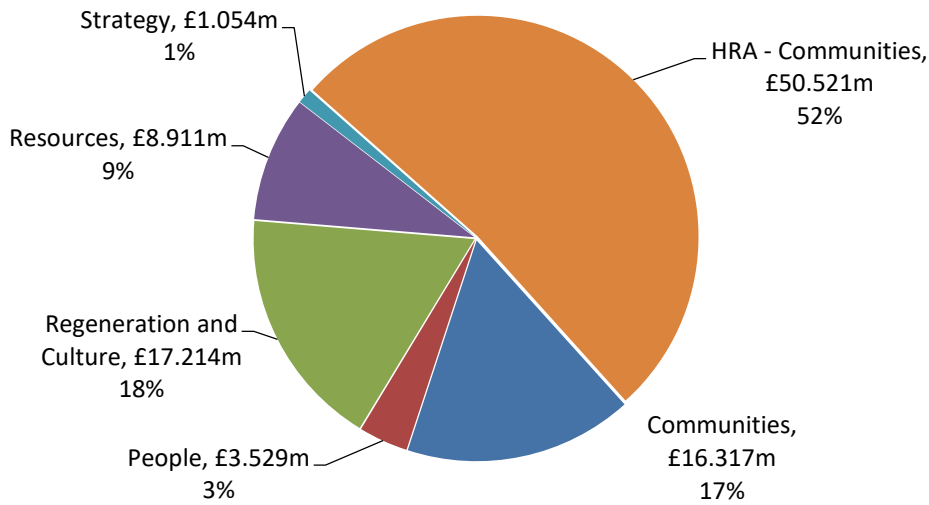
Capital Expenditure is defined as spending on the purchase, improvement or enhancement of fixed assets. The Capital Programme for 2022/23 approved in February 2022 was £306.717m. During the year the revised budget of £163.679m was approved by Council in February 2023 to take into account slippage. The outturn for the year, compared to budget, is £97.546m and is summarised in the chart below.

A Significant area of expenditure in 2022/23 related to Communities assets (£16.317m which is 17% of the capital programme). This included the Council’s roads (£5.212m), Civic Pride assets to protect the environment and tackling the climate change emergency (£8.756m) and Temporary Accommodation for homeless residents and rough sleepers (£2.349m).

Regeneration and Culture capital expenditure was £17.214m which is 18% of the capital programme. This included Educational Services expenditure of £9.549m which was mainly for the expansion of schools to meet the statutory responsibilities of the Council to accommodate the demand for pupil places as well as capital maintenance works on schools. Leisure (£4.171m) and Regeneration (£3.494m) made up the rest of this services’ expenditure.

Social Housing (HRA) capital expenditure totalled £50.521m (52% of the total capital programme) which increased and improved the Council’s housing stock.

2022/23 Capital Expenditure - £97.546m



Pension Liabilities

The Council has a pension deficit of £157m as at 31 March 2023 calculated in accordance with accounting requirements. This means that the value of pension’s liabilities exceeds the value of the fund assets by this amount. The existence of a pension liability balance is consistent with other local authorities. The Council is responsible for funding this deficit over time as the liabilities are long term in nature and represent the future commitment to pay retirement pensions. The Pension Fund’s funding level at the triennial valuation in 2022 was 99%. The Council’s contribution rate in 2022/23 was 22.1%. As a result of the triennial valuation the rate will be reduced to 19.1% from 1 April 2023. The deficit on the local government scheme will be made good by contributions from employees and employers plus investment returns over 17 years as set out in the 2022 Triennial Valuation.

Net Assets

The Council maintains a strong balance sheet despite the financial challenges. Redbridge’s Net Worth at 31 March 2023 is £1,667m compared to £1,296m 31 March 2022. This increase is mainly due to a decrease in the Pension Fund liability, and to valuation increases on non-current assets.

Net Assets at 31 March 2023:

Non-Current Assets (property and long-term investments and debtors) £2,100m	Net Current assets (debtors, inventory and cash less creditors and current liabilities) £96m	Long term liabilities and provisions (£529m)
Funded by:		
Usable Reserves £241m	Unusable Reserves £1,426m	

Net Assets at 31 March 2022:

Non-Current Assets (property and long-term Investments and debtors) £2,018m	Net Current assets (debtors, inventory and cash less creditors and current liabilities) £88m	Long term liabilities and provisions (£810m)
Funded by:		
Usable Reserves £209m	Unusable Reserves £1,087m	

Treasury Management Strategy

As at 31 March 2023, the Council had a long-term borrowing portfolio of £356.9m (£362.9m as at 31 March 2022). Whilst currently the Public Works Loans Board remains the Council's principal provider of finance, in November 2019 the Council raised £75m through the issue of the first local authority deferred RPI-linked bond. The bond proceeds were received over 24 months in line with the Council's funding needs and therefore reduced the cost of carry. The bond was issued at a premium over its £63.9m value at an effective interest rate of 1.88% based on RPI estimates at the time of borrowing.

Borrowing for the purpose of funding capital expenditure requires the Council to make a Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for the repayment of this borrowing. A change in MRP policy in 2018/19 has enabled the Council to benefit in the long term in terms of having a more prudent policy for the calculation of MRP.

The Council's Annual Investment Strategy is incorporated within the Treasury Management Strategy and aims to achieve optimum return on its investments whilst ensuring an appropriate level of security of its assets and liquidity. It is considered prudent to keep investment periods within permitted limits and only invest with financial institutions that meet the Council's approved creditworthiness criteria, which is regularly reviewed during the year to ensure it remains appropriate. The fair value of the Investment portfolio held by the Council has decreased from £229.1m as at 31 March 2022 to £185.3m as at 31 March 2023.

The Council prudently manages the level of reserves it holds, taking account of the risks it faces, including cuts in future government grant funding. The General Fund Balance, the Council's financial safety net has been increased by £0.25m to £21.4m as at 31 March 2023, which is 10.6% of the 2022/23 net revenue budget. In addition to this balance, the Council also holds Earmarked Reserves which are set aside for specific purposes. With regard to the Council's financial stability, reserves are used to manage corporate risks; the Council has a Business Risk Reserve which has a balance of £21.4m as at 31 March 2023 as well as a Commercial Income Smoothing Reserve of £2.6m which allows for fluctuations in investment return between years as well as a Pension Reserve of £6.0m to manage the potential impact of future actuarial reviews.

Statement of Accounts Key Financial Statements

The Statement of Accounts for 2022/23 sets out the Council's income and expenditure for the financial year ending 31 March 2023 along with a number of supplementary statements and disclosure notes. The financial statements have been prepared adhering to the CIPFA'S code of practice and the International Financial Reporting Standards. The key financial statements and disclosure notes contained in the Statement of Accounts for 2022/23 are as follow:

- **Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES):** This statement brings together all of the functions of the Council and reports on the Council's income and expenditure in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) rather than just the amount to be funded from local taxes, rents and government grants. This difference is accounted for by a series of adjustments made in accordance with regulations. The cost of services within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) follows the reporting structure used by the Council.
- **Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRS):** This statement provides a summary of the movement on the different reserves held by the Council over the course of the financial year. These reserves represent the Council's net worth and are divided into 'unusable', and 'usable' (i.e. those that can currently be used to fund expenditure or support local taxation).
- **Balance sheet:** This is a snapshot of the Council's financial position at year-end. It shows the balances and reserves under the Council's disposal, long term debt, net current assets and liabilities and summarises information on the non-current assets held.
- **Cash Flow Statement:** This is a summary of cash inflows and outflows arising from revenue and capital transactions with third parties.
- **Expenditure Funding Analysis Note (EFA):** The Expenditure and Funding Analysis note brings together local authority performance reported on the basis of expenditure measured under proper accounting practices with statutorily defined charges to the General Fund (including the HRA). The Expenditure and Funding Analysis takes the net expenditure that is chargeable to taxation and rents and reconciles it to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
- **Notes to the Financial Statements:** The notes provide a better understanding of the financial statements and give further detail about the items contained in the core financial statements along with details of accounting policies used by the Council.
- **Housing Revenue Account (HRA):** This account records the Council's statutory obligation to separately account for the cost of the ring-fenced landlord function in respect of the provision of Council Housing.
- **Collection Fund:** The Council is responsible for collecting Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR). Council Tax is also collected and distributed on behalf of the Greater London Authority (GLA). Under the Business Rates Retention Scheme, the Council is also responsible for collection and sharing of the NNDR proceeds with Central Government and GLA.
- **Pension Fund:** The Pension Fund Accounts show the contributions from the Council, participating employers and employees for the purpose of paying pensions. The Fund is separately managed by the Council acting as a trustee and the accounts are not part of the Council's accounts. The Pension Fund Accounts are included here to follow proper accounting practices.

Council Companies

There are four Council companies with which the Council has close involvement, three of which are not trading. Group accounts have not been prepared in respect of the sole trading company on the ground of materiality. These companies are:

Redbridge Civic Services Ltd (RCS) provides waste services for the Council and is wholly owned by the Council. Due to the turnover and net assets held by the company it is not considered necessary to consolidate as they would not materially impact on the group accounts.

Redbridge Living Limited was set up to deliver housing on Council owned land, however it has been decided that it is now more advantageous for projects originally intended to be delivered by the company to be delivered directly by the Council, therefore this company is dormant.

Roding Homes Limited, which is intended to acquire, let and manage properties to support the Council's housing duties. Due to some potential changes to accounting rules which would impact on the financial viability of the intended operating model of the company being consulted upon, plans for this company were put on hold pending the outcome of the consultation.

SixFive Education Ltd was created to provide educational support services but is not operational.

The Council has previously consolidated the accounts of Vision – Redbridge Culture and Leisure (VRCL), which provides Culture, Sport and Leisure services within the borough into its own accounts. VCRL is not owned or controlled by the Council. A revised management agreement has now been signed that dilutes control sufficiently that it is no longer deemed necessary to consolidate these accounts.

Forward Plan 2023/24 - 2027/28

Redbridge’s net revenue budget for 2023/24 was approved on 23 February 2023 by Council and is £214.097m. The context in which the Council’s Budget is set is influenced by:

- The Council’s Corporate Strategy “The Redbridge Plan 2022 – 2026” and Strategic Priorities;
- The Council’s Financial Strategy, to ensure a stable and sustainable medium-term financial position in the context of reductions in government funding and demographic pressures;
- Central Government policies, including legislative change, which may require additional expenditure or set additional responsibilities; and
- External drivers – e.g. demand for services, inflationary pressures, change in interest rates etc.

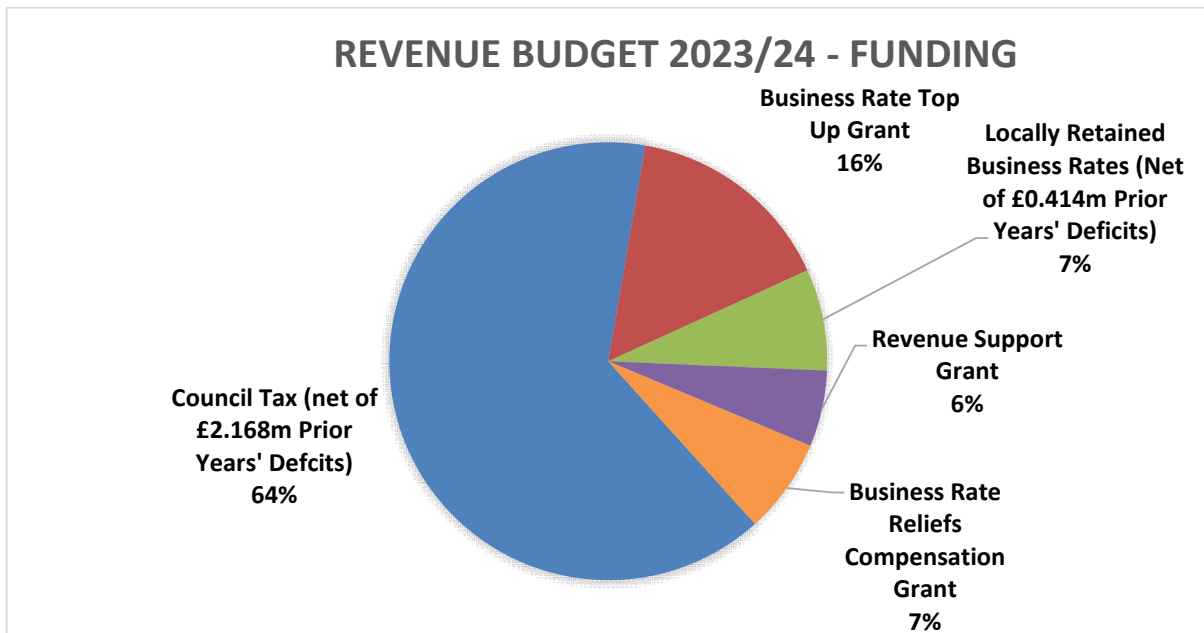
The budget process is designed to ensure that it is priority-led so that resources are aligned with the priorities of the Corporate Strategy.

Setting the budget

This year the Council has increased Council Tax by the maximum allowed (before requiring a referendum) to fund the delivery of essential services for the residents of the borough. Redbridge increased the Council Tax by 4.99% including a 2% increase used exclusively to fund the growing demand for the most vulnerable requiring adult social care. Overall, including the GLA precept, the Council Tax for Redbridge in 2023/24 at Band D increased by £111.81 (£1,863.94 – £1,975.75) which equates to an increase of 6.00%.

Revenue Budget Funding 2023/24

The main source of funding for the 2023/24 financial year is Council Tax which makes up 64% of core funding. Business Rates including Locally Retained, Top Up Grant and Relief Compensation Grant makes up 30%.



How we spend our budget

The budget includes Government grants and Council Tax, and this is used in the following ways:

- to help deliver frontline services within the Borough;
- to fund vital support services to assist in frontline service delivery; and
- to pay for the services Redbridge receives from a number of external bodies.

Budget Strategy and Challenges

Shaping our Future - As an organisation the Council looks at its pressures and opportunities to define the longer-term plan for the organisation to achieve its strategic objectives. The plan for the organisation is based around 5 core areas:

- A new operating model based on place. Focused on changing how we operate so that we can respond to local needs and where possible prevent issues before they become problems. This will also consider opportunities to consolidate and rationalise the Council's estate, freeing up resources to redirect elsewhere.
- Building a better relationship with residents. Co-design services with residents and identify where they can take responsibility for their own lives. The Council knows people want to live independent healthy lives and by working with voluntary sector, businesses, and communities it can bring our collective abilities to the way people live in Redbridge.
- Maintaining and creating vibrant sustainable places. Redbridge is fortunate to have amazing open spaces and also excellent transport connections and vibrant town centres. The Council will focus on making best use of all its assets so it can improve the economic outlook as well as improve the quality of life for residents in Redbridge.
- Developing new ways of working. The Council want to be making best use of our commercial opportunities and leverage our influence to help Redbridge. The Council can achieve best value through contract management and commission to achieve outcomes. With developments in technology, the Council can be more agile and lean with simple and effective services supported through modern approaches.
- A balanced budget. This is about planning and delivering services within available resources in a sustainable way. It's about the organisation collectively managing the budget so that as pressures arise in one area, the Council is able to mitigate them, either within that area or elsewhere. It means understanding the appropriate level of risks that the Council is able and willing to take to achieve a better, more resilient budget. This might be about targeted investment now so relieve pressures in the future or may be about investing in facilities and services that allow people to live independently, whilst disinvesting in others.

The environment for budget setting continues to be challenging. There are a number of risks, uncertainties and issues which makes preparing the budget and forecasting funding difficult. These include:

Cost of Living Crisis including inflation

- Since late 2021, the Cost of Living crisis and high inflation continues to impact Redbridge residents and businesses as well as the Council's finances. High fuel and energy costs have had an impact on a range of operational costs such as the heating of buildings and usage of vehicles. Inflation increase has also had an impact of the cost of contracts including social care, temporary accommodation and the cost of building affordable accommodation for local residents.

Interest Rates

- Interest rates are at the highest they have been since 2008 and they are not expected to reduce significantly in the medium term. The increase in the last year after over a decade of historically low rates has increased the cost of borrowing to the Council.
- High interest rates also have an impact on the wider economy, impacting on the level of investment and on individuals. For the Council, the impact this has on housing costs is probably most notable, with higher mortgage costs impacting residents both as a direct cost for owner occupiers with mortgages and by being passed on as rent increases by landlords to their tenants.

National Funding Levels

- There is still some uncertainty over Local Government funding beyond the current year. The Government has set the level of funding available for Local Government for 2024/25 and given some indication as to how this will be allocated. This gives some indication of the level of funding for Redbridge, like all Local Authorities, but also leaves some flexibility for Government in how funding is allocated next year; nothing has been indicated beyond 2024/25 and this is likely to be influenced by the next General Election.
- The level of funding indicated is an increase in cash terms and while some individual grants may increase by a similar amount to inflation overall this is a reduction in funding in real terms, adding to the pressure on Local Government finances.
- The future of Social Care funding is still unclear, with reforms delayed. There have been increases in funding provided to Local Government for Social Care, however these are now mainly to mitigate the cost pressures within the existing model rather than to fund significant change.

Climate Change

- In the UK, the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) sets legally binding science-based carbon budgets and recommends policies and actions to drive change. The CCC estimates that UK emissions will need to be reduced by at least 3% per year from now on. The Council has also declared a Climate Change Emergency, this feeds into the Redbridge Corporate Plan and is a consideration when deciding on budget proposals and assumptions.

Demographics

- Redbridge is estimated to have a population of 310,261⁷. This is forecast to continue to increase. This will place further potential pressures on all services across the Council. The borough continues to need more homes, schools, health and social care. Also, other services including cleansing, roads and highways face increasing cost due to changing demographics and growing population. The result is increasing demand for already stretched care services for adults and children's social care and pressures on temporary accommodation. Government have signalled an intention to address some of these, in particular the reform of social care as mentioned above, however at this time it is not clear how effective any new proposals will be or how they will be funded.

Local Funding

- Since 2010 the amount of grant funding received from Government in the Settlement Funding Assessment has fallen significantly. Alongside this, Redbridge has one of the least generous settlements in London, receiving less per head of population than most other boroughs. This is also true of Public Health Grant, where Redbridge also receives one of the lowest allocations per head in London and around a quarter of the highest.

Financial Resilience

- In the last few years there has been an increasing number of councils that have issued Section 114 notices and many more have indicated they are struggling financially. Those that have issued Section 114 notices have demonstrated significant financial governance weaknesses exacerbated by cuts in local government funding.
- It is important the Council ensures that its finances are robust and resilient so that it can continue to respond to the needs of residents, including expected events. It has been a challenging few years, with the Cost of Living Crisis following on from the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite these challenges the Council has managed to maintain and improve its financial resilience.
- For over a decade local government has had to manage with a huge reduction in the amount of funding

⁷ [Census 2021](#)

provided by central government alongside increasing demographic pressures, initially from an aging population but more recently increasingly from housing and children's services. Redbridge's financial resilience currently remains sound, There is however a budget gap forecast in every future year, with 2024/25 looking to be a particularly challenging year with a gap of £23.5m.

Achieving a balanced 2024/25 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

The Council's latest Medium Term Financial Strategy forecasts a shortfall in resources, i.e. the budget gap, over the five year planning period 2024/25 to 2028/29 of £75m. The gap reflects the cost of the Council's Strategic Priorities and the financial pressures created by the challenging environment set out above. Forecast increases in costs are not matched by anticipated core funding increases. Therefore, additional ongoing local resources and savings will be required to be found to cover the £75m gap. The latest MTFS is summarised in the table below.

The plan assumes no increase in Council Tax and that all savings agreed by Council will be delivered in full and on time or substitutes will be found.

MTFS 2024/25-2028/29⁸

	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m	Total £m
Service Base Budgets	214.097	218.223	219.798	221.405	223.044	214.097
Levies & Concessionary Travel	6.705	5.000	1.708	1.391	1.000	15.804
Inflation Allowance	9.817	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000	29.817
London Living Wage	1.000	1.000	1.000	-	-	3.000
Pension Fund	-	-	1.200	1.200	1.200	3.600
Service Pressures	(3.413)	(0.557)	(2.021)	-	-	(5.991)
Capital Financing	5.402	3.313	0.229	1.158	1.000	11.102
Pressures and Priorities	11.240	6.000	6.000	6.000	6.000	35.240
Grants including COVID Grants	(2.772)	-	-	-	-	(2.772)
Savings Agreed	(5.313)	(4.177)	(0.085)	-	-	(9.575)
Additional Saving	(2.351)	-	-	-	-	(2.351)
Risks	-	-	-	-	-	-
Change in Reserve Contribution	4.827	0.171	-	-	-	4.998
Use of Reserves to Smooth Budget	2.493	-	-	(0.623)	-	1.870
Budget Gap	(23.509)	(14.175)	(11.424)	(12.487)	(14.200)	(75.795)
Service Budgets	218.223	219.798	221.405	223.044	223.044	223.044

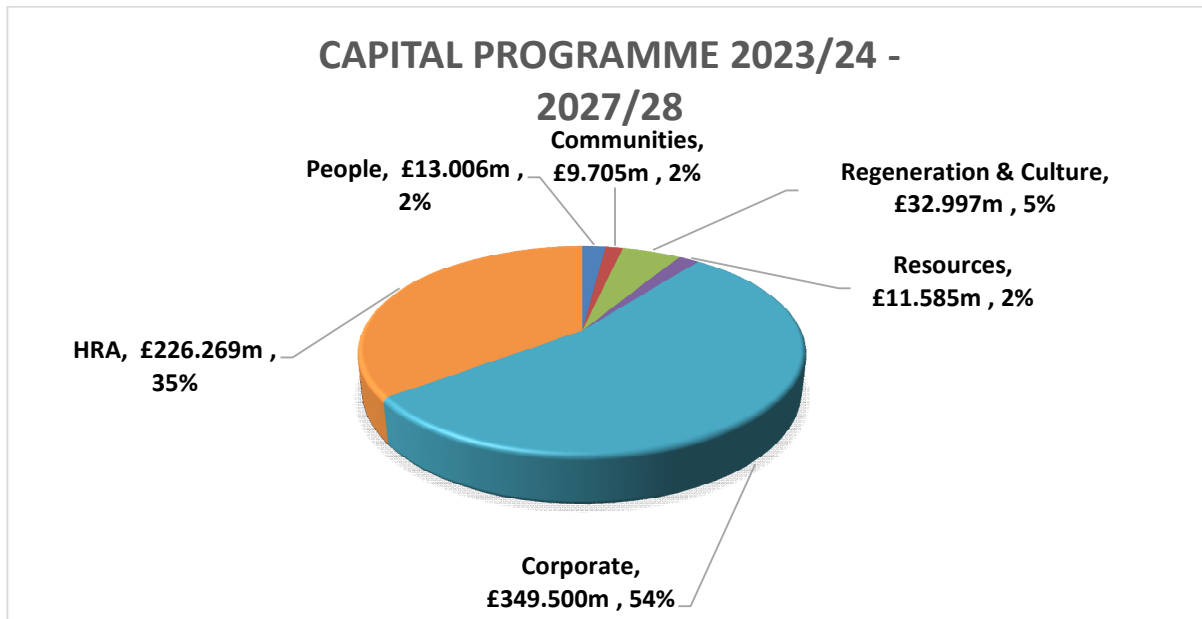
Funding

	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m	2028/29 £m
Settlement Funding Assessment	(78.750)	(80.325)	(81.932)	(83.571)	(83.571)	(83.571)
Council Tax	(139.473)	(139.473)	(139.473)	(139.473)	(139.473)	(139.473)
Total Funding	218.223	219.798	221.405	223.044	223.044	223.044

⁸ Reported to Cabinet Committee on 20 July 2023

Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2027/28

The Council’s capital programme and financing for the next five years is summarised below, totalling £643.062m, which has been approved by Council in February 2023.



Key Priorities

Safe and Healthy

As part of the Council’s Crime Commission, there is a comprehensive plan, including the roll out of enforcement hubs and a police hub on the Orchard Estate in Woodford. The borough now has a larger police team for Ilford Town Centre. The Council will also commit to more CCTV, noise control and teams to keep parks safe.

The impact of Covid continues and the Council is looking to address major health inequalities with wide variances in life expectancy and above average levels for a range of health issues. The Council’s commitment to becoming a UNICEF Child Friendly Borough will be a major priority to achieve by 2026 to be a truly inclusive borough for all young people.

Clean and Green

The Council will expand Fairlop Waters, have improved facilities in Hainault Forest and create more parks and open spaces. The Climate Change Action Plan focuses on the organisation’s ability to reduce its carbon footprint and the Council will do more to address the wider implications on our environment over the next decade. The Council has plans to improve flood prevention, to develop cleaner air around our schools, and invest in more electric car charging points. The Council will plant thousands of trees and commit to a biodiversity plan and a sustainable transport strategy.

Residents tell the Council that tackling waste and litter is a major issue. The Council will increase recycling and do more to tackle fly-tipping.

Jobs & Skills

The Council is committed to the Work Redbridge programme and working with the Redbridge Institute to help adults find the right pathways to employment. Its partnership with New City College and commitment to a university campus means Redbridge will be an amazing place to learn. Council schools are excellent and the way they led during the pandemic has ensured communities across Redbridge have coped and grown. The Council is committed to supporting local businesses to sustain and grow. The Council will also develop a longer-term Voluntary and Community Sector strategy so that it can collaborate to achieve more for Redbridge.

Homes & Neighbourhoods

The Council will build more social housing and more affordable housing. With a landlord licensing scheme, the Council will ensure that people are treated fairly, and will improve the quality of housing for everyone regardless of tenure.

New Community Hubs will be based across the borough providing excellent facilities, support, and services. The Council will develop these in partnership with local people and will create the right approaches according to the issues that matter most locally.

Key Risks and Controls

The London Borough of Redbridge has a structured Framework for Risk Management that has been designed to align to the size, scale and complexity of the borough. The Risk Management Framework is embedded within the organisation to ensure risks are identified, analysed and responded to in accordance to their perceived gravity.

The Risk Management Strategy defines risks as “an uncertain event or set of events that, should it occur, will have an effect on the achievement of corporate objectives”. The Risk Management Strategy and Policy is reviewed annually, and the revised 2023/24 Strategy and Policy was approved by the Governance and Assurance Committee on 31 January 2023.

The Strategic Risk Register (SRR) is a live register which identifies the strategic risks the organisation is facing. The risk owners are Corporate Directors and the Chief Executive to ensure that there is responsibility and ownership for the risks. They are reviewed quarterly by the Council, Management Team and also presented for review to the Governance and Assurance Committee. The SRR has been used to inform the Corporate Director of Resources statement on the robustness of the budget and reserves. The SRR sets out the key financial risks to the Council and can be found using the committee link below.

Operational risk registers are maintained at Directorate level and Service level. Risks are escalated and de-escalated between risk registers in accordance to their severity.

The latest reported risk register is available on the Council’s website: [Governance & Assurance Committee](#), the top 10 strategic risks as published for Quarter 4 2023/24 are summarised below.

- Failure to maintain a sustainable Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) in an increasingly uncertain economic outlook
- Lack of availability of suitable standard local housing provision for temporary and permanent housing
- Failure to safeguard vulnerable children
- Failure to safeguard vulnerable adults
- Sustained increase in staff sickness/absence due to emerging infectious diseases including other respiratory illness that have a potential to become endemic or pandemic. Risk of COVID-19
- Non-Compliance with relevant Health and Safety legislation
- Failure of Emergency planning & business continuity
- Alternative delivery models and commercialisation of Council activity
- Breakdown in community cohesion and failure to prevent extremism
- Inadequate security over information, data or misuse of information including potential Cyber Attack(s)

Governance arrangements within the Council have been covered by the Annual Governance Statement that accompanies the financial statements.

What’s next?

The Redbridge Corporate Plan 2022-26 agreed by Council sets out the Council’s ambitions for the Borough and the priority programmes to make Redbridge a great place for everybody. The Plan has a set of objectives, activities, and measures against them. This means there is a clear visible link between the Council’s work and the impacts they have on Redbridge.

The Council produces an annual state of the borough report on the progress and detailed quarterly performance updates to track changes.

The Council recognises that being able to make real change it also needs to make more noise about Redbridge. This means the Council needs to be lobbying for more resources, encouraging new businesses to move here and make Redbridge a centre of education excellence including a new university campus.

The Corporate Plan provides a guide to what the Council is committed to doing and is confident that its efforts will make a real difference to the lives of people who live here and provide a positive future for our borough.

Conclusion

The Statement of Accounts provides a very detailed and comprehensive picture of the Council's performance for 2022/23 as required by statute and the CIPFA Code of Practice.

A widespread understanding of the Council's financial position will become even more important in the light of the financial challenges that Redbridge faces. I hope the Members of the Council, residents of the Borough and other readers find this document useful.

I would like to thank all those in the Finance Department and throughout the Council who have helped to prepare this



Duncan Whitfield
Interim Corporate Director of Resources & Section 151 Officer
05 December 2024

Statement of Responsibilities

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 (the Section 151 Officer) has responsibility for the administration of those affairs;
- Manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets; and
- Approve the Statement of Accounts.

The Corporate Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer) responsibilities

The Corporate Director of Resources is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts (which includes the Pension Fund financial statements) in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 ('the Code').

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Corporate Director of Resources has:

- selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently;
- made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent;
- complied with the Code;
- kept proper accounting records which were up to date;
- taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities;
- assessed the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern;
- used the going concern basis of accounting on the assumption that the functions of the Authority will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future; and
- maintained such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error,

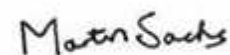
I certify that the Statement of Accounts gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council at 31 March 2023 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended.



Duncan Whitfield
Interim Corporate Director of Resources & Section 151 Officer
05 December 2024

Approval of Accounts

In accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, I certify that the Statement of Accounts was approved by the Governance and Assurance Committee.



Chair of the Governance and Assurance Committee
05 December 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF REDBRIDGE

Disclaimer of opinion

We were engaged to audit the financial statements of the London Borough of Redbridge for the year ended 31 March 2023. The financial statements comprise the:

- Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement,
- Movement in Reserves Statement,
- Balance Sheet,
- Cash Flow Statement,
- the related notes 1 to 41 including a summary of significant accounting policies and including the Expenditure and Funding Analysis,
- the Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement and the related notes 1 to 10,
- Collection Fund and the related notes 1 to 7.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 as amended by the Update to the Code and Specifications for Future Codes for Infrastructure Assets (November 2022).

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

Basis for disclaimer of opinion

The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (Statutory Instrument 2024/907) which came into force on 30 September 2024 requires the accountability statements for this financial year to be approved not later than 13 December 2024.

The audit of the 2021/22 financial statements for the Authority was not completed for the reasons set out in our opinion on those financial statements dated 11 December 2024.

As a result of the delays to the previous years' audits together with the wider requirements of the local audit system reset, we did not have the required resources available to complete the detailed audit procedures that would be needed to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to issue an unmodified audit report on the 2022/23 financial statements before the 13 December 2024.

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

Our approach to the audit

Key audit matters	<p>Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements of the current period and include the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement (whether or not due to fraud) that we identified. Due to the matters outlined in the basis for disclaimer of the opinion above, we did not complete the detailed audit procedures that would be needed to identify key audit matters in relation to the audit of the 2022/23 financial statements.</p>
Materiality	<p>Materiality is the magnitude of an omission or misstatement that, individually or in the aggregate, could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of the users of the financial statements.</p> <p>We applied the concept of materiality in the procedures we performed to reach our conclusion that we would issue a disclaimer of opinion on these financial statements and to determine whether there are any other matters to include in the 'Basis for disclaimer' section of our report.</p> <p>We determined materiality for the Authority at £8.9 million (2021/22: £8.7 million), which is 1% (2021/22: 1%) of gross revenue expenditure. We believe that gross revenue expenditure provides us with the appropriate basis as the Authority is a not for profit organisation.</p> <p>Performance materiality is the application of materiality at the individual account or balance level. It is set at an amount to reduce to an appropriately low level the probability that the aggregate of uncorrected and undetected misstatements exceeds materiality.</p> <p>We set performance materiality at 50% (2021/22: 50%) of our planning materiality, namely £4.5m (2021/22: £4.4m). We have set performance materiality at this percentage due to the previous year audit findings, and the historic trend of adjustments. We assessed the number and magnitude of errors, both adjusted and unadjusted, identified in the prior period.</p>
Audit Scope	<p>Given the matters set out in our 'Basis for disclaimer of opinion' section above, we have completed the procedures necessary to issue a disclaimer of opinion based on guidance issued by the National Audit Office in the form of Local Audit Reset and Recovery Implementation Guidance notes.</p> <p>The procedures performed, subject to the pervasive limitation set out in the basis for disclaimer of opinion, were completed by the audit engagement team.</p>

Matters on which we report by exception

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

We report to you if:

- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended)
- we make written recommendations to the audited body under Section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended)

- we make an application to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law under Section 28 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended)
 - we issue an advisory notice under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended)
- we make an application for judicial review under Section 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended)
- we are not satisfied that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2023.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

Responsibility of the Corporate Director of Resources

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Corporate Director of Resources Responsibilities set out on page 22, the Corporate Director of Resources is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 as amended by the Update to the Code and Specifications for Future Codes for Infrastructure Assets (November 2022), and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and for such internal control as the Corporate Director of Resources determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Corporate Director of Resources is responsible for assessing the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Authority either intends to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

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

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

We have undertaken our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice 2024, having regard to the guidance on the specified reporting criteria issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in November 2024, as to whether the London Borough of Redbridge had proper arrangements for financial sustainability, governance and improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The Comptroller and Auditor General determined these criteria as those necessary for us to consider under the Code of Audit Practice in satisfying ourselves whether the London Borough of Redbridge put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2023.

We planned our work in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice. Based on our risk assessment, we undertook such work as we considered necessary to form a view on

whether, in all significant respects, the London Borough of Redbridge had put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

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

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

Other Matters

We were appointed by the Public Sector Auditor Appointments to audit the financial statements of the Authority for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The period of total uninterrupted engagement including previous renewals and reappointments is 5 years, covering the year ended 31 March 2019 to 31 March 2023.

The non-audit services prohibited by the FRC's Ethical Standard were not provided to the Authority and we remain independent of the Authority in conducting the audit.

The disclaimer of opinion is consistent with the additional report to the Governance and Assurance Committee.

Pension Fund financial statements

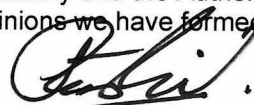

On 10 December 2024 we issued our opinion on the Pension Fund financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 included within the Statement of Accounts.

Certificate

We certify that we have completed the audit of the accounts of the London Borough of Redbridge in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended) and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the National Audit Office.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the members of the London Borough of Redbridge, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended) and for no other purpose, as set out in paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Authority and the Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Stephen Reid (Key Audit Partner)
Ernst & Young LLP (Local Auditor)
London
11 December 2024

The following footnote does not form part of our Auditor's Report.

Additional information related to the disclaimer of opinion is set out in our Completion Report for Those Charged with Governance dated 20 November 2024, available on the Authority's website, which includes further explanations about the implementation of the statutory instrument which led to the disclaimer of our opinion on the financial statements.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

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 and rents. Authorities raise taxation and rents to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this can be very different in some respects from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in both the Movement in Reserves Statement and the Expenditure and Funding Analysis at note 7.

2021/22				2022/23			
Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000		Notes	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000
106,565	(61,374)	45,191	Communities		105,905	(60,225)	45,680
519,194	(387,052)	132,142	People		543,277	(403,221)	140,056
33,858	(11,087)	22,771	Regeneration & Culture		28,920	(12,170)	16,750
153,653	(129,713)	23,940	Resources		130,992	(114,486)	16,506
6,547	(2,305)	4,242	Strategy		20,793	(8,291)	12,502
21,064	(10,503)	10,561	Corporate		9,143	(894)	8,249
32,779	(30,251)	2,528	Local Authority Housing (HRA)		52,176	(30,853)	21,323
873,660	(633,285)	241,375	Cost of Services		891,206	(630,140)	261,066
		19,187	Other operating expenditure	10			39,647
		(35,724)	Financing and investment income and expenditure	11			11,080
		(239,979)	Taxation and non-specific grant income	12			(299,776)
		(15,141)	(Surplus)/Deficit on the provision of services				12,017
		(76,718)	Surplus on revaluation of non-current assets	30			(70,618)
		(122,793)	Re-measurement of the net defined Benefit liability	40			(311,741)
		(199,511)	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				(382,359)
		(214,652)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				(370,342)

Movement in Reserves Statement

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 taxation) and other unusable reserves. The statement shows how the movement in year of the Council's reserves is broken down between gains and losses incurred in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices and statutory adjustments required to return to the amounts chargeable to Council Tax or rents for the year. The net increase/decrease line shows the statutory General Fund Balance and Housing Revenue Account Balance movements in the year following those adjustments.

2021/22 Comparative Figures

	General Fund £000	Housing Revenue Account £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Major Repairs Reserve £000	Capital Grants Contributions Unapplied £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Reserves £000
Balance at 31 March 2021 brought forward	(126,192)	(17,284)	(10,521)	-	(50,466)	(204,463)	(877,237)	(1,081,700)
Movement in Reserves during 2021/22								
Total Comprehensive (Income) and Expenditure	(20,621)	5,480	-	-	-	(15,141)	(199,511)	(214,652)
Adjustment between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 8)	11,435	(5,735)	(4,636)	-	9,311	10,375	(10,375)	-
Net (Increase) / Decrease	(9,186)	(255)	(4,636)	-	9,311	(4,766)	(209,886)	(214,652)
Balance at 31 March 2022 carried forward	(135,378)	(17,539)	(15,157)	-	(41,155)	(209,229)	(1,087,123)	(1,296,352)
2022/23								
Movement in Reserves during 2022/23								
Total Comprehensive (Income) and Expenditure	6,565	5,452	-	-	-	12,017	(382,359)	(370,342)
Adjustment between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 8)	(8,436)	(5,697)	(4,098)	-	(25,507)	(43,738)	43,738	-
Net (Increase) / Decrease	(1,871)	(245)	(4,098)	-	(25,507)	(31,721)	(338,621)	(370,342)
Balance at 31 March 2023 carried forward	(137,249)	(17,784)	(19,255)	-	(66,662)	(240,950)	(1,425,744)	(1,666,694)

Balance Sheet

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, 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 and repay debt). The second category of reserves is 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 could only be realised 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.

31 March 2022 £000		Notes	31 March 2023 £000
1,760,690	Property, Plant & Equipment	13	1,840,088
93,594	Infrastructure Assets	13	89,257
134,901	Investment Property	14	139,875
6,041	Intangible Assets	15	10,509
21,222	Long Term Investments	23	17,723
2,126	Long Term Debtors	19	2,109
2,018,574	Long Term Assets		2,099,561
990	Assets Held for Sale	18	640
182,267	Short Term Investments	23	152,002
286	Inventories		363
66,205	Short Term Debtors	19	96,597
31,299	Cash and Cash Equivalents	20	21,685
281,047	Current Assets		271,287
(5,195)	Short Term Borrowing	23	(8,251)
(162,164)	Short Term Creditors	21	(134,247)
(2,223)	Provisions	22	(2,107)
(17,298)	Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	25	(28,985)
(6,137)	Revenue Grants Receipts in Advance	25	(1,986)
(193,017)	Current Liabilities		(175,576)
(8,786)	Provisions	22	(6,396)
(362,903)	Long Term Borrowing	23	(356,866)
(438,563)	Other Long-Term Liabilities	29	(165,316)
(810,252)	Long Term Liabilities		(528,578)
1,296,352	Net Assets		1,666,694
209,229	Usable Reserves	MiRS	240,950
1,087,123	Unusable Reserves	30	1,425,744
1,296,352	Total Reserves		1,666,694

These financial statements replace the unaudited financial statements confirmed by Maria G Christofi on 27 November 2023



Duncan Whitfield
Interim Corporate Director of Resources & Section 151 Officer
05 December 2024

Cash Flow Statement

The Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Council during 2022/23. 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.

2021/22		Note	2022/23
£000			£000
15,141	Net surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services		(12,017)
96,936	Adjustments to net deficit/surplus on the provision of services for non- cash movements		71,873
(34,810)	Adjustments for items included in the net deficit/surplus on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities		(88,589)
77,267	Net cash flows generated from Operating Activities	41a	(28,733)
(83,233)	Investing Activities	41b	22,322
14,425	Financing activities	41c	(3,204)
8,459	Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		(9,614)
22,840	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	20	31,299
31,299	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		21,685

Notes to the Accounts

1. Statement of Accounting Policies

i. General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2022/23 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2023. The Council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, which require the accounts to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 (the Code), supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and statutory guidance issued under Section 12 of the Local Government Act 2003.

Going Concern

The Statement of Accounts has been prepared on a "going concern" basis. The concept of a going concern assumes that an authority's functions and services 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 local authorities operate. These provisions confirm that, as authorities cannot be created or dissolved without statutory prescription, they must prepare their financial statements on a going concern basis of accounting. In carrying out its assessment that this basis is appropriate management of the Council have undertaken forecasting of both income and expenditure, the expected impact on reserves, and cashflow forecasting.

Local Authorities carry out functions essential to the local community and are themselves revenue-raising bodies (with limits on their revenue-raising powers arising only at the discretion of central government). If an authority were in financial difficulty, the prospects are thus that alternative arrangements might be made by central government either for the continuation of the services it provides or for assistance with the recovery of a deficit over more than one financial year. As a result of this, it would not therefore be appropriate for local authority financial statements to be provided on anything other than a going concern basis.

Outturn for 2022/23 was reported to 26 June 2023 Cabinet. The outturn variance was a £0.25m underspend. Earmarked Reserves excluding grants unapplied, HRA, DSG and schools decreased by £5.007m or 6.4%.

Our most recent year-end balances include the following:

Date	General Fund £m	Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Total Reserves £m	Earmarked reserves General Fund (GF) £m
31/03/23	21.408	17.784	72.035
31/03/24	23.141	18.217	52.621

Projected reserves position through to 31/03/26: The table below shows projections through to March 2025. The S151 officer has reviewed the level of reserves and considers them at a prudent and appropriate level. They will continue to be kept under review at least annually as part of the budget setting process.

Date	General Fund £m	Housing Revenue Account £m	Earmarked reserves GF £m
31/03/25	23.141	17.527	52.321
31/03/26	23.141	16.590	55.918

Savings plans

For 2023/24, total savings to be delivered amount to £19.102m. Savings forecast to be delivered total £14.659m. Savings at risk of not being delivered, or that are not currently forecast to be delivered, total £4.443m. If any of these savings cannot be delivered further savings elsewhere will be identified.

Cash position & liquidity

It is the Council's policy to maintain overnight and short-term cash deposits of at least £25m, held with money market funds and banks is available on a daily basis. The Council's cashflow forecasts show that average cash held overnight and in short-term deposits in the region of £117m will be available at the 1 April 2023 through to 31 March 2026. For debt management purposes the Council has in place overdraft facilities with its bankers National Westminster Bank plc and can borrow short term from the money market. The Council has access to the PWLB and the money market to fund capital projects.

The borrowing position at 31 March 2023 was £365m and forecast to increase to £763m by 31 March 2026. The Council has borrowing headroom against the Capital Financing Requirement for all of these financial years: £564 (2023/24) £746m

(2024/25) and £878m (2025/26). It would therefore have no operational or governance barriers to securing borrowing at short notice if required. The forecasting of capital financing requirements is in line with those reported in the budgetary control report projections and a strategy is in place to secure all required borrowing over the medium-term.

Overall conclusion

The Council does not consider that there is material uncertainty in respect of its ability to continue as a going concern for the period through to 31 March 2025 and therefore the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

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. Balances relating to the Pension Fund and other funds have been excluded.

ii. 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 and services are 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 effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.
- Where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.

iii. Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

Cash equivalents are investments that having originally been invested for no longer than three months are repayable on demand or readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value. Fixed term deposits, excluding overnight deposits, are not considered to be readily convertible since they only become repayable at the point of maturity and cannot be traded or redeemed without penalty. 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 strategy.

iv. 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 year:

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

The Council is not required to raise Council Tax to fund depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisations. However, it is required to make an annual contribution from revenue towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement that is equal to an amount calculated on a prudent basis determined by the Council in accordance with statutory guidance. This contribution is known as the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisations are therefore replaced by the MRP in the General Fund Balance by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

v. Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates

Billing authorities act as agents, collecting Council Tax and non-domestic rates (NDR) on behalf of the major preceptors (including Government for NDR) and, as principals, collecting 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.

Council Tax

- Council Tax income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the year will be the Council's share of accrued income for the year.

Non-Domestic Rates (NDR)

- Retained Business Rate income and top up income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the year will be the Council's share of accrued income for the year.

All of the above income will be recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement within the Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income line. However, regulations determine the amount of Council Tax and NDR that must be included in the Council's General Fund. As a billing council the difference between the Council Tax and NDR included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the amount required by regulation to be credited to the General Fund shall be taken to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account and reported in the Movement of Reserves Statement. Each major preceptor's share of the accrued Council Tax and NDR income will be available from the information contained in the Collection Fund Statement.

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 expected credit losses, overpayments and prepayments and appeals.

Where debtor balances for the above are identified as impaired the asset is written down and a charge made to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES. The impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount and the revised future cash flows.

vi. Employee Benefits

▪ Benefits Payable during Employment

Short term employee benefits are those due to be settled wholly within 12 months of the year end. They include such benefits as salaries, paid annual leave, paid sick leave, 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. 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 salary rates applicable in the following accounting year, being the period in which the employee takes the benefit. The accrual is charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, but then reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement so that holiday entitlements 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. The benefits are charged on an accruals basis to directorates within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement at the earlier of when the Council can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when the Council recognises costs for a restructure.

Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the General Fund balance 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. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, appropriations are required to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for pension enhancement termination 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.

▪ 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 for Education (DfE).
- The NHS Pension Scheme, administered by NHS Business Services Authority.
- The Local Government Pension Scheme, administered by the London Borough of Redbridge.

These schemes provide defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees worked for the Council.

However, the arrangements for the teachers' and NHS schemes mean that liabilities for these benefits cannot ordinarily be identified specifically to the Council. These schemes are therefore accounted for as if they are defined contribution schemes

and no liability for future payments of benefits is recognised in the Balance Sheet. The People Directorate line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is charged with the employer's contributions payable to the Teachers' Pensions Scheme and the NHS Pension Scheme in the year.

▪ **The Local Government Pension Scheme**

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

The liabilities of the London Borough of Redbridge 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 determined by the actuary. The discount rate is based on the indicative rate of return on high quality bonds (iBoxx Sterling Corporates AA index).

The assets of the London Borough of Redbridge Pension Fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:

- Quoted securities – current bid price;
- Unquoted securities – professional estimate;
- Unitised securities – current bid price;
- Property – fair value.

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

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 earned 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 defined benefit liability (asset), that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. This is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period, to the net defined benefit liability (asset) at the beginning of the period taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability (asset) during the period as a result of contributions and benefit payments.

Re-measurements comprising:

- The return on plan assets, excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset), charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;
- Actuarial gains and losses, changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
- Contributions paid to the London Borough of Redbridge 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.

vii. 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

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

viii. 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.

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 cash flow characteristics. There are two main classes of financial assets measured at:

- Amortised cost
- Fair value through profit or loss (FVPL)

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

▪ **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 then 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 loans that the Council has made, 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.

▪ **Expected Credit Loss Model**

The Council recognises expected credit losses on all of its financial assets held at amortised cost, either on a 12-month or lifetime basis. The Code requires that all local authorities shall not recognise a loss allowance for expected credit losses on a financial asset where the other party is central government or a local authority for which relevant statutory provisions prevent default.

The expected credit loss model also applies to lease receivables and contract assets and trade receivables (debtors) held by the Council. The Council adopts the simplified approach to impairment, in accordance with the Code, and measures the loss allowance at an amount equal to lifetime expected credit losses.

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

Financial Assets are amalgamated into the following groups to assess risk and associated loss allowances:

Group 1 – Investments at amortised cost have, in line with treasury management policy, a credit rating of A- or better. Loss allowances are assessed based on default risk.

Group 2 – Investments at Fair Value Through Profit and Loss are assessed based on market value.

Group 3 – Other assets including lease receivables, short- and long-term debtors are based on default risk using the simplified approach.

▪ **Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Profit or Loss**

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 arrive in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services.

The fair value measurements of the 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.

The Council has entered into financial guarantees which are classed as financial instruments. As they are not material, no accounting arrangements have been required under IFRS9 and they will be disclosed in the relevant notes to the Accounts as appropriate.

ix. 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 contributions have been satisfied. Conditions are stipulations that specify that the future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the asset acquired using 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-ring-fenced revenue grants and all capital grants and contributions) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where capital grants and contributions 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 and Contributions Unapplied Reserve. Where it has been applied, it is posted to the Capital Adjustment Account. Amounts in the Capital Grants and Contributions Unapplied Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account once they have been applied to fund capital expenditure.

▪ **Business Improvement Districts**

A Business Improvement District (BID) scheme is funded by a BID levy payment made by non-domestic ratepayers. The Council acts as agent under the scheme and collects money on behalf of Ilford BID and Hainault BID. This is then paid over in monthly instalments to the BID companies.

Amounts due to and from the Bid are reported as either Debtors or Creditors in the Council's balance sheet.

The only transactions recorded in the Council's Comprehensive Income and expenditure statement in relation to the BID's, reflects the income for administering the BID levy.

▪ **Community Infrastructure Levy**

The Council has elected to charge a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The levy is charged on new builds (chargeable

developments for the Council) with appropriate planning consent. The Council charges for and collects the levy, which is a planning charge. The income from the levy will be used to fund a number of infrastructure projects to support the development of the area.

CIL is received without outstanding conditions. It is therefore recognised at the commencement date of the chargeable development in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in accordance with the accounting policy for government grants and contributions. CIL charges will be largely used to fund capital expenditure; however, a proportion of the charges for may be used to fund revenue expenditure if it meets the conditions set out in the CIL regulations.

▪ **Section 106 Agreements**

The Council has entered into a number of Section 106 agreements with developers. Payments due to the Council under these agreements are recognised when received, not when they become due.

▪ **COVID-19 Grants**

As part of the COVID-19 response, the government announced a range of grant schemes to support local authorities and businesses. COVID 19 grants received to fund Council services, or for which conditions and guidance allow the Council discretion in how the grant is to be spent, are treated as a principal arrangement. Income and expenditure for these grants are included in the accounts in accordance with the accounting policy above. COVID-19 grants received by the Council but distributed to businesses in accordance with specific grant instructions that determine who will receive money and how much will be received are accounted for as an agency arrangement. Income and expenditure for these grants are excluded from the accounts.

x. Intangible Assets

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

Internally generated assets are capitalised where it is demonstrable that the project is technically feasible and is intended to be completed (with adequate resources being available) and the Council will be able to generate future economic benefits or deliver service potential by being able to sell or use the asset. Expenditure is capitalised where it can be measured reliably as attributable to the asset and is restricted to that incurred during the development phase (research expenditure cannot be capitalised).

Intangible assets are measured initially at historic cost. Amounts are only revalued where the fair value of the assets held by the Council can be determined by reference to an active market. In practice, no intangible asset held by the Council meets this criterion, and they are therefore carried at amortised cost. The depreciable amount of an intangible asset is amortised over its useful life to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. An asset is tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the asset might be impaired – any losses recognised are posted to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Any gain or loss arising on the disposal or abandonment of an intangible asset is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where expenditure on intangible assets qualifies as capital expenditure for statutory purposes, amortisation, impairment losses and disposal gains and losses are not permitted 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.

xi Interests in Companies and Other Entities

Interests in companies and other entities are recorded as financial assets at cost, less any provision for losses.

The Council has set up four wholly owned companies; Redbridge Living Limited, Roding Homes Limited, Redbridge Civic Services Ltd and SixFive Education Ltd. The Council also has an interest in Vision Redbridge Culture and Leisure, a charitable company limited by guarantee. Group accounts have not been prepared on the grounds of materiality.

xii Inventories and Long-Term Contracts

Inventories are included in the Balance Sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost of inventories is determined using either the first in first out (FIFO) costing formula or weighted average price depending on the nature of the inventory. Work in progress is recorded in the Balance Sheet at cost.

Long term contracts are accounted for on the basis of charging the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services with the consideration allocated to the performance obligations satisfied based on the goods or services transferred to the service recipient during the financial year.

xiii. Investment Property

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 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, and subject 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 Account. 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.

xiv. Leases

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

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

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

The Council as Lessee

▪ Finance Leases

Property, plant and equipment held under finance leases is recognised on the Balance Sheet at the commencement of the lease at its fair value measured at the lease's inception (or the present value of the minimum lease payments, if lower). The asset recognised is matched by a liability for the obligation to pay the lessor. Initial direct costs of the Council are added to the carrying amount of the asset. Premiums paid on entry into a lease are applied to writing down the lease liability. Contingent rents are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

Lease payments are apportioned between:

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

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

The Council is not required to raise Council Tax to cover depreciation or revaluation and impairment losses arising on leased assets. Instead, a prudent annual contribution is made from revenue funds towards the deemed capital investment in accordance with statutory requirements. Depreciation and revaluation and impairment losses are therefore substituted by a revenue contribution in the General Fund Balance, by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

▪ Operating Leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as an expense of the services benefitting from use of the leased property, plant or equipment. Charges are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease, unless another systematic basis is more representative of the benefits received by the Council.

The Council as Lessor

▪ Finance Leases

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), and
- Finance income (credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure 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 of 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 fixed assets is fully provided for under separate arrangements for capital financing. Amounts are therefore transferred 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.

xv. Overheads and Support Services

Central support costs, excluding service level agreements, are not apportioned to departments for purposes of internal management accounts or for the Statement of Accounts but are aggregated and reported as expenditure against the directorate incurring the expenditure. Statutory regulations require separate financial accounts to be maintained in respect of Schools (funded by DSG) and the HRA. Recharges to these statutory accounts are included within the internal management accounts and recognised in the CIES within net cost of services.

xvi. Property, Plant and Equipment

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

Recognition

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 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.

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

- Community assets - depreciated historical cost. This is a modified form of historical cost as opening balances for highways infrastructure assets were originally recorded in the balance sheet at the amount of capital

undischarged for sums borrowed as at 1 April 1994 which was deemed at that time to be a historical cost;

- Assets under construction – historical cost;
- Dwellings - current value, determined using the basis of existing use value for social housing (EUV-SH);
- Surplus assets – current value measurement base is fair value, estimated at highest and best use from a market participant's perspective (see Investment Property for further details on Fair Value Measurements);
- School buildings – current value, but because of their specialist nature, are measured at depreciated replacement cost which is used as an estimate of current value;
- All other assets - fair 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 specialist nature of an asset, depreciated replacement cost (DRC) is used as an estimate of current value.

Where non-property assets have short useful lives, low value, 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 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, 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 that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains).
- Where there is no balance in the Revaluation Reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where an impairment loss is 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 recognised.

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 – straight line allocation over the useful life of the property;
- Other buildings – straight line allocation over the useful life of the property;
- Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment – straight line allocation over the useful life of the asset.

Revaluation gains are also depreciated, with an amount equal to the difference between current depreciation charged and the depreciation that would have been chargeable based on the historical cost of the assets. The difference is

transferred from the Revaluation Reserve to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Component Accounting

The Code requires that each part of an item of Property, Plant and Equipment with a cost that is significant in relation to the total asset cost is depreciated separately. A significant part of an item of Property, Plant and Equipment may have a useful life and a depreciation method that are the same as the useful life and the depreciation method of another significant part of that same item. Such parts may be grouped in determining the depreciation charge.

The following asset classes will not be considered for componentisation:

- Equipment – as considered immaterial;
- Asset classes that are not depreciated – such as land, investment property, surplus assets, community assets and assets held for sale.

Componentisation of the remaining assets within in the Council's operational portfolio is considered as follows;

- **General Fund** - The Council will only consider assets with cost or fair value above £8m for component depreciation and then will only separate components with a cost or fair value of more than 20% of the individual asset for component depreciation.
- **HRA**- The Council will only consider HRA assets with cost or fair value above £450,000 for component depreciation and then will only separate components with a cost of or fair value of more than 20% of the individual asset for component depreciation.

Disposals and Non-Current Assets Held for Sale

When it becomes probable that the carrying amount of an asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through its continuing use, it is reclassified as an Asset Held for Sale. The asset is revalued immediately before reclassification and then carried at the lower of this amount and fair value less costs to sell. Where there is a subsequent decrease to fair value less costs to sell, the loss is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Gains in fair value are recognised only up to the amount of any previously losses recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services.

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

Assets that are to be abandoned or scrapped are not reclassified as Assets Held for Sale. 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 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). 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 receipts relating to housing disposals are payable to the Government. The balance of receipts is required to be credited to the Capital Receipts Reserve and can then only be used for new capital investment or set aside to reduce the Council's underlying need to borrow (the capital financing requirement). 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.

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 property fund holdings 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 its highest and best use.

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

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

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

xvii. Highways infrastructure assets

Highways infrastructure assets

Highways infrastructure assets include carriageways, footways and cycle tracks, structures (eg bridges), street lighting, street furniture (e.g. illuminated traffic signals, bollards), traffic management systems and land which together form a single integrated network.

Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition or replacement of components of the network is capitalised on an accrual basis, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the authority and the cost of the item can be measured reliably.

Measurement

Highways infrastructure assets are generally measured at depreciated historical cost. However, this is a modified form of historical cost – opening balances for highways infrastructure assets were originally recorded in balance sheets at amounts of capital undischarged for sums borrowed as at 1st April 1994, which was deemed at that time to be historical cost.

Where impairment losses are identified, they are accounted for by the carrying amount of the asset being written down to the recoverable amount.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on the parts of the highways network infrastructure assets that are subject to deterioration or depletion and by the systematic allocation of their depreciable amounts over their useful lives. Depreciation is charged on a straight-line basis.

Annual depreciation is the depreciation amount allocated each year.

Part of the highways network	Useful life
Carriageways	20 years
Footways and cycle tracks	20 years
Structures (bridges, tunnels and underpasses)	100 years
Street lighting	25 years
Street furniture	15 years
Traffic management systems	10 years

In accordance with the temporary relief offered by the Update to the Code on infrastructure assets gross cost and accumulated depreciation for infrastructure assets are not disclosed. This is because historical reporting practices and resultant information deficits mean that the asset position would not be faithfully represented to the users of the financial statements.

Disposals and derecognition

When a component of the network is disposed of or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the component in the Balance Sheet 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. Any receipts from disposals are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, also as part of the gain or loss on disposal, netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal.

The written-off amounts of disposals are 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 transferred to the capital adjustment account from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Where capital expenditure is incurred to replace parts of the highways network, it is assumed (as allowed by Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003 (Regulation 30M)) that the assets replaced will be fully depreciated and their derecognition requires no adjustment to the carrying (or net) balance of infrastructure assets. This is because, to a material extent, infrastructure assets are replaced only when they have been fully consumed.

xviii. 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.

xix. 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 contracts for no additional charge, the Council carries the assets used under the contracts on its Balance Sheet as part of Property, Plant and Equipment.

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

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 four 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 8.16% on the outstanding Balance Sheet liability, debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement,
- Contingent rent – increases in the amount to be paid for the property arising during the contract, debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement,
- 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).

xx. 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 example, 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 in the year that the Council becomes aware of the 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 a note to the accounts.

▪ **Contingent Assets**

A contingent asset arises where an event has taken place that gives the Council a possible asset whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council. Contingent assets are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts where it is probable that there will be an inflow of economic benefits or service potential.

xxi. Reserves

The Council sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. Reserves are created by appropriating amounts out of the General Fund Balance. 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 the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The reserve is then appropriated 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 and retirement and employee benefits and do not represent usable resources for the Council – the reasons for these reserves are explained in the relevant policies.

xxii. 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.

xxiii. Rounding

It is not the Council's policy to adjust for immaterial cross-casting differences between the main statements and disclosure notes.

xxiv. Schools

All maintained schools in the borough are considered to be entities controlled by the Council. The Council's single entity financial statements include the income, expenditure, assets, liabilities, reserves and cashflows of maintained schools. Recognition of non-current assets used by maintained schools are determined in accordance with the relevant standards adopted in the Code. The Council has the following types of maintained schools under its control:

- Community Schools;
- Voluntary Aided Schools;
- Foundation Schools.

School's non-current assets are recognised on the Balance Sheet where the Council directly owns the assets, where the Council owns the balance of control of the assets, or where the school or the school governing body own the assets or have had rights to use the assets transferred to them.

Community Schools are owned by the Council and are therefore recognised on the Balance Sheet.

The Council's Voluntary Aided Schools are mainly owned by the respective Diocese / religious bodies, with the school or governing body having no formal right to the assets as use is through licence arrangements. These schools are therefore not recognised on the Balance Sheet.

Where the ownership of a Foundation School lies with the school or school governing body the school is recognised on

the Balance Sheet.

The PFI School is recognised on the Balance Sheet as it is considered that the Council controls the asset through the PFI arrangement.

xxv. Value Added Tax (VAT)

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

2. Accounting Standards that have been issued but 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 which has been issued but is yet to be adopted in the relevant year (2022/23 Code).

The Code also requires that changes in accounting policy are to be applied retrospectively unless transitional arrangements are specified, this would result in an impact on disclosures spanning two financial years.

Accounting changes that are introduced by the 2023/24 code are:

- Definition of Accounting Estimates (Amendments to IAS 8) issued in February 2021.
- Disclosure of Accounting Policies (Amendments to IAS 1 and IFRS Practice Statement 2) issued in February 2021.
- Updating a Reference to the Conceptual Framework (Amendments to IFRS 3) issued in May 2020.

Accounting changes introduced by the 2024/25 code will include:

- IFRS16 Leases. The Code allows voluntary implementation of IFRS16 prior to 2024/25. The Council has decided to implement IFRS16 in 2024/25.

There are no accounting changes introduced by the 2023/24 Code that are anticipated to have a material impact on the accounts.

3. Critical Judgements in applying Accounting Policies

In applying accounting policies laid out in Note 1, the Council has had to make certain critical judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. The following management judgements have the most significant effect on the financial statements. Critical estimation uncertainties are described in note 4.

Accounting for Schools – Balance Sheet Recognition

The Council recognises school assets for Community schools and Foundation schools on its Balance Sheet. The Council has not recognised non-current assets relating to Voluntary Aided schools or Academies as it is of the opinion that these assets are not controlled by the Council.

Accounting for Schools - Academies

When a school that is held on the Council's Balance Sheet transfers to Academy status, the Council accounts for this as a disposal for nil consideration on the date the school converts to Academy status, rather than as an impairment on the date approval to transfer to Academy status is announced. One maintained school (Downshall Primary School) transferred to Academy status in 2002/23.

PFI Contract - Oak Park High School

The Council is deemed to control the services provided under the PFI contract with NU Schools to provide a secondary school, Oaks Park High School, and also to control the residual value of the school at the end of the agreement. The accounting policies for PFI schemes and similar contracts have been applied to the arrangement and the school is recognised within Property, Plant and Equipment on the Council's Balance Sheet.

Funding

The Council anticipates that the pressures on public expenditure will continue to be severe. These pressures will be mitigated by further service area and corporate savings and a limited use of reserves. Consequently, the Council is of the view that the level of uncertainty is not yet sufficient to provide an indication that the assets of the Council might be impaired as a result of a need to close facilities and reduce levels of service provision.

Group Boundaries

The Council's interests in subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures that are within the group boundary were identified. The Council has made the judgement that the impact of the operations of the entities that fall within the group boundary are not material. The preparation of group accounts is not therefore required.

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 considering historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates.

The items in the Council's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2023 for which there are significant risks of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Arrears – At 31 March 2023, the Council had a balance of short term debtors of £139.087m. A review of significant balances, which in general are based on policies adapted to historic experience and success rates of collection, suggested that an impairment allowance for doubtful debts of £42.490m is appropriate. However, it is not certain that such an allowance would be sufficient, especially in the current economic climate. If collection rates were to deteriorate, the Council would need to review its policies on the calculation of its impairment allowance for doubtful debts.

Calculation of the Amortised Cost of RPI-Linked Bond - The Council accounts for its RPI-linked bond financial liability as a floating rate instrument at amortised cost. In estimating future RPI for the calculation of amortised cost, the Council uses current market projections for 5 years published by the Office for Budget Responsibility (subject to a 5% cap) and an RPI of 2.5% thereafter

Pensions Liability - Estimates of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements including those relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, the rate at which pensions are projected to increase, longevity 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 pension's liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured e.g. a 0.5% decrease in the discount rate would increase the net liability by £16.128m, a 0.5% increase in the salary increase rate would increase the net liability by £1.103m and a 0.5% increase in the pension increase rate would add £15.273m to the net liability. However, the assumptions interact in complex ways. As at 31 March 2023, the Council's actuaries advised that the net pension's liability had decreased by £272.513m (2021/22 – increased by £74.292m), as a result of updating estimates to reflect current market conditions.

Property, Plant and Equipment and Investment Property – The requirements of the Code specify that the carrying amount of non-current assets should not differ materially from those that would be determined using the fair value at year end. To meet this requirement, asset valuations are based on market prices and are periodically reviewed to ensure that the Council does not materially misstate its non-current assets. The Council's external valuers provided valuations annually as at 31 March 2023 for the Council's investment portfolio, and other operational portfolios on a five-year rolling programme. Valuations are provided more frequently where there is an indication of a material change in fair value.

Of the £1,762m net book value property, plant and equipment subject to valuation, the main elements are:

- £339m of council dwellings - these are valued as existing use value for social housing and are deemed to be less impacted by any material uncertainty.
- £1,223m of specialist assets valued at depreciated replacement cost. We expect these assets to have a lower risk of material misstatement, as valuations are not based on movements in the market but on the cost to the Council of replacing the service potential of the assets.
- £159m of asset valued at existing use value. These assets have a higher risk of valuation uncertainty as a result of the impact of COVID-19. A reduction in value of 5% would result in valuations being £8m lower than stated.

The Council also holds Investment Properties to the value of £139.9m which are subject to an annual fair value revaluation adjustment. £81.5m of this relates to properties that are categorised at relatively high risk of valuation uncertainty. A reduction in value of 5% would result in valuations being £4.1m lower than stated.

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 assets falls. It is estimated that a one-year reduction in the useful life of buildings would increase the annual depreciation charge by 2%. If funding streams were reduced, in so far that it results in the reduction of service delivery or closure of facilities, this could result in the impairment of assets due to obsolescence. However, the Council has determined that the level of uncertainty at this time is not sufficient to indicate this course of action.

Business Rates

Under the Business Rate Retention Scheme, the Council retains 30%, £14.438m (£17.449m 2021/22), of the business rates income it collects. Redbridge also receives a top-up of £34.047m (£34.047m 2021/22) from the business rates retention

scheme because its business rates income is not sufficient to meet the cost of services, as assessed by the Government.

The Council has made a provision for the cost of expected future successful business rate appeals to the end of March 2023 including an assessment for appeals not yet made; the provision is based on the Government's estimated allowance for lost income due to appeals in the business rate multipliers reduced by the rateable value reduction of successful appeals.

The Council has calculated that a total provision of £3.207m, (£12.074m 2021/22) calculated using Valuation Office data, historical experience, and Government assumptions available at the end of the reporting period should be adequate to meet future potential appeal claims. The Council's 30% share of the provision is £962k (comparable to £3.622m in 2021/22). This provision may not be sufficient to meet claims arising if greater success rates are achieved than allowed for.

The Council's overall financial losses are protected by the 7.5% national safety net. The Council's loss is capped at approximately £4.0m (7.5% of £53.4m Baseline Funding Level).

5. Material Items of Income and Expenditure

All material items of income and expenditure are disclosed in their respective notes throughout the accounts.

6. Events after the Reporting Period

The Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Corporate Director of Resources on the 05 December 2024. 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 2023, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information.

7. Expenditure and Funding Analysis

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis (EFA) 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 / Services / Departments. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Reconciliation of outturn to statutory requirements

2022/23	Outturn	Use of Reserves	Other	EFA
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Directorate				
Communities	26,174	(232)	-	25,943
People	127,345	(4,038)	(10,474)	112,832
Regeneration & Culture	9,480	(1,229)	-	8,251
Resources	12,506	(2,233)	-	10,273
Strategy	11,211	672	-	11,883
Corporate	14,641	2,363	(8,784)	8,220
HRA	(279)	33	15,872	15,626
Cost of Services	201,078	(4,664)	(3,386)	193,028
Other Income and Expenditure	(201,605)	3,076	3,386	(195,143)
Surplus	(527)	(1,588)	-	(2,115)

Expenditure and Funding Analysis 2022/23

	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balance	Total Adjustments between the funding and accounting basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
	£000	£000	£000
Communities	25,943	19,737	45,680
People	112,832	27,224	140,056
Regeneration & Culture	8,251	8,499	16,750
Resources	10,273	6,233	16,506
Strategy	11,883	618	12,501
Corporate	8,220	30	8,250
HRA	15,626	5,696	21,322
Net Cost of Services	193,028	68,037	261,065
Other (Income) and Expenditure	(195,143)	(53,905)	(249,048)
Deficit	(2,115)	14,132	12,017
Opening General Fund and HRA Balance	(152,917)		
Surplus on General Fund and HRA Balance in year	(2,115)		
Closing General Fund and HRA Balance as at 31 March 2023*	(155,032)		

* For a split of this balance between the General Fund and the HRA – see the Movement in Reserves Statement and note 9

Reconciliation of outturn to statutory requirements

2021/22	Outturn	Use of Reserves	Other	EFA
Directorate	£000	£000	£000	£000
Communities	23,477	3,182	-	26,659
People	112,233	2,078	-	114,311
Regeneration & Culture	8,858	396	-	9,254
Resources	15,477	1,871	-	17,348
Strategy	4,365	(95)	-	4,270
Corporate	28,319	(14,965)	(2,593)	10,761
HRA	7,944	(8,199)	(3,024)	(3,279)
Cost of Services	200,673	(15,732)	(5,617)	179,324
Other Income and Expenditure	(194,318)	(64)	5,617	(188,765)
Surplus	6,355	(15,796)	-	(9,441)

Expenditure and Funding Analysis

2021/22

	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balance	Total Adjustments between the funding and accounting basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
	£000	£000	£000
Communities	26,659	18,532	45,191
People	114,311	17,831	132,142
Regeneration & Culture	9,254	13,517	22,771
Resources	17,348	6,592	23,940
Strategy	4,270	(28)	4,242
Corporate	10,761	(200)	10,561
HRA	(3,279)	5,807	2,528
Net Cost of Services	179,324	62,051	241,375
Other (Income) and Expenditure	(188,765)	(67,751)	(256,516)
Surplus	(9,441)	(5,700)	(15,141)
Opening General Fund and HRA Balance	(143,476)		
Surplus on General Fund and HRA Balance in year	(9,441)		
Closing General Fund and HRA Balance as at 31 March 2022 *	(152,917)		

* For a split of this balance between the General Fund and the HRA – see the Movement in Reserves Statement and note 9

7 (a) Adjustment between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis – Expenditure and Funding Analysis

2022/23

	Adjustment for capital purposes	Net charges for the Pension Fund Adjustments	Other Differences Statutory	Other Differences Non-Statutory	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Communities	17,305	4,025	(138)	(1,455)	19,737
People	9,747	17,373	301	(197)	27,224
Regeneration & Culture	7,695	871	(67)	-	8,499
Resources	3,165	3,211	(83)	(60)	6,233
Strategy	-	517	105	(4)	618
Corporate	-	215	1	(186)	30
HRA	4,605	1,062	29	-	5,696
Net Cost of Services	42,517	27,274	148	(1,902)	68,037
Other (Income) and Expenditure	(60,139)	11,954	(7,622)	1,902	(53,905)
(Surplus)/Deficit	(17,622)	39,228	(7,474)	-	14,132

2021/22

	Adjustment for capital purposes	Net charges for the Pension Fund Adjustments	Other Differences Statutory	Other Differences Non- Statutory	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Communities	14,089	3,922	155	366	18,532
People	8,507	19,425	765	(10,866)	17,831
Regeneration & Culture	4,824	1,301	29	7,363	13,517
Resources	2,409	4,170	8	5	6,592
Strategy	(12)	20	(36)	-	(28)
Corporate	-	184	-	(384)	(200)
HRA	5,378	962	(55)	(478)	5,807
Net Cost of Services	35,195	29,984	866	(3,994)	62,051
Other (Income) and Expenditure	(78,374)	10,527	(3,130)	3,226	(67,751)
(Surplus)/Deficit	(43,179)	40,511	(2,264)	(768)	(5,700)

Adjustments for Capital Purposes

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

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

Net Change for the Pension Adjustments

Net Change for the removals of pension contributions and the addition of IAS 19 Employee Benefits Pension related Income and Expenditure:

- For services this represents the removal of the employer pension contributions made by the Council as allowed by statute and the replacement with current service costs and past service costs.
- For Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure – the net interest on the defined benefit liability is charged to the CIES.

Other Statutory Adjustments

Other differences between amounts debited/credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and amounts payable/receivable to be recognised under statute:

- For Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure the other differences column recognises adjustments to the General Fund for the timing differences for premiums and discounts.
- The charge under Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income and Expenditure represents the difference between what is chargeable under statutory regulations for council tax and NDR that was projected to be received at the start of the year and the income recognised under generally accepted accounting practices in the Code. This is a timing difference as any difference will be brought forward in future Surpluses or Deficits on the Collection Fund.

Other Non-Statutory Adjustments

Other non-statutory adjustments represent amounts debited/credited to service segments which need to be adjusted against the 'Other income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding analysis' line to comply with the presentational requirements in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:

- For Financing and investment income and expenditure the other non-statutory adjustments column recognises adjustments to service segments, e.g. for interest income and expenditure and for rental and expenses incurred on investment properties.

7 (b) Expenditure and Income Analysed by Category

2021/22	Expenditure/(Income)	2022/23
Total £000		Total £000
	Expenditure	
358,797	Employee Benefits Expenses	368,075
491,891	Other Services Expenses	466,738
49,273	Depreciation, Amortisation, Impairment	64,502
21,052	Interest and Financing Payments	22,880
13,560	Precept and Levies	19,651
794	Payments to Housing Capital Receipts Pool	-
4,833	Loss on the disposal of assets	19,996
940,200	Total Expenditure	961,842
	Income	
(138,837)	Fees, Charges and Other Service Income	(129,690)
(57,836)	Interest and Investment Income	(12,656)
(173,928)	Income from Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates	(182,298)
(584,740)	Government Grants and Contribution	(625,181)
(955,341)	Total Income	(949,825)
(15,141)	(Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services	12,017

8. 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. The following sets out a description of the reserves that the adjustments are made against.

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

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Balance – The Housing Revenue Account Balance reflects the statutory obligation to maintain a revenue account for Local Authority Council housing provision in accordance with Part VI of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. It contains the balance of income and expenditure as defined by the 1989 Act that is available to fund future expenditure in connection with the Council's landlord function.

Major Repairs Reserve – The Council is required to maintain the Major Repairs Reserve, which controls an element of the capital resources limited to being used on capital expenditure by the HRA. The balance shows the capital resources that have yet to be applied at year end.

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

Capital Grants Unapplied – The Capital Grants Unapplied Account holds the grants and contributions received towards capital projects for which the Council has met the conditions that would otherwise require repayment of the monies but which have yet to be applied to meet expenditure. The balance is restricted by grant terms as to the capital expenditure against which it can be applied and/or the financial year in which this can take place.

Unusable Reserves – Non-cash backed reserves that are used to record unrealised gains and losses, and other adjustment accounts to absorb the difference between the outcome of applying proper accounting practices and the requirements of statutory arrangements for funding expenditure.

2022/23

	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:						
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(28,661)	(5,453)	-	-	-	34,144
Revaluation Gains/ (losses) on Property, Plant and Equipment	(1,869)	(24,590)	-	-	-	22,721
Movements in the market value of Investment Properties	5,086	-	-	-	-	(5,086)
Amortisation of intangible assets	(2,214)	-	-	-	-	2,214
Capital Grants and Contributions applied	-	-	-	-	53,802	(53,802)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(4,811)	-	-	-	-	4,811
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	(20,561)	(8,875)	-	-	-	29,276
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	12,951	-	-	-	-	(12,951)
Capital expenditure charged in year to the General Fund and HRA Balances	1,615	728	-	-	-	(2,343)
Capital Grants and Contributions Unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	60,205	19,104	-	-	(79,309)	-
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of gains/losses on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	247	9,033	(9,280)	-	-	-
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-	-	5,018	-	-	(5,018)
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance the payments to the Government's capital receipts pool	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital receipts received in respect of repayment of grants, advances and distributions	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve towards administrative costs on non-current asset disposals	-	(165)	165	-	-	-
Transfer from deferred capital receipts reserve upon receipt of cash	-	-	(1)	-	-	1
Reversal of Major Repairs Allowance	-	5,453	-	-	-	(5,453)
Financial Instruments – revaluation of pooled investments	(3,499)	-	-	-	-	3,499
Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements.	43	-	-	-	-	(43)
Amount by which Council Tax and non-domestic rate income credited/debited to the CIES is different from Council Tax and non-domestic rate income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	7,579	-	-	-	-	(7,579)
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(66,174)	(1,841)	-	-	-	68,015
Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in year	28,008	779	-	-	-	(28,787)
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(119)	(30)	-	-	-	149
Total Adjustments	(8,436)	(5,697)	(4,098)	-	(25,507)	43,738

2021/22- Comparative Figures

	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:						
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(25,117)	(5,145)	-	-	-	30,262
Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	(1,719)	(10,662)	-	-	-	12,381
Movements in the market value of Investment Properties	45,616	-	-	-	-	(45,616)
Amortisation of intangible assets	(1,485)	-	-	-	-	1,485
Capital Grants and Contributions applied	-	-	-	-	32,890	(32,890)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(3,513)	-	-	-	-	3,513
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	(4,696)	(11,368)	-	-	-	16,064
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	12,262	-	-	-	-	(12,262)
Capital expenditure charged in year to the General Fund and HRA Balances	2,017	5,594	-	-	-	(7,611)
Capital Grants and Contributions Unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	20,775	2,804	-	-	(23,579)	-
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of gains/losses on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	1,928	9,303	(11,231)	-	-	-
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-	-	5,637	-	-	(5,637)
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance the payments to the Government's capital receipts pool	(794)	-	794	-	-	-
Capital receipts received in respect of repayment of grants, advances and distributions	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve towards administrative costs on non-current asset disposals	-	(165)	165	-	-	-
Reversal of Major Repairs Allowance	-	-	(1)	-	-	1
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-	5,145	-	-	-	(5,145)
Financial Instruments – revaluation of pooled investments	3,169	-	-	-	-	(3,169)
Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements.	42	-	-	-	-	(42)
Amount by which Council Tax and non-domestic rate income credited/debited to the CIES is different from Council Tax and non-domestic rate income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	3,087	-	-	-	-	(3,087)
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(65,413)	(2,133)	-	-	-	67,546
Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in year	26,198	837	-	-	-	(27,035)
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(922)	55	-	-	-	867
Total Adjustments	11,435	(5,735)	(4,636)	-	9,311	(10,375)

9. Transfers to/from Reserves and Balances

The note sets out the amounts set aside from General Fund and HRA balances and the movement on these balances. The General Fund balance is a sum held centrally for unavoidable cost increases and other unforeseen items and spending pressures and therefore acts as the Council's financial safety net. Earmarked reserves are set aside to provide financing for future expenditure plans. HRA balances and reserves are ring-fenced and are not available to the General Fund.

	Balance at 31 March 2021 £000	Net Transfers £000	Balance at 31 March 2022 £000	Net Transfers £000	Balance at 31 March 2023 £000
General Fund:					
General Fund Balance	19,571	1,589	21,160	248	21,408
Total	19,571	1,589	21,160	248	21,408
Earmarked Reserves					
Business Risk Reserve	19,572	1,589	21,161	249	21,410
Insurance Fund Reserve	11,902	(419)	11,483	(763)	10,720
Business Rates Smoothing Reserve	13,372	(3,248)	10,124	(4,952)	5,172
Operational Risk Reserve	2,448	5,251	7,699	(1,725)	5,974
Pension Fund Reserve	6,000	-	6,000	-	6,000
Invest to Save Reserve	1,446	(549)	897	1,000	1,897
Treasury Smoothing Reserve	2,000	750	2,750	750	3,500
Commercial Income Smoothing Reserve	1,101	1,500	2,601	-	2,601
Transformation Reserve	222	2,100	2,322	(325)	1,997
Governance Reserve	1,000	1,000	2,000	-	2,000
Capital Reserve	62	1,012	1,074	(1)	1,073
Other Corporate Reserves	4,558	2,712	7,270	(1,373)	5,897
Service Directorate Reserves	3,105	277	3,382	412	3,794
Schools Balances	25,544	2,032	27,576	(1,633)	25,943
Dedicated Schools Grant	448	1,420	1,868	6,055	7,923
Total	92,780	15,427	108,207	(2,306)	105,901
Revenue Grants and Contributions Unapplied	13,841	(7,830)	6,011	3,928	9,939
Total	126,192	9,186	135,378	1,870	137,248
Housing Revenue Account					
HRA Balance	14,696	(7,944)	6,752	278	7,030
Total	14,696	(7,944)	6,752	278	7,030
HRA Earmarked Reserves					
	2,588	8,199	10,787	(33)	10,754
Total	17,284	255	17,539	245	17,784
Total General Fund and HRA Reserves and Balances	143,476	9,441	152,917	2,115	155,032

Purpose of Earmarked Reserves and Balances

The **Business Risk Reserve** is intended to cover unforeseen future events which have adverse financial consequences.

The **Insurance Fund Reserve** is resources set aside to provide for unquantified insurance claims that may be settled in the future.

The **Business Rates Smoothing Reserve** has been set up as a one-off short term resource to meet reductions in income and funding shortfalls resulting from the increasing demand for local services.

The **Operational Risk Reserve** has been established to mitigate short term risks, including where there is potential that one-off growth will be required in services but not allocated to that service in the budget.

The **Pension Fund Reserve** has been established to meet future employer contributions.

The **Minor Corporate Reserve** has been established to fund minor one-off corporate initiatives.

The **Treasury Smoothing Reserve** has been established to allow for the fluctuation of returns on treasury investments between years.

The **Commercial Income Smoothing Reserve** has been established to allow for the fluctuation of investment returns between years.

The **Transformation Reserve** has been established to contribute to costs of future transformation programmes.

The **Governance Reserve** has been established to fund projects around governance.

The **Capital Reserve** has been established to fund spend relating to capital projects

Other Corporate Reserves comprise a number of smaller reserves to finance corporate initiatives.

Service Directorate Reserves comprise a number of earmarked reserves to finance service area plans.

School Balances are resources delegated to schools that will be used to fund future expenditure.

The **Dedicated Schools Grant Reserve** is a ring-fenced reserve that 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.

10. Other Operating Expenditure

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
13,560	Levies	19,651
794	Payments to the Government Housing Capital Receipts Pool	-
4,833	(Gains)/Losses on the disposal of non-current assets	19,996
19,187	Total	39,647

11. Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
10,525	Interest payable and similar charges	10,591
10,527	Net interest on the net defined benefit liability	12,288
(1,147)	Interest receivable and similar income	(5,814)
(52,806)	Income and expenditure in relation to investment properties and changes in their fair value	(12,051)
(3,169)	(Gains)-losses on pooled investments	3,499
346	Impairment allowances	2,567
(35,724)	Total	11,080

12. Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
(128,657)	Council Tax Income	(132,537)
(45,271)	Non- domestic rates income and expenditure	(49,762)
(42,472)	Non-ring-fenced government grants	(38,168)
(23,579)	Capital grants and contributions	(79,309)
(239,979)	Total	(299,776)

13. Property, Plant and Equipment

Movements in 2022/23

	Council Dwellings	Other Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment	Community Assets	Surplus Assets	Assets under Construction	Total Property, Plant and Equipment	PFI Assets included in property, Plant and Equipment
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost or Valuation								
At 1 April 2022	328,770	1,361,499	32,695	8,749	19,028	32,994	1,783,735	42,287
Adjustments	-	(16)	-	-	-	-	(16)	-
Additions	34,258	16,350	7,227	1,818	188	24,682	84,523	300
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	5,081	41,304	-	-	7,639	-	54,024	5,598
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Surplus (Deficit) on the provision of services	(25,533)	1,109	-	-	243	-	(24,181)	-
Derecognition- Disposals	-	(21,030)	(1,153)	-	-	-	(22,183)	-
Reclassification	(3,564)	(3,143)	-	1,290	(11,101)	7,966	(8,552)	-
At 31 March 2023	339,012	1,396,073	38,769	11,857	15,997	65,642	1,867,350	48,185
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment								
At 1 April 2022	5	2,338	14,014	6,687	1	-	23,045	-
Depreciation charge	5,373	13,116	4,733	547	62	-	23,831	846
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	(4,430)	(12,089)	-	-	(76)	-	(16,595)	(846)
Depreciation written out to the Surplus (Deficit) on the provision of services	(943)	(520)	-	-	-	-	(1,463)	-
Derecognition- Disposals	(5)	(382)	(1,169)	-	-	-	(1,556)	-
Other movements	-	(13)	-	-	13	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	-	2,450	17,578	7,234	-	-	27,262	-
At 31 March 2023	339,012	1,393,623	21,191	4,623	15,997	65,642	1,840,088	48,185
At 31 March 2022	328,765	1,359,161	18,681	2,062	19,027	32,994	1,760,690	42,287

**Comparative figures
2021/22**

	Council Dwellings	Other Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment	Community Assets	Surplus Assets	Assets under Construction	Total Property, Plant and Equipment	PFI Assets included in property, Plant and Equipment
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost or Valuation								
At 1 April 2021	310,636	1,291,574	27,355	8,749	14,839	17,226	1,670,380	40,587
Additions	9,101	25,062	5,750	-	123	26,295	66,331	608
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	21,805	38,510	-	-	1,845	-	62,160	1,092
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Surplus (Deficit) on the provision of services	(11,608)	(1,599)	-	-	(796)	-	(14,003)	-
Derecognition- Disposals	(2,151)	(670)	(410)	-	-	(3)	(3,234)	-
Reclassification	987	8,610	-	-	3,017	(10,525)	2,089	-
Other Movements	-	12	-	-	-	-	12	-
At 31 March 2022	328,770	1,361,499	32,695	8,749	19,028	32,994	1,783,735	42,287
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment								
At 1 April 2021	-	2,463	9,830	6,205	-	-	18,498	-
Depreciation charge	5,067	10,991	4,577	482	55	-	21,172	688
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	(4,189)	(10,510)	-	-	(55)	-	(14,754)	(688)
Depreciation written out to the Surplus (Deficit) on the provision of services	(832)	(593)	-	-	-	-	(1,425)	-
Derecognition- Disposals	(41)	(12)	(393)	-	-	-	(446)	-
Other movements	-	(1)	-	-	1	-	-	-
At 31 March 2022	5	2,338	14,014	6,687	1	-	23,045	-
At 31 March 2022	328,765	1,359,161	18,681	2,062	19,027	32,994	1,760,690	42,287
At 31 March 2021	310,636	1,289,111	17,525	2,544	14,839	17,227	1,651,882	40,587

Fair Value Measurement of Surplus Assets

Details of surplus assets and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 31 March 2023, are as follows:

Recurring Fair Value measurement use 31 March 2023	Quoted price for similar assets in active market
	Level 2 £000
Surplus Buildings	3,575
Surplus Land	12,422
Total	15,997

March 2022 - Comparative Figures:

Recurring Fair Value measurement use 31 March 2022	Quoted price for similar assets in active market
	Level 2 £000
Surplus Buildings	3,064
Surplus Land	15,963
Total	19,027

Highways Network Infrastructure Assets

	2021/22	2022/23
	Infrastructure Assets £000	Infrastructure Assets £000
Net Book Value		
At 1 April 2022	98,758	93,594
Additions and Enhancement	6,757	5,727
Derecognition - Other	(2,984)	218
Depreciation	(8,937)	(10,281)
At 31 March 2023	93,594	89,257

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method over the useful lives as follows:

- Buildings (excluding Council dwellings) – maximum 70 years
- Council dwellings - 52 years.
- Community assets: maximum period of 35 years
- Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment: - between 5 and 16 years.
- Infrastructure assets: - maximum period of 60 years

Capital Commitments

As at 31 March 2023, the Council was committed to a number of capital projects amounting to £119.928m. Similar commitments at 31 March 2022 were £17.077m. Schemes due to be completed in the next three years are shown below:

	2022/23	Year of completion
	£000	
Regeneration		
Schools – Wanstead High School	6.840	2023/24
Wanstead Swimming Pool	3.433	2023/24
Housing Development Programme – Clements Road	2,595	2023/24
Housing HRA		
Housing Development Programme – Loxford Lane	0.958	2025/26
Affordable Housing	105.057	2025/26

Revaluations

Freehold and Leasehold properties, which comprise the Council's property portfolio, are valued on a five-year rolling basis by its Appointed Contractors, Wilks Head & Eve LLP. Valuations have been undertaken in accordance with the RICS Appraisal and Valuation Standards published by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, except those not considered by the valuer to be necessary for the purposes of the valuation. Plant and Machinery that are normally associated with a building, such as lifts, have been reflected in the valuation.

At 31 March 2023 a review is undertaken to ensure that property values are materially correct. This resulted in an increase revaluation of £70.464m in net revaluation reserves. These are detailed in Note 13 (movement in PPE) under revaluation gains & losses as at 31 March 2023 and recognised in Surplus/ Deficit on provision of services.

Properties regarded by the Council as operational or pending future operational use are valued on a Fair Value Existing Use Value basis. Where these methods could not be utilised, due to a lack of suitable market evidence or if the property was of a specialised nature, then a Depreciated Replacement Cost basis of valuation was adopted, in accordance with the relevant professional guidance applicable as at the valuation date.

In accordance with IFRS13 valuation of non-operational (surplus) assets and investment properties were based on Fair value and categorised as either level 1 inputs, level 2 inputs or level 3 inputs. Properties regarded by the Council as being either Community Assets or Infrastructure Assets have not been valued as part of this Asset Valuation exercise.

Valuations are carried out by London Borough of Redbridge’s in-house chartered surveyors and valuers, and Wilks Head & Eve LLP, Chartered Surveyors and Town Planners. The basis for valuation is set out in the statement of accounting policies.

Year	Portfolio	Assets Revalued	Notes
2022-23	Housing Revenue Account	Houses, flats, community centres, garages and development sites	Annual Desktop Update
	Investment Properties	Shops, offices, storage, agricultural and gravel workings	Updated annually
	Surplus Assets	Empty Buildings and vacant sites	Updated annually
	Housing General Fund	Out of Borough housing	
	Children’s Services	Schools, school lodges, playing fields, children’s centres and nurseries	
	Adults’ Services	Day Centres and a group home	
	Libraries	Libraries	
2021-22	Housing Revenue Account	Houses, flats, community centres, garages and development sites	Annual Desktop Update
	Investment Properties	Shops, offices, storage, agricultural and gravel workings	Updated annually
	Surplus Assets	Empty Buildings and vacant sites	Updated annually
	Housing General Fund	Out of Borough housing	
	Leisure and Culture	Allotments, sports grounds, pavilions, some park buildings, community and youth centres, public conveniences, and theatre	
	Libraries	Libraries	Desktop valuation
	Children’s Services - Schools	Primary, Secondary and Special schools	Desktop valuation
	Adults’ Services	Day Centres and a group home	Desktop valuation
	Cleansing Service	Public conveniences, recycling centre and miscellaneous properties	
	Community Safety	Cemeteries	
	Facilities Management	Offices and depot	
	Highways	Car parks and storage	
2020-21	Housing Revenue Account	Houses, flats, community centres, garages and development sites	Full Revaluation
	Investment Properties	Shops, offices, storage, agricultural and gravel workings	Updated annually
	Surplus Assets	Empty Buildings and vacant sites	Updated annually
	Housing General Fund	Hostels and non-stock housing	
	Leisure and Culture (Vision leased)	All leisure properties leased to Vision – Redbridge, Culture and Leisure	Other leisure properties to be valued in next cycle
	Libraries	Libraries	
2019-20	Children’s Services - Schools	Miscellaneous PPE	Other children’s services properties to be valued in next cycle
	Housing Revenue Account	Houses, flats, community centres, garages and development sites	Annual Desktop Update
	Investment Properties	Shops, offices, storage, agricultural and gravel workings	Updated annually
	Surplus Assets	Empty Buildings and vacant sites	Updated annually
2018-19	Non-Operational PPE Assets	Miscellaneous Properties not held as investment	
2018-19	Housing Revenue Account	Houses, flats, community centres, garages and development sites	Annual Desktop Update

Investment Properties	Shops, offices, storage, agricultural and gravel workings	Updated annually
Surplus Assets	Empty Buildings and vacant sites	Updated annually
Adult Social Services	Care homes, day centres and elderly persons centres	
Children's Services	Schools, school lodges, playing fields, children's centres and nurseries	

14. Investment Property

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:

	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000
Rental income from investment property	7,904	7,822
Direct operating expenses arising from investment property	(714)	(857)
Net gain	7,190	6,965

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.

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

	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000
Balance at start of the year	90,751	134,901
Enhancement	-	38
Net gain from fair value adjustments	45,616	5,086
Derecognitions	-	(149)
Other movements:		
Transfer from PPE	(1,467)	-
Balance at end of the year	134,901	139,875

Fair Value Measurement of Investment Properties

Details of the investment properties and information on the fair value hierarchy as at 31 March 2023 are as follows:

Fair Value measurement use 31 March 2023	Quoted price for similar assets in active market Level 2 £000
Land & Farms	39,422
Office Units	18,994
Commercial Units	81,459
Total	139,875

March 2022 - Comparative Figures:

Fair Value measurement use 31 March 2022	Quoted price for similar assets in active market Level 2 £000
Land & Farms	39,186
Office Units	19,303
Commercial Units	76,412
Total	134,901

15. Intangible Assets

The Council accounts for its intangible assets to the extent that they are not an integral part of a particular IT system and accounted for as part of the hardware item of Property, Plant, and Equipment. The intangible assets are purchased software licences and Cloud Computing services.

All intangible assets are given a finite useful life, based on assessments of the period that the software or Cloud Computing services are expected to be of use to the Council. The useful life assigned to intangible assets used by the Council is between five and ten years.

The carrying amount of intangible assets is amortised on a straight-line basis.

	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000
Balance at start of year:		
Gross cost amounts	7,204	9,410
Accumulated amortisation	(1,884)	(3,369)
Net carrying amount at start of year	5,320	6,041
Additions:		
Purchases	2,206	6,498
Other disposals	-	-
Amortisation for the period	(1,485)	(2,214)
Reclassification	-	184
Other changes - amortisation	-	-
Net carrying amount at end of year	6,041	10,509
Comprising:		
Gross cost amounts	9,410	16,091
Accumulated amortisation	(3,369)	(5,582)
Total	6,041	10,509

16. Impairment Losses

During 2022/23 the Council has had no impairment losses (£0 in 2021/22).

Revaluation losses on operational properties and changes in the fair value of investment properties have been disclosed elsewhere in the accounts (Note 13: Property, Plant and Equipment, Note 14: Investment Property and in the Movement in Reserves Statement).

17. Private Finance Initiative

Oaks Park High School – Scheme Details

2022/23 was the twenty first year of a 30-year PFI contract for the construction, maintenance and operation of Oaks Park Secondary School.

On 4 July 2001, the Council contracted with NU Schools for Redbridge Limited to provide a secondary school, Oaks Park High School, under a Private Finance Initiative.

Under the terms of the PFI, the Council has leased a vacant site at Barley Mow to the PFI contractor for the period of the contract – 30 years. The school reverts to the Council at the end of the period.

Under the PFI contract, the Council pays an agreed charge, which has been accounted for as outlined in the Council's Accounting Policies. At the time the contract was signed the total estimated contract payments were £65.9m to the end of the contract in January 2032. Actual payments will depend on the service provided.

The Government provides a grant of approximately £52.028m over the life of the contract. The key financial details of the scheme are detailed below: -

	£000
Total Scheme Capital Expenditure	15,999
Current residual asset value as at 31 March 2023	48,185
Residual asset value as at 31 March 2022	42,287
Estimated asset life	35 years

Property Plant and Equipment

The building used to provide services at the school is recognised on the Council's Balance Sheet. Movements in its value over the year are detailed in the analysis of the movement on the Property, Plant and Equipment in Note 13.

Payments

The Council makes an agreed payment each year 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 as at 31 March 2023 (excluding any estimation of inflation and availability / performance deductions) are as follows:

	Services Charges £000	Principal Repayments £000	Interest Payments £000	Total £000
Repayable within 1 year	1,119	735	708	2,562
Repayable in 2 to 5 years	4,477	3,617	2,152	10,246
Repayable in 6 to 9 years	4,477	4,646	763	9,886
Total	10,073	8,998	3,623	22,694

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 to the contractor for capital expenditure incurred is as follows:

	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000
Balance outstanding at start of the year	10,300	9,675
Payments during the year	(625)	(677)
Balance outstanding at year-end	9,675	8,998

18. Assets held for sale

	31 March 2022 £000	31 March 2023 £000
Property Plant & Equipment:		
Brought forward balance	12,057	990
Assets classified as held for sale	9,193	8,369
Assets declassified as held for sale	(9,815)	-
Asset sold in year	(10,445)	(8,719)
Balance at the end of the year	990	640

19. Debtors

31 March 2022 £000		31 March 2023 £000
1,596	Long Term	1,581
62	Leased Asset – Britannia Car Park	60
468	Mortgages	468
2,126	Improvement Loans	2,109
	Total	
11,248	Other	11,248
7,489	Central Government Bodies	4,477
4,670	NHS bodies	5,678
8,349	Public corporations and trading funds	933
28,143	Other Debtors:	
	Council Taxpayers	17,285
	NDR Payers	4,096
	Court Costs	2,827
	Housing Tenants	15,391
	Housing Benefit Recoveries	6,978
	VAT	5,326
	Payment in Advance	6,579
	Other Entities & Individual	69,518
105,768	Total Other	139,087
(18,552)	Less – Impairment allowance for doubtful debts	
(14,000)	Housing including Housing Benefits	(17,269)
(3,322)	Council Tax	(14,661)
(3,689)	NDR	(3,402)
	Other	(7,158)
(39,563)	Total Impairment allowance for doubtful debts	(42,490)
66,205	Total	96,597

Local Taxation Debtors

The past due but not impaired amount for local taxation (Council Tax and Non-Domestic rates can be analysed by age as follows:

31 March 2022 £000		31 March 2023 £000
2,268	Council Tax - up to 1 year	2,040
602	Council Tax – more than 1 year	584
2,870	Total Council Tax	2,624
527	NDR – up to 1 year	586
145	NDR – more than 1 year	108
672	Total NDR	694

20. Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Balance of Cash and Cash Equivalents is made up of the following elements:

31 March 2022 £000		31 March 2023 £000
25,600	Short Term Deposits	15,550
(836)	Bank Balance – L B Redbridge Pool	1,067
6,535	Bank Balance – External Accounts	5,068
31,299	Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	21,685

External Accounts are separate bank accounts held by schools that are not part of the Council's pooled banking arrangements.

21. Creditors

31 March 2022 £000		31 March 2023 £000
53,697	Central Government Bodies	14,169
4,152	Other Local Authorities inc GLA	4,688
2,359	NHS Bodies	1,985
	Other Creditors:	
7,966	Capital Creditors	6,172
3,819	Trade Creditors	7,282
2,565	Housing Prepayments	2,611
12,706	Income & Receipts Received in Advance	14,883
5,769	Housing inc B&B	18,470
5,140	Council Tax	6,492
63,989	Other Entities and Individuals	57,495
162,164	Total	134,247

22. Provisions

Short-term

	Insurance Provision £000	Audit Fees Provision £000	Redundancy and Early Retirement Provision £000	Other Provisions £000	Total £000
Balance 1 April 2022	1,300	539	261	123	2,223
Increase Provision made in 2022/23	713	-	-	111	824
Amounts used in 2022/23	(629)	(122)	(189)	-	(940)
Balance at 31 March 2023	1,384	417	72	234	2,107

Long-term

	Insurance Provision £000	NDR Appeals Provision £000	Social Care Provision £000	Total £000
Balance 1 April 2022	4,739	3,622	425	8,786
Increase (Decrease) Provision in 2022/23	270	(1,743)	-	(1,473)
Amounts used in 2022/23	-	(917)	-	(917)
Balance at 31 March 2023	5,009	962	425	6,396

Purpose:

Insurance Provision: The Council's insurance programme is designed to protect the interests of Redbridge through a structured Risk Management Framework. The programme consists of elements of retained risk (self-insurance) with the remainder of risks transferred through insurance policies to an insurance provider. The level of the provision is based on a report received from an independent actuary.

Redundancy and Early Retirement Provision: This provision has been established to meet agreed commitments relating to employee redundancy and retirements.

Audit Fees Provision: The Council has made provision for 2020/21 and 2021/22 audit fees which are under negotiation with the Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd.

Provision for Business Rates Appeals: Due to the localisation of Business Rates, which became effective from 1 April 2013, the Council has set aside a provision for its share of any potential liabilities as a result of Business Rate payers' 6

appeals against rateable valuations. The provision includes an amount for appeals lodged to date but yet to be determined by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) plus an amount for appeals expected but not yet lodged with VOA which has been estimated based on experience and analysis of the appeals listing from the VOA. It had been expected that the majority of appeals would be settled by the VOA by 2023/24. The Council cannot be certain as to when the appeals will be resolved because the timing of resettlement depends on the VOA.

Social Care Provision: Provision has been made for the change in charging policy for Adult Social Care and service charges for Mental Health Supported Living.

23. Financial Instruments

Financial Assets:

31 March 2022			31 March 2023	
Non-Current	Current		Non-Current	Current
£000	£000		£000	£000
-	31,299	Cash and Cash Equivalents at amortised costs	-	21,685
-	31,299	Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	-	21,685
-	182,087	Investments at Amortised Cost	-	151,777
21,222	180	Fair Value through Profit and Loss	17,723	225
21,222	182,267	Total Investments	17,723	152,002
2,126	34,515	Debtors – amortised cost	2,109	30,627
2,126	34,515	Total Debtors	2,109	30,627
23,348	248,081	Total Financial assets	19,832	204,314
-	31,690	Non-Financial assets - Debtors	-	65,971
23,348	279,771	Total	19,832	270,285

Financial Liabilities:

31 March 2022			31 March 2023	
Non-Current	Current		Non-Current	Current
£000	£000		£000	£000
(256,708)	(3,304)	PWLB at amortised cost	(250,696)	(6,289)
(106,195)	(1,891)	Market Loans and Bonds at amortised cost	(106,170)	(1,962)
(362,903)	(5,195)	Total Amortised Cost	(356,866)	(8,251)
(362,903)	(5,195)	Total Borrowings	(356,866)	(8,251)
(8,999)	(95,073)	Creditors and other liabilities at amortised cost	(8,263)	(104,224)
(8,999)	(95,073)	Total Creditors	(8,263)	(104,224)
(371,902)	(100,268)	Total Financial Liabilities	(365,129)	(112,475)
(438,349)	(92,751)	Non-Financial Liabilities – Creditors and other liabilities	(163,449)	(63,101)
(810,251)	(193,019)	Total	(528,578)	(175,576)

Categories of Financial Instruments

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

Financial Assets – Fair Value Through Profit & Loss

The Council has an initial investment of £20.000m within the Local Authorities Property Fund with CCLA. At balance sheet date, this investment is valued at fair value which is based on the bid price. At 31 March 2023 the fair value of the Local Authorities Property Fund with CCLA was £17.916m. The difference between the initial carrying value and the fair value,

£2.084m does not impact the General Fund. It is instead posted to the Pooled Investment Revaluation Reserve.

Recurring Fair Value Measurements	Input level in fair value hierarchy	Valuation technique used to measure fair value	31 March 2022 Fair value £'000	31 March 2023 Fair value £'000
Local Authorities Property Fund with CCLA	Level 2	Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the financial asset	21,402	17,723
Total			21,402	17,723

Financial Liabilities – Bonds at Amortised Cost

In November 2019 the Council issued a £75m bond to fund capital expenditure. The bond is listed on the London Stock Exchange. The bond was issued at a premium of £11,161k and is repayable over 48 years. Bond repayments are index-linked to RPI. The effective interest rate (EIR) for the bond is therefore reassessed every year. The EIR for 2022-23 is 1.90%. The amortised cost value of the bond at 31 March 2023 is £77.5m.

Financial Liabilities - Lender Option Borrower Option (LOBO) Loans

The Council has two fixed rate LOBOs with a combined fair value of £20.2m. The accounting treatment for LOBOs assumes the lender will not exercise their option before maturity. Both loans were repaid in 2023-24 after the lenders exercised their options. This is treated in the 2022/23 accounts as a non-adjusting event after the reporting period.

Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

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

31 March 2022 £000		31 March 2023 £000
10,525	Interest Expenses – measured amortised cost	10,591
10,525	Total Expenses in Deficit/Surplus on the Provision of Services	10,591
(1,147)	Interest Income for financial assets measured at amortised cost	(5,131)
(1,147)	Total Income in Deficit/Surplus on the Provision of Services	(5,131)
(3,169)	Losses /(gains) on revaluation for financial assets measured at FVPL	3,499
(3,169)	(Gains)Losses on financial assets measured at fair value through profit and loss in Deficit/Surplus on the Provision of Services	3,499
6,209	Net Expense for the year	8,959

Fair Values of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities

The fair value of Public Works loan Board (PWLB) loans is calculated using the new loan rate published by the PWLB on 31 March 2023. For the non-PWLB loans the fair value is calculated using the new loan rate based on market evidence on 31 March 2023. This involves using Level 2 inputs.

- Estimated ranged of interest rates at 31 March 2023 of 4.24% to 4.78% for loans were available from the PWLB.
- No early repayment or impairment is recognised.
- Where an instrument will mature in the next 12 months, the carrying amount is assumed to approximate to fair value.

The carrying values of cash, investments held at amortised cost, short- and long-term debtors and creditors are assumed to be a fair approximation of their fair value.

The fair value of borrowing is lower than the carrying amount because the Council's loan portfolio includes fixed rate loans where the interest rate payable is lower than the new loan rate. This is a notional gain, based on economic conditions as at 31 March 2023, compared to the value of the loan portfolio on the open market.

31 March 2022			31 March 2023	
Carrying amount	Fair Value		Carrying amount	Fair Value
£000	£000		£000	£000
(260,012)	(259,576)	Financial Liabilities at amortised cost – PWLB Loan	(256,985)	(195,822)
(108,086)	(116,159)	Financial Liabilities at amortised cost - Market Loans and temporary borrowing	(108,132)	(105,041)
(94,073)	(94,073)	Short Term Creditors	(104,224)	(104,224)
(8,999)	(8,999)	Long Term Creditors	(8,263)	(8,263)
(471,170)	(478,807)	Total Financial Liabilities	(477,604)	(413,350)
31,299	31,299	Cash and Cash Equivalents	21,685	21,685
182,087	182,087	Investments held at amortised costs	151,777	151,777
21,402	21,402	Fair Value through Profit and Loss	17,948	17,948
34,515	34,515	Short Term Debtors	30,627	30,627
2,126	2,126	Long Term Debtors	2,109	2,109
271,429	271,429	Total Financial Assets	224,146	224,146

The fair value of bonds within the Financial Liabilities are at amortised cost and is a reasonable approximation of the carrying value of £77.5m. This is because bonds are index-linked to RPI. Cash flows are therefore based on market rates.

The fair value of PWLB loans at amortised cost using the premature repayment rate at 31 March 2023 is £220.1m (£300.6m at 31 March 2022) and for market loans and bonds at amortised cost it is £109.4m (£123.2m at 31 March 2022).

Transfers between Levels of the Fair Value Hierarchy

There have been no transfers between input levels during the year.

Changes in the Valuation Technique

There has been no change in the valuation technique used during the year for financial instruments.

Fair value hierarchy for financial assets and financial liabilities that are not measured at their fair value

31 March 2022		31 March 2023
Other significant observable inputs Level 2		Other significant observable inputs Level 2
£000		£000
(260,012)	Financial liabilities at amortised cost - PWLB loan	(256,985)
(108,086)	Financial liabilities at amortised cost - Market loans and Bonds	(108,132)
(9,676)	PFI liability	(8,263)
(93,396)	Other financial liabilities at amortised cost	(104,224)
(471,170)	Total financial liabilities at amortised cost	(477,604)
250,027	Financial assets held at amortised costs	206,198
250,027	Total financial assets at amortised cost	206,198

Collateral

The Council holds legal charges on property to cover the costs of adult social care for clients who pay for their own care and where payment has been deferred to a later date.

31 March 2022		31 March 2023
£000		£000
1,008	Social Care – High Dependency Accommodation	1,341

24. Nature and Extent of Risks arising from Financial Instruments

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

- 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 commitments 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.
- Re-financing risk - the possibility that the Council might be requiring to, renew a financial instrument on maturity at disadvantageous interest rates or terms.

The Council's overall treasury risk management strategy focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the resources available to fund services. Risk management, in this context, 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 treasury risk management, as well as written policies covering specific areas, such as interest rate risk, credit risk and the investment of surplus cash.

Overall Procedures for Managing Risk

The Finance Service implements those policies prescribed in the Strategy. The Council maintains 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 (TMP's). The TMP's are a requirement of the Code of Practice and are reviewed periodically.

The procedures for risk management are set out through a legal framework set out in the Local Government Act 2003 and the associated regulations. These require the Council to comply with the CIPFA Prudential Code, the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and Investment Guidance issued through the Act. Overall these procedures require the Council to manage risk in the following ways:

- by formally adopting and following the requirements of the Code of Practice;
- by approving annually in advance Prudential Indicators for the following three years limiting:
 - the Council's overall borrowing;
 - maximum and minimum debt repayment profile;
 - maximum annual exposure to investments maturing beyond a year.

The Treasury Management Strategy for the forthcoming year sets out criteria for both investing and selecting investment counterparties in compliance with government guidance. The Strategy's objective is to prioritise the security and liquidity of the Council's investments over the investment yield. Prior to being approved by Full Council, the strategy is scrutinised by the Council's Governance and Assurance Committee. Performance is reported bi-annually to Council.

Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks, financial institutions, as well as credit exposure to the Council's customers. This risk is minimised by the Annual Investment Strategy, which is within the Treasury Management Strategy, and is available on the Council's website.

Credit risk arising from deposits with Banks and Financial Institutions

The Treasury Management Strategy requires the Council to maintain a counterparty list that follows the criteria set out in the TMPs. Creditworthiness is assessed by the use of credit ratings provided by Fitch Ratings, Moody's and Standard and Poor's to assess an institution's long and short-term financial strength. Information provided by Brokers, Advisers and other financial and economic reports is also used. Individual institutions are monitored against the Council's creditworthiness criteria. A maximum sum to be invested with each financial institution category is imposed.

Any counterparty whose ratings fall to the extent that they no longer meet the credit criteria is immediately removed from the lending list.

Only highly rated counterparties may be included on the lending list:

- The Council's Banker and UK Part Nationalised Banks;

- UK Building Societies with assets in excess of £3bn;
- Money Market Funds;
- UK Government (Debt Management Office and Gilts);
- Enhanced Cash Funds;
- Equity/Bond/Multi Asset Funds;
- Non-UK Government and Supranational Institutions;
- Other Local Authorities, Parish Councils, Community Councils and
- Property Funds.

The Council's maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to its investments in banks, building societies and Property Funds can be assessed generally as the risk of any institution failing to make interest payments or repay the principal sum will be specific to each individual institution. Recent experience has shown that it is rare for such entities to be unable to meet their commitments. A risk of irrecoverability applies to all of the Council's deposits; there was no evidence at 31 March 2023 that this was likely to materialise.

In addition, the diversification of investments also provides additional security. The maximum percentages of the investment portfolio, which may be invested in each class of assets, are detailed:

Asset Class Percentages:

Type of Asset	% of Total Investment as set by 2022/23 Treasury Management Strategy	% of Total Investment as at 31 March 2023
	%	%
UK Government	100	-
Local Authorities	85	5
Banks - Specified	80	35
Money Market Funds - Specified	45	9
Enhanced Cash Funds	15	-
Building Societies - Specified	45	6
Total Unspecified Investments	50	-
Overseas Banks - Specified	45	35
Non-UK Government and Supranational Bonds	30	-
Corporate Bonds	15	-
Property Funds	25	10

The asset class percentages are well within the limits prescribed in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2022/23.

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.

Credit Risk arising from the Council's exposure to other assets

Credit risk can arise from the Council's exposure to other debtors. This excludes monies from government and public institutions and from local taxation. Payments for services are either required in advance or due at the time the service is provided.

Write off of debtors is subject to Council procedures.

The Council's long-term debtors are mainly in relation to a lease agreement. The expected credit loss allowance for lease receivables is negligible therefore having no impact on the carrying value

Other debtors

Payments for services are either required in advance or due at the time the service is provided. Other debtors of £19.802m (£17.430m in 21/22) are the largest component of the financial instrument debtor balance of £30.627m (£34.515m in 21/22). The remaining balance is made up of housing tenant debtors £0.543m (£4.714m in 21/22) and accruals £10.282m (£12.370m in 21/22). Other debtors are analysed by age as follows:

Aged Debtors Analysis	31 March 2022	31 March 2023
	£000	£000
Up to and including three months	12,781	10,115
Over three and up to six months	1,801	2,526
Six months to one year	1,171	3,645
Over one year	5,366	7,592
Total	21,119	23,878
Less: Impairment	(3,689)	(4,076)
Total Other Debtors After Impairment	17,430	19,802

Liquidity Risk

The Council manages its liquidity position through the risk management procedures above (the setting and approval of Prudential Indicators and the approval of the treasury and investment strategy reports), as well as through a comprehensive cash flow management model, as required by the Code of Practice. This seeks to ensure that cash is available when it is needed.

The Council has ready access to the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB). The PWLB provides access to longer-term funds, therefore there is no significant risk that the Council will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments. As at 31 March 2023 70% (71% as at 31 March 2022) of the Council's loans outstanding were with the PWLB and 30% provided by the Money Markets.

Through the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council is required to set a balanced budget, which ensures sufficient monies are raised to cover annual expenditure. The Council has set and reviewed during the financial year, a prudent budget and sought to set an affordable Council Tax for its residents. Therefore, there is no significant risk that the Council will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments.

The Council manages its day-to-day liquidity position through the monitoring of Prudential Indicators, associated strategies and practices and cash flow management procedures.

Refinancing Risk

The Council's approved Treasury and Investment strategies are set to avoid the risk of refinancing on unfavourable terms. The central treasury team address the operational risks within approved parameters. These include:

- Monitoring the maturity profile of financial liabilities and amending the profile through either new borrowing or rescheduling existing debt;
- Monitoring the maturity of investments to ensure that there is sufficient liquidity available for the Council's day-to-day cash flow needs (this is set at £25m in the Treasury Management Strategy), and the spread of long term investments provides stability of maturities and returns in relation to long term cash flow needs; and
- On a short-term basis internal balances are available to be used for finance should market interest rates be unfavourable at the time of refinancing.

The maturity analysis for borrowing is as follows:

Renewal Period	Loans Outstanding as at 31 March 2023	Interest outstanding as at 31 March 2023	Limit of projected Fixed Rate Borrowing	% of Total Borrowing 31 March 2023
	£000	£000	%	%
Less than one year	6,617	9,843	30	2
Between one and two years	5,936	9,721	45	2
Between two and five years	15,522	28,244	60	4
Between five and ten years	34,653	43,131	80	9
More than 10 years	302,389	128,890	100	83
Total	365,117	219,829		100

Renewal Period	Loans Outstanding as at 31 March 2022 £000	Interest outstanding as at 31 March 2022 £000	Limit of projected Fixed Rate Borrowing %	% of Total Borrowing 31 March 2022 %
Less than one year	3,574	9,899	30	1
Between one and two	5,936	9,845	45	2
Between two and five	21,534	28,693	60	6
Between five and ten	34,653	44,163	80	9
More than 10 years	302,401	134,403	100	82
Total	368,098	227,003		100

Bonds are included based on the projected change in amortised cost each year. LOBOs are included up until the date of maturity. The balance less than one year includes interest accruals.

Maturity analysis in respect of the PFI arrangement is in Note 17.

Market Risk - Interest Rate Risk

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

- Borrowing at variable rates – the interest expense charged to the Surplus / Deficit on the provision of services will rise.
- Borrowings at fixed rates – the fair value of the liabilities will fall.
- Investments at variable rates – the interest income credited to the Surplus / Deficit on the Provision of Services will rise.
- Investments at fixed rates – the fair value of the assets will fall.

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

The Council has a number of strategies for managing interest rate risk. Its policy allows for a maximum of 50% of its borrowings to be held if appropriate in variable rate loans. During periods of falling interest rates, and where economic circumstances make it favourable, fixed rate loans may be repaid early to limit exposure to losses.

The Finance Service has an active strategy for assessing interest rate exposure that feeds into the setting of the annual budget and which is used to update the budget quarterly during the year. This allows any adverse changes to be accommodated. The analysis will also advise whether new borrowing taken out is fixed or variable.

According to this assessment strategy, as at 31 March 2023, if interest rates had been 1% higher with all other variables held constant, the financial effect would have been:

Impact of 1% increase in interest rates

	£000
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)	5,066

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

Changes in interest rates in-year have no material effect on Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services as both loans and investments are generally taken out at fixed rates and for fixed terms.

Impact on the bond of a 1% increase in RPI over Office of Budget Responsibility projections

The amortised cost of the bond is based on projections of RPI for the next 5 years. RPI is assumed to be 2.5% per year thereafter. The impact on Comprehensive Income and Expenditure of a 1% increase in RPI above the rates currently projected is £0k. This is because the bond agreement caps RPI at 5% and the forecast inflation for 23-24 exceeds 5%.

25. Grant Income

The Council credited the following grants and contributions to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2022/23:

	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000
Credited to Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income		
Recognised Capital Grants and contributions	23,579	79,309
Council Tax Income	128,657	132,537
NDR	45,271	49,762
NDR S.31 Compensation Grant	9,930	11,151
Revenue Support Grant	10,458	10,783
COVID-19 General Grants	11,952	-
Social Care & Winter Pressures	7,558	10,443
New Homes Bonus Grant	1,623	1,126
Other Revenue Grants	951	4,665
Total	239,979	299,776
Credited to Services		
Department of Work & Pensions	119,709	107,621
Department of Health Social Care & CCG	41,577	46,856
Department for Education	299,636	315,767
COVID-19 Service Grants	36,665	3,365
Other Miscellaneous Grants	21,666	34,094
Total	519,253	507,703

Where a grant has yet to be used to finance Revenue or Capital Expenditure, it is either posted to the Revenue or Capital Unapplied Reserve.

	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000
Revenue Grants and Contributions Unapplied		
Children's Services Grant	831	3,322
Safer Communities Grant	518	518
Department of Health Grants	1,037	150
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities	2,390	3,570
Other Revenue Grants & Contributions	370	1,395
Total	5,146	8,955
Section 106	865	984
Total	6,011	9,939

The Council has received grants and contributions 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 balances at the year-end are as follows:

	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000
Revenue Grants - Receipts in Advance		
Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy: COVID-19 Local Business Support Grants	3,614	-
Work & Health and Lean East Programmes Grants	1,347	540
Discretionary Council Tax Rebates	1,176	-
Other Miscellaneous Grants	-	1,447
Total	6,137	1,986

	2021/22	2022/23
	£000	£000
Capital Grants - Receipts in Advance		
Greater London Authority Grants	15,656	27,958
Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities	1,642	1,027
Total	17,298	28,985

	2021/22	2022/23
	£000	£000
Capital Grants and Contributions		
Housing Grant	836	829
Education Funding Agency	21,111	42,996
Greater London Grant (GLA) Grants	978	475
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities	8,764	8,813
Other miscellaneous	189	442
Total	31,878	53,555
Section 106	5,697	7,178
Community Infrastructure Levy	2,887	3,818
Other Capital Contributions	693	2,111
Total	41,155	66,662

26. Disclosure of Deployment of Dedicated Schools Grant in 2022/23

The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Grant has been deployed in accordance with regulations made under Sections 45A, 45AA, 47, 47ZA, 47A, 48, 49 and 138(7) of, and paragraph 2B of Schedule 14 to, the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, and Section 24(3) of the Education Act 2002. DSG is ring-fenced 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, which is divided into a budget share for each maintained school.

Details of the deployment of DSG receivable for 2022/23 are as follows:

	Central Expenditure	Individual Schools Budget (ISB)	Total
	£000	£000	£000
Final DSG for 2022/23 before academy and high needs recoupment			352,260
Academy and high needs figure recouped for 2022/23			(78,190)
Total DSG after academy and high needs Recoupment for 2022/23			274,069
Plus: Brought forward from 2021/22			1,868
Total DSG including Brought Forward			275,937
In-year adjustments			759
Final budget distribution for 2022/23	36,860	239,836	276,696
Less: Actual central expenditure	(28,937)	-	(28,937)
Less: Actual ISB deployed to schools	-	(239,836)	(239,836)
Carry forward to 2023/24	7,922	-	7,922
Net DSG position at the end of 2022/23	7,922	-	7,922

27. Leases

The Council as Lessee

Operating Leases

In June 2016 the Council entered in a 30-year lease agreement for an estate of houses in Canterbury for use as temporary accommodation for homeless households or to prevent homelessness. The lease contains a break clause which can be exercised after the first year by the Council and after 15 years by the Lessor. The Council, in October 2017, entered into another similar lease covering an estate of houses in Uxbridge. These lease agreements have been treated as operating leases.

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

	31 March 2022 £000	31 March 2023 £000
Not later than one year	2,519	2,928
Later than one year and not later than five years	11,710	11,710
Later than five years	54,281	51,353
Total	68,510	65,991

The expenditure charged to the relevant service area in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the year in relation to these leases was:

	31 March 2022 £000	31 March 2023 £000
Minimum lease payments	1,997	2,519
Total	1,997	2,519

None of the assets acquired under operating leases are sub-let. In addition, there were no contingent rents attached to the contracts.

The Council as Lessor

Finance Leases

The Council entered into a contract with Britannia Parking Limited for the lease of a multi storey car park at Clements Road, Ilford for a period of 125 years, from April 2002. The car park will be both managed and operated by Britannia Parking Limited. The rent is increased annually by applying a formula based upon the annual RPI index.

The Council has a gross investment in the lease, made up of the minimum lease payments expected to be received over the remaining term and the residual value anticipated for the property when the lease comes to an end. The minimum lease payments comprise settlement of the long-term debtor for the interest in the property acquired by Britannia Parking Limited and finance income that will be earned by the Council in future years whilst the debtor remains outstanding. The gross investment is made up of the following amounts:

	31 March 2022 £000	31 March 2023 £000
Finance lease debtor (net present value of minimum lease payments):		
Current	97	97
Non-current	1,252	1,224
Unearned finance income	8,610	8,528
Unguaranteed residual value of property	247	259
Gross investment in the lease	10,206	10,108

The gross investment in the lease and the minimum lease payments will be received over the following periods:

	Minimum Lease Payments		Finance Lease Payments	
	31 March 2022 £000	31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2022 £000	31 March 2023 £000
Not later than one year	15	15	97	97
Later than one year and not later than five years	61	61	389	389
Later than five years	1,273	1,246	9,720	9,622
Total	1,349	1,322	10,206	10,108

The minimum lease payments do not include rents that are contingent on events taking place after the lease was entered into, such as future price indices. In 2022/23, contingent rents of £96,551 were receivable by the Council (£77,889 in 2021/22).

28. 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 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 Requirements (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.

	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	447,575	462,836
Capital Investment		
Property, Plant and Equipment	66,331	84,523
Infrastructure Assets	6,757	5,727
Investment Property	-	38
Intangible Assets	2,206	6,497
Assets held for Sale	-	-
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	3,513	4,811
	78,807	101,596
Sources of Finance		
Capital Receipts	(5,637)	(5,018)
Government grants and other contributions	(32,890)	(53,802)
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA reserves and balances	(7,611)	(2,343)
Contributions from MRR	(5,145)	(5,453)
MRP	(12,262)	(12,951)
	(63,545)	(79,567)
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	462,836	484,865
Explanation of movements in year		
Increase in underlying need to borrow unsupported by government financial assistance	15,261	22,004
Increase/(decrease) in capital financial requirement	15,261	22,004

29. Other Long-Term Liabilities

31 March 2022 £000		Notes	31 March 2023 £000
(429,563)	Pension Fund Liability	40	(157,050)
(8,999)	PFI Liability	17	(8,263)
(1)	Other		(3)
(438,563)	Total Other Long-Term Liabilities		(165,316)

30. Unusable Reserves

31 March 2022 £000		31 March 2023 £000
1,063,505	Revaluation Reserve	1,105,291
470,352	Capital Adjustment Account	490,701
(429,563)	Pensions Reserve	(157,050)
(7,645)	Accumulated Absences Account	(7,794)
(9,447)	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	(1,868)
1,222	Pooled Investment Revaluation Reserve	(2,277)
(1,364)	Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	(1,321)
63	Deferred Capital Receipts	62
1,087,123	Total Unusable Reserves	1,425,744

30 (a) Revaluation Reserve

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

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

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.

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
1,014,113	Balance at 1 April	1,063,505
133,445	Upwards revaluation of assets	105,310
(56,728)	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to Surplus on the Provision of Services	(34,692)
76,717	Deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Deficit on the Provision of Services	70,619
(5,847)	Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	(8,823)
(5,771)	Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	(5,818)
(15,707)	Adjusting amounts written out to the Capital Adjustment Account	(14,191)
1,063,505	Balance at 31 March	1,105,291

30 (b) Capital Adjustment Account

The Capital Adjustment Account absorbs the timing difference arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of non-current assets and for financing the acquisitions, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions. The Account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert fair value figures to a historical cost basis). The Account is credited with the amounts set aside by the Council as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement. The Account contains accumulated gains and losses on Investment Properties.

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

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
397,572	Balance at 1 April	470,352
	Items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:	
(30,262)	Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(34,114)
(12,381)	Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	(22,721)
(1,485)	Amortisation of intangible assets	(2,214)
(3,513)	Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(4,811)
(16,064)	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	(29,276)
(63,705)		(93,136)
27,324	Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	28,832
(36,381)	Written out of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year	(64,304)
	Capital financing applied in the year:	
5,637	Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	5,018
5,145	Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	5,453
32,890	Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants and Contributions Unapplied Account	53,802
12,262	Statutory provisions for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund	12,951
7,611	Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	2,343
63,545		79,567
45,616	Movements in the market value of Investment properties debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	5,086
470,352	Balance at 31 March	490,701

30 (c) Pension 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 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as the benefits 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 pay 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 ensue that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid.

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
(511,845)	Balance at 1 April	(429,683)
122,793	Actuarial (losses)/gains on pensions assets and liabilities	311,741
(67,546)	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(68,015)
27,035	Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	28,787
(429,563)	Balance at 31 March	(157,050)

30 (d) Accumulated Absences Account

The Accumulated Absences Account absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise in the General Fund Balance from accruing for compensated absence earned but not taken in the year, e.g. annual leave entitlement carried forward at 31 March 2023. Statutory arrangements require that the impact on the General Fund Balance is neutralised by transfers to or from the Account.

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
(6,778)	Balance at 1 April	(7,645)
6,778	Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	7,645
(7,645)	Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	(7,794)
(867)	Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accrual basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(149)
(7,645)	Balance at 31 March	(7,794)

30 (e) Collection Fund Adjustment Account

The Collection Fund Adjustment Account manages the differences arising from the recognition of Council tax and non-domestic rate income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as it falls due from Council tax and rate payers, compared with the statutory arrangements for paying across amounts to the General Fund from the Collection Fund.

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
(12,534)	Balance at 1 April	(9,447)
3,087	Amount by which Council Tax and non-domestic rate income credited to the Comprehensive and Expenditure Statement is different from Council Tax and non-domestic rate income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	7,579
(9,447)	Balance at 31 March	(1,868)

30 (f) Pooled Investment Revaluation Reserve

The Pooled Investment Revaluation Reserve contains the gains and losses arising from the change in value of the council's investments that are measured at fair value through profit and loss.

2021/22		2022/23
£000		£000
(1,947)	Balance at 1 April	1,222
3,169	Revaluation of Financial Instruments held at Fair Value through Profit and Loss subject to MHCLG Statutory Over-Ride*	(3,498)
1,222	Balance at 31 March	(2,277)

* Central Government introduced a statutory over-ride to protect the General Fund Balance from any fluctuations in fair value movements in pooled investment funds. In the Council's case this relates to its investment in the Charities, Churches and Local Authorities (CCLA) Property Fund. This over-ride was due to come to an end on the 31 March 2023, but has now been extended for a further two years after which, unless extended again, will mean that fair value movements will impact on the General Fund Balance

30 (g) Financial Instrument Adjustment Account

The Financial Instrument Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for income and expenditure 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 and discounts received on the early redemption of loans. Premiums are debited and discounts are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when they are incurred but reserved out of the General Fund Balance to the account in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Over time, the net expense is posted back to the General Fund balance in accordance with statutory arrangements for spreading the burden on Council Taxpayers.

2021/22		2022/23
£000		£000
(1,407)	Balance at 1 April	(1,364)
-	Premiums incurred in the year and charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	-
32	Proportion of premiums incurred in previous financial years to be charged against the General Fund Balance in accordance with statutory requirements	32
11	Interest adjustment on staggered rate loans incurred in the year and charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	11
43	Amount by which finance costs charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement is different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	43
(1,364)	Balance at 31 March	(1,321)

30 (h) Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve

The Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve holds the gains recognised on the disposal of non-current assets 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 settlements eventually take place, amounts are transferred to the Capital Receipts Reserve.

31. Termination Benefits

The Council agreed to terminate the contracts of a number of employees in 2022/23, incurring liabilities of £0.238m (£0.455m in 2021/22). There was a total of 33 redundancies in 2022/23 (22 in 2021/22).

The numbers of exit packages with total cost per band and total cost of the compulsory and other redundancies is set out in the table below. Of these redundancies 10 related to officers and 23 related to school staff (18 officers and 4 schools in 2021/22).

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	
	2021/22	2022/23	2021/22	2022/23	2021/22	2022/23	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000
£0 - £20,000	-	-	15	30	15	30	144	142
£20,001 - £40,000	-	-	4	2	4	2	107	53
£40,001 - £60,000	-	-	2	1	2	1	100	43
£60,001 - £80,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£80,001 - £100,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£100,001 - £150,000	-	-	1	-	1	-	104	-
Total	-	-	22	33	22	33	455	238

32. Officers' Remuneration

The following table sets out the remuneration paid to the Council's senior employees:

			Salary incl. honarium	Pension Contribution	Total
		Note	£	£	£
Chief Executive	2022/23	1	158,403	35,007	193,410
(C Symonds/L Seary)	2021/22		147,399	-	147,399
Corporate Director of Resources	2022/23	2	160,089	35,380	195,469
(M G Christofi)	2021/22	2	157,719	34,856	192,575
Corporate Director of Strategy	2022/23		144,938	32,031	176,969
(J Ellerby)	2021/22		111,195	24,574	135,769
Corporate Director of Culture & Regeneration	2022/23	3	132,470	29,276	161,746
(M Essex/M Baigent)	2021/22	3	133,402	29,482	162,884
Corporate Director of Communities	2022/23		140,495	31,049	171,544
(N Fiedler)	2021/22		136,356	30,135	166,491
Corporate Director of People	2022/23		153,803	33,990	187,794
(A Loades)	2021/22		151,878	33,565	185,443
Operational Director of Assurance	2022/23		98,533	21,776	120,309
(P Sandhu)	2021/22		88,832	19,632	108,464
Director of Public Health	2022/23		122,321	17,313	139,634
(G Xavier)	2021/22		120,396	17,313	137,709

1. The Chief Executive, C Symonds was appointed with effect from 1 May 2022.
2. The Corporate Director of Resources receives an honorarium payment of £10,720 in 2022/23 (£10,275 in 2021/22) with regards to the work undertaken on behalf of East London Waste Authority which is included within the salary.
3. The Corporate Director of Regeneration & Culture left in March 2022. M Baigent was appointed with effect from May 2022.

The number of employees whose remuneration, excluding employer's pension contributions, was £50,000 or more in bands of £5,000 was:

2021/22				Earning Band	2022/23			
Officers	Teachers	VA Schools	Total		Officers	Teachers	VA Schools	Total
128	75	17	220	£50,000 - £54,999	137	199	24	360
65	65	16	146	£55,000 - £59,999	115	109	16	240
55	44	11	110	£60,000 - £64,999	55	63	11	129
31	49	4	84	£65,000 - £69,999	37	26	6	69
14	25	5	44	£70,000 - £74,999	22	25	2	49
12	23	1	36	£75,000 - £79,999	13	13	3	29
7	16	1	24	£80,000 - £84,999	17	20	-	37
7	8	1	16	£85,000 - £89,999	9	9	2	20
7	9	1	17	£90,000 - £94,999	6	6	2	14
5	8	3	16	£95,000 - £99,999	1	5	3	9
4	5	1	10	£100,000 - £104,999	4	5	-	9
1	3	-	4	£105,000 - £109,999	3	3	-	6
2	2	-	4	£110,000 - £114,999	4	5	-	9
1	1	-	2	£115,000 - £119,999	3	1	-	4
-	4	-	4	£120,000 - £124,999	1	2	-	3
-	2	-	2	£125,000 - £134,999	-	-	-	-
-	2	-	2	£135,000 - £139,999	-	3	-	3
-	-	-	-	£140,000 - £144,999	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	£150,000 - £154,999	-	1	-	1
-	-	-	-	£155,000 - £159,999	-	1	-	1
-	-	1	1	£180,000 - £184,999	-	-	1	1
339	341	62	742	Total	427	497	70	994

Remuneration includes gross salary, bonuses, expense allowances, compensation for loss of employment, and any other emoluments. This table excludes those officers listed in the previous table.

33. Members' Allowances

The Council paid the following amounts in respect of Members of the Council during the financial year which includes on-costs.

	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000
Allowances	947	892
Total	947	892

Allowances paid in 2022/23 was slightly lower than the previous year. This was as a result of changes following the election in May 2022.

34. Related Parties

This disclosure note has been prepared using the Council's Register of Members' Declarations of Interest in addition to a specific declaration obtained in respect of related party transactions from Members and Chief Officers. The Council is required to disclose material transactions with related parties – bodies and individuals that have the potential to control or influence the Council or to be controlled or influenced by the Council. Disclosure of those transactions allows readers to assess the extent to which the Council may 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. In this context, related parties include:

- Central Government
- Elected Members of the Council
- Directors and Chief Officers of the Council
- Other Public Bodies
- Entities controlled or significantly influenced by the Council

• Central Government

Central Government has significant influence over the general operations of the Council – it is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Council operates, provides 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 receipts outstanding at 31 March 2023 are shown in Note 25.

- **Elected Members of the Council**

Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. The total of Members' allowances paid in 2022/23 is shown in Note 33.

During 2022/23 works and services to the value of £0.174m were commissioned from a company in which one Member had an interest. The contracts were entered into in full compliance with the Council's standing orders.

The Members' Register of Interests is available on the Council's web site (www.redbridge.gov.uk).

- **Directors and Chief Officers of the Council**

Senior Officers have not disclosed any material transactions with related parties.

- **Other Public Bodies**

East London Waste Authority

Nature of Business and Relationship with the Council

The East London Waste Authority (ELWA) is a statutory body responsible for the disposal of waste in the London Boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, Havering, Newham and Redbridge.

Financial Performance

The levy payments paid by the Council to ELWA amounted to £18.949m (£12.822m in 2021/22).

Related Party Officers/Members

Two members of the Council are Board Members of ELWA: Councillor J. Blackman and Councillor J. Howard.

- **Entities Controlled or Significantly Influenced by the Council**

The Council has the following interest in organisations listed below:

Vision Redbridge Culture and Leisure

Nature of Business and Relationship with the Council

Vision Redbridge Culture & Leisure (VRCL) is a Leisure Trust which was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee under the Companies Act on 19 December 2007 and registered as a charity on 11 February 2008. Originally set up to manage the Council's leisure centres, in 2011/12 VRCL's remit was widened to incorporate responsibility for the management of the services previously managed in-house by the Culture, Sport & Community Leisure service area.

Financial Performance

The Council made payments of £8.624m in 2022/23 (£9.259m in 2021/22) to VRCL for the management of these services.

Related Party Officers/Members

One member of the Council is a Board Members at VRCL: Councillor Z Hussain.

Redbridge Civic Services Ltd

Redbridge Civic Services Ltd was established as a wholly owned company in February 2019, to provide Waste Management Services.

Financial Performance

In July 2019 the Council entered into a five-year contract with this company and during 2022/23 made payments of £5.870m (£5.659m in 2021/22).

Related Party Officers

One officer of the Council is the Company Director: A Warnes.

Redbridge Living Limited

In October 2018, the Council set up a wholly owned company called 'Redbridge Living Limited'. The company was not operational during 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 nor 2022/23.

Roding Homes Limited

In June 2019, the Council set up a wholly owned company called "Roding Homes Limited". The company was not operational during 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 nor 2022/23.

SixFive Education Ltd

In August 2019, the Council set up a wholly owned company called "SixFive Education Ltd". This company was not operational during 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 not 2022/23.

Other

During the financial year, the Council charged the Pension Fund £0.450m for expenses incurred administering the Pension Fund (£0.475m in 2021/22) and £0.122m for expenses incurred for investment services (£0.122m in 2021/22).

35. External Audit Costs

The Council has incurred the following costs in relation to the audit of the Statement of Accounts:

	2021/22	2022/23
	£000	£000
Fees payable to Ernst & Young LLP (EY) with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year.	107	135
Provision for additional Audit fees for 2020/21 and 2021/22	163	-
Total	270	135

36. Internal Trading Operations

With the abolition of Compulsory Competitive Tendering from January 2000, a number of former Direct Service Organisations have continued to operate internal trading accounts. Any surpluses or deficits arising from trading account activities are transferred to the General Fund.

		2021/22	2021/22	2022/23	2022/23
		£000	£000	£000	£000
Transport	Turnover	8,842		7,757	
	Expenditure	(9,622)		(8,433)	
	Surplus		780		676
Total			780		676

37. Pooled Budgets

The Council is involved with two pooled arrangements as set out below:

Better Care Fund

The Better Care Fund (BCF) commenced on 01 April 2015 as a pooled fund between the local authority and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) with the purpose of supporting integrated health and social care and promoting joint planning of care provision in the local health area. From 1 July 2022, as a result of the Health and Care Act 2022, Integrated Care Boards (ICB's) replaced the CCG's.

There is a national requirement to operate a pooled budget. Resources previously given to local authorities via the S256 arrangement or direct to the Integrated Care Board are now transferred from NHS England to the local ICB and then to the pooled fund.

The London Borough of Redbridge is the host partner for the Better Care Fund pooled fund under a section 75 agreement with the ICB.

2021/22		2022/23
Pooled Budget		Pooled Budget
£000		£000
8,102	London Borough of Redbridge	8,537
2,429	Disabled Facilities	2,429
12,390	NEL ICB (formally Redbridge CCG)	13,586
22,921		24,552

Equipment Pooled Fund

The Council entered into a pooled budget arrangement with various local authority and NHS partners in 2018/19. The primary purpose of this arrangement is to manage and control the sourcing, delivery, fitting, return and refurbishment of community equipment, adaptations and aids to daily living in service users' homes as part of an integrated community equipment service.

The agreement in place stipulates that partners will contribute to the 'pool' on the basis of their assumed activity levels. Where a partner has paid more into the pool than has been spent, the partner can either choose to carry their 'surplus' forward for use in the next financial year, or to have their 'surplus' repaid. Where there is a shortfall in the contributions made by a partner, they are required to redress this position.

The contributions and expenses of the Pool for 2022/23 were as follows:

	Contributions	Expenditure	Net
	£000	£000	(Surplus)/Deficit
			£000
Local Authorities			
London Borough of Redbridge	(948)	948	-
London Borough of Havering	(838)	838	-
Clinical Commissioning Groups			
Redbridge	(1,206)	1,206	-
Havering	(774)	774	-
Barking and Dagenham	(367)	367	-
NHS Trusts			
North East London NHS Foundation Trust	(262)	262	-
Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospital NHS Trust	(48)	48	-
Total	(4,442)	4,442	-

38. Other Funds

The Council administers the affairs of some elderly residents and children in care, sometimes by named officers, and holds various deposits. The total value of these funds as at 31 March 2023 was £0.974m (£1.397m as at 31 March 2022).

39. Pension Schemes Accounted for as a Defined Contribution Scheme

Teachers employed by the Council are members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme, administered by 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 a multi-employer 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. Valuations of the notional fund are undertaken every four years.

The scheme has in excess of 3,700 participating employers and consequently 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 as a defined contribution scheme.

In 2022/23, contributions amounting to £23.337m were paid by the Council to the Teachers' Pension Scheme in respect of teachers' retirement benefits, representing 23.68% of pensionable pay. This sum includes the contributions for March 2022 which were paid in April. The figures for 2021/22 were £22.139m and 23.68%.

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 40.

The Council is not liable to the scheme for any other entities' obligations under the plan.

NHS Staff Pension Scheme

In 2013/14, former NHS employees transferred to the Council. These employees have maintained their membership in the NHS Pension Scheme. The Scheme provides these staff 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 an unfunded defined benefit scheme. As with the Teacher's Pension Scheme, 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 purpose of this Statement of Accounts, it is therefore accounted for as a defined contribution scheme.

In 2022/23, the Council paid £0.051m to the NHS Pension Scheme in respect of former NHS staff retirement benefits, representing 20.68% of pensionable pay. The figures for 2021/22 were £0.028m and 20.68%. There were no contributions

remaining payable at the year end.

40. Defined Benefit Pension Scheme

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 arrangements:

- The Local Government Pension Scheme, administered locally by the London Borough of Redbridge – this is a funded defined benefit scheme, meaning that the Council and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pensions liabilities with investment assets.
- Arrangements 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 pension liabilities, and cash has to be generated by the Council to meet actual pension payments as they eventually fall due.

The London Borough of Redbridge Pension Scheme is operated under the regulatory framework for the Local Government Pension Scheme and the governance of the scheme is the responsibility of the Pension Fund Committee of the London Borough of Redbridge. Policy is determined in accordance with the Pension Fund Regulations. The investment managers of the fund are appointed by the Committee which consists of five Members.

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

Transaction Relating to Post-Employment Benefits

The Council recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the reported cost of services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge that is required to be made against Council Tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the actuarial cost of post-employment/retirement benefit 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	
	2021/22	2022/23
	£000	£000
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
Cost of Services:		
Current Service Cost	56,835	55,511
Past Service Costs	184	216
Financial and Investment Income and Expenditure		
Net interest expense	10,527	12,288
Total Post-Employment Benefits charged to the Deficit on the provision of Services	67,546	68,015

Re-measurement of the net defined benefit liability

Return on assets excluding amounts included in net interest	27,553	(82,117)
Actuarial (losses)/gains arising from changes in financial assumptions	(79,833)	8,052
Actuarial (losses)/gains arising from changes in demographic assumptions	(3,074)	8,951
Other experience and actuarial adjustments	(6,947)	(78,052)
Total Post Employment Benefit charged to Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(62,301)	(143,166)

Movement in Reserve Statement:

Reversal of net charges made to the Deficit on the provision of Services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the code	(40,511)	(39,228)
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Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year:

Employer's contributions payable to scheme	25,120	26,880
Employer's discretionary contributions payable	1,915	1,907
Retirement benefits payable to pensioners	(34,469)	(35,859)
Discretionary benefits payable to pensioners	(1,915)	(1,907)

Pensions Assets and Liabilities recognised in the Balance Sheet

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

	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000
Present value of the defined benefit obligation	(1,330,565)	(997,970)
Fair value of assets in the Local Government Pension Scheme	901,002	840,920
Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation	(429,563)	(157,050)

Reconciliation of the movements in the fair value of the scheme

	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000
Opening Balance at 1 April	852,927	901,002
Interest Income	17,026	24,295
	33,054	
Re-measurement gain/(loss)		(83,450)
Contributions by Employer	25,120	26,880
Contributions by scheme participants	7,344	8,052
Benefits paid	(34,469)	(35,859)
Closing Fair Value of scheme assets	901,002	840,920

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

	Local Government Pension Scheme	
	2021/22	2022/23
	£000	£000
Opening Balance at 1 April	1,364,772	1,330,565
Current Service Cost	56,835	55,511
Interest Cost	27,553	36,247
Contributions by scheme participants	7,344	8,052
Re-measurement (gains)/losses		
- change in demographic assumptions	(3,074)	(8,951)
- change in financial assumptions	(79,833)	(463,956)
- change in other assumptions	(6,832)	78,052
Past Services Cost	184	216
Benefits paid	(34,469)	(35,859)
Discretionary Benefits	(1,915)	(1,907)
Closing Balance at 31 March	1,330,565	997,970

The Local Government Pension Scheme's Asset Comprised

	2021/22	2022/23
	£000	£000
Property		
UK Property Unit Trusts	75,815	70,759
Investment Funds and Unit Trusts		
Equities	541,315	505,218
Bonds	82,157	76,679
Infrastructure	26,803	25,016
Other	171,377	159,949
Sub-total	897,467	837,620
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash	3,575	3,300
Total Assets	901,002	840,920

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 estimated by Hymans Robertson LLP, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the London Borough of Redbridge Pension Fund being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 1 April 2016.

The significant assumptions used by the actuary have been as follows:

	Local Government Pension Scheme	
	2021/22	2022/23
Mortality assumptions		
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners:		
Men	21.6 years	21.4 years
Women	24.0 years	24.2 years
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners:		
Men	22.7 years	22.3 years
Women	25.8 years	25.7 years
Rate of inflation	3.20%	3.00%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.20%	3.00%
Rate of increase in pensions	3.20%	3.00%
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	2.70%	4.75%
Take up of option to convert some annual pension into retirement lump sum	50%	50%

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. The sensitivity analyses below have been determined based on reasonably possible changes of the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period and assumes for each change that the assumption analysed changes while all the other assumptions remain constant. The assumptions in longevity, for example, assume that life expectancy increases or decreases for men and women. In practice, this is unlikely to occur, and changes in some of the assumptions may be interrelated. The estimations in the sensitivity analysis have followed the accounting policies for the scheme, i.e. on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method. The approach taken in preparing the sensitivity analysis is consistent with that adopted in the previous period.

	Impact on the Defined Benefit Obligation in the Scheme	
	Increase in Assumption £000	Decrease in Assumption £000
Longevity (increase or decrease by 1 year)	39,919	(39,919)
Rate of increase in salaries (increase or decrease by 0.5%)	1,103	(1,103)
Rate of increase in pension (increase or decrease by 0.5%)	15,273	(15,273)
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities (increase or decrease by 0.5%)	(16,128)	16,128

Impact on the Council's Cashflows

The objectives of the scheme are to keep employers' contributions at as constant a rate as possible. At the last valuation the Council has agreed a strategy with the scheme's actuary to achieve a funding level of 100% over the next 17 years. The triennial valuation was completed as at 31 March 2022.

The scheme will need to take account of the national changes to the scheme under the Public Pensions Service Act 2013. Under the Act, the Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales and the other main existing public services scheme may not provide benefits in relation to service after 31 March 2014 (or service after 31 March 2015 for other main existing public service pension schemes in England and Wales). The Act provides for scheme regulations to be made within a common framework, to establish new career average revalued earnings schemes to pay pensions and other benefits to certain public servants.

The total amount of contributions expected to be paid to the LGPS by the Council in the year to 31 March 2024 is £23,150 million.

41. Notes to the Cashflow Statement

(a) Cash Flow Statement – Operating Activities

The (deficit) on the provision of services has been adjusted for the following non-cash movements.

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
15,141	The cash flows for operating activities include the following items	
	Net (Deficit)/Surplus on the provision of services	(12,017)
	Adjust net deficit/surplus on the provision of services for non-cash movements	
30,262	Depreciation	34,144
12,381	Impairment and downward valuations	22,721
1,485	Amortisation	2,214
36,590	Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(20,978)
(2,091)	(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(30,375)
(63)	Increase in inventories	(77)
40,511	Movement in pension liability	39,228
16,064	Carrying amount of non-current assets sold or derecognised	29,276
(38,203)	Other non-cash items	(4,251)
96,936		71,873
	Adjust for items included in net deficit/surplus on the provision of services that are investing or financing activities	
(23,579)	Capital Grants	(79,309)
(11,231)	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment	(9,280)
(34,810)		(88,589)
77,267	Net cash flows generated from operating activities	(28,733)

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
1,247	Interest Received	3,882
(9,762)	Interest Paid	(12,027)

(b) Cash Flow Statement – Investing Activities

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
(75,293)	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(98,694)
11,231	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant, equipment, investment property and intangible assets	9,280
(42,750)	Proceeds / (Purchases) from short term and long-term investments	32,427
23,579	Capital Grants	79,309
(83,233)	Net cash flows from investing activities	22,322

(c) Cash Flow Statement – Financing Activities

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
18,750	Cash receipts from short term and long-term borrowing	0
(1,303)	Cash payments for the reduction of outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases on balance sheet PFI contracts	(677)
(3,022)	Repayments of short term and long-term borrowing	(2,527)
14,425	Net cash flows from financing activities	(3,204)

(d) Reconciliation of Liabilities arising from Financing Activities

	2022/23	Financing	Reclassification/	2022/23
	1 April	Cashflows	Movements	31 March
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Long Term borrowings	362,903	0	(6,037)	356,866
Short Term borrowings	5,195	(2,527)	5,583	8,251
Lease Liabilities	3	-	-	3
On Balance Sheet PFI	9,675	(677)	-	8,998
Total Liabilities from financing activities	377,776	(3,204)	(454)	374,118

Comparative Table for LBR Cash Flow

	2021/22	Financing	Reclassification/	2021/22
	1 April	Cashflows	Movements	31 March
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Long Term borrowings	347,023	18,750	(2,870)	362,903
Short Term borrowings	3,836	(3,022)	4,381	5,195
Lease Liabilities	3	0	(1)	2
On Balance Sheet PFI	10,300	(1,303)	1	9,675
Total Liabilities from financing activities	361,162	14,425	1,511	377,776

Supplementary Statements

Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement

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

Authorities charge rents to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The increase or decrease in the year, on the basis of which rents are raised, is shown in the Movement in the HRA Statement.

2021/22 £000		Notes	2022/23 £000
	Expenditure		
5,614	Repairs and Maintenance		8,332
10,475	Supervision and Management		12,978
835	Rents, Rates, Taxes and Other Charges		763
15,807	Depreciation and impairment of fixed assets	5	30,043
48	Discretionary Housing Benefit		60
32,779	Total Expenditure		52,176
	Income		
(25,739)	Dwelling Rents		(26,494)
(392)	Non-Dwelling Rents		(407)
(4,054)	Charges for Services and Facilities		(3,919)
(66)	Contributions towards expenditure		(33)
-	Repayment of capital grants/advances		-
(30,251)	Total Income		(30,853)
2,528	Net Cost of HRA Services as included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		21,323
2,528	Net Expenditure on HRA Services		21,323
	HRA Share of the Operating Income and Expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
2,065	Gain on sale of HRA non-current assets		(318)
3,053	Interest payable and similar charges		3,231
(29)	Interest and investment income		(679)
333	Impairment Allowance		665
334	Pensions interest cost and expected return on pension assets		334
(2,804)	Capital grants and contributions receivable		(19,104)
5,480	Surplus or (Deficit) for the year on HRA services		5,452

Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
(14,696)	Balance on the HRA at the end of the previous year	(6,752)
5,480	Surplus or (Deficit) for the year on the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement	5,452
(5,735)	Adjustment between accounting basis and funding basis under statute	(5,697)
(255)	Net decrease before transfers to or from reserves	(245)
8,199	Transfers to reserves	(33)
7,944	Increase in year on the HRA	(278)
(6,752)	Balance on the HRA at the end of the current year	(7,030)

Note to the Movement on the HRA Statement

2021/22 £000		Notes	2022/23 £000
	Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations		
(15,807)	Depreciation and impairment on Fixed Assets	5	(30,043)
(2,065)	Gain on sale of HRA non-current assets		318
(1,296)	HRA share of contributions to or from the Pension Reserve		(1,062)
(165)	Capital Receipts cost of sales		(165)
5,594	Capital expenditure funded by the HRA		728
2,804	Capital Grants and contributions receivable		19,104
55	Accumulated absences accrual		(30)
5,145	Posting of HRA resources from revenue to the Major Repairs Reserve		5,453
(5,735)			(5,697)
	Transfers (from) / to reserves		
8,199	Transfer (from)/to earmarked reserves	7	33
8,199			33

Notes to the Housing Revenue Account

1. Rent Income

Gross rent income is the total rent income due after allowance is made for void properties. During the year an average of 1.31% of rent was lost because of properties that were vacant (0.61% in 2021/22). The average rent for social housing stock (social and affordable housing) was £117.90 per week in 2022/23 (£111.59 per week in 2021/22).

2. Housing Stock

The Council is responsible for managing a Housing Revenue Account stock of 4,497 properties at 31 March 2023 (4,446 at 31 March 2022). An analysis is shown below. The Council is also a freeholder of 2,520 leased properties.

31 March 2022		31 March 2023
Number		Number
1,621	General Needs	1,613
1,363	- One or fewer Bedrooms	1,412
1,336	- Two Bedrooms	1,346
126	- Three or more Bedrooms	126
4,446	Sheltered Housing Units	4,497
	Total	

3. Rent Arrears

31 March 2022		31 March 2023
£000		£000
1,436	Arrears due from	2,072
369	- Current tenants	469
1,805	- Former tenants	2,541
	Total	
7.36%	Total as a % of gross debt	9.46%

4. Balance Sheet Value of HRA Assets

31 March 2022		31 March 2023
£000		£000
328,765	Dwellings	339,012
29,377	Other Land and Buildings	42,097
358,142	Total	381,109

The vacant possession value of dwellings within the HRA as at 1 April 2023 was £1,357m (£1,312m as at 1 April 2022). The difference of £1,018m between the vacant possession value and the Balance Sheet value of dwellings (£339m) within the HRA represents the economic cost of providing Council housing at less than open market value.

5. Depreciation and Impairment charges

Depreciation charges shown below reflect the economic consumption of HRA assets in 2022/23.

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
5,067	Depreciation Operational Assets - dwellings	5,373
78	Depreciation Operational Assets – other land and buildings	80
10,662	Impairment of fixed assets – dwellings and other land and buildings	24,590
15,807	Total	30,043

The charge for impairment in 2022/23 is reflected in the market value of HRA dwellings.

6. Major Repairs Reserve

MRA funds held in the Major Repairs Reserve can be used for capital expenditure or repayment of debt on HRA assets only.

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
-	Balance Brought Forward	-
(5,067)	Major Repairs Allowance (MRA)	(5,373)
(78)	Non-dwellings depreciation	(80)
5,145	Capital Expenditure funded from the MRR	5,453
-	Balance on the Major Repairs Reserves as at 31 March	-

7. Movement in Earmarked Reserves

The following movements in earmarked reserves occurred in 2022/23:

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
(14)	HRA – Capital Reserve	-
(165)	HRA – New Provision Receipts (admin RTB)	-
(20)	HRA – Minor Works	33
(8,000)	HRA – Investment Reserve	-
(8,199)	Total	33

8. HRA Capital Financing

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
21,314	Spend on Dwellings	50,521
999	Spend on Non-Dwellings	1,766
22,313	HRA Capital Expenditure	52,287
	Financed by:	
2,529	Government Grants	16,775
-	S106 Grants	-
5,449	Contribution from Revenue	695
5,145	Net Contributions from Major Repairs Reserve	5,453
240	Capital Receipts - Other	345
145	Contribution from Other Reserves	857
4,555	Capital Receipts – RTB	4,167
4,250	Borrowing	23,995
22,313	Total Funding	52,287

9. Capital Receipts

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
9,304	HRA Capital Receipts	9,033
-	Properties	-
-	Land and Garages	-
9,304		9,033

10. HRA share of Contribution to or from the Pension Reserve

Under IAS 19 the cost of retirement benefits is recognised in the net cost of services when employees earn them rather than when the benefits are eventually paid. This principle is applied to the HRA. The HRA has been charged with its share of the pension interest cost and return on pension assets, and these together with the charge in service costs have been matched by a transfer to the Pension Reserve so that the net outturn on the HRA is not altered by these IAS 19 adjustments.

Collection Fund

This statement reflects the statutory obligation for billing authorities to maintain a separate Collection Fund. The statement shows the transactions of the billing authority in relation to the collection fund from taxpayers and distributions to the London Borough of Redbridge, the Greater London Authority (GLA) and Central Government of Council tax, non-domestic rates (NDR) and the business rate supplement (BRS). The element of the Collection Fund that relates to the Council has been consolidated with the Council's main accounts. The Accounts have been prepared on an accrual's basis.

Income and Expenditure Account

2021/22 Total £000		2022/23 Council Tax £000	2022/23 NDR £000	2022/23 BRS £000	2022/23 Total £000
Income					
163,866	Council Taxpayers	170,714	-	-	170,714
666	General Fund Discretionary Relief Contribution	411	-	-	411
42,276	Income from Business Ratepayers	-	45,324	719	46,043
224	Transitional Protection–Central Government	-	(589)	-	(589)
207,032	Total Income	171,125	44,735	719	216,579
Expenditure					
Precepts:					
128,708	London Borough of Redbridge	133,422	-	-	133,422
32,829	Greater London Authority	35,945	-	-	35,945
Business Rates:					
17,499	London Borough of Redbridge	-	14,438	-	14,438
22,324	Greater London Authority	-	17,807	713	18,520
19,249	Central Government	-	15,882	-	15,882
276	Costs of Collection	-	270	6	276
Apportionment of previous years estimated collection fund surplus/(deficits):					
(9,413)	London Borough of Redbridge	111	(7,299)	-	(7,188)
(11,722)	Greater London Authority	33	(9,002)	-	(8,969)
(10,358)	Central Government	-	(8,029)	-	(8,029)
Bad and Doubtful Debts					
4,884	Provisions	1,018	264	-	1,282
190	Write-offs	1,839	686	-	2,525
2,077	Provisions for appeals	-	(8,867)	-	(8,867)
196,543	Total Expenditure	172,368	16,150	719	189,237
10,489	(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	(1,243)	28,585	-	27,342
(39,446)	(Deficit)/Surplus bought forward at 1 April	(1,554)	(27,403)	-	(28,957)
(28,957)	(Deficit)/Surplus carried forward at 31 March	(2,797)	1,182	-	(1,615)
Allocated to:					
(9,447)	London Borough of Redbridge	(2,223)	355	-	(1,868)
(10,449)	Greater London Authority	(574)	455	-	(119)
(9,061)	Central Government	-	372	-	372
(28,957)	Total	(2,797)	1,182	-	(1,615)

Notes to the Collection Fund

1. Impact of COVID-19 related regulations on the Collection Fund

The large Collection Fund Deficit for 2021/22 in respect of business rates is due to Central Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Retail businesses and nurseries were awarded £17.510m in additional reliefs in 2021/22, (£35.253m in 2020/21) which had not been confirmed when preparing the Collection Fund forecast in late January of both 2020 and 2021. These reliefs effectively reduce the net amount the Council can collect on behalf of the preceptors for business rates; as the precept amounts cannot be changed after being legally set, the result is a deficit on the Collection Fund. Compensation to preceptors for this deficit is provided through S31 grants from the Government. These grants are reported in the individual preceptors' accounts. The Government continued to support local high streets to adapt and recover from the pandemic by introducing further temporary business rates relief in England for eligible retail, hospitality and leisure properties for 2022-23 of which Redbridge received £8.053m (net of adjustments for previous years). On 25 March 2021 the government announced a new COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF) to support those businesses affected by the pandemic but that are ineligible for existing support linked to business rates in 2021/22. Scheme details were not announced till much later which meant that support of £2.954m was not awarded until 2022/23 creating a Collection Fund deficit that is fully funded by revenue grant credited to the preceptors' accounts in 2022/23.

In 2021/22 the Government introduced a new unconditional COVID-19 Council Tax Support Grant scheme of which Redbridge received £2.596m. The grant allowed Redbridge to continue to support residents experiencing extreme financial hardship but in different ways which were not restricted to reducing council tax liabilities.

In 2020/21 there was a statutory change to the administration of the Collection Fund allowing the phasing of Collection Fund deficits in relation to 'exceptional amounts' related to COVID-19 in 2020/21 only; it did not relate to any deficits prior or subsequent to 2020/21. The concession runs from 2021/22 to 2023/24.

2. Council Tax

Council Tax is based partly on the valuation of domestic properties and is partly a Personal Tax with discounts for single occupiers. The Council set the level of Council Tax for 2022/23 at £1,863.94 for band D properties (this includes £395.59 on behalf of the Greater London Authority). On setting the level of Council tax for 2022/23, the number of band D equivalent properties in each band making up the Council Tax base was as follows:

Band	2021/22 Number of Properties	2022/23 Number of Properties
A	1,757	1,909
B	9,338	9,599
C	22,716	22,590
D	30,247	30,597
E	23,010	23,031
F	10,596	10,655
G	5,192	5,216
H	381	389
Council Tax base collection allowance adjustment	(2,315)	(1,850)
Allowance for estimated full value of exemptions (inc. disabled)	(1,451)	(1,544)
Local Authority Tax Support Scheme	(9,196)	(9,727)
Total	90,275	90,865

3. Business Rates Transitional Protection

The transitional relief scheme was introduced in 2017 to help ratepayers faced with higher bills as a result of the revaluation. The loss of income is met by the Government's Transitional Protection grant. The scheme was due to end on 31 March 2022, but the Government announced that it would extend the scheme for one year to 31 March 2023. Repayment of prior years' grant (because of reductions in rateable value applicable to previous years) has exceeded the small grant due in 2022/23 resulting in a reduction of business income of £0.589m.

4. Income from Business Rates

The Council collects business rates for its area based on rateable values (as determined by the Valuation Office Agency) and multipliers set by Central Government. The multipliers for 2022/23 were frozen by the Government at the 2021/22 multiplier rates of 49.9p for qualifying Small Businesses, with the standard multiplier being 51.2p for all other businesses.

The total rateable value for business premises as at the end of March 2023 was £172,019,804 (£153,201,601 as at 31st March 2022).

Under these arrangements the amounts included in these Accounts are analysed as follows:

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
75,497	Gross NDR due in the year	71,542
(33,968)	Less: Allowances and other adjustments	(26,218)
41,529		45,324

Under the Business Rate Retention Scheme, the total rate collected is shared between Redbridge, the GLA and Central Government based on statutory allocations. The shares are shown below.

	Redbridge	GLA	Government	Total
Percentage Shares	30%	37%	33%	100%

5. Business Rate Supplement (BRS)

Under the arrangements for the BRS, the Council collects a supplement for its area based on a charge set by the GLA. The total amount, less certain deductions, is paid to the GLA on whose behalf it is collected.

6. Transitional Protection Payments (TPP)

The Council receives TPP from Central Government to meet the cost of transitional arrangements for businesses which were put in place following the 2017 Business Rate Revaluation that created a large increase in business rates for some taxpayers. The scheme was extended in 2022/23 by one year to the end of the current revaluation cycle. Changes to businesses' rateable values resulted in £0.588m being repayable to the Government in 2022/23 in respect of previous years.

7. Provision for Appeals

The Fund has a provision for appeals made to the Valuation Office against rating valuations but not settled as at 31 March 2023. As at 31 March 2023 a provision of £5.745m (£12.074m charged to Collection Fund in 2021/22) was reversed back to the Collection Fund. The provision for appeals is provided for in proportion to the precepting shares. The Council's proportionate share of this provision is £1.425m (£3.622m for 2021/22). Final data relating to the remaining outstanding appeals against the 2017 Valuation as at 31 March 2013 has enabled a better and much lower estimation of the potential loss of rate income than previously possible.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF LONDON BOROUGH OF REDBRIDGE ON THE PENSION FUND'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Opinion

We have audited the Pension Fund ("the Fund") financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended). The pension fund financial statements comprise the Fund Account, the Net Assets Statement and the related notes 1 to 24.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23.

In our opinion the pension fund financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the Fund during the year ended 31 March 2023 and the amount and disposition at that date of its assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2023; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report below. We are independent of the Council as administering authority for the Pension Fund in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and the Comptroller and Auditor General's AGN01, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Corporate Director of Resources' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the authority's ability to continue as a going concern for a period through to 31 March 2026.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Corporate Director of Resources with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report. However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this statement is not a guarantee as to the authority's ability to continue as a going concern.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts 2022/23, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Corporate Director of Resources is responsible for the other information contained within the Statement of Accounts 2022/23.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we report by exception

We report to you if:

- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended);
- we make written recommendations to the audited body under Section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended);
- we make an application to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law under Section 28 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended);
- we issue an advisory notice under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended); or
- we make an application for judicial review under Section 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended).

We have nothing to report in these respects.

Responsibility of the Corporate Director of Resources

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities set out on page 22, the Corporate Director of Resources is responsible for the preparation of the Authority's Statement of Accounts, which includes the pension fund financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The Corporate Director of Resources is also responsible for such internal control as the Corporate Director of Resources determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Corporate Director of Resources is responsible for assessing the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Administering Authority either intends to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect irregularities, including fraud. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with Corporate Director of Resources.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Fund and determined that the most significant are the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (as amended), and The Public Service Pensions Act 2013.
- We understood how the Fund is complying with those frameworks by understanding the incentive, opportunities and motives for non-compliance, including making enquiries of management, the head of internal audit and those charged with governance and obtaining and reading documentation relating to the procedures in place to identify, evaluate and comply with laws and regulations, and whether they are aware of instances of non-compliance. We corroborated this through our reading of the Pension Committee minutes and, through the inspection of other information.
- Based on this understanding, we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. Our procedures involved making enquiries of management for their awareness of any non-compliance of laws or regulations. Our procedures had a focus on compliance with the accounting framework through obtaining sufficient audit evidence and in line with the level of risk identified.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the Fund's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur by considering the key risks impacting the financial statements and performed procedures to understand the areas in which this would most likely arise. Based on our risk assessment procedures, we identified the manipulation of journal entries postings to investment income to be our fraud risk.
- To address our fraud risk we tested the consistency of the investment income from the independent sources of the custodian and the fund managers to the financial statements.
- In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluated the business rationale of any identified significant transactions that were unusual or outside the normal course of business. These procedures were designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free from fraud or error.
- The Fund is required to comply with The Local Government Pensions Scheme regulations, other legislation relevant to the governance and administration of the Local Government Pension Scheme and requirements imposed by the Pension Regulator in relation of the Local Government Pension Scheme. As such, we have considered the experience and expertise of the engagement team including the use of specialists where appropriate, to ensure that the team had an appropriate understanding of the relevant pensions regulations to assess the control environment and consider compliance of the Fund with these regulations as part of our audit procedures.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the members of London Borough of Redbridge, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended) and for no other purpose, as set out in paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the London Borough of Redbridge and its members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Debbie Hanson
Ernst & Young LLP

Debbie Hanson (Key Audit Partner)
Ernst & Young LLP (Local Auditor)
Luton
10 December 2024

Pension Fund Account for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

2021/22 £000		Notes	2022/23 £000
	Dealings with members, employers and other directly involved in the Fund.		
38,479	Contributions receivable	7	41,405
2,502	Transfers in	8	6,307
40,981			47,712
	<i>Less:</i>		
(36,164)	Benefits payable	9	(37,816)
(5,833)	Leavers	10	(7,317)
(41,997)			(45,133)
(1,016)	Net additions/(withdrawals) from dealings with members		2,579
(3,691)	Management Expenses	11	(3,421)
	Returns on Investments		
7,160	Investment income	12	13,361
46,090	Change in market value of investments	14(a)	(86,427)
53,250	Net returns on Investments		(73,066)
48,544	Net increase/(decrease) in the Fund during the year		(73,908)
961,408	Net Assets of the scheme at 1 April 2022		1,009,952
1,009,952	Net Assets of the scheme at 31 March 2023		936,044

Net Assets Statement as at 31 March 2023

2021/22 £000		Notes	2022/23 £000
150	Longer Term Investments		150
1,006,412	Investment Assets	13	931,550
1,006,562			931,700
3,937	Current Assets	18	4,804
(547)	Current Liabilities	18	(460)
1,009,952	Net Assets of the Scheme at 31 March 2023		936,044

The accounts summarise the transactions and net assets of the Pension Fund. They do not take account of liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits in the future. The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits is disclosed at Note 21.

I certify that the Pension Fund Account and Net Assets Statement present a true and fair view of the income and expenditure in 2022/23 and the Pension Fund's financial position as at 31 March 2023.



Duncan Whitfield
Interim Corporate Director of Resources & Section 151 Officer
05 December 2024

Notes to the Pension Fund Account

1. Introduction

The Pension Fund is a funded, defined benefit occupational pension scheme set up under the Superannuation Act 1972 and is administered in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Regulations by the London Borough of Redbridge. The scheme is a contributory defined benefit pension scheme that provides pensions and other benefits to former Council employees (except teachers, who have a separate scheme) and to various scheduled and admitted bodies.

The scheduled bodies in the scheme as at 31 March 2023 were: Chadwell Heath Academy, Mayfield School, Ilford Ursuline Academy, Little Heath School, Palmer Academy, Isaac Newton Academy, Aldborough Free School, Loxford Academy, St Aidan's Academy, Beacon Multi Academy (formerly Beal Multi Academy), Atam Academy, Winston Way Academy, Avanti Court School, Astrum Academy, Strive4 Academy, Al-Noor Academy, Good Shepherd Diocese, St Peters & St Paul's Academy and Our Lady of Lourdes Academy.

The admitted bodies in the scheme as at 31 March 2023 were: Mears Limited, Vision-Redbridge Culture & Leisure, Imagine Independence Ltd, Kindred Nursery (formerly known as Dizzy Ducks), Lewis & Graves, Birkin Clean, Town & Country and Westminster Drug Project

As at 31 March 2023 the membership of the scheme was as follows:

Active Members	As at 31 March 2022	As at 31 March 2023
Redbridge Council	5,117	5,226
Scheduled Bodies	1,045	1,065
Admitted Bodies	141	121
TOTAL	6,303	6,412

Pensioners	As at 31 March 2022	As at 31 March 2023
Redbridge Council	4,559	4,692
Scheduled Bodies	151	169
Admitted Bodies	96	102
TOTAL	4,806	4,963

Deferred Members	As at 31 March 2022	As at 31 March 2023
Redbridge Council	7,775	8,102
Scheduled Bodies	965	1,143
Admitted Bodies	104	107
TOTAL	8,844	9,352

The Fund is financed by contributions as well as interest, dividends and profits from realised investments. The contributions are made by active members of the Fund in accordance with the LGPS (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2013 and range from 5.5% to 12.5% of pensionable pay. Employee contributions are matched by employers' contributions which are set on triennial actuarial funding valuations. The funding policy is to ensure that over time the assets held by the Fund are adequate to meet future pension scheme liabilities.

Five Councillors are appointed annually by the Council to the Pension Fund Committee, which has the role of dealing with the management of the Pension Fund's investments in accordance with regulations laid down in statute and the Fund's Investment Strategy Statement.

In line with the provisions of the Public Service Pension Act 2013 the Council has set up a Local Pension Board to oversee the governance arrangements of the Pension Fund. The Board meets quarterly and has its own Terms of Reference. The Board Members are independent of the Pension Fund Committee.

The administration of the scheme is managed in-house by the London Borough of Redbridge.

The Pension Fund's financial statements provide a stewardship report on the Fund, together with a statement

of the assets position at the financial year-end.

2. Basis of Preparation

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Fund's transactions for the 2022/23 financial year and its position as at 31 March 2023. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 which is based upon International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as amended for the UK public sector. The accounts of the Pension Fund have also been prepared to meet the requirements of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2013 and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice on Financial Reports of Pension Schemes.

The accounts summarise the transactions of the Fund and report on the net assets available to pay pension benefits. The accounts do not take account of obligations to pay pensions and benefits which fall due after the end of the financial year. The accounting requirement under International Accounting Standard (IAS) 26 is disclosed at Note 21.

Going Concern - At the date of the authorisation of the financial statements, the Fund does not consider that the impact after Covid-19 or any other events gives rise to material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Fund's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue. The Council therefore remains satisfied that the Fund it administers continues to be a going concern.

The Pension Funds latest actuarial valuation as at 31 March 2022, showed it to be 99% funded, an increase of 15% from the position 3 years ago. The actuarial valuation includes the Rates and Adjustment certificate detailing contributions to the Pension Fund that participating employers are expected to make. It remains the Fund's expectation that these will be paid as planned, and to date the Fund has not received a request from participating employers to defer contribution payments.

Following the actuarial valuation and schedule of employer contributions payments, the Pension Fund has reviewed its cashflow forecast to 31 March 2026 and is anticipated to have sufficient cash to meet its obligations to pay pensions without selling any investments. This is reviewed annually. Should investments be required to be sold because of negative cashflows or employers being unable to pay their contributions (which is not expected) the Pension Fund would have ready access to cash as 79.7% of the Fund's investments could be sold at short notice as at 31 October 2024.

Increased Market Volatility - The value of the Investment assets of the Fund changes on a daily basis, however the degree of volatility in global financial markets has increased because of continuing social and economic uncertainties created by the conflict in Ukraine. Despite this, the Fund remains in a strong financial position, capable of meeting all its payment obligations. The Funding Strategy is based on long term investment returns and as such, the increased volatility seen at present is not considered a material concern.

The bid value of the Fund's investment assets as at 31 March 2023 were £931.700m a decrease of 7.44% in the value of the Fund's investment assets since 31 March 2022.

3. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Fund account – revenue recognition

- A) **Contribution Income** – Normal contributions, both from members and from the employer, are accounted for on an accruals basis at the percentage rate recommended by the Fund actuary in the payroll period to which they relate.

Employer's augmentation and pension strain contributions are accounted for in the period that the liability arises. Any amount due in year but unpaid is treated as a current financial asset.

- B) **Transfers to and from other schemes** – Transfer values represent the amounts received and paid during the year for members who have either joined or left the Fund during the financial year and are calculated in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations. Individual transfers in/out are accounted for when received/paid. Bulk transfers are accounted for on an accrual's basis in accordance with the terms of the transfer agreement.

- C) **Investment Income** –

(i) **Interest Income** – Interest income is recognised in the Fund account as it accrues.

- (ii) **Dividend Income** - Dividends have been accounted for on an accrual's basis. Investment income on overseas investments have been converted into sterling at the rate of exchange on settlement date. Any amount not received by the end of the reporting period is disclosed in the net assets statement as a current asset.
- (iii) **Distributions from pooled equity funds** – Pooled investment vehicles are accumulation funds and as such the change in market value includes income, net of withholding tax which is re-invested in the Fund.
- (iv) **Distributions from pooled property funds** – Income distributions from the pooled property fund investments have been accounted for on an accrual's basis.
- (v) **Movement in the net market value of investments** – Changes in the net market value of investments are recognised as income and comprise all realised and unrealised profits/losses during the year.

Fund account – expense items

- D) **Benefits Payable** – pensions and lump sum benefits payable include all amounts known to be due as at the end of the financial year. Any amounts due but unpaid are disclosed in the net assets statement as current liabilities.
- E) **Taxation** – the Fund is a registered public service scheme under section 1(1) of Schedule 36 of the Finance Act 2004 and as such is exempt from UK income tax on interest received and from capital gains tax on the proceeds of investments sold. Income from overseas investments incurs withholding tax in the country of origin, unless exemption is permitted. Irrecoverable tax is accounted for as a fund expense as it arises.
- F) **VAT** – As the Council is the administering authority for the Fund, VAT input tax is recoverable on all Fund activities including expenditure on investment expenses. VAT receivable is excluded from income.
- G) **Voluntary Scheme Pay (VSP), Mandatory Scheme Pay (MSP) and Lifetime Allowances** - Members are entitled to request the Pension Fund to pay their tax liabilities due in respect of annual allowance and lifetime allowance in exchange for a reduction in pension. Where the Fund pays member tax liabilities direct to HMRC it is treated as an expense in the year in which the payment occurs.
- H) **Management Expenses** – Pension Fund management expenses are accounted for in accordance with the CIPFA guidance: Accounting for Local Government Pension Scheme Management Costs. All administrative expenses are accounted for on an accrual's basis. All staff costs of the pension's administration team are charged direct to the Fund. Management, accommodation and other overheads are apportioned to the Fund in accordance with the Council's policy.
- I) **Investment Management Expenses** - All investment management expenses are accounted for on an accrual's basis. Fees of the external investment managers and custodian are agreed in the respective mandates governing their appointment. Broadly, these are based on the market value of the investments under their management and therefore increase or decrease as the value of these investments change.
- J) **Oversight and Governance Costs** - The cost of obtaining investment advice from external consultants is included in oversight and governance charges.

A proportion of the Council's costs for management time spent by officers on investment management is charged to the Fund and is included within oversight and governance costs.

Net assets statement

- K) **Financial Assets** – financial assets are included in the net assets statement on a fair value basis as at the reporting date. A financial asset is recognised in the net assets statement on the date the Fund becomes party to the contractual acquisition of the asset. From this date any gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of the assets are recognised by the Fund.

The values of investments as shown in the net assets statement have been determined as follows:

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

- ii) Fixed interest securities – are recorded at net market value based on their bid price.
 - iii) Pooled investment vehicles – these are valued at either the closing bid price where a bid price exists or on the single unit price provided by the investment managers.
 - iv) Cash – the cash held in the Pension Fund current account is invested by the Council in accordance with its Treasury Management Policy.
- L) **Foreign Currency Transactions** – dividends, interest and purchases and sales of investments in foreign currencies have been accounted for at the spot market rates at the date of transaction. End-of-year spot market exchanges rates are used to value any cash balances held in foreign currency bank accounts, market values of overseas investments and purchases and sales outstanding at the end of the reporting period.
- M) **Derivatives** – the pooled units in which the Fund invests uses derivative financial instruments to manage its exposure to specific risk arising from its investment activities.
- N) **Cash and cash equivalents** – cash comprises of cash in hand and demand deposits. Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and that are subject to minimal risk of changes in value. Cash that is invested for longer than an overnight deposit is recognised as an investment asset.
- O) **Financial Liabilities** – the Fund recognises financial liabilities at fair value as at the reporting date. A financial liability is recognised in the net assets statement on the date the Fund becomes party to the liability. From this date any gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of the liability are recognised by the fund.
- P) **Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits** – the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits is assessed on a triennial basis by the scheme actuary in accordance with the requirements of IAS 19 and relevant actuarial standards.
- As permitted under the Code, the Fund has opted to disclose the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits by way of a note to the net assets statement (Note 22).
- Q) **Additional Voluntary Contributions** – AVCs are not included in the accounts which is in accordance with section 4(2) (b) of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016 but are disclosed as a note only (Note 23).

4. Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

The Pension Fund liability is calculated triennial by the appointed actuary with annual updates in the intervening years. The methodology used in the intervening years follows generally agreed guidelines and is in accordance with IAS19. These assumptions are summarised in Note 21. The estimates are sensitive to changes in the underlying assumptions underpinning the valuations.

5. Assumptions made about the future and other major sources of estimation uncertainty

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

Actuarial Present Value of Promised Retirement Benefits – The Pension Fund liability is calculated every three years by the appointed actuary, with updates in the intervening years. The methodology used is in line with accepted guidelines and in accordance with IAS 19. Assumptions underpinning the valuations are agreed with the Actuary and are summarised in Note 21 and 22. This estimate is subject to significant variances based on changes to the underlying assumptions.

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rates 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 fund with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied	The effects on the net pension liability of changes in assumptions can be measured. For instance, a 0.1% decrease in the discount rate assumption would result in an increase in the pension liability of £18m. A 0.1% increase in the assumed earnings would increase the value of the liabilities by approximately £1m similarly an increase of 0.1% in the pension payments would increase the value of the liabilities by £17m. An increase in life expectancy by one year would increase the liability to the fund by £43m.

Unquoted Investments

The Fund's assets include investments in unquoted assets such as property and infrastructure on a pooled basis. These assets are valued by the investment managers at fair value in accordance with relevant industry standards and guidelines. Managers may use comparable market data, indices and data from third parties as well as projected revenue to determine the fair value of these assets. As such, there is a degree of estimation involved in these valuations.

The total value of unlisted investments in the financial statements is £112.798m (£104.967m in 2021/22) and is broken down as follows:

Property	£61.096m
Infrastructure	£51.702m

There is a risk that these investments may be under or overstated in the accounts.

6. Events after the Year End Date

There have been no events since 31 March 2023 and up to the date when these accounts were authorised that require any adjustment to these accounts.

7. Contributions Receivable

Contributions represent those amounts receivable from the various employing bodies in respect of their own contributions and those of their contributing employees. Under the provisions of the scheme, employees' rates are based on pay bandings and range from 5.5% to 12.5% of pensionable pay. The Fund's Actuary determines employer contribution rates (as a percentage of pensionable pay) which currently range from 13.3% to 35.4% plus any additional lump sum contributions required in respect of funding shortfalls at the time of the triennial actuarial valuation.

Early retirement - All capital costs, such as employee and employer contributions foregone, and the cost of making pension payments early in respect of non-ill-health early retirements, are met by the employer that approved the early retirement.

		2021/22	2022/23
		£000	£000
Employers			
	London Borough of Redbridge	25,120	26,880
	Scheduled Bodies	3,709	4,070
	Admitted Bodies	988	990
		29,817	31,941
Members			
	London Borough of Redbridge	7,344	8,052
	Scheduled Bodies	1,066	1,178
	Admitted Bodies	252	234
		8,662	9,464
		38,479	41,405

Contributions split between normal, deficit funding and augmentation are outlined below:

	2021/22	2022/23
	£000	£000
Normal Employer Contributions	26,438	28,742
Deficit Payments *	2,893	3,066
Augmentation (Early Retirements)	486	135
	29,817	31,941

* The deficit recovery policy is set out in the Scheme's Funding Strategy Statement

8. Transfers In

Sums received for scheme members from other pension schemes that relate to periods of previous pensionable employment.

	2021/22	2022/23
	£000	£000
Individual Transfers from other schemes – London Borough of Redbridge	2,502	6,307
	2,502	6,307

9. Benefits Payable

Benefits are provided in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Pension Scheme regulations.

	2021/22	2022/23
	£000	£000
Pensions	29,575	31,283
Commutation of Pensions and Lump Sum Retirement Benefits	5,702	5,926
Lump Sum Death Benefit	862	538
Interest	25	69
	36,164	37,816

	2021/22	2022/23
	£000	£000
By Employer		
London Borough of Redbridge	34,469	35,859
Scheduled Bodies	933	1,098
Admitted Bodies	762	859
	36,164	37,816

10. Payments to and on Account of Leavers

Regulations permit a refund of employee contributions to be made to new members with less than two years initial scheme membership. Individual transfers are payments of accrued pension benefits in respect of scheme members who have left the scheme and joined a pension scheme elsewhere.

	2021/22	2022/23
	£000	£000
Refunds to members	45	49
Individual Transfers to other Schemes	5,788	7,268
	5,833	7,317

11. Management Expenses

The table below shows a breakdown of the management expenses incurred during the year. The London Borough of Redbridge carries out the administrative function in-house.

	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000
Administrative Costs	725	1,043
Investment Management Expenses	2,819	2,196
Oversight and Governance	131	161
Audit Fees	16	21
	3,691	3,421

11(a). Investment Management Expenses

	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000
Management Fees	2,700	2,171
Custody Fees	119	25
	2,819	2,196

Total	2021/22		Fund Manager Fees	2022/23		
	Pooled Units outside of LCIV	Pooled Units through LCIV		Total	Pooled Units outside of LCIV	Pooled Units through LCIV
£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
2,181	678	1,503	1,968	439	1,529	
119	59	60	75	25	50	
192	-	192	153	-	153	
327	-	327	-	-	-	
2,819	737	2,082	2,196	464	1,732	

12. Investment Income

Interest, dividends and other income shown in the Fund Account have been broken down as follows:

	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000
Pooled Investments Vehicles	4,552	10,259
Property Unit Trusts	2,535	2,918
Cash Deposits	59	179
Other Investment Income	14	5
	7,160	13,361

13. Investments

The table below shows the Fund's investments by asset class:

	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000
Investment Assets		
Pooled Investments	920,440	858,816
Pooled Property Investments	84,818	72,054
Cash Deposits	1,304	830
Total Investment Assets	1,006,562	931,700

There are no investment liabilities.

The table below shows a detailed analysis of the investments held by the Fund as at 31 March 2023 with a comparison table showing detailed analysis of the investments held by the Fund as at 31 March 2022.

2022/23	Value at 31/03/22 £000	Purchases at cost £000	Sales proceeds £000	Change in fair value £000	Cash movement £000	Value at 31/03/23 £000
Pooled Equity Unit Trusts	920,290	22,505	(13,900)	(70,229)	-	858,666
London CIV	150	-	-	-	-	150
Property Unit Trusts	84,818	3,764	(330)	(16,198)	-	72,054
	1,005,258	26,269	(14,230)	(86,427)	-	930,870
Other Balances						
Cash Deposits	1,304	-	-	-	(474)	830
	1,006,562	26,269	(14,230)	(86,427)	(474)	931,700
2021/22	Value at 31/03/21 £000	Purchases at cost £000	Sales proceeds £000	Change in fair value £000	Cash movement £000	Value at 31/03/22 £000
Pooled Equity Unit Trusts	882,226	66,834	(63,602)	34,832	-	920,290
London CIV	150	-	-	-	-	150
Property Unit Trusts	71,767	1,793	-	11,258	-	84,818
	954,143	68,627	(63,602)	46,090	-	1,005,258
Other Balances						
Cash Deposits	560	-	-	-	744	1,304
	954,703	68,627	(63,602)	46,090	744	1,006,562

The change in fair value of investments during the year comprises all increases and decreases in the value of investments held at any time during the year, including profits and losses realised on sales of investments and changes in the sterling value of assets caused by changes in exchange rates. In the case of the pooled investment vehicles changes in market value also includes income, net of withholding tax, which is reinvested in the Fund.

As a result of the Fund's investments in pooled investment vehicles the Fund did not incur any direct transaction costs, such as broker fees and taxes. Indirect costs are incurred through the bid-offer spread on investments within pooled investment vehicles. The amount of indirect costs is not separately provided to the Fund.

As shareholders of the London LGPS CIV Ltd (the organisation set up to run pooled LGPS investments in London), the Fund has purchased £0.150m of regulatory capital.

A summary of individual investments exceeding 5% of the Fund's total net assets is set out below:

Investment	31 March 2023	% of net assets
UK Equity Index Unit Trust	90,572	9.68%
All World (ex UK) Equity Index Unit Trust	79,004	8.44%
Low Carbon Equity Index Unit Trust	185,420	19.81%
Global Equity Fund	186,560	19.93%
Emerging Markets Equity Fund	44,768	4.78%
Index Linked Bond Fund	63,722	6.81%
Diversified Growth Fund (DGF)	95,822	10.24%
Real Estate Long Income Fund	61,096	6.53%
Infrastructure Fund	51,702	5.52%
Schroder Property Fund	72,054	7.79%

13(a) Investments – Fund Management

As at 31 March 2023, the fair value of assets under management was £931.700m. The Fund has undertaken work in conjunction with the Fund's external adviser to implement a long-term strategy to match the objective of being fully funded in the longer term. The structure of the Fund resulted in a strategic benchmark of 80% equities (including property and cash) and 20% bonds. As set out in the Pension Fund's Investment Strategy Statement, the asset

allocation may be varied and rebalancing may be suspended at the discretion of the Pension Fund Committee.

The Tables below shows details of the investment mandates analysed between those invested managed by the pool and those outside of the pooled arrangement:

31/03/22 £000	% of Portfolio	Manager	Mandate	31/03/23 £000	% of Portfolio	Strategic Asset Allocation %
Investments managed by Pool						
199,287	19.80	Baillie Gifford	Global Equities	186,560	20.02	15.00
119,092	11.83	Baillie Gifford	Diversified Growth Fund	95,822	10.28	10.00
32,269	3.21	Stepstone	Infrastructure	51,702	5.55	10.00
72,698	7.22	Aviva	Real Estate Long Income	61,096	6.56	10.00
169,177	16.81	LGIM	Global Equities	169,576	18.20	15.00
189,193	18.80	LGIM	Low Carbon Equities	185,420	19.90	15.00
91,745	9.11	LGIM	Index Linked Gilts	63,722	6.84	10.00
873,461	86.78			813,898	87.35	85.00
Investments managed outside of Pool						
46,828	4.65	Schroders	Emerging Markets Equities	44,768	4.81	5.00
-	-	Aberdeen Standard	Fixed Income	-	-	-
84,818	8.43	Schroders	Property	72,054	7.73	10.00
1,455	0.14	Cash inc LCIV		980	0.11	-
133,101	13.22			117,802	12.65	15.00
1,006,562	100.00	TOTAL		931,700	100.00	100.00

14. Classification of Financial Instruments

Accounting policies describe how different asset classes of financial instruments are measured and how income and expenses, including fair value gains and losses, are recognised. The following table analyses the fair value amounts of financial assets and liabilities by category and net asset statement heading. No financial assets were reclassified during the accounting period.

2021/22			2022/23		
Designated as fair value through profit & loss £000	Loans and Receivables £000	Financial Liabilities at amortised cost £000	Designated as fair value through profit & loss £000	Loans and Receivables £000	Financial Liabilities at amortised cost £000
Financial Assets					
920,440	-	-	858,816	-	-
84,818	-	-	72,054	-	-
1,304	2,645	-	830	3,325	-
-	115	-	-	987	-
1,006,562	2,760	-	931,700	4,313	-
Financial Liabilities					
-	-	-	-	-	-

-	-	-	Total	-	-	-
1,006,562	2,760	-		931,700	4,313	-
	1,009,322		Grand Total		936,012	

14 (a) Net Gains and Losses on Financial Instruments

2020/21

£000
46,090
46,090

Financial Assets
Fair value through profit & loss
TOTAL

2022/23

£000
86,427
86,427

14 (b) Fair Values of Financial Instruments and Liabilities

The following table summarises the fair values of the financial assets and financial liabilities by class of instrument.

31 March 2022 Fair Value £000		31 March 2023 Fair Value £000
	Financial Assets	
1,006,562	Fair value through profit & loss	931,700
-	Loans and Receivables	-
1,006,562	Total Financial Assets	931,700
-	Total Financial Liabilities	-
1,006,562		931,700

15. Fair Value – Basis of Valuation

The valuation of financial instruments has been classified into three levels, according to the quality and reliability of information used to determine fair values.

Description of Asset	Valuation Hierarchy	Basis of Valuation	Observable and unobservable	Key Sensitivities affecting the valuations provided
Cash	Level 1	All cash is reported in Sterling	Not Required	Not required
Pooled LCIV - ACS	Level 2	Quoted investments are valued at mid-market value as at the close of business on the last working day of the relevant period	Evaluated Price Feeds	Not required
		Unquoted investments or if a quotation is not available at the time of valuation, the fair value shall be estimated on the basis of the probable realisation value of the investment		
		Collective investment schemes are valued at quoted bid prices for dual priced funds and at quoted prices for single priced funds, on the last business day of the relevant period.		

Unquoted Infrastructure Managed Funds	Level 3	The Fair Value of the investments has been determined using valuation techniques appropriate to each investment. These techniques include discounted cash flow analysis and comparable transaction multiples in accordance with the International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation Guidelines	Significant unobservable inputs and observable inflation	Valuations could be affected by material events occurring between the date of the financial statements provide and the pension fund's own reporting date, by changes to the expected cashflow and by any differences between audited and unaudited accounts
Pooled Investments - Real Estate Funds	Level 3	Closing bid price where bid and offer prices are published. Closing single price where single price published	NAV-based pricing set on a forward pricing basis	Significant changes in rental growth, vacancy levels or the discounted rate could affect valuations as could more general changes to market prices

Level 1

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

Level 2

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

Level 3

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

15 (a) Fair Value Hierarchy

The table below provides analysis of the assets and liabilities of the pension fund allocated into levels 1 to 3 based on the level at which fair value is observed.

Values as at 31 March 2023	Level 1 £000	Level 2 £000	Level 3 £000	Total £000
Financial Assets				
Financial assets at fair value through profit & loss	830	817,922	112,948	931,700
Financial Assets at amortised cost	-	-	-	-
Total Financial Assets	830	817,922	112,948	931,700
Financial Liabilities				
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit & loss	-	-	-	-
Financial liabilities at amortised cost	-	-	-	-
Total Financial Liabilities	-	-	-	-
Net Financial Assets	830	817,922	112,948	931,700

Values as at 31 March 2022	Level 1 £000	Level 2 £000	Level 3 £000	Total £000
Financial Assets				
Financial Assets at fair value through profit & loss	1,304	900,141	105,117	1,006,562
Financial Assets at amortised cost	-	-	-	-
Total Financial Assets	1,304	900,141	105,117	1,006,562
Financial Liabilities				
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit & loss	-	-	-	-
Financial liabilities at amortised cost	-	-	-	-
Total Financial Liabilities	-	-	-	-
Net Financial Assets	1,304	900,141	105,117	1,006,562

15 (b) Reconciliation of Fair Value Measurements within Level 3

	London CIV £000	Infrastructure £000	Real Estate Long Income £000	Total £000
Value at 31 March 2022	150	32,269	72,698	105,117
Purchases	-	16,486	5,513	21,999
Unrealised profit and loss	-	2,947	(17,115)	(14,168)
Value at 31 March 2023	150	51,702	61,096	112,948

16. Nature and Extent of Risks arising from Financial Instruments

The Fund's primary long-term risk is that the Fund's assets will fall short of its liabilities (i.e. promised benefits payable to members). Therefore, the aim of investment risk management is to minimise the risk of an overall reduction in the value of the Fund and to maximise the opportunity for gains across the whole Fund portfolio. The Fund achieves this through asset diversification to reduce exposure to market risk and credit risk to an acceptable level. In addition, the Fund manages its liquidity risk to ensure that there is sufficient liquidity to meet the Fund's forecast cash-flows. The Council manages these investment risks as part of its overall Pension Fund risk management programme.

Market Risks

Market risk is the risk of loss from fluctuations in equity and commodity prices, interest and foreign exchange rates and credit spreads. The Fund is exposed to market risk from its investment activities, particularly through its equity holdings. The level of risk exposure depends on market conditions, expectations of future price and yield movements and the asset mix.

The objective of the Fund's risk management strategy is to identify, manage and control market risk exposure within acceptable parameters, whilst optimising the return on risk.

In general, excessive volatility in market risk is managed through the diversification of the portfolio in terms of geographical and industry sector and individual securities. To mitigate market risk, the Council and the Fund's investment advisers undertake appropriate monitoring of market conditions and benchmark analysis.

Other Price Risk

Other price risk represents the risk that the value of the financial instrument will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or foreign currency), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual instrument or its issuer or factors affecting all such instruments in the market. The Fund is exposed to share and derivative price risk. This arises from investments held by the Fund for which the

future price is uncertain. All securities investments present a risk of loss of capital.

The Fund's investment managers mitigate this price risk through diversification and the selection of securities and other financial instruments, and other financial instruments is monitored by the Council to ensure it is within limits specified in the Fund's investment strategy.

Other Price Risk – Sensitivity Analysis

The following table demonstrates the change in the net assets available to pay benefits if the market price were to increase or decrease by 10%.

Price Risk:

Asset Type	Value £000	Value on Increase £000	Value on Decrease £000
Level 2 Assets			
UK Equities	90,572	99,630	81,515
Overseas/Global Equities	591,574	650,731	532,416
Index Linked Gilts	63,722	70,095	57,350
Property	72,054	79,260	64,849
Level 3 Assets			
Infrastructure	51,702	56,872	46,531
Real Estate Long Income	61,096	67,20	54,987

Currency Risk

Currency risk represents the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates. The Fund is exposed to currency risk on financial instruments that are denominated in any currency other than the base currency of the fund, i.e. pounds sterling.

The following table shows the change in value of these assets had there been a 10% strengthening/weakening of the pound against the various currencies:

Currency Risk (by asset class):

Asset Type	Value £000	Value on Increase £000	Value on Decrease £000
Overseas Equities	591,574	650,731	532,416

Credit Risk

Credit risk represents the risk that the counterparty to a transaction or a financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation and cause the Fund to incur a financial loss. The market values of investments generally reflect an assessment of credit in their pricing and consequently the risk of loss is implicitly provided for in the carrying value of the Fund's financial assets and liabilities.

In essence the Fund's entire investment portfolio is exposed to some form of credit risk. The selection of high-quality counterparties, brokers and financial institutions minimises credit risk that may occur through the failure to settle a transaction in a timely manner.

Interest Rate Risk

The Fund invests in financial assets for the primary purpose of obtaining a return on investments. These investments are subject to interest rate risks, which represent the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates.

Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk represents the risk that the Fund will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Council therefore takes steps to ensure that the Pension Fund has adequate cash resources to meet its commitments.

The Pension Fund has immediate access to its cash holdings that are invested by the Council. The levels of cash held are reviewed by the Council as part of the periodic cashflow forecasting and form part of the Fund's investment strategy. The Fund's investment strategy ensures that the majority of the Fund is invested in assets that can be sold at short notice to avoid any liquidity risk.

17. Investment Strategy Statement

The Council is required by Regulation to prepare and publish an Investment Strategy Statement (ISS). This Statement sets out the Fund's policy on a range of matters relating to the investments and management of the Pension Fund and is regularly reviewed and updated. A copy of the ISS can be found on the Council's website www.redbridge.gov.uk.

18. Current Assets and Liabilities

	2021/22	2022/23
	£000	£000
Cash at Bank	2,645	3,325
Contributions due	955	248
Sundry debtors	115	987
Prepaid expenses	222	244
Total of Current Assets	3,937	4,804
Accrued benefits	(207)	(17)
Accrued expenses	(340)	(443)
Sundry creditors	-	-
Total of Current Liabilities	(547)	(460)

19. Stock Lending

The Fund does not participate in stock lending arrangements.

20. Related Party Transactions

The London Borough of Redbridge is the single largest employer of members in the Pension Fund and contributed £26.786m to the Fund in 2022/23 (£25.120m in 2021/22).

During the year no Councillors or Chief Officers with direct responsibility for Pension Fund issues have undertaken any declarable transactions with the Pension Fund, other than the following.

- Administrative services undertaken by the Council to the Pension Fund were £0.450m (£0.475m in 2021/22).
- Investment services undertaken by the Council to the Pension Fund were £0.122m (£0.122m in 2021/22).

Each member of the Pension Fund Committee is required to disclose their interest at each meeting.

The key management personnel of the Pension Fund are the members of the Pension Fund Committee and the Corporate Director of Resources.

21. Actuarial Valuation

In 2022/23, the contribution rate paid by the Council as an employer was determined following an actuarial valuation of the Fund as at 31 March 2019.

The valuation as at 31 March 2022 set the employer's contribution rates for the years 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26. The actuarial method used by the Actuary is known as the "projected unit method". The key feature of this method is that in assessing the future service cost, the Actuary calculates the contribution rate, which meets the cost of benefits accruing in the year after the valuation date. This is the same method adopted at the previous valuation and is an appropriate method for a fund which is open to new members.

For this valuation the Actuary adopted a market value approach whereby assets were valued initially on a market value basis and liability assumptions were derived from gilt yields. Those assumptions which have the most significant effect on the results of the valuation are:

Assumption	Rate
The rate of increase in pensionable earnings	2.7%
"Gilt-based" discount rate	4.3%
The level of increase in earnings growth	2.7%

The result of the 2022 valuation was that the value of the Fund's assets was actuarially assessed as £1.010m, which was sufficient to meet 99% of its accrued liabilities. The employer's contribution rate required as a result of the valuation incorporates a phased increase in the balance of the Fund to meet 100% of future benefit liabilities, as required by Pension Fund regulations. As a result of the 2022 valuation, those employers within the Fund that have funding shortfalls are required to make repayments over an agreed period in accordance with the policies set out in the Pension Fund's Funding Strategy Statement (available on the Council's website www.redbridge.gov.uk), and certified by the Actuary in the Actuarial Valuation Report. The new employer contribution rates and shortfall payments commenced from 1 April 2023.

22. Actuarial Present Value of Promised Retirement Benefits

The Fund's Actuary prepares reports for the purposes of IAS19 for the Council and other employers participating in the Pension Fund upon request. Further information pertaining to the Council is included at note 40 of the Notes to the Core Financial Statements.

The Actuary has calculated that the liabilities at 31 March 2023 for the entire Fund comprises of:

Type of Member	31 March 2022 Liability £m	31 March 2023 Liability £m
Employees	514	363
Deferred Members	383	244
Pensioners	553	466
Total	1,450	1,073

The net liability of the Fund in relation to the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits and the net assets available to fund these benefits is as follows (based upon IAS26 information).

	31 March 2022 £m	31 March 2023 £m
Present value of funded obligations	(1,450)	(1,073)
Fair value of Fund Assets (BID Value)	1,010	936
Net Liability for the whole Fund	(440)	(137)

These calculations have been determined using the following financial assumptions:

Year Ended	31 March 2022 % p.a.	31 March 2023 % p.a.
Inflation / Pension Increase Rate	3.20	3.00
Salary Increase Rate	3.20	3.00
Discount Rate	2.70	4.75

23. Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVC's)

The Council has a statutory obligation to provide an additional voluntary contribution (AVC) facility. This facility provides the means for members of the Pension Fund to pay contributions into a policy, which will be used to buy additional pension benefits when the member retires. A total of one hundred and two members of the Pension Fund contribute to the AVC schemes. In 2022/23 £224,347 of contributions deductions were made in respect of the AVC Scheme (£52,106 in 2021/22).

Market Value 31 March 2022 £000	AVC Provider	Market Value 31 March 2023 £000
203	Utmost Pensions (formerly Equitable Life)	176
268	Clerical Medical	365
240	Standard Life	264
711	TOTAL	805

The Council, as employer, does not make any contribution to the AVC scheme and these funds do not form part of the Council's Pension Fund accounts.

24. Contractual Commitments

The Fund has committed £70m into the Step-stone Infrastructure Fund. Of this commitment £23.995m was outstanding at 31 March 2023.

Annual Governance Statement 2022/23

Introduction

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework (2016) (the Framework) requires local authorities to publish an Annual Governance Statement, and to be responsible for ensuring that:

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

This report provides detail and commentary on the design and the operating effectiveness of the governance arrangements put in place by the Council to ensure the above.

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Section 1: The core principles of good governance per the CIPFA / SOLACE framework

Section 2: Overview of the Council's governance framework and arrangements in 2022/23

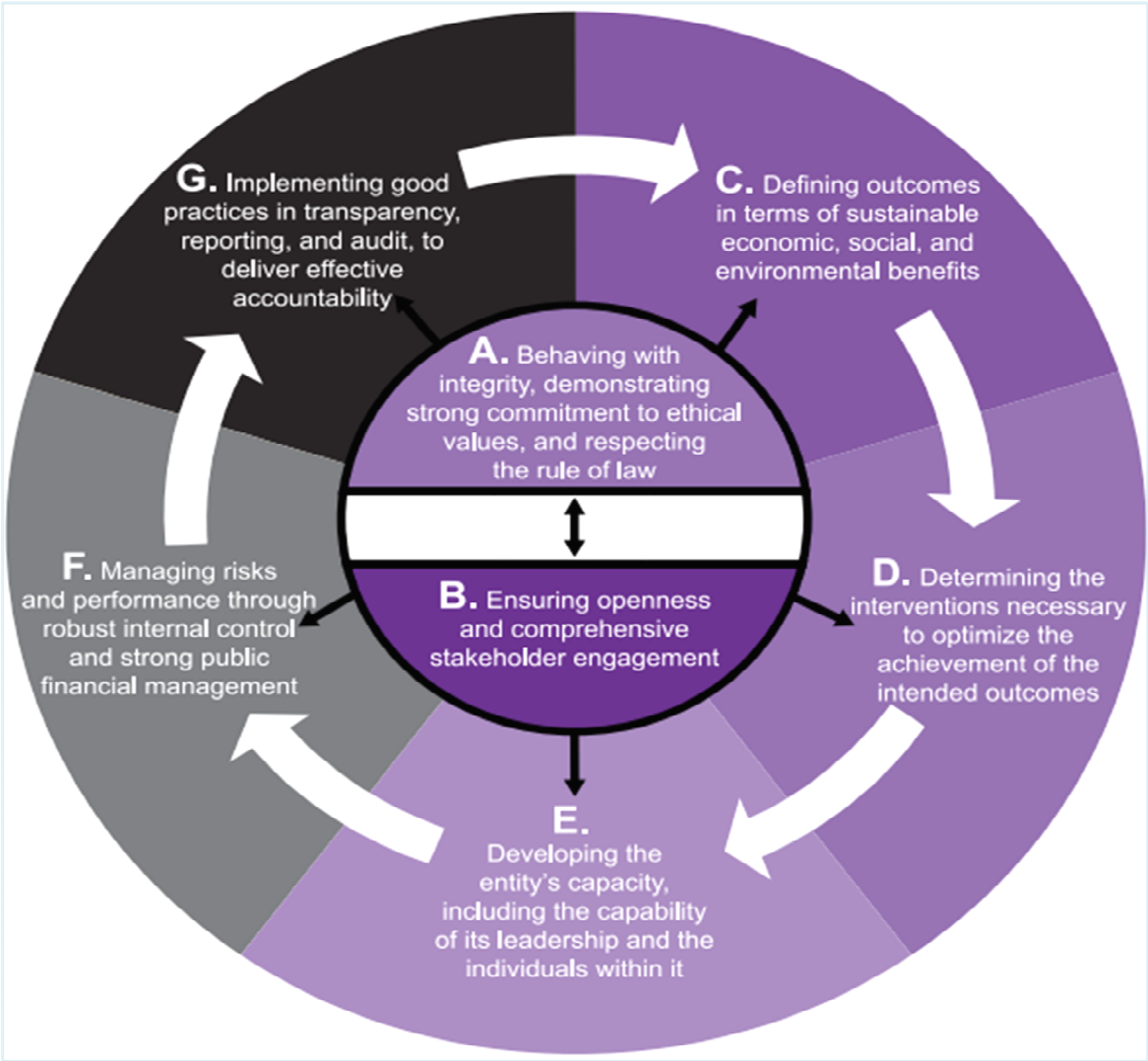
Section 3: How the Council met the core principles of good governance in 2022/23

Section 4: Implementation progress of previous year's Annual Governance Statement improvement actions

Section 5: Improvement actions for 2023/24

Section 6: Agreement of the Annual Governance Statement

Section 1: The core principles of good governance per the CIPFA/SOLACE framework



Section 2: Overview of the governance framework and responsibilities for good governance

Development, Scrutiny and Review

Cabinet, and other Scrutiny committees develop and review Council policies and call in decisions for scrutiny.

Governance and Assurance reviews the operation of the internal control framework for the Council.

Corporate Management Team

Head of the Paid Service is the Chief Executive and is responsible for all Council staff and leading an effective corporate management team.

The Corporate Director of Resources is the Council's Chief Finance Officer s151 Officer and is responsible for safeguarding the Council's financial position and ensuring value for money.

The Council's Monitoring Officer is the Operational Director Assurance and is responsible for ensuring legality and promoting high standards of public conduct.

Risk Management

Risk registers identify both Operational and Corporate/Strategic risks.

Key Corporate/Strategic risks are reviewed by CMT and Governance and Assurance Committee every quarter.

Monitoring established of Council committees and key partnerships.

Decision Making

All meetings are held in public.

Decisions are recorded on the Council website

The Council has adopted the Code of Corporate Governance (in accordance with the CIPFA and SOLACE guidance) and is published as part of the Constitution.

Audit and Assurance

External Audit

Internal Audit

Counter Fraud and Corruption

Contract and Partnership monitoring and management

The Council has delegated responsibility to the Governance and Assurance Committee to:

- Review the Council's corporate governance arrangements against the CIPFA / SOLACE good practice from time to time through review of the Local Code of Corporate Governance
- Receive required assurances regarding the design and operation of the integrated governance, risk management, and internal control frameworks
- Based on the above, approve the Annual Governance Statement
- Make any recommendations to Full Council as needed on proposed changes to the member code of conduct
- Through its Standards Sub-Committee hear allegations of misconduct against members and to make necessary recommendations

Other key council bodies that have a significant role to play within the governance framework include [Full Council](#), the [Cabinet](#), and [other committees and bodies](#).

Internal corporate governance structure

Overlaying all of the above, during 2022/23 a **new strengthened and focused internal corporate governance structure** became operational from September 2022. The new internal corporate governance structure provides a more structured approach to the way the Council plans to meet the aims and ambitions of the Redbridge Plan 2022-26.

The new governance approach replaced the single Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) meetings and created four new groups focused on governance and assurance aspects and arrangements as follows

- **Corporate Strategy Group** – This group focused on how the Council defines, and responds to, its priorities. This is the forum where strategic intentions have been discussed, refined, and agreed.
- **Corporate Performance Group** – This group focused on monitoring and managing how effectively the Council is delivering on its priorities and ensuring it is working as an effective organisation. This group has provided ongoing monitoring and challenge over performance in services, programmes, and finance.
- **Leadership Group** – This group focused on the way the Council is led and works in partnership with others. This group is key to communication, change, and delivery across the organisation and thereby is a key part of the governance framework to deliver effective consultation and engagement.

- **Corporate Assurance Group** – This group focused on receiving information and assurance over the core governance and statutory functions of the organisation that must be managed. During 2023/24 the group has received information on and assurance around core governance arrangements regarding (amongst others):
 - Risk Management
 - Information Governance
 - Health and Safety, including the actions being taken to respond to the Social Housing Regulator’s notice
 - Key social care information including safeguarding
 - Contract standing orders waivers

During 2022/23 supporting governance boards have also been established to support the above and therefore further support and decision making. Each board is chaired by either the Chief Executive or a Corporate Director. These are:

- **Land and Property Board** – to enhance governance and oversight to review, improve, develop, and oversee the Council’s use of land and property assets, including developing and monitoring the capital programme
- **Change and Improvement Board** – to support change and modernisation of the organisation through a range of cross-cutting organisational programme

In addition, a **Workforce Board** is being established to oversee all matters relating to staff development and training and culture change and arrangements for assurance over these aspects.

Section 3: How the Council met the core good governance principles in 2022/23

Detail on how the Council has met the core good governance principles in 2022/23 is set out below.

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

In 2022/23 the Council demonstrated how it sufficiently met this principle through:

- Having member and staff Codes of Conduct in place throughout the year. The Council implemented the new Member's Code of Conduct which was effective from 6 May 2022. Full training was provided to Members on the code
- Training all new staff and members on codes of conduct and required standards of behaviour as part of induction.
 - Mandatory training for all members on safeguarding, probity in planning and licensing
 - Mandatory training for staff on Health and Safety, Anti-Fraud and Corruption, Information Governance, and aspects of equalities, diversity, and inclusion. Compliance rates monitored, reported, and increasing appropriately through the year
- Continuing to require all staff and members regularly declare whether they have any relationships or interests that could give rise to conflict of interest, or the perception of a conflict of interest. Also requiring all staff and members to declare offers of gifts, and hospitality made and received. Members declarations are published on the Council's webpage. The Monitoring Officer oversaw requests for dispensations to members which disclosable pecuniary interests
- Having clear mechanisms in place through the Governance and Assurance Committee to deal with matters relating to member conduct and standards of behaviour. There were no major issues arising in the year.
- Defining the Council's values and behaviours as excellence, honesty, collaboration, and fairness which staff are required to adhere to. These have been embedded into the staff performance and development scheme from September 2022 onwards
- Having a counter fraud and corruption strategy and policy suite setting out how we will look to prevent, identify, and act against fraud. Having an action plan of counter fraud activity that implements the strategy.

Principle B - Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement

In 2022/23 the Council demonstrated it sufficiently met this principle through:

- Taking decisions openly and transparently, with a presumption of decisions made publicly using private, confidential reports only when absolutely necessary and legally allowed

- Regularly publishing forward plans of the decisions to be made by Cabinet and Council
- Having consultation and engagement mechanisms to consulting with staff and the public. Continuing to take action to address the equalities, diversity, and inclusion issues reported to it by staff in 2021. Further work on this will continue in 2023/24 in particular to measure and analyse progress made to determine next priority actions
- Continue to work and engage with key stakeholders. These include but are not limited to:
 - The Community Safety Partnership
 - The Redbridge Schools Forum
 - The Health and Wellbeing Board
 - Resident consultation and engagement fora.

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

In 2022/23 the Council demonstrated it sufficiently met this principle through:

- Developing and publishing the corporate plan, the Redbridge Plan 2022 – 2026, in July 2022
- Developing and publishing the annual 2023/24 balanced budgets and providing an updated medium-term financial strategy with data on the Council’s financial resilience given increased reserves and direction of travel
- Embedding social value considerations into procurement of works, goods, and services
- Reporting on the Council’s progress on delivery of plans to address climate change issues
- Undertaking environmental impact assessments before major works

Principle D - Determining the intervention necessary to achieve intended outcomes

In 2022/23 the Council demonstrated it sufficiently met this principle through:

- Developing and agreeing the new corporate plan, the Redbridge Plan 2022 – 2026 in July 2022
- Beginning to develop service plans in a standard templated form that underpin the delivery of the Redbridge Plan. Further work on this will continue in 2023/24
- Developing the key strategies and policies required to direct resources and activity required to achieve required outcomes and fulfil legal obligations through the work of the Corporate Strategy Group
- Defining and regularly reporting on indicators of success and good performance and so whether the Council is working toward achieving the outcomes as set out in the Redbridge Plan. Further work on this will continue in 2024/25 around enhancing performance management systems and processes
- Identifying, managing, and reporting every quarter on key strategic risks faced by the Council
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee providing constructive challenge and debate on key policies as part of decision making

Principle E - Developing capacity, including the capability of leadership and individuals within the Council

In 2022/23 the Council demonstrated it sufficiently met this principle through:

- Training new members when elected and inducting new staff to ensure awareness and acceptance of key policies and processes
- Delivering a series of mandatory training on key subjects, as well as an ongoing offer of other key training offers to support skills and knowledge of staff around HR, staff management, project management, IT and other learning and personal development topics
- Having a mandatory staff development and performance scheme supported by ongoing development courses supported by external specialist training and development companies.

- Having an apprenticeship scheme, and engaging in the National Graduate Development Programme to develop the Council's own pool of staff

Principle F - Managing risks and performance through strong internal control, and financial management

In 2022/23 the Council demonstrated it sufficiently met this principle through:

- The maintenance of a risk management strategy and policy, supported by strategic and operational risk registers. Regularly reporting on risk management to senior management through the Corporate Assurance Group and also to the Governance and Assurance Committee as the body charged with assuring itself of robustness of risk management
- Regularly reporting budgetary control reports to senior management and members, setting out the current and forecast financial situation, progress on delivering savings, and where needed mitigating recovery plans. Achieving a positive end of year financial outcome
- Assessing it met or partially met the national good practice standards in financial governance and management. Further improvement actions have been completed since the initial assessment and other actions are ongoing into 2023/24
- Updating the medium-term financial strategy and position at mid-year and reporting to senior management and members
- Regularly reporting performance on key indicators to senior management through the Corporate Performance Group. Further improvement work on this will continue in 2023/24
- Updating senior management and members on Treasury Management activity and demonstrating the risks inherent in investing and borrowing were well managed
- Assessing the risk management and internal control environment through a programme of independent assurance reviews by the Internal Audit team
- Having a Shareholder Reference Group to ensure decisions now made on the future of all Council-owned companies and receive updates on the operation and performance of live companies
- Further developing the Corporate Health and Safety Audit and Assurance Framework and regular reporting to the Corporate Health and Safety Board and Corporate Assurance Group. Further improvement work on this will continue in 2023/24

- Addressing the issues identified around compliance with the Housing Standard and key statutory health and safety obligations. Improvement work on this continues into 2023/24
- Assessing the current maturity and capability and capacity of the Council's arrangements to meet the good practice resilience standards and thereby effectively meet its obligations under the Civil Contingency Act. Further improvement work on this will continue in 2023/24.

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

In 2022/23 the Council demonstrated it sufficiently met this principle through:

- Having a presumption of open, public reporting and decision making and reporting confidentiality only when absolutely essential. Publishing of meeting minutes, key decisions, registers of interest and gifts and hospitality on our website. Collating and publishing on the website spend over £500 and other requirements of the Transparency Code
- Having Information Governance policies and procedures, supported by mandatory information governance training for staff, now 95% completed. Publicly reporting the performance from key Information Governance and Data Protection arrangements, including on its performance on responding to Subject Access Requests for personal data, Freedom of Information Act requests for Council data, and reporting on breaches. Further improvement action around timeliness of responses and management of third parties who handle Council data will continue in 2023/24
- Assessing the risk management and internal control environment through a programme of independent assurance reviews by the Internal Audit team and having arrangement in place to address the recommendations for improvement action are acted on
- Reporting on the results of the latest work of the external auditor concluding whilst changes are needed to the latest accounts audited these are not significant or fundamental problems with the Council's financial management or financial standing
- Reporting on the effectiveness of our corporate governance arrangements and processes through the Annual Governance Statement.

Other assurances

The **Director Assurance Statements** completed by all Operational and Corporate Directors giving their assessment of the effectiveness of

internal control and governance arrangements within their remits. This therefore provides a means to assess compliance with all core principles. The Director Assurance Statements assess that generally internal controls and governance arrangements are good or adequate. Where there are issues, management has set out the improvement actions to be taken in 2023/24.

Another source of independent assurance to the Council, is the work of the **Internal Audit team**. The Head of Audit and Investigations' 2022/23 Annual Internal Audit opinion is that the outcomes from the Internal Audit work completed in year provides limited assurance given the balance between the numbers of adverse opinions (i.e., limited assurance) and non-adverse opinions (i.e., reasonable, or substantial assurance). The annual opinion in 2021/22 was of limited assurance, and therefore the overall assurance category has remained the same. The Head of Internal Audit and Investigations' Annual Internal Audit opinion is primarily based on the outcomes of Internal Audit work and therefore does not imply all the Council's governance, risk management and internal control arrangements provide limited assurance. Limited assurance opinions issued do not all relate to governance (i.e., there were several issued regarding service-level internal control arrangements).

Key governance areas where Internal Audit work has identified further improvements needed include:

- Embedding the new service planning approach and developing and embedding a new commissioning approach (this is to provide further assurance over Principle D around determining the required interventions)
- Re-establish public performance reporting (this is to provide further assurance over Principle B around openness, principle G around transparency)
- Continuing to develop and embed robust programme and project management arrangements, including oversight and assessment of benefits realised (this is to provide further assurance over Principle F around managing performance)
- Ensuring the Corporate Health and Safety Audit and Assurance Framework operates to the extent needed and addresses key health and safety issues where there is not sufficient assurance (this is to provide further assurance over Principle F around managing risk)
- Ensuring there is clear measurement and analysis of progress made addressing the equalities, diversity, and inclusion issues reported to it by staff in 2021 (relating to principle (this is to provide further assurance over Principle B around opening and stakeholder engagement)
- Ensuring high priority recommendations are implemented in a more timely was (this is to provide further assurance over all principles where related).

There has not been any identified instance of significant fraud that indicates significant breakdown, absence, or circumvention of internal control.

The Council self-referred to the **Regulator for Social Housing** and it served a regulatory notice in 2022/23 for breaching the Home Standard regarding statutory checks for fire, electrical, asbestos, and water safety. The issues related to Principle A around complying with the law. In response the Council rapidly put in place a programme to rectify these issues and regularly reported the progress being made to senior management and members, as well as the Regulator. The Regulator has been satisfied the Council is taking effective action and good progress is being made. Improvement action is continuing into 2023/24.

The Pay Policy Statement for 2022/23 was late due to an oversight. Processes are in place to ensure HR present the Report to Full Council in March each year relating to the preceding year.

From Regulators and inspectors including **Ofsted** which judged **10 schools as good or outstanding, and one requires improvement)** **Children's social services** were judged in April 2022 as **continuing to provide a high quality service**.

Other sources of positive assurance considered when compiling the Annual Governance Statement include:

- **No formal reports issued by the Section 151 Officer. The Monitoring Officer's annual report** to the Governance and Assurance Committee planned for April 2023 identified no adverse issues (i.e., in reference to core Principle A: behaving with integrity, commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law)
- **No Standards (Hearings) Sub-Committee meetings held in 2022/23** to hear allegations of breaches of the Member Code of Conduct. 17 Code of Conduct complaints were received in 2022/23 but none progressed to investigation (i.e., again in reference to corporate Principle A)
- **During 2022/23 there were not any proven cases of significant fraud** against the Council that directly indicates significant breakdown in the systems of control or governance (i.e., in reference to core Principle A (as above) and core Principle F: managing risks and performance through strong internal control and financial management)
- **No objections from local electors received** (i.e., in reference to core Principle A (as above), and Principle B - Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement)
- **95 cases referred to the Local Government Ombudsman in 2022/23** and of which 17 were upheld (18%) (i.e., in reference to Principles A and F as above).

Section 4: Implementation of previous year's Annual Governance Statement improvement actions

The 2021/22 Annual Governance Statement including improvement actions identified as necessary to the governance arrangements. The progress made implementing the actions is set out below.

	Area for Improvement	Action(s)	Target Date	Action owner	Progress at end of 2022/23
1	Programme and Project Management assurance over change and innovation	Fully establish and embed a programme management office to support the delivery of cross-cutting programmes on transformation, change, innovation, and creativity in the council and making connections between programmes to add value	31 March 2023	Julian Ellerby - Director of Strategy	The PMO has continued to be developed and begin activity around approach, governance, best practice, and support to the organisation to deliver programmes and projects. Further action taken and in progress
2	Financial governance	Continue to build on positive end of year financial position and the improvements in financial management achieved, focussing on the joint endeavour across all areas of the council to deliver good financial governance, in preparation for the formal assessment against the Financial Management Code	31 March 2023	Ian Ambrose — Operational Director of Finance and CLT	Assessment of financial governance arrangements against the Financial Management code complete and improvement action plan being progressed. Further action taken and in progress
3	Council-owned companies	As companies continue to develop and operate, continue to strengthen the arrangements for discharging as shareholder, investor, lender, and client.	31 March 2023	Julian Ellerby - Director of Strategy and CLT	The Shareholder Reference Group met three times in 2022/23 and considered updates on all of the Council's companies exercising oversight as shareholder, investor, lender, and client. Further action taken and in progress

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	Area for Improvement	Action(s)	Target Date	Action owner	Progress at end of 2022/23
4	Business Continuity and Emergency Planning	Create a functioning and effective Business Continuity and Emergency Planning service / capability from September 2022, to ensure it can manage disruptions to the Council's operating environment and more widely respond to and manage events that threaten the borough's residents and physical environment.	31 August 2022	John Richards - Head of Community Safety	<p>In-house team now established.</p> <p>Action plan to increase compliance resilience standards / develop more robust arrangements.</p> <p>Further action taken and in progress</p>
5	Health and Safety	Embed the Corporate Health and Safety Team's second line of assurance framework to provide the Council with an assurance view from its health and safety subject matter experts over the management of key health and safety risks across the organisation.	31 March 2023	Mark Baigent - Corporate Director of Regeneration and Culture	<p>The Corporate Health and Safety Team's Audit and Assurance Framework has further developed in 2022/23. It needs fully embed the improvements made and ensure the controls to ensure the required core H&S actions are completed and arrangements are in place to the extent needed to provide Council sufficient assurance.</p> <p>Further action taken and in progress</p>

6	Core corporate governance processes that support business as usual service delivery	Refresh and reinvigorate core, corporate governance arrangements and processes to ensure they are the best fit for the Council going forward to help it deliver its outcomes. This includes ensuring the effective implementation of planned actions agreed in Internal Audit reports issued	31 March 2023	Julian Ellerby - Director of Strategy and CLT	Improvements have been made around service / business planning with new plans for 2023/24 to 2024/25 being developed imminently. Performance management reporting to CPG has been refreshed in the year around the priorities and outcomes in the Redbridge Plan. Public reporting to be developed early in 2023/24.
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	Area for Improvement	Action(s)	Target Date	Action owner	Progress at end of 2022/23
		in 2021/22 around service / business planning, performance management, engagement, business intelligence, staff / workforce development and wellbeing.			<p>The BI team continues to develop. Staff and workforce development being addressed through new staff development scheme introduced in 2022 and the soon to be established.</p> <p>Further action taken and in progress</p>
7	Local Code of Corporate Governance and a supporting Assurance Framework	<p>Review and refresh the Local Code of Governance to reflect the new corporate plan and the core corporate governance processes that support business as usual service delivery.</p> <p>Supplementing the above, develop an underpinning assurance framework where needed.</p>	31 March 2023	Pervinder Sandhu - Operational Director of Assurance and CLT	<p>Local Code of Corporate Governance updated and approved by CAG and Governance and Assurance Committee. To be considered further by the General Purposes Committee and then Full Council in June 2023.</p> <p>The supporting assurance framework to be developed for 2023/24.</p> <p>Further action taken and in progress</p>

Section 5: Improvement actions for 2023/24

Based on the above, the following are the key improvement actions to be taken in 2023/24. These actions are identified by Internal Audit work **and** other governance and assurance activity in 2022/23.

	Governance area	Action to be taken in 2023/24	Action owner	Target date
1	Housing H&S statutory compliance and responding to the Housing Regulator	Implement the required improvements to processes and procedures to ensure there is robust and sufficient assurance the Council is meeting its statutory obligations for Health and Safety related to Housing services.	Carol Hinvest - Operational Director of Housing	In advance of Housing Regulator re-inspection in late 2023
2	Financial Governance	Fully implement the improvement actions identified following the assessment against the CIPFA Financial Management Code in 2022/23 as per the agreed timelines.	Corporate Leadership Team	31 March 2024
3	Commissioning	As part of the Shaping our Future workstream, this will develop a strategy for commissioning and define the approach as to how the Council will commission against defined outcomes (e.g., per the outcomes in the updated corporate Redbridge Plan and directorates' supporting business plans).	Mark Baigent - Corporate Director of Regeneration and Culture (as workstream sponsor)	31 October 2023 for then operating thereafter
5	Emergency Planning and Resilience	Implement the action plan to further meet the resilience standards and so enhance the Council's capability and capacity around emergency planning and emergency response	Corporate Leadership Team	31 March 2024 (with milestone actions)

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	Governance area	Action to be taken in 2023/24	Action owner	Target date
				throughout the year)
6	Service planning and performance management	<p>All services to have suitable service plans for the 2023/24 year and beyond to ensure all services have demonstrable links between corporate priorities and targeted outcomes per the Redbridge Plan.</p> <p>Develop and implement the new performance reporting approach for public reporting on the achievement of the targeted outcomes and priorities in the Redbridge Plan.</p>	Julian Ellerby - Corporate Director of Strategy	<p>Service plans in place 31 May 2023</p> <p>New performance reporting: 31 July 2023</p>
7	Health and Safety	Continue to enhance the Corporate Health and Safety Audit and Assurance Framework and ensure it addresses all improvement areas highlighted by the Internal Audit review in 2022/23.	Mark Baigent - Corporate Director of Regeneration and Culture	31 March 2024 (with milestone of separate actions throughout the year)
8	Workforce and organisation development	Establish the Workforce Board to oversee all matters relating to staff development and training and culture change and arrangements for assurance over these.	Julian Ellerby - Corporate Director of Strategy	In place from 30 June 2023 and then operating thereafter



9	Human Resources	The Pay Policy Statement was missed as a consequence of an oversight. As a consequence steps have been taken by HR to ensure future Reports to Council are on the forward plan for March each year.	Julian Ellerby – Corporate Director Strategy	March 2024
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Section 6: Agreement of the Annual Governance Statement

This statement has been considered by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive and is considered an accurate reflection of the Council's governance arrangements.

We propose over the coming year to take steps to address the above matters to further enhance our governance arrangements. We are satisfied that these steps will address the need for improvements that were identified in our review of effectiveness and will monitor their implementation and operation as part of our next annual review.

Agreed by:

Councillor Kam Rai: Leader of the Council	Signed: 	Date: 05/12/2024
Adrian Loades: Acting Chief Executive Officer	Signed: 	Date: 05/12/2024

Glossary

Accruals Basis

The accruals principle is that income is recorded when it is earned rather than when it is received, and expenses are recorded when goods or services are received rather than when the payment is made.

Actuarial Gains and Losses

For a defined benefit pension scheme, the changes in actuarial deficits or surpluses that arise because events have not coincided with the actuarial assumptions made for the last valuation (experience gains and losses) or the actuarial assumptions have changed.

Actuarial Valuation

The Actuary reviews the assets and liabilities of the Pension Fund and reports to the Council on the fund's financial position and recommended employers' contribution rates.

Actuary

An independent **consultant** who advises the Council on the financial impact and uncertainty of the Pension Fund.

Amortisation

The writing off of a charge or loan balance over a period of time. A measure of the costs of economic benefits derived from intangible assets that are consumed during the period.

Annual Governance Statement

The annual governance statement is a statutory document that explains the processes and procedures in place to enable the council to carry out its functions effectively.

Asset

Items of worth that are measurable in terms of value. Current assets may change daily, but the Council is expected to yield the benefit within the one financial year (e.g. short-term debtors). Non-current assets yield benefit to the Council for a period of more than one year (e.g. land).

Balance Sheet

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

Business Improvement District

A defined area within which businesses pay additional business rates in order to fund improvements within the districts boundary.

Budget

A forecast of future expenditure plans for the Council. Detailed revenue budgets are prepared each year and it is on the basis of these figures that the Council Tax is set. Budgets are revised towards the year-end to take account of inflation, changes in patterns of services, and other factors.

Capital Expenditure

Expenditure on the acquisition of non-current or intangible assets, or expenditure that adds to the value of an existing asset.

Capital Adjustment Account

Represents amounts set aside from revenue resources or capital receipts to finance expenditure on assets or for the repayment of external loans and certain other capital financing transactions.

Capital Receipt

Income received from the sale of a capital asset such as land or buildings.

Carrying Value (Book Value)

For Financial Instruments, this value is the amount to be recognised on the Balance Sheet. Financial Assets and Liabilities need to be recognised in the Balance Sheet at fair value or at amortised cost.

Cash

Comprises cash in hand and available-on-demand deposits.

Cash equivalents

Are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are

subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

Cash flow

A statement that shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents during the financial year.

Collateral

Assets pledged by a borrower to secure a loan.

Collection Fund

The Council as a billing authority has a statutory obligation to maintain a separate Collection Fund. This shows the transactions of the Council in relation to the collection from taxpayers of Council Tax and Business Rates and its distribution to Local Government bodies and the Government.

Community Assets

Assets 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.

Community Infrastructure Levy

A levy that Council can charge on new developments in their area. The money can be used to support development by funding infrastructure that the Council, local community and neighbourhoods want.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

A Statement showing the net cost of the Council's services during the year. It demonstrates how costs have been financed from general Government Grants and Income from Local Taxpayers.

Contingent Liability

A possible obligation arising from a past event whose existence will be confirmed by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council, or a present obligation arising from past events where it is not probable that there will be an associated cost or the amount of the obligation cannot be accurately measured.

Credit Ratings for Investments

A scoring system used by credit rating agencies such as Fitch, Moodys and Standard and Poors to indicate the creditworthiness and other factors of Governments, Banks, Building Societies, and other financial Institutions.

Creditors

Amount of money owed by the Council for goods and services received but not paid for as at 31 March.

Current Service Cost

Current Service Cost is the increase in the present value of a defined benefit pension scheme's liabilities expected to arise from employee service in the current period, i.e. the ultimate pension benefits "earned" by employees in the current year's employment.

Curtailment

For a defined benefit pension scheme, an event that reduces the expected years of future service of employees or for a number of employees, the accrual of defined benefit for some or all of their entitlement. Examples include: -

- Termination of employees' services earlier than expected (for example as a result of discontinued operations); and
- Termination of, or amendments, to the terms of a defined benefit scheme, so that some or all future services by current employees no longer qualify for benefits or will qualify for reduced benefits.

Debtors

Amount of money owed to the Council by individuals and organisations for goods and services provided but where income was not received as at 31 March.

Deferred Capital Receipts

The balance of outstanding monies owed (e.g. mortgages) by purchasers of Council property.

Deferred Liabilities

These are creditor balances repayable after one year.

Defined Benefit Scheme

A pension scheme where the benefits payable on retirement are determined by predetermined formula and not dependent on market returns.

Depreciation

A measure of the cost of the economic benefits of the tangible fixed asset consumed during the year which is charged to the revenue account.

Depreciation Replacement Cost (DRC)

The current cost of replacing or recreating an asset with its modern equivalent asset less deduction for all physical deterioration and all relevant obsolescence and optimisation.

Derecognition

Financial assets and liabilities will need to be removed from the Balance Sheet once performance under the contract is complete or the contract is terminated.

Earmarked Reserves

Amounts set aside for a specific purpose to meet future commitments or potential liabilities, for which it is not appropriate to establish provisions.

Expected Return on Assets

For a defined benefit scheme, this is a measure of the return on the investment assets held by the plan for the year. It is not intended to reflect the actual realised return by the plan, but a longer-term measure based on the value of assets at the start of the year taking into account movements in assets during the year and an expected return factor.

Fair Value

The amount that an asset can be exchanged or a liability settled between knowledgeable and willing parties in an arm's length transaction.

Finance Lease

A finance lease is where a finance company owns an asset and leases it to the Lessor in exchange for rentals. The Lessor will remain a large part, or all of the cost of the assets in rentals. At the end of the lease, the Lessee has the option to acquire ownership of the asset by paying, the last rental, or a final purchase price. This is a lease that substantially transfers the risks and rewards of a fixed asset to the lessee. With a Finance Lease, the present value of the lease payments would equate to the fair value of the leased asset.

Financial Instruments Adjustment Account (FIAA)

Provides a balancing mechanism between the different rates at which gains and losses are recognised under the Code and are required by Statute to be met from the General Fund.

Financing activities

Are activities that result in changes in the size and composition of the principal, received from or repaid to external providers of finance.

General Fund (GF)

Redbridge's main Revenue Account from which is met the cost of providing most of the Council's services, paid from Council Tax and government grants (excluding HRA).

General Fund Balance

Revenue Funds that are uncommitted and available to support general funding pressures not otherwise specifically covered by planned budget or earmarked reserves.

Historic Cost

The actual cost of an asset in terms of past consideration as opposed to its current value.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

A Statutory Account maintained separately from the General Fund for the recording of income and expenditure relating to the provision of Council Housing.

IAS 19

A complex accounting standard based on the principle that an organisation should account for retirement benefits when it is committed to do so even though the benefits will not be paid for years in the future.

Impairment

A reduction in the valuation of an asset caused by consumption of economic benefits or by a general fall in prices.

Infrastructure Assets

Assets that have an indeterminate life and, although valuable, do not have a readily realisable value e.g. roads.

Intangible Assets

Non-financial assets that do not have physical substance but are identifiable and controlled by the Council, for example purchased software licences.

Interest Cost

For defined benefit pension schemes the interest cost is the present value of the liabilities during the year as a result of moving one year closer to being paid.

Inventories

Amounts of unused or unconsumed stocks held in expectation of future use. Inventories are comprised of the following categories:

- Goods or other assets purchased for resale
- Consumable stores
- Raw materials and components
- Products and services in intermediate stages of completion
- Finished goods

International Financial Reporting Standards

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) are a set of accounting standards developed by an independent, not-for-profit organisation called the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

Materiality

Information is material if omitting it or misstating it could influence the decisions that users make on the basis of financial information about a specific reporting authority.

Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

This is a financial planning document that sets out the future year's financial forecasts for the Council. It considers local and national policy influences and projects their impact on the general fund revenue budget, capital programme and HRA. In Oldham it usually covers a four or five-year timeframe.

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

The amount that has to be charged to revenue to provide for the redemption of debt.

Non-Domestic Rates

Rates payable by businesses based on local rateable values determined by the Valuations Office Agency. These are shared on a proportional basis with Central Government and the Greater London Authority.

Net Book Value

The amount at which assets are included in the Balance Sheet after depreciation has been provided for.

Net Realisable Value

The open market value of the asset less the expenses to be incurred in realising the asset.

Non-Current Assets

Assets that yield benefits to the Council and the services it provides for a period of more than one year.

Operating Lease

This is a lease other than a finance lease. An operating lease contract allows the use of an asset but does not convey rights similar to ownership of the asset. The lessee pays rentals to the lease company and, the asset is returned at the end of the lease period.

Operational Assets

Assets held, occupied, used or consumed by the Council in the direct delivery of its service.

Outturn

The actual level of expenditure and income for the year.

Past Service Cost

A cost arising from decisions taken in the current year but whose financial effect is derived from years of service earned in earlier years.

Post Balance Sheet Events

Those events that relate to the accounting year, both favourable and unfavourable, which occur between the Balance Sheet date and the date on which the Statement of Accounts is signed by the Chief Financial Services

Officer.

Precept

The charge made upon the collection fund by one Authority (e.g. Greater London Authority) on another Council (e.g. Redbridge) to finance its net expenditure.

Private Finance Initiative

A Central Government initiative whereby contracts are let to private sector suppliers for both services and capital investment in return for a unitary payment, which may be reduced if performance targets are not met.

Projected Unit Method

Actuarial valuation method whose key feature is to assess future service cost; the Actuary calculates the employer's contribution rate, which will meet the cost of benefits accruing in the year after the valuation date. This method is considered appropriate for a Pension Fund open to new members.

Provisions

Amounts set aside for liabilities and losses, which are certain or very likely to occur but where the exact amount or timing of the payment are uncertain.

Public Works Loans Board (PWLB)

Central Government Agency, which funds much of Local Government borrowing.

Related Parties

Related parties are Central Government, other Local Authorities, precepting and levying bodies, subsidiary and associated companies, Elected Members, and all senior officers from Director. For individuals identified as related parties, the following are also presumed to be related parties:

- members of the close family, or the same household; and
- partnerships, companies, trusts or other entities in which the individual, or member of their close family or the same household, has a controlling interest.

Re-measurement of the Net Defined Benefit Liability

Re-measurement of the Net Defined Benefit Liability (asset) comprises:

- actuarial gains and losses
- the return on plan assets, excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset), and
- any change in the effect of the asset ceiling, excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset).

Reserves

Amounts set aside that do not fall within the definition of a provision, to fund items of anticipated expenditure. These include general reserves or balances, which every Council must maintain as a matter of prudence.

Revaluation Reserve

Represents the increased value of the Council's land and building assets from 1 April 2007.

Revenue Expenditure

The day-to-day expenditure of the Council, e.g. pay, goods and services and capital financing charges.

Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute (REFCUS)

Expenditure incurred during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provision but that does not result in the creation of a non-current asset that has been charged as expenditure to the CIES.

Revenue Support Grant

Grant paid by the Central Government to Local Authorities. This grant is not attributable to specific services.

Soft Loan

Loans given at less than market/commercial rates.

Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services

Is the total of income less expense, excluding the components of Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

Support Services

Activities of a professional, technical and administrative nature which support main front-line services.

Abbreviations used in Accounts

AGS	Annual Governance Statement
AVC	Additional Voluntary Contributions
BID	Business Improvement District
BN	Billion
CFR	Capital Financing Requirement
CIES	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
CIPFA	Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy
DFE	Department for Education
DLUHC	Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities
DSG	Dedicated Schools Grant
DWP	Department for Work and Pensions
EFA	Expenditure Funding Analysis
ELWA	East London Waste Authority
FIAA	Financial Instruments Adjustments Account
FRS	Financial Reporting Standard
GLA	Greater London Authority
HRA	Housing Revenue Account
IAS	International Accounting Standard
IFRIC	International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standard
LASAAC	Local Authority (Scotland) Accounts Advisory Committee
LBR	London Borough of Redbridge
LCIV	London Collective Investment Vehicle
LGPS	Local Government Pension Scheme
LPFA	London Pensions Fund Authority
M	Million
MRA	Major Repairs Allowance
MRP	Minimum Revenue Provision
NDR	Non-Domestic Rates
PFI	Private Finance Initiative
PWLB	Public Works Loans Board
RICS	Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors
RSG	Revenue Support Grant
SeRCOP	Service Reporting Code of Practice
SORP	Statement of Recommended Practice
UCRR	Usable Capital Receipts Reserve