



## Statement of Accounts 2024/25



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## NARRATIVE REPORT

### Organisational overview and external environment

#### Potential Equal Pay Liability

During the 2023/24 financial year refreshed analysis of the Council's Equal Pay liabilities identified an increased potential liability estimated to be in the region of £650m to £760m. The Council announced the results of this analysis on 28th June 2023, outlining that it would not be able to afford the potential liabilities from existing resources, including reserves. This is one of the biggest financial challenges that the Council has faced, and it means that significantly fewer resources will be available for future financial years.

As at that date the audit of the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years had not been concluded, those Statement of Accounts were updated for the revised weighted litigation liability as at those Balance Sheet dates.

The Council is working to address the underlying cause of the liability, to ensure that colleagues are fairly and legally remunerated and that any settlement of the potential liability also represents the best value for the residents of Birmingham. This involves active and ongoing dialogue with staff and their representatives.

#### Issuance of s114 Report

In addition to the potential equal pay liability noted above, a number of significant financial issues were identified that gave the s151 officer cause to issue a Section 114 (3) notice on 5 September 2023. While the issuance of the s114 notice was a result of all of these issues, the one that is pertinent to these Accounts is the recognition of the potential equal pay liability, which effectively causes a negative General Fund position. The other pertinent issue was a structural revenue budget deficit. The 2022/23 and 2023/4 revenue budgets were overspent by £66.2m and £76.6m respectively and a large budget gap was identified for the 2024/25 budget.

#### 2024/25 Budget

On 5 February 2024 the Council received permission to increase the Council Tax level above the referendum limit to 9.99%.

On 27 February 2024, the Leader of the City Council received confirmation that Simon Hoare MP, Minister for Local Government, that the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) was minded to approve a capitalisation direction of a total not exceeding £1,225.1m for the financial years 2020/21 to 2024/25. This 'minded to' letter was to cover the potential Equal Pay accounting liability, the costs involved in a potential redundancy scheme, and support to deliver a balanced budget for the 2024/25 financial year.

The City Council approved its 2024/25 budget on 5 March 2024 as part of the annual budget setting cycle. The budget for 2024/25 was balanced and 2025/26 remained to be balanced on the assumption that:

- a) The Council's Exceptional Financial Support request was partially applied (£225.9m out of the total £1.255bn) to enable the City Council to set a balanced budget for 2024/25.
- b) Included a 9.99% increase in Birmingham City Council's Council Tax element for 2024/25 and 2025/26.
- c) £149.8m of savings were delivered in 2024/25 rising to £226.1m in 2025/26 with further savings to be identified to balance 2025/26.



It should be noted that without this EFS, the Council would not have been able to set a balanced budget for 2024/25. There would be a significant budget gap of £225.9m impacting the Council's revenue budget.

On 5 March 2024 the Section 151 Officer submitted her [Section 25 Report](#) of the Local Government Act 2003 to City Council as part of the budget setting for 2024/25. This clearly stated that the budget as presented was credible and deliverable, only on the basis that certain arrangements were put in place and regularly monitored throughout the 2024/25 financial year. That report should be read in conjunction with this foreword.

### Subsequent Budget

On 4 March 2025 the Section 151 Officer submitted her [Section 25 Report](#) of the Local Government Act 2003 to City Council as part of the budget setting for 2025/26. This clearly stated that the budget as presented was credible and deliverable, only on the basis that certain arrangements were put in place and regularly monitored throughout the 2025/26 financial year. That report should be read in conjunction with this foreword.

The 2025/26 budget was based on the assumption that:

- a) The Council's Exceptional Financial Support request of £1.255bn continued and was applied to enable the City Council to set a balanced budget for 2025/26.
- b) Included a 7.49% increase in Birmingham City Council's Council Tax element for 2025/26.
- c) £148.9m of savings are delivered in 2025/26 and £11.0m of the EFS mentioned in d) was applied to balance 2025/26.

### Other Statutory Notices

#### 1. Statutory Recommendations

On Friday 29th September 2023, the Council's External Auditors Grant Thornton, issued [Statutory Recommendations to the Council under Schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014](#). The External Auditor outlined 12 Statutory Recommendations, with significant and widespread implications across the Council. These recommendations are contained with the report titled 'Birmingham City Council External Audit 2020-21 to 2023-24' and can be found on the Council's website.

#### 2. Best Value intervention

On the 5th of October 2023, the Secretary of State announced that he was using his powers under the [Local Government Act 1999 to intervene at Birmingham City Council](#). As such, directions have been made under Section 15(5) and (6) of the Local Government Act 1999 in respect of Birmingham City Council, including the appointment of Commissioners and mandating immediate action by the Council in relation to several significant matters.

Details of the intervention are listed in the Intervention Letter on the Council's and Government website.

The intervention was in place for the whole of the 2024/25 financial year. At the issue date the Council is still subject to this intervention.

### Oracle implementation issues

Since the implementation of the Oracle Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system in April 2022 there have been significant issues with the processes, interfaces, and the system's ability to produce meaningful reports.



A decision was made in May 2024 for the reimplementation of the ERP system, as a ‘vanilla’ solution, removing customisations and relying on the tried and tested industry standard functionality in successful use by other Councils, by March 2026.

Organisational overview - key facts

Birmingham City Council is comprised of 101 councillors. The Labour Party currently has the majority of councillors and runs the Council.

The current number of councillors in each of the political parties are as follows:

<b>Party</b>	<b>Councillors at May 2025</b>
Labour	63
Conservative	22
Liberal Democrats	13
Green	2
Independent	1
<b>Total Councillors</b>	<b>101</b>

Organisation of the Council’s Leadership Team and the services it provides

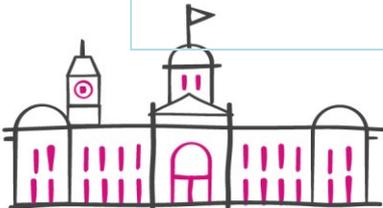
The Council Leadership Team (CLT) is responsible for managing the activities of the Council’s staff and for advising Councillors on the potential implications of political decisions. By law, senior Council staff are not allowed to participate in any party political activity and are expected to advise and help all Councillors irrespective of their political affiliation.

The Managing Director (formerly termed “Chief Executive”) is the senior officer who leads and takes responsibility for the work of the paid staff of the Council. The role of Managing Director is a full time appointment.

The Leader, together with the Cabinet, takes all of the significant decisions within the Council (excluding planning and licensing issues) through their Cabinet meetings or individual decision-making process.

The Council’s services are delivered through directorates, designed to deliver those services as efficiently as possible. The 2024/25 structure is as follows:

Directorate	Purpose/Services
Place, Prosperity and Sustainability (PPS)	International and domestic investment including tourism and visitor economy. Economic growth including development and housing programmes. Transport and connectivity including major transport strategies and air quality. Planning and property services.
Adult Social Care	Services to support adults including integration of health and social care services, information and advice, and prevention, recovery and re-enablement services. Safeguarding of adults including multiagency arrangements. Assessment of eligibility for services.
Children and Families	Education of children and young people, special educational needs, and early years provision. Children’s services and safeguarding. Skills and employability, youth engagement, employment opportunities, and libraries.



City Operations	Waste strategy and services, cleaner neighbourhoods, graffiti removal, dog warden services and recycling. Arts, culture and sports, including museums, galleries, sporting events and leisure facilities. Parks and allotments. Bereavement services. Highways and infrastructure.
City Housing	Council housing services and support.
Chief Operating Officer	Previously contained within the Council Management directorate, consisting of Digital Technology Services, Procurement, Customer Services and Business Support.
Finance, Legal & Governance, and People Services	Previously contained within the Council Management directorate, consisting of People Services, Finance, Legal and Governance. Also included are Traded Services such as CityServe, Civic Catering and Cleaning.
SEP	Strategy, Equalities and Partnerships (SEP)

### Our Staffing

In supporting the delivery of services, the Council employed, as at 31 March 2025, 17,606 staff which equated to 13,564 full time equivalents (FTE). If schools' staff are excluded, the Council employed 9,906 staff which equated to 8,477 FTE. The chart below shows the Council's staffing, excluding school staff, by service area for 31 March 2025:



### Financial resources to support the Council

The Council's revenue and capital budgets were allocated between eight Directorates with other budgets being managed corporately. The Council's net revenue budget for 2024/25 was set to nil, with the £225.9m budgeted overspend being funded through Exceptional Financial Support (EFS).

The Council's General Fund Revenue Budget, showed a net provisional overspend of £182.1m. It had projected a net overspend of £225.9m at Budget setting thus this is £43.8m below the planned EFS funded deficit of £225.9m. The underspend has increased during the finalisation of these draft Accounts by £8.4m.

The capital programme provisional spend position for the 2024/25 financial year is £466.9m. This is £156.9m below the planned expenditure of £623.8m.



Details of the forecast net expenditure and resources available to the Council for 2025/26 can be found in the published 2025-2029 Financial Plan.

### Governance arrangements

Details of the Council's governance arrangements can be found in our Annual Governance Statement, which is provided with these financial statements.

### The Council's operational model, the activities of our key services, our financial performance and resource allocation

This section considers the key inputs, operational activities of the Council's services and the associated costs of delivery of the outputs and outcomes associated with those services.

It also considers individually significant items of financial interest or focus for the Council.

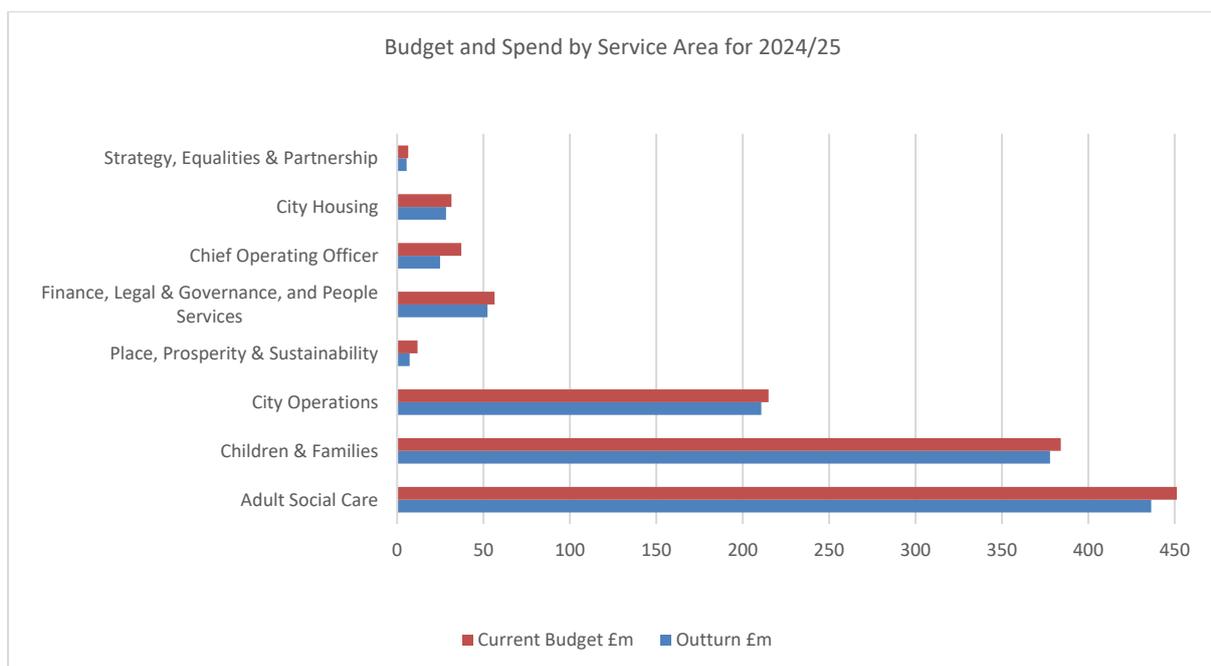
### Revenue Expenditure

The Council's revenue and capital budgets were allocated between eight Directorates with other budgets being managed corporately. Spending against these budgets was monitored throughout the year and reported to Cabinet. The provisional year-end outturn position was reported to Cabinet on 24 June 2025.

The General Fund revenue outturn provisional position for 2024/25 assumes use of £199.4m of EFS.

The usage of EFS consists of £173.7m to fund the budget deficit, and a further £25.7m to fund in year redundancy costs and Equal Pay legal costs.

The chart below shows the budget and provisional spend by Directorate for 2024/25 as reported to Cabinet on 24 June 2025:



### Capital Expenditure

The capital programme provisional spend position for the 2024/25 financial year is £466.9m. This is £156.9m below the planned expenditure of £623.8m.

	£m
<b>2023/24 Revised Budget</b>	<b>623.8</b>
Less: Cumulative Slippage	(156.9)
<b>Outturn (Expenditure in year)</b>	<b>466.9</b>

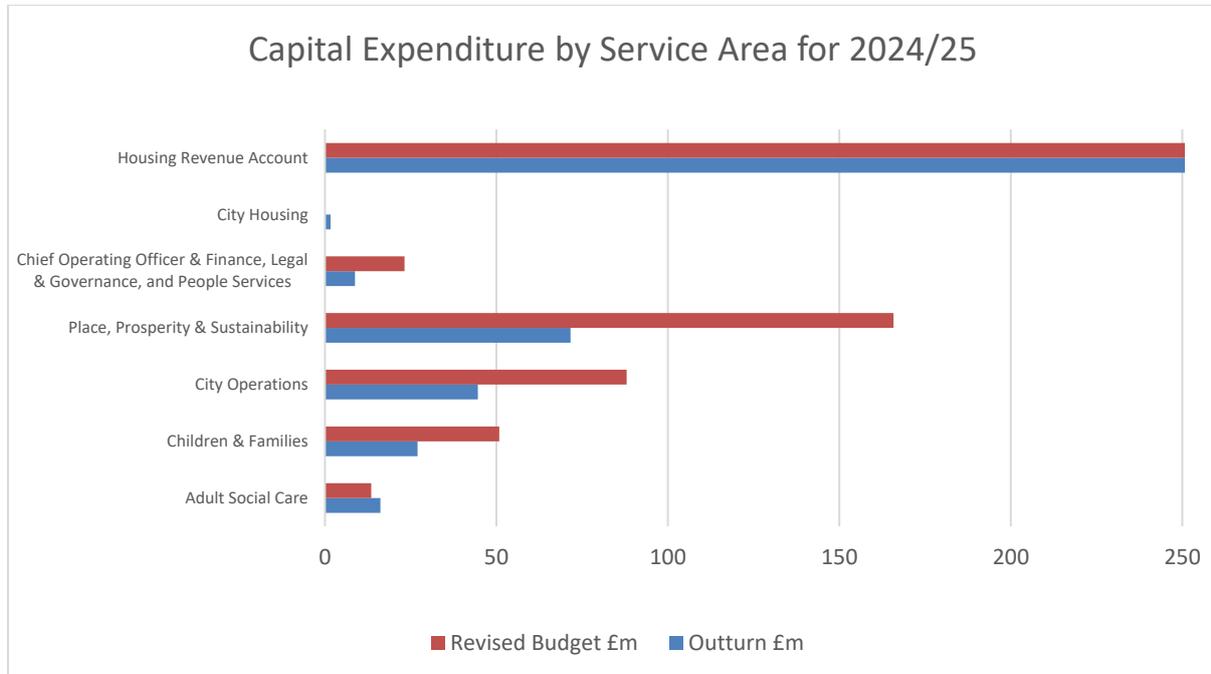
The Council analyses the capital programme budget variations between:

- Changes in the timing of budgeted expenditure - where the expenditure is still required but takes place later than planned this is called slippage and shown in brackets, and acceleration if earlier than planned; and
- Underspends (shown in brackets) or overspends, which represent a decrease or increase in the total capital cost of a project, which may be over several years.

It is important to note that no financial resources will be lost as a result of the slippage. The resources and planned expenditure will be “rolled forward” into future years. Details of this slippage are given in the Council’s Outturn report for 2024/25 presented to Cabinet on 24 June 2025, which can be found on the Council’s website.

Strict rules apply to budget changes during the year to ensure transparency where additional resources have been provided or taken back for projects which are overspending and underspending.

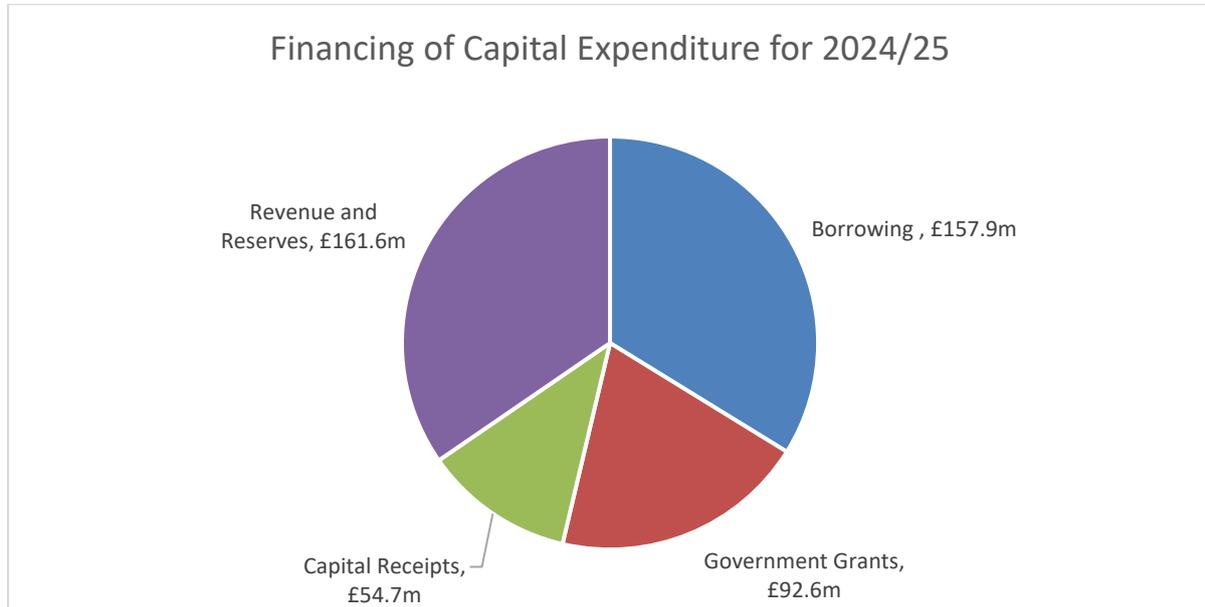
Total expenditure on Directorate capital schemes in 2024/25 is shown in the graph below:



Capital Financing

The financing arrangements in respect of capital expenditure in 2024/25 were reported to Cabinet on 24 June 2025.

Details of the final capital financing arrangements are summarised below:



As at 31 March 2025, the Council's total loan debt net of treasury investments stood at £3,178.0m, compared to net loan debt of £3,340.2m as at 31st March 2024.

The Council's treasury investments held at 31st March 2025 were £251.2m. The Council also held investments of £50.1m as accountable body.

Further details of the Council's financial liabilities are given in the notes to these financial statements. Full details regarding the financing of capital expenditure and the acquisition and disposal of non-current assets are also provided.

Service Concession Arrangements and Similar Contracts

The Council has entered into a number of Service Concession Arrangements, formerly classed as Private Finance Initiatives and similar contracts across Schools, Waste Management and Highways Services to deliver improvements in infrastructure and future service delivery. Further details can be found in Note 41 to these financial statements.

Pension Liabilities

For the Local Government Pension Scheme there is currently a net pension asset that is reviewed periodically by the West Midlands Metropolitan Authorities Pension Fund Actuary. The Council's share of the total pension surplus is £598.4m at 31 March 2025 (31 March 2024: £135.5m net pension liability).



In line with the requirements of IAS 19 and the guidance set out in IFRIC 14, an adjustment has been made to reflect the limit on recognising a defined benefit pension asset. IFRIC 14 specifies that a pension surplus can only be recognised on the employer's balance sheet if the entity has an unconditional right to realise that surplus either through a refund from the Scheme, or a reduction in future contributions. Following a review by the Scheme actuary, an additional liability of £1,032.6m was recognised to reflect the asset ceiling restriction. As a result, the net pension liability disclosed on the Balance Sheet is £434.2m.

Pension liabilities are based on the requirements of IAS 19, Employee Benefits, which use a discount rate based on high quality corporate bonds, 5.80% as at 31 March 2025. Details of the pension assets and liabilities are set out in Notes 19 and 20 to these financial statements.

### Provisions

The Council provides for costs in line with relevant accounting standards – further details can be found in Note 30 to these financial statements. The key provisions to note include those in relation to Equal Pay legislation, and the Council's requirement to provide for the liability in association with Business Rates appeals.

### Reserves

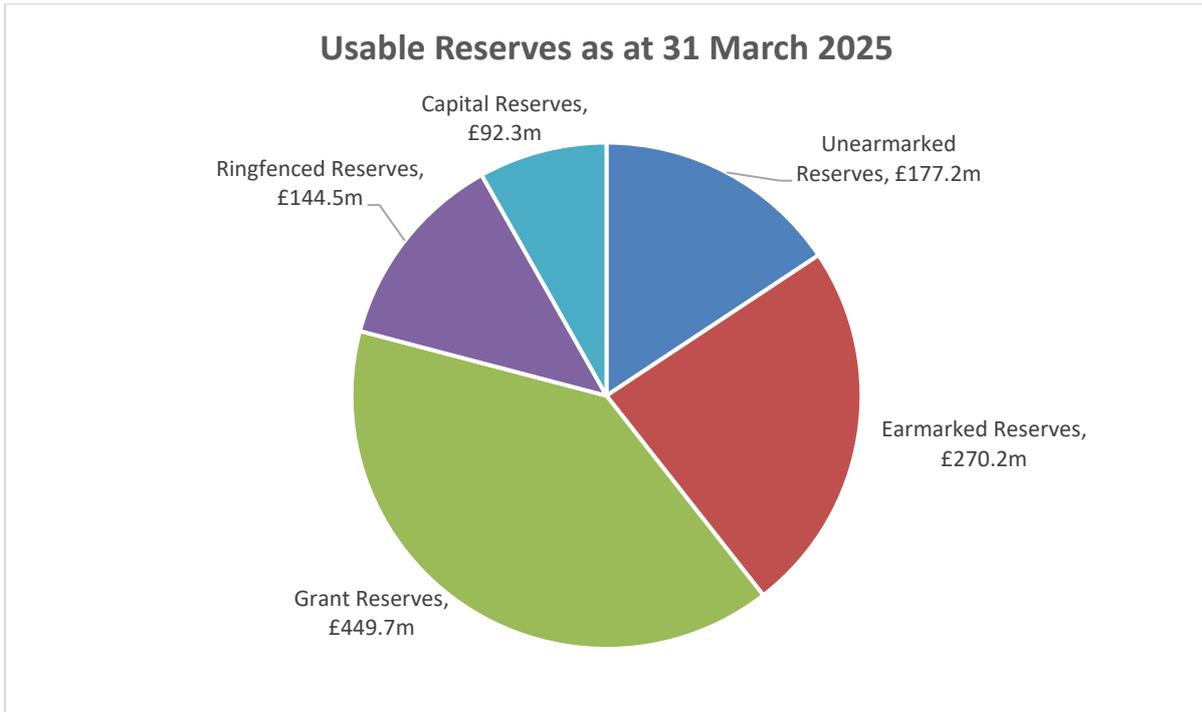
The Council maintains two types of reserves:

- Usable reserves – where the Council sets aside specific amounts for future policy purposes, to cover contingencies or where resources have been provided for specific purposes but have not yet been spent
- Unusable reserves, which are not available to support the provision of services and include:
  - Unrealised gains and losses, particularly in relation to changes in valuation of non-current assets;
  - Adjustment accounts that absorb the difference between the outcome of applying proper accounting practices and the requirements of statutory arrangements for funding expenditure.

The level of reserves held at the year-end are set out below.

	<b>31 March 2024</b>	<b>31 March 2025</b>
	£m	£m
Usable Reserves	955.0	1,133.9
Unusable Reserves	2,203.3	1,726.9
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>3,158.3</b>	<b>2,860.8</b>





Details of usable and unusable reserves are set out in Note 17 and 18.

The Council operates a policy of not using reserves unless they have been set aside for specific purposes and not using reserves to mitigate the requirement to make savings or meet on-going budget pressures, except in exceptional circumstances.

The main use of reserves relates to grant reserves where funding has been received prior to the requirement to spend the resource. The Council also has earmarked reserves where it has made a decision to set money aside to fund specific costs when they occur in later years.

The Council anticipated a net contribution to reserves of £19.3m in setting the 2024/25 budget. A further £160.0m net contribution to reserves was approved by Cabinet as part of the Outturn Report on 24 June 2025.

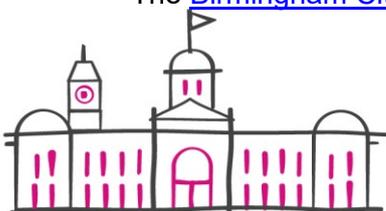
### **Birmingham : challenges and opportunities**

Over the last 15 years, Birmingham has attracted record levels of investment due to its welcoming and enterprising nature. The city's population has grown and with this has come new homes, jobs, businesses and opportunities, especially in the city centre. The city is made up of 69 wards and 10 parliamentary constituencies.

Outside of the city centre, there are more than 70 urban centres which are hubs for our communities, providing access to jobs, public services, culture and religious services, transport, and other services. There are 1,166,000 people living in Birmingham, according to 2023 population estimates, an increase of 8.5% (91,800) since 2011. The population is projected to continue growing to 1,186,000 (up 3.9%) by 2028.

The city is superdiverse - more than half the population (51.4%) identify as 'Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic'.

The [Birmingham City Vision](#) and [State of the City 2025](#) report set out the key opportunities



and challenges facing Birmingham, in particular the deep inequalities affecting the health and wellbeing of citizens. These provide the basis for the Council's Corporate Plan.

### **Corporate Plan 2025-2028**

Birmingham City Council launched its new Corporate Plan 2025-2028 in June 2025. This supersedes the previous Corporate Plan (2022-2026) and the Improvement and Recovery Plan (2024/25) and for the first time, brings these two interrelated strategies into a single, comprehensive plan for the organisation.

The Corporate Plan 2025-2028 provides Birmingham City Council's contribution to Birmingham's new City Vision – a shared ambition for a fairer, greener and healthier city, where everyone can benefit from the opportunities the city has to offer. The Corporate Plan focuses on how the Council can contribute to this vision over the next three years, including our role in tackling systemic challenges such as housing need, health inequalities, unemployment and child poverty.

The Corporate Plan embeds the Council's refreshed Improvement and Recovery Plan (IRP), which forms the engine room for transformation. The IRP sets out the essential steps the Council must take to become a stable, well-run, and high-performing Council. Its success will lead to improved outcomes for citizens and communities – and ultimately ensure that Birmingham City Council becomes the organisation that our citizens, communities and partners deserve.

This combined Corporate Plan marks an important shift towards embedding sustainable improvements and ensuring that the council is fully equipped to meet the challenges ahead with confidence and accountability.

### **Our shared vision, missions and priorities to address the challenges and opportunities presented**

#### **- City Vision (2025-2035)**

Through Shaping Birmingham's Future Together, a major engagement process led by the Council with citizens and partners from across the public, private, education, voluntary, and community sectors, a [shared vision](#) for the city was agreed:

“Our vision for Birmingham is a city that has a thriving economy, which tackles inequality, and where all communities can enjoy greater opportunities and the wellbeing that brings”

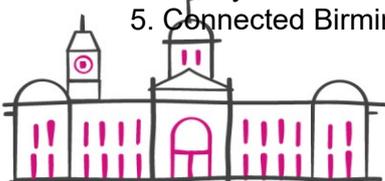
The Corporate Plan provides the City Council's contribution to the longer-term city vision over the next 3 years.

#### **- 6 Key Missions**

The shared vision for Birmingham is supported by five citywide Missions, developed in partnership to respond to the city's biggest challenges and opportunities. These Missions provide a strategic framework for all partners to contribute to shared goals, with the council's specific role reflected in the priorities set out within the Corporate Plan.

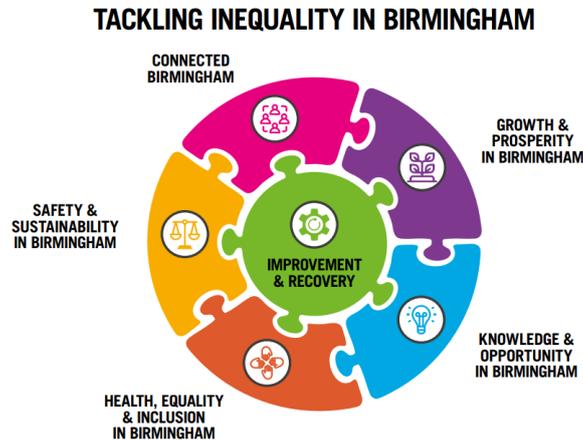
The Five city-wide Missions are:

1. Growth & Prosperity in Birmingham
2. Knowledge & Opportunity in Birmingham
3. Health, Equity & Inclusion in Birmingham
4. Safety & Sustainability in Birmingham
5. Connected Birmingham



The Corporate Plan covers these, plus a 6<sup>th</sup>, Council-specific Mission – Improvement and Recovery. This reflects the continuing importance of strengthening how the council works - not only to respond to government intervention, but to embed continuous improvement as a core part of planning and delivery.

The diagram below sets out the missions, with Improvement and Recovery at the centre, as a key enabler for delivering the broader, city-wide missions.



**- Corporate Priorities**

The table below sets out the high-level priorities for the Council, aligned to the Missions.

MISSIONS	THE PRIORITIES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL FOR 2025-28, ARE TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP TO ENSURE:
<b>1. GROWTH &amp; PROSPERITY</b>	<b>BIRMINGHAM IS A VIBRANT AND INCLUSIVE CITY, WHERE:</b>
	1. Investment and economic growth benefit all people and places in the city.
	2. There is equal opportunity for people to get, and keep, good jobs.
	3. Birmingham is promoted as a great place to live, visit and do business.
	4. Businesses are supported to succeed; and illegal or unsafe business practices are addressed through effective regulation and enforcement.
<b>2. KNOWLEDGE &amp; OPPORTUNITY</b>	<b>BIRMINGHAM IS A CITY WHERE EVERY PERSON CAN LEARN AND DEVELOP THE SKILLS THEY NEED TO THRIVE, WHERE:</b>
	1. Children and young people have a good start in life and a great education.
	2. Lifelong learning is accessible to all.
	3. Skills shortages in key sectors are addressed.
	4. Businesses are supported to succeed; and illegal or unsafe business practices are addressed through effective regulation and enforcement.
<b>3. SAFETY &amp; SUSTAINABILITY</b>	<b>BIRMINGHAM IS A SAFE, CLEAN AND GREEN PLACE TO LIVE, WHERE:</b>
	1. More affordable homes are built.
	2. Housing standards are improved, and homelessness prevented wherever possible.
	3. People are safeguarded and protected from harm.
	4. Street cleanliness and waste services are improved.
<b>4. HEALTH, EQUITY &amp; INCLUSION</b>	<b>BIRMINGHAM IS A PLACE WHERE EVERYONE CAN LIVE, WORK, AND AGE WELL, WHERE:</b>
	1. Children and young people have a healthy start in life.
	2. People are empowered to make healthy choices to improve wellbeing.
	3. Everyone can live and age well.
	4. Council services are citizen-focussed and inclusive.
<b>5. CONNECTED BIRMINGHAM</b>	<b>BIRMINGHAM IS A WELL-CONNECTED CITY, WITH:</b>
	1. A safe and sustainable transport network.
	2. Good access to online services and support to develop digital skills.
<b>6. IMPROVEMENT &amp; RECOVERY</b>	<b>BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL IS FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE AND OPERATES EFFECTIVELY AS A SMALLER, LEANER AND MORE EFFICIENT COUNCIL:</b>
	1. Strengthen and stabilise the Council's financial position.
	2. Develop our workforce and build a culture of trust and learning.
	3. Foster a better performing organisation with stronger governance.
	4. Enhance the quality and accessibility of our services.
	5. Transform the way we operate.

The Council's full Corporate Plan is available for download [here](#).



## Performance Management Framework

Alongside the Corporate Plan, a strengthened Performance Management Framework (PMF) is being introduced across the Council. The PMF is designed to ensure that everyone in the organisation is working towards the shared goals set out within the Corporate Plan. The key features of the PMF are:

- **Business Planning.** On an annual basis, we will refresh our Corporate Annual Business Plan to reflect progress made and ensure it remains relevant. This will help to ensure that resources are used most effectively and that progress towards our corporate objectives can be evidenced. All Directorates and service areas will produce their own business plan, setting out their contributions to the delivery of the Corporate Plan. Although the planning cycle is annual, planning should not be a standalone annual event. Instead, it should form part of an ongoing process of continuous improvement that can be adjusted based on the latest data and insights.

- **Annual Appraisals (Performance Conversations) & Supervision.** This is where individual objectives and development plans are agreed and monitored. There should be a clear link between individual objectives, service / directorate business plans and the Corporate Plan.

- **Monitoring & Reporting.** Quarterly reporting takes place against the Corporate Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and an annual impact report showing progress towards the Corporate Plan priorities produced. Directorates and services will monitor a broader set of indicators and report these regularly at local management team meetings.

### **Basis of preparation and presentation**

The Council's Financial Statements for 2024/25 have been prepared on the basis of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 (the Code).

Where the Council has exercised any judgement in the preparation of these financial statements details of those judgements are set out in Note 2, Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies. Where estimates have been used in the determination of any material figures, an explanation of the estimation technique and the impact of variances from the estimate are set out in Note 4, Assumptions Made About the Future and Other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty.

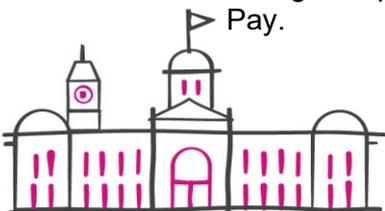
The pages which follow contain the Council's Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025, with comparative figures for the previous financial year, and comprise:

### ***The Core Financial Statements***

***The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)*** – provides the in-year cost of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount reported monthly to the Cabinet which is based on an agreed budget to be funded from taxation, grants or from rents for Council dwellings.

In line with proper accounting practices under the Code the CIES incorporates transactions relating to:

- movements in the value of Property, Plant & Equipment and other non-current assets,
- changes in provisions set aside for the future, for example, for the costs of Equal Pay.



The CIES shows a surplus on the Provision of Services of £17.5m, largely due to the items detailed above. The factors highlighted above do not impact on Council Tax or housing rents as they are reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Supporting the CIES is the Expenditure and Funding Analysis (EFA) (Note 6), which shows the basis of the Council's annual expenditure and how it is funded from resources compared to how the resources are consumed and earned in line with generally accepted accounting practices. The EFA also shows how expenditure is allocated by the Council between directorates.

***Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRS)*** – provides a reconciliation of the movement in year on the different reserves of the Council. The MiRS shows how the movements in the Council's reserves are broken down between gains and losses incurred in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices and the statutory adjustments required to return to the amounts chargeable to Council Tax or housing rents for the year.

***Balance Sheet*** – shows the value of assets and liabilities recognised by the Council as at 31 March 2025 and the level of reserves, split between usable and unusable.

The Council's net assets at 31 March 2025 are £2,860.8m compared to £3,158.3m at 31 March 2024, mainly as a result of:

- Increase in the net liability associated with the Council's defined benefit pension scheme. Changes to actuarial assumptions have resulted in £298.7m increase in net pension liabilities.

***Cash Flow Statement*** – shows how the Council generates and uses cash during the year and the impact this has on the balances of cash and cash equivalents. Cash flows are classified into operating, investing and financing activities.

## **Supplementary Statements**

Notes to the Accounts – additional detail supporting the information provided in the core financial statements is provided in the Notes to the Accounts.

Housing Revenue Account – records the financial position of the Council's statutory obligation to account separately for the cost of its housing provision.

Collection Fund – a statutory account that records the transactions in respect of the collection and distribution of Business Rates and Council Tax for which the Council acts as agent.

## **Group Accounts**

The Council operates through a variety of undertakings, either through majority shareholding or sole membership of companies with the current ability to appoint the majority of directors (subsidiary undertakings) or in partnership with other organisations (associate undertakings and joint ventures). To provide a full picture of the activities of the Council, Group Accounts have been prepared which include those organisations where the interest and level of activity is considered material. The Group Accounts consolidate the Council's accounts with those of:



#### Subsidiaries

Acivico Limited

Birmingham Children's Trust Community Interest Company

Birmingham City Propco Limited

InReach (Birmingham) Limited

National Exhibition Centre (Developments) Plc

PETPS (Birmingham) Limited

PETPS (Birmingham) Pension Funding Scottish Limited Partnership

#### Associate

Birmingham Airport Holdings Limited

#### Joint Venture

Paradise Circus Limited Partnership

The Council also operates through or in conjunction with a number of organisations where the level of activity is not considered material to the overall Group Accounts. Details of these organisations are set out in Note 46, Related Parties.

#### ***Rounding***

Because of rounding, some totals may not exactly agree with the sum of their component parts. These accounts are not adjusted for cross-casting immaterial differences between the main statements and disclosure notes.

#### ***Accountable Body Roles***

In addition to the activities reflected in the Council's CIES and Balance Sheet, the Council also acts as an agent for 45 organisations with gross expenditure of £25.3m, the most significant being the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership. Further details are contained in Note 47.



## Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

### 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 the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In Birmingham City Council this is the Executive Director of Finance who also has the role of Section 151 officer;
- manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets;
- publishes its accountability statements for the 2024/25 financial year, after approving the statement of accounts in accordance with the reg 9(2) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (the Regulations), not later than 27 February 2026;
- (a) as soon as reasonably practicable after that date, publish a notice stating (i) that it has not been able to publish its accountability statements, (ii) its reasons for this, and (iii) that it acknowledges that it must publish its accountability statements as soon as reasonably practicable; (b) send a copy of the notice mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) to the Secretary of State as soon as reasonably practicable after 27 February 2026; and (c) as soon as reasonably practicable publish its accountability statements for that year.

### The Section 151 Officer's Responsibilities

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

I joined the Council as Section 151 Officer on 17 March 2025. The publication of statements of accounts for the years 2022/23 and 2023/24 was delayed beyond the date required by the Regulations due to a number of factors. These factors also impact upon the publication of and content of this statement of accounts and my certification below.

These factors are as follows:

The Council implemented a new enterprise resource planning (ERP) system in April 2022. This is software which supports and integrates different parts of the Council's operations. There have been a number of issues with the running of the system since then. While fixes have been put in place to ensure that the Council's assets are safeguarded, and to ensure that transactions with residents, suppliers and customers can occur appropriately, it is not possible to establish with a reasonable level of certainty that the ledger is free from material misstatement for this financial year. Because of this the previous Section 151 Officer at the time was unable to confirm (as required by reg 9(1) and (3) of the Regulations) that she was satisfied that the statement of accounts for the financial years 2022/23 and 2023/24 presented a true and fair view of:

- the financial position of the Council at the end of that year, or of
- the Council's income and expenditure for that year.



It would be very costly for the Council to gather the data needed to ensure that the ledger is sufficiently free from material misstatement. It is unlikely that this work would represent value for money.

Except for the two weeks between my appointment and the end of March 2025, I was not in post during the period which this statement of accounts covers. In addition to the issues noted above, the previous Section 151 Officer raised a number of more specific concerns, which are noted in the financial statements for 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Those concerns are yet to be fully addressed, because of the relatively short time between publication of those years' statements of accounts and the publication of this year's. Consequently, these concerns are still relevant to this year's statement of accounts. The concerns are:

1. The statement of Accounts for 2020/21 to 2023/24 include a provision for potential Equal Pay liabilities based on a weighted litigation liability, which has been informed by a range of legal and HR assumptions. The provision is in line with International Accounting Standard 37 (IAS37). Given the nature and complexity of the calculation, and the various approaches available to the Council to settle or mitigate the liability the provision is a best estimate of the position. Its scale, and the inclusion of a number of assumptions to which the value is sensitive, mean that a range of outcomes is possible for the actual Equal Pay liability. This range is larger than the Council's materiality levels. The Council has provided disclosure explaining and supporting that decision, although has separately had to apply the option in IAS37 that allows for disclosures to be limited where they may affect on-going litigation.
2. I have been made aware of a number of suspected breaches of laws and regulations by the Council, which pre-date my appointment. The breaches brought to my attention are: potentially overstated recharging of costs to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) from the General Fund, a Pollinations Public Realm scheme overspend, breaches that have given rise to our significant potential Equal Pay liabilities, the Regulator of Social Housing issuing a regulatory notice that the Council had not completed all required statutory inspections and the Council continuing to trade with its wholly owned subsidiary, Acivico, despite the contract having lapsed. The potential Equal Pay liabilities and the HRA recharge issue appear to significantly pre-date the statement of accounts for 2024/25 ,however, a full review of HRA recharges was completed and any overstated charges reversed. The HRA and General Fund reserves balances in these accounts reflect this and a new recharge methodology is now in place at the time of publishing these accounts to ensure accurate recharges to the ringfenced HRA. .

The fact that there are several such breaches increases their significance, and the annual governance statement which forms part of the accountability statements which the Council must publish under reg 9A of the Regulations sets out other potential areas of concern. The fact that these concerns have been identified increases the risk that the control environment and / or system of internal control was inherently weak and, therefore, the risk that other breaches, with material consequences for the statement of accounts for 2024/25, may have occurred. The Council has commissioned an external review of the Council's compliance with relevant laws and regulations, and this has yet to be completed. This will need to be reported to the Council's Audit Committee on conclusion of the review. I am working closely with Government and our external auditors to re-build assurance from 2025-26 onwards.

In preparing the statement of accounts for 2024/25, the Section 151 Officer has to:



- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- Comply with the Code.

The S151 Officer also has the responsibility to:

- Keep proper accounting records which are up to date; and
- Take reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

It is my understanding that extensive efforts have been made to produce an accurate statement of accounts for 2024/25, but it must be noted that the statement of accounts has been prepared using the information available, with amongst other matters the limitations stemming from the recent ERP implementation, and in the context of the accounting policies that were in place at that time.

Due to the work undertaken to clear the outstanding Statement of Accounts from previous years since 2020/21 it has not been possible to fully assess the impact of IFRS16 in time for the publication of these Statement of Accounts for 2024/25.

**The Council is publishing these Statement of Accounts at this time in accordance with the public inspection period in line with Regulation 15(7) and to begin the work on rebuilding assurance as soon as possible.**

### **Certification of Accounts**

Subject to the statements above, I certify that the Statement of Accounts presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Birmingham City Council at 31 March 2025 and of its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2025.

.....  
**Carol Culley, Executive Director of Finance & Section 151 Officer**

**14 July 2025**

### **Approval of Accounts**

The Statement of Accounts will be approved, subject to the certification by the Section 151 Officer above, by resolution of the Audit Committee

**The approval by the Audit Committee under reg 9(2) will be sought after the Public Inspection period and external audit has concluded**



# CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2024/25



## 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.

2023/24			2024/25			
Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure		Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
£m	£m	£m	Note	£m	£m	£m
<b>Continuing Operations</b>						
622.7	(314.3)	308.4		631.8	(333.4)	298.4
1,363.1	(922.6)	440.5		1,420.9	(980.8)	440.1
80.4	(45.8)	34.6		83.8	(54.2)	29.6
355.4	(109.6)	245.8		339.9	(118.1)	221.8
84.9	(103.4)	(18.5)		134.8	(95.1)	39.7
39.5	(9.3)	30.1		40.3	(9.8)	30.5
682.6	(613.9)	68.8		777.9	(650.7)	127.2
110.1	(105.9)	4.2		148.0	(141.8)	6.2
3.6	(88.2)	(84.6)		5.1	(70.1)	(65.0)
260.1	(310.0)	(49.9)		291.0	(332.5)	(41.5)
<b>3,602.4</b>	<b>(2,623.0)</b>	<b>979.4</b>		<b>3,873.5</b>	<b>(2,786.5)</b>	<b>1,087.0</b>
133.0	-	133.0	10	149.8	-	149.8
257.4	(60.8)	196.6	11	223.9	(77.4)	146.5
72.5	(1,354.6)	(1,282.1)	12	73.5	(1,474.3)	(1,400.8)
		<b>26.9</b>				<b>(17.5)</b>
		91.0	21,22,23			1.3
		(261.6)				313.7
		<b>(170.6)</b>	20			<b>315.0</b>
		<b>(143.7)</b>				<b>297.5</b>



## Movement in Reserves Statement

This Statement shows the movement in the year in the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into 'usable reserves' (that is, those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other reserves.

	Total General Fund Balance	Total HRA Reserves	Capital Receipts	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied Account	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Council Reserves
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
<b>Balance at 31 March 2023</b>	<b>787.8</b>	<b>40.1</b>	<b>(65.7)</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>137.8</b>	<b>917.9</b>	<b>2,096.7</b>	<b>3,014.6</b>
Deficit on the provision of services	(8.0)	(18.9)	-	-	-	(26.9)	-	(26.9)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	170.6	170.6
<b>Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>	<b>(8.0)</b>	<b>(18.9)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(26.9)</b>	<b>170.6</b>	<b>143.7</b>
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 16)	4.9	44.2	(5.7)	12.2	8.4	64.0	(64.0)	-
<b>Increase/(Decrease) in 2023/24</b>	<b>(3.1)</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>(5.7)</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>37.1</b>	<b>106.6</b>	<b>143.7</b>
<b>Balance at 31 March 2024</b>	<b>784.7</b>	<b>65.4</b>	<b>(71.4)</b>	<b>30.1</b>	<b>146.2</b>	<b>955.0</b>	<b>2,203.3</b>	<b>3,158.3</b>
<b>Movement in Reserves during 2024/25</b>								
Surplus on the provision of services	0.6	16.9	-	-	-	17.5	-	17.5
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	(315.0)	(315.0)
<b>Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>(315.0)</b>	<b>(297.5)</b>
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 16)	197.9	(37.5)	17.2	(16.6)	0.4	161.4	(161.4)	-
<b>Increase/(Decrease) in 2024/25</b>	<b>198.5</b>	<b>(20.6)</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>(16.6)</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>178.9</b>	<b>(476.4)</b>	<b>(297.5)</b>
<b>Balance at 31 March 2025</b>	<b>983.2</b>	<b>44.8</b>	<b>(54.2)</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>146.6</b>	<b>1,133.9</b>	<b>1,726.9</b>	<b>2,860.8</b>



## Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council.

31 March 2024		Note	31 March 2025 £m
6,870.2	Property, Plant and Equipment	21	6,728.4
249.2	Heritage Assets	22	249.2
16.7	Investment Property		16.7
22.2	Intangible Assets	23	16.2
37.4	Long Term Investments	37	37.4
132.2	Long Term Debtors	24	129.6
<b>7,327.9</b>	<b>Total Long Term Assets</b>		<b>7,177.5</b>
237.3	Short Term Investments	25	214.0
64.5	Assets Held for Sale	26	31.1
1.7	Inventories		1.3
515.3	Short Term Debtors	27	532.5
65.4	Cash and Cash Equivalents	28	35.1
<b>884.2</b>	<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>814.0</b>
(347.2)	Short Term Borrowing	32	(295.4)
(516.9)	Short Term Creditors	29	(505.3)
(35.1)	Short Term Provisions	30	(436.5)
<b>(899.2)</b>	<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>(1,237.2)</b>
(0.3)	Long Term Creditors		(0.3)
(418.1)	Long Term Provisions	30	(18.5)
(3,267.5)	Long Term Borrowing	32	(3,133.8)
(333.2)	Other Long Term Liabilities	37	(306.7)
(135.5)	Net liability on defined benefit pension scheme	20	(434.2)
<b>(4,154.6)</b>	<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>		<b>(3,893.5)</b>
<b>3,158.3</b>	<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>2,860.8</b>
	<b>Usable Reserves</b>	17	
140.6	Unearmarked Reserves		177.2
158.9	Earmarked Reserves		270.2
394.7	Grant Reserves		449.7
186.1	Ringfenced Reserves		144.5
74.7	Capital Reserves		92.3
<b>955.0</b>	<b>Total Usable Reserves</b>		<b>1,133.9</b>
2,203.3	Unusable Reserves	18	1,726.9
<b>3,158.3</b>	<b>Total Reserves</b>		<b>2,860.8</b>

The unaudited accounts were issued on 14 July 2025 and the audited accounts were authorised for issue on 25 February 2026.

Carol Culley, Executive Director Finance (& Section 151 Officer)



## Cash Flow Statement

The Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Council during the reporting period.

2023/24 £m		Note	2024/25 £m
(26.9)	Net Deficit/(Surplus) on the provision of services		17.5
412.9	Adjustments to net Surplus/Deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	36	518.7
(184.5)	Adjustments for items included in the net Surplus/(Deficit) on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	36	(438.5)
<b>201.5</b>	<b>Net cash flows from Operating Activities</b>		<b>97.7</b>
(410.2)	Investing Activities	34	(95.2)
191.6	Financing Activities	35	(32.8)
<b>(17.1)</b>	<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>(30.3)</b>
82.5	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		65.4
<b>65.4</b>	<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>35.1</b>



## Note 1

### Accounting Policies

#### i. General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2024/25 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2025. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the Council to prepare an annual statement of accounts in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices under Section 21 of the 2003 Act primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 (the Code) supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and statutory guidance issued under Section 12 of the 2003 Act.

The accounting convention adopted in the statement of accounts is principally historical cost, modified by the revaluation of certain categorised non-current assets and financial instruments. Historical cost is deemed to be the carrying amount of an asset as at 1 April 2007 (that is, brought forward from 31 March 2007) or at the date of acquisition, whichever date is the later, and if applicable is adjusted for subsequent depreciation or impairment.

#### ii. Accruals of Income and Expenditure

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

- Revenue from the provision of services or goods is recognised when the Council can reliably measure the percentage of completion of the transaction and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Council;
- Revenue from the sale of goods or provision of services satisfied over time is recognised if the Council can reasonably measure its progress towards complete satisfaction of the performance obligation;
- 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, for example, fuel and transport parts;
- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made;
- Interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure based on the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract;
- When income 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 and Cash Equivalents are represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions, which must be repayable immediately without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Any deposits with financial institutions that may be repaid after the immediate day are considered to be investments, not cash equivalents.

In the Cash Flow Statement, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand, where there are pooling arrangements across the accounts with the same institution and form an integral part of the Council's cash management.

### iv. 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, or 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.

### v. Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

Directorates and trading accounts are debited with the following amounts to record the cost of holding non-current assets during the year. This comprises:

- 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 non-current assets attributable to the service.

The Council is not required to raise Council Tax to fund depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisation. However, it is required to make an annual contribution from revenue towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement equal to an amount calculated on a prudent basis determined by the Council in accordance with statutory guidance. An adjustment is, therefore, made to remove depreciation, amortisation and revaluation and impairment losses from the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account through Note 16, Adjustments Between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under



Regulations, and the Movement in Reserves Statement and to replace them by the statutory contribution from the General Fund to the Capital Adjustment Account.

## **vi. Council Tax and Business Rates**

Billing authorities are required by statute to maintain a separate fund (the Collection Fund) for the collection and distribution of amounts due in respect of Council Tax and Business Rates. The Collection Fund's key features relevant to the accounting for Council Tax and Business Rates in the core financial statements are:

- In its capacity as a Billing Authority the Council acts as an agent, collecting and distributing Council Tax on behalf of the major preceptors and as principal for itself;
- While the Council Tax and Business Rates income for the year credited to the Collection Fund is the accrued income for the year, regulations determine when it should be released from the Collection Fund and transferred to the Council's General Fund, or paid out from the Collection Fund to the major preceptors. The amount credited to the General Fund under statute is the Council's demand on the Fund for that year, plus/(less) the Council's share of any surplus/(deficit) on the Collection Fund for the previous year. This amount may be more or less than the accrued income for the year in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25.

### Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

The Council Tax and Business Rates income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the Council's share of accrued income for the year. The difference between the income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the amount required by regulation to be credited to the General Fund is taken to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account and included as a reconciling item in the Movement in Reserves Statement. In addition, that part of Business Rates retained as the cost of collection allowance under regulation is treated as the Council's income and appears in the Comprehensive and Income Expenditure Statement as are any costs added to Business Rates in respect of recovery action.

### Balance Sheet

Since the collection of Council Tax and Business Rates are in substance agency arrangements, any year end balances relating to arrears, impairment allowances for doubtful debts, overpayment and prepayments are apportioned between the major preceptors and the Council by the creation of a debtor/creditor relationship. Similarly, the cash collected by the Council belongs proportionately to itself and the major preceptors. There will, therefore, be a debtor/creditor position between the Council and the major preceptors since the cash paid to the latter in the year will not be equal to their share of the total cash collected. If the net cash paid to the major preceptors in the year is more than their proportionate share of the cash collected the Council will recognise a debit adjustment for the amount overpaid. Conversely, if the cash paid to the major preceptors in the year is less than their proportionate share of the amount collected then the Council will recognise a credit adjustment for the amount underpaid.



## Cash Flow Statement

The Council's Cash Flow Statement includes in 'Operating Activities' cash flows only its own share of the Council Tax and Business Rates collected during the year, and the amount included for precepts paid excludes amounts paid to the major preceptors. In addition, that part of Business Rates retained as the cost of collection allowance under regulation appears in the Council's Cash Flow Statement. The difference between the major preceptors' share of the cash collected and that paid to them as precepts and settlement of the previous year's surplus or deficit on the Collection Fund, is included as a net increase/decrease in cash and cash equivalents.

### **vii. Employee Benefits**

#### Benefits Payable During Employment

##### Short Term Benefits

Short term employee benefits are those due to be settled within 12 months of the year-end. They include benefits such as wages and salaries, paid annual leave and paid sick leave, bonuses and non-monetary benefits, for example 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 annual leave entitlements (or any other form of leave, for example time off in lieu) earned by employees but not taken before the year-end, which employees can carry forward into the next financial year. The accrual is made at the wage and salary rates applicable in the following accounting year, being the period in which the employee takes the benefit. The accrual is charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services, but then reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement so that leave benefits are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the leave of absence occurs.

##### Other Long Term Benefits

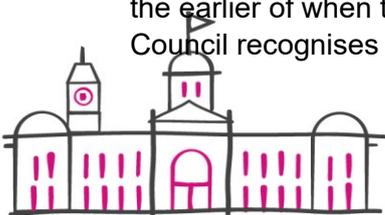
Other long term employee benefits are benefits, other than post-employment and termination benefits, that are not expected to be settled in full before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period for which employees have rendered the related service. Within local authorities the value of these benefits is not expected to be significant. Such long term benefits may include:

- Long term paid absence or sabbatical leave;
- Long term disability benefits;
- Bonuses;
- Deferred remuneration.

Long term benefits would be accounted for on a similar basis to post-employment benefits.

##### Termination Benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Council to terminate an employee's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy and are charged on an accruals basis to the appropriate Directorate at the earlier of when the Council can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when the Council recognises costs for a restructuring.



Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account balances 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 Pension 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 one of three separate pension schemes:

- The Local Government Pension Scheme, administered by the West Midlands Pension Fund offices at Wolverhampton City Council;
- The Teachers' Pension Scheme administered by Capita Teachers' Pensions on behalf of the Department for Education;

The NHS Pensions Scheme administered by NHS Pensions.

Each scheme provides defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned during employment with the Council.

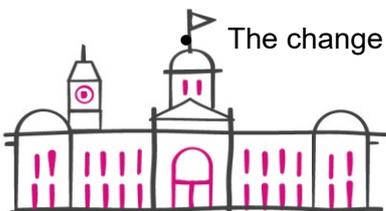
The arrangements for the Teachers' Pension Scheme and the NHS Pensions Scheme mean liabilities for these benefits cannot ordinarily be identified specifically to the Council. These schemes are, therefore, accounted for as if they were defined contribution schemes and no liability for future payments of benefits is recognised in the Balance Sheet.

### The Local Government Pension Scheme

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

- The liabilities of the West Midlands Local Government Pension Fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – that is, an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc, and projections of earnings for current employees;
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate of 2.00% based on the indicative rate of return on high quality corporate bond yields;
- The assets of the West Midlands Local Government 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 – market value.

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



Service cost comprising:

- current service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year – allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the Directorates for which the employees worked;
- past service cost – the increase in liabilities arising from current year decisions (scheme amendment or curtailment) whose effect related to years of service earned in earlier years – debited to the (Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;
- net interest on the net defined benefit liability/(asset), that is the net interest expense for the Council – the change during the reporting period in the net defined benefit liability/(asset) that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – this is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined 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 contribution 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;
- 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 West Midlands Local Government Pension Fund - cash paid as employer's contributions to the pension fund; not accounted for as an expense.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account balances 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 and Housing Revenue Account arising from the requirement to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

In accordance with IFRIC 14 (The Limit on a Defined Benefit Asset, Minimum Funding Requirements and their Interaction), the Council applies the asset ceiling when a net defined benefit asset arises under IAS 19 (Employee Benefits). The asset ceiling limits the recognised asset to the present value of the economic benefits available to the Council in the form of refunds from the pension fund or reductions in future contributions. A surplus exists when the



present value of the defined benefit obligation is less than the fair value of the plan assets. In applying IFRIC 14, the recognition of the pension surplus has been restricted, resulting in a net defined benefit liability at the reporting date.

### Discretionary Benefits

The Council 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 and public health employees, 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.

### **viii. Events After the Reporting Period**

Events after the Balance Sheet date are those material events, both favourable and adverse, 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.

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

### **ix. 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. They are initially measured at fair value and are carried at their amortised cost. Non-borrowing creditors are carried at contract amount. 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 to the instrument over the life of the instrument to the amount at which it was originally recognised.

For most of the Council's borrowings, this means 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.

However, the Birmingham City Council 2030 bonds, issued in exchange for NEC loan stock in 2005 and the NEC Development 2027 bonds, were issued at a fair value in excess of the



principal repayable. Interest is being charged on an amortised cost accounting basis, which writes the value down to zero at maturity.

Gains and losses on the repurchase or early settlement of borrowing are credited and debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year of repurchase/settlement.

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 repayable, or discount received 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 three main classes of financial assets measured at:

- amortised cost
- fair value through profit or loss (FVPL), and
- fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI). The Council does not currently have any financial assets designated at FVOCI.

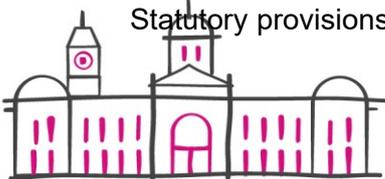
The Council's business model is to hold investments to collect contractual cash flows. Financial assets are therefore classified as amortised cost, except for those whose contractual payments are not solely payment of principal and interest (that is, where the cash flows do not take the form of a basic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

### Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost

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

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

Interest is credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES at a marginally higher effective rate of interest than the rate receivable from the organisations, with the difference serving to increase the amortised cost of the loan in the Balance Sheet. Statutory provisions require that the impact of soft loans on the General Fund Balance is the



interest receivable for the financial year – the reconciliation of amounts debited and credited to the CIES to the net gain required against the General Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

#### Expected Credit Loss Model

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

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

#### Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income

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

#### Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Profit 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 arise in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services.

Where it is possible to determine a fair value, measurement of the financial assets is 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 and 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.



### Instruments Entered Into Before 1 April 2006

The Council has entered into a number of financial guarantees that are not required to be accounted for as financial instruments. These guarantees are reflected in the Statement of Accounts to the extent that provisions might be required, or a contingent liability note is needed under the policies set out in section xxii on Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets.

### **x. Government Grants and Contributions**

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

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

Amounts recognised as due to the Council are not credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement until conditions attached to the grant or contribution are satisfied.

Conditions are stipulations that specify that the future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the asset in the form of the grant or contribution are required to be consumed by the recipient as specified, or future economic benefits or service potential must be returned to the transferor.

Monies advanced as grants and contributions for which conditions are unlikely to be satisfied are carried in the Balance Sheet as creditors. Where conditions are satisfied or expected to be satisfied, the grant or contribution is credited to the relevant Directorate (attributable revenue grants and contributions) or Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income (non-ring fenced revenue grants and all capital grants) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where capital grants are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Where the grant has yet to be used to finance capital expenditure, it is posted to the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve. Where it has been applied, it is posted to the Capital Adjustment Account. Amounts in the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account as they are applied to fund capital expenditure.

### **xi. Business Improvement Districts**

In accordance with the provisions of the Business Improvement District Regulations (England) 2004 ballots of local businesses within specific areas of the City have resulted in the creation of distinct Business Improvement Districts. Business ratepayers in these areas pay a levy in addition to the Business Rate to fund a range of specified additional services which are provided by specific companies set up for the purpose.

In line with Code guidance the Council has determined that it acts as agent to the Business Improvement District authorities and therefore neither the proceeds of the levy nor the payment to the Business Improvement District Company are shown in the Council's accounts.



### **Community Infrastructure Levy**

The Council has elected to charge a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The levy will be charged on new builds 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 infrastructure projects to support the development of the City.

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 section xi. Government Grants and Contributions of this note. CIL charges will be largely used to fund capital expenditure although an element may be used to support infrastructure maintenance and a small proportion of the charges may be used to fund the costs of administration associated with the CIL.

### **xii. Heritage Assets**

Heritage assets are assets that have historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geographical or environmental qualities that are held in trust for future generations because of their cultural, environmental or historical associations and contribution to knowledge and culture. They include museums' and libraries' heritage collections, historic buildings and the historical environment, public works of art and civic regalia and plate.

Where assets of a heritage nature are used in the ongoing delivery of the Council's services, such as historically interesting buildings and parks and open space, they have not been categorised as heritage assets but remain as other land and buildings or as community assets within Property, Plant and Equipment.

For the Museum, Library and Civic Plate Collections, insurance valuations are used due to the unique nature, diversity and quantity of the assets, and lack of historical cost information. For other types of Heritage Assets, historical cost information is used where available when compiling the Balance Sheet. In some cases, neither reliable valuation information nor historical cost information is available, in which case the asset has been excluded from the Balance Sheet.

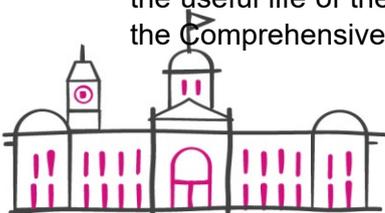
The Council considers that heritage assets will have indeterminate lives and a high residual value; and therefore does not consider it appropriate to charge depreciation on the assets. Any impairment or disposal of heritage assets is recognised and measured in accordance with the Council's relevant policies (see section xxi. Property, Plant and Equipment in this note).

### **xiii. 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 (for example, software licences) is capitalised when it is expected that future economic benefits or service potential will flow from the intangible asset to the Council.

Expenditure on the development of websites is not capitalised if the website is solely or primarily intended to promote or advertise the Council's goods or services.

Intangible assets are measured initially at cost and the depreciable amount is amortised over the useful life of the asset on a straight-line basis and charged to the relevant Directorate 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.

#### **xiv. Interests in Companies and Other Entities**

The Council has material interests in companies and other entities that have the nature of subsidiaries, associates and joint operations and proper accounting practices require it to prepare group accounts. In the Council's own single entity accounts, the interests in companies and other entities are recorded as financial assets at cost, less any provision for losses.

#### **xv. Investment Properties**

Investment properties are those that are held by the Council solely to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation. An asset does not meet the definition of being an investment property if it is used in any way to facilitate the delivery of services, for the production of goods or is held for sale.

Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently carried at fair value, measured at highest and best use. Investment properties are not depreciated but are revalued annually based on market conditions at the year-end. Gains/losses on revaluation, or on disposal, are posted to Financing Income and Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The same treatment is applied to gains/losses on disposal.

Rentals received in relation to investment properties are credited to Financing Investment Income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and result in a gain for the General Fund Balance. However, revaluation and disposal gains/losses are not permitted by statutory arrangements on the General Fund Balance and are therefore reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement and posted to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Whilst discharging its role the Council works to ensure that the stewardship of all property assets is such that they are managed in a way that is economic, efficient and effective. The Council has a site that meets the definition of 'Investment Properties'.

The Council has a number of lease arrangements with subsidiary companies that are not treated as investment properties in line with IAS 40, Investment Property.

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.

#### **xvi. Joint Operations and Jointly Controlled Assets**

Joint operations are activities undertaken by the Council in conjunction with other ventures that involve the use of the assets and resources of the venturers rather than the establishment of a separate entity. The Council recognises on its Balance Sheet the assets it controls and the liabilities it incurs and debits and credits the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure



Statement with the expenditure it incurs and the share of income it earns from the activity of the operation.

Jointly controlled assets are items of property, plant or equipment that are jointly controlled by the Council and other venturers, with the assets being used to obtain benefits for the venturers. The joint venture does not involve the establishment of a separate entity. The Council accounts for only its share of the jointly controlled assets, the liabilities and the expenses that it incurs on its own behalf or jointly with others in respect of its interest in the joint venture and income that it earns from the venture.

## **xvii. Leases**

### **The Council as lessee**

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

#### **Initial measurement**

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

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

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

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

However, for peppercorn, nominal payments or nil consideration leases, the asset is measured at fair value



### Subsequent measurements

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

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

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

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

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

The liability is remeasured when:

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

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

### Low value and short lease exemption

As permitted by the Code, the Council excludes leases:

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

### Lease expenditure

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



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

### **The Council as lessor**

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

### **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 (ie 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:

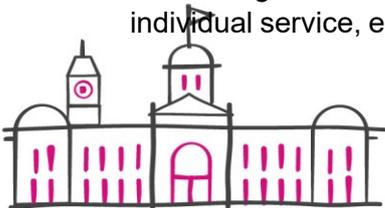
- a charge for the acquisition of the interest in the property – applied to write down the lease debtor (together with any premiums received), and
- finance income (credited to the financing and investment income and expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement).

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 for the capital receipt for the disposal of the asset is used to write down the lease debtor. At this point, the deferred capital receipts are transferred to the capital receipts reserve.

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

### **Operating leases**

Where the Council grants an operating lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the asset is retained in the Balance Sheet. Rental income is credited to the other operating expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Credits are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease or where this is initiated by a service to the individual service, 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

### **xviii. Overheads and Support Services**

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

### **xix. 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 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 (for example, 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 Council capitalises borrowing costs incurred whilst material assets are under construction. Material assets are considered to be those where total planned (multi-year) borrowing for a single asset (including land and building components) exceeds £20m, and where there is a 'substantial period of time' from the first capital expenditure financed from borrowing until the asset is ready to be brought into use. A substantial period of time is considered to mean in excess of two years. Both of these tests will be determined using estimated figures at the time of preparing the accounts in the first year of capitalisation. Should either test fail in subsequent financial years, the prior year's treatment will not be adjusted retrospectively.

The cost of assets acquired other than by purchase is deemed to be its fair value, unless the acquisition does not have commercial substance (that is, 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 subsequently carried in the Balance Sheet using the following measurement bases:

- infrastructure assets, vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment (excluding Tyseley Energy Recovery Facility) – depreciated historical cost;
- community assets and assets under construction – historical cost;



- dwellings – current value, determined using the basis of existing use value for social housing (EUV-SH);
- where cleared land has been designated for social housing use, that land is valued using the basis of EUV-SH;
- 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
- surplus assets – fair value; assessed in their highest and best use from a market participant’s perspective;
- all other assets – current value, determined as the price that would be paid in its existing use.

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.

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at current value are revalued sufficiently regularly to ensure their carrying amount is not materially different from their current value at the year-end, but as a minimum every five years. Increases in asset valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. The Revaluation Reserve contains revaluation gains recognised since 1 April 2007 only, the date of its formal implementation. Gains arising before that date have been consolidated into the Capital Adjustment Account.

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.

### Impairment

Assets are assessed at each year-end for any indication that an asset may be impaired. Where indications exist and any possible difference is 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.

### Revaluation and impairment losses

Where revaluation and impairment losses are identified, and where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the reduction in value is charged against that balance until it is used up. Thereafter, or if there is no balance of revaluation gains, the loss is charged against the relevant Directorate in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where an impairment loss is reversed subsequently, the reversal is credited to the relevant Directorate in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, up to the amount of



the original loss, adjusted for the depreciation that would have been charged if the loss had not been recognised.

### Useful Life

The Council estimates that assets, at new, have remaining useful lives within the parameters as detailed below:

- Council Dwellings – separated into the key components
  - Land – indefinite life;
  - Kitchens – 20 years;
  - Bathrooms – 40 years;
  - Doors/Windows/Rainwater, Soffits and Facias – 35 years;
  - Central Heating/Boilers – 15 to 30 years;
  - Roofs – 25 to 60 years;
  - Remaining components (Host) – 30 to 60 years;
- Buildings – up to 50 years;
- Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment – up to 50 years;
- Infrastructure – up to 40 years.

The useful life of each relevant asset is reviewed as part of the Council's five year cycle of revaluation by an appropriately qualified valuer.

### Depreciation

Depreciation is provided for on all Property, Plant and Equipment assets, including components, by the systematic straight line allocation of their depreciable amounts over their useful lives. Assets without a determinable finite useful life, and assets that are not yet available for use, are not depreciated. Depreciation is charged in the year of disposal but not charged in the year of purchase.

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

### Componentisation

Where an asset is material (over £5m) and has major components whose cost is significant to the total cost of the asset, and which have markedly different useful lives, components are separately identified and depreciated. Also, additions are considered for components, whereby as components are added, any component being replaced is derecognised. Where the historical cost of the old component is not readily determinable, it has been estimated by comparing the remaining useful economic life of the component to the original useful economic life and the cost of the replacement component. A pro rata of both the depreciation and any applicable Revaluation Reserve is also derecognised.



### 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 carrying value less the cost of sale. Where there is a subsequent decrease to carrying value less the cost of sale, the loss is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Gains in current value are recognised only up to the amount of any previous losses recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services. Depreciation is not charged on Assets Held for Sale.

Where assets are no longer used by a Directorate, these assets are offered to other Directorates for use. Those assets which are surplus are made available for sale and will be classified as 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 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 and the gain or loss on disposal is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Any revaluation gains accumulated for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account. Gains and losses on disposal of assets 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 appropriated to the Capital Adjustment Account from the General Fund Balance through the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Amounts, in excess of £10,000, received from a disposal are categorised as capital receipts. A proportion of receipts relating to housing disposals is payable to the Government. The balance of receipts is required to be credited to the Capital Receipts Reserve. Receipts are appropriated to the Reserve from the General Fund Balance through the Movement in Reserves Statement.

### **xx. Service Concession Arrangements**

Service concession arrangements (formerly classed as 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 contractor. As the Council is deemed to control the services that are provided under the arrangement, 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) is balanced by the recognition of a liability for amounts due to



the scheme operator to pay for the capital investment. The Council includes the cost of establishing Special Purpose Vehicles in the calculation of the liabilities.

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 contractor each year are analysed into five elements:

- Fair value of the services procured during the year – debited to the relevant Directorate in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;
- Finance cost – an interest charge 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 – inflationary 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 contractor;
- Lifecycle replacement costs – usually recognised as an addition to Property, Plant and Equipment when the relevant works are carried out in line with the operator’s model spending profiles.

## **xxi. 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 Directorate 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. Provisions are not discounted to their value at current prices unless material.

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 Directorate.

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



### Onerous Contracts

An onerous contract is a contract for the exchange of assets or service in which the unavoidable costs of meeting the obligations under the contract exceed the economic benefits or service potential expected to be received under it.

Onerous Contracts are accounted for under IAS 37 – Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets. A provision will be recognised for the unavoidable costs.

### Contingent Liabilities

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

Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in Note 31 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 Note 31 to the accounts where it is probable that there will be an inflow of economic benefits or service potential.

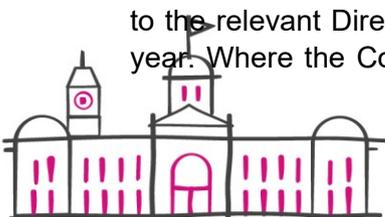
## **xxii. Reserves**

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

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

## **xxiii. Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute**

Expenditure incurred during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provisions, but which does not result in the creation of a non-current asset, has been charged as expenditure to the relevant Directorate 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 through 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.

#### **xxiv. Accounting for Schools**

Local authority maintained schools, in line with relevant accounting standards and the Code, are considered to be separate entities with the balance of control lying with the Council. As such the Council should consolidate the activities of schools into its group accounts. However, the Code requires that the income, expenditure, assets and liabilities of maintained schools be accounted for in local authority entity accounts rather than requiring the preparation of group accounts.

The Council has the following types of maintained schools under its control:

- Community schools;
- Voluntary Controlled schools;
- Voluntary Aided schools;
- Foundation schools.

Given the nature of the control of the entities and the control of the service potential from the non-current assets of the maintained schools, the Council has recognised buildings and other non-current assets on its Balance Sheet. The Council has recognised all land for Community Schools on its Balance Sheet and recognised that land for Voluntary Aided, Voluntary Controlled and Foundation Schools where it can be demonstrated that the Council has control over the land through restrictive covenants within site deeds or where there is reasonable evidence that restrictive covenants are in place.

Academies and Free Schools are not considered to be controlled by the Council and are not consolidated into the entity or group accounts.

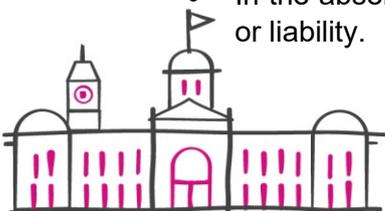
#### **xxv. Value Added Tax**

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

#### **xxvi. Fair Value Measurement**

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

- In the principal market for the asset or liability; or
- 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 with 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.

#### **xxvii. Council Acting as Agent**

The Council does not include transactions that relate to its role in acting as an agent on behalf of other bodies. In such cases the Council is acting as an intermediary and does not have exposure to significant risks and rewards from the activities being undertaken.

#### **xxviii. Dedicated Schools Grant Deficit Balances**

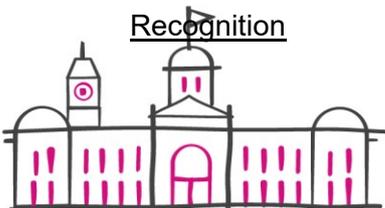
Where the Council has a deficit in respect of its schools budget for a financial year beginning on 1 April 2020, the Council does not charge to a revenue account an amount in respect of that deficit. Instead, it charges the amount of the deficit to an account established, charged and used solely for the purpose of recognising deficits in respect of its schools budget.

These financial statements continue to be produced under IFRS with the DSG being accounted for in the normal way (through the CIES). An accounting adjustment is made via the MiRS to move any DSG deficit balances on a time limited basis to an unusable reserve established for that purpose.

#### **xxix. Highways infrastructure assets**

Highways infrastructure assets include carriageways, footways and cycle tracks, structures (e.g. bridges), street lighting, street furniture, 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 Council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably.

The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 SI 1232/2022 – These amendment regulations provide that where a local authority replaces a component of an infrastructure asset, the authority has a choice of how to identify the carrying amount to be derecognised in respect of that component (i.e. either a nil amount or to follow the Code). The Council has elected to make use of this statutory override.

### 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 1 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.

Useful lives of the various parts of the highways network are assessed by the Chief Highways Engineer using industry standards where applicable as follows:

Carriageways	25 years
Footways and cycle tracks	20 years
Highways Drainage	15 years
Street furniture	30 years
Street lighting	30 years
Structures (bridges, tunnels)	120 years
Traffic management systems	25 years
Other infrastructure assets	10 years

### 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. 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). 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.



**Note 2****Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies**

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 1, the Council has had to make certain judgements in respect of complex transactions or those transactions involving uncertainty about future events. The critical judgements made in the Statement of Accounts are:

**Going Concern**

The Accounts have been prepared on a Going Concern basis. Local Authorities are required by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2024/25 to prepare their accounts on a going concern basis, that is that the functions of the Council will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, as it can only be discontinued as a result of statutory prescription.

On 5 September 2023, the Council issued a Section 114 Notice due to insufficient resources to its financial liabilities relating to Equal Pay claims and an in-year financial gap within the budget. Spend controls were put in place immediately, and on 19 October 2023, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities announced the appointment of commissioners and political advisors for the City Council.

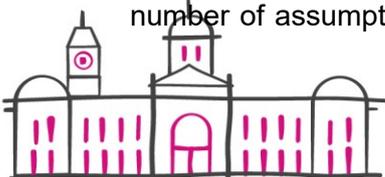
In the context of the Section 114 Notice, the Council formally requested Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) from Central Government for the periods 2020-21 to 2025-26 inclusive. As a result, on 20 February 2025, Central Government provided a 'minded to' capitalisation direction not exceeding £1.241.2 million over this period. In February 2026, the Council submitted a revised request not exceeding £997.4m, reflecting progress made in settling claims, the revised outturn position, and a reduced requirement for revenue budget support. The majority of the EFS relates to the potential Equal Pay Liability covering the years 2020/21 to 2024/25. The Council is taking actions to address the potential equal pay liabilities and on 13 October 2025 a settlement scheme was agreed with Trade Unions which addresses the underlying claims. It is on this basis that the Council considers that it can continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due, supporting the preparation of the financial statements on a going concern basis irrespective of the statutory requirements.

As a result of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement the Council has been able to set a balanced budget for 2026/27 and the following two years. This is without the need for EFS to balance the budgets.

In the 2025/26 and 2026/27 budgets the General Fund Balance has been kept at 3% of Net Expenditure. On top of this Reserve there is also the Strategic Reserve totalling £105m for 2026/27 and is unearmarked.

Within the 2026/27 budget is a Contingency totalling £97m, this grows to £210m in 2028/29. This budget contains provision for known and unknown risks such as inflation contingency, pay and grading and business rates volatility. There is also a Capitalisation Contingency held as a buffer against the potential additional unforeseen borrowing costs arising from the capitalisation direction, to provide for the risk of the non-delivery of savings and mitigate in year budget risks and volatility.

Inclusion of going concern as a critical judgement is as a result of the number of variables required to be considered as part of the assessment – many of which are material to the conclusion. For instance, the exceptional financial support is predicated on a significant programme of asset sales, the timing and extent of which is uncertain. It also includes a number of assumptions around expected future costs, all of which have been based on the



best information available, but, the timing and extent of them materialising as cash outflows may also vary. In all cases, the requirements modelled are within the limits of the exceptional financial support agreed with Government though, and as such, the Council believes it is appropriate to apply the going concern assumption.

### Schools

The Council has assessed the legal framework underlying each type of school and determined the treatment of non-current assets within the financial statements on the basis of whether it owns or has some responsibility for, control over or benefit from the service potential of the premises and land occupied. The Council has considered its accounting arrangements for each school, on a case by case basis, under the terms of:

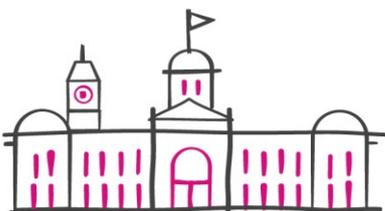
- IAS 16, Property, Plant and Equipment
- IAS 17, Leases
- IFRIC 4, Determining Whether an Arrangement Contains a Lease; and
- LAAP Bulletin 101, Accounting for Non-Current Assets Used by Local Authority Maintained Schools

The Council has determined that, within its Balance Sheet, for:

- Community Schools - all land and buildings should be recognised;
- Voluntary Controlled, Voluntary Aided and Foundation Schools - all buildings should be recognised and that land should be recognised where the Council can demonstrate that it has control over the asset through restrictive covenants within site deeds or there is reasonable evidence that restrictive covenants are in place;
- Academy Schools - no non-current assets should be recognised as they maintain their own financial records.

Local authority maintained schools, as independent entities, have responsibility for the management of their own resources. However, as their transactions are consolidated into the Council's financial statements, the Council has reviewed their activity to ensure consistency of accounting treatment. The Council has identified activity incurred as revenue expenditure by local authority maintained schools, which under the Council's policies would be considered to be capital expenditure. The Council has, therefore, treated expenditure which it can reasonably identify as being capital in nature as capital expenditure financed from revenue, which is then depreciated over an average useful economic life. Where it is not clear whether expenditure incurred relates specifically to capital, it has been left as revenue expenditure.

Whilst the Council is required to report the transactions of local authority maintained schools within its entity financial statements, it has not included details of employees of Voluntary Aided and Foundation Trust schools in Note 43, Officers' Remuneration, as they are employed by the relevant governing body.



The table below shows the number and type of schools within Birmingham at 31 March 2025.

Type of School	Nursery	Primary	Infants	Juniors	Secondary	All Through	Alternative	Special	Pupil Referral Unit	Total
Community	27	79	10	10	8			8	1	143
Voluntary Controlled		4								4
Voluntary Aided		38	2		4					44
Foundation Trust		7	1	1	3			9		21
Academy		134	4	6	60	5		10		219
Free School		4			12	2	6			24
Studio School					1					1
UTC					1					1
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>457</b>

Where a school proposes to transfer to Academy status, the Council will continue to retain any asset subject to transfer on the basis of its last revaluation, which maintains both the asset value and the anticipated useful life until the date of transfer. The Council has taken the view that any asset transferring will continue, on the basis of the permitted use within the lease agreements, to be used for the provision of education services, thus supporting the Council's statutory obligation for the provision of education. On transfer to an Academy, assets are derecognised in the Council's financial statements for nil consideration.

### **Service Concession Arrangements – Highways PFI**

Birmingham's Highways Maintenance and Management services are currently delivered through a PFI contract. The council's Highways Maintenance and Management PFI contract is one of the largest PFI contracts in the UK and is the principal means through which the council discharges its statutory duties under the Highways Act 1980.

The contract combines approximately £50m annual PFI funding from government in the form of PFI credits with the council's approximately £56m per annum. (indexed) ring-fenced revenue budget contribution for the purposes of providing routine and reactive maintenance, major planned maintenance and investment works on the city's highway network and highway assets.

On Thursday 30 November 2023, the council received formal confirmation from the Department of Transport that the Government will withdraw its existing funding arrangement, whilst proposed alternative funding was not defined.

The Council commenced Judicial Review proceedings in relation to the Government's decision, which on 24 June 2024 found in favour of the Council, confirming that the earlier funding arrangement should continue. While some uncertainty exists around any further Government challenge to the funding, no further formal steps have been taken to challenge the outcome of the Judicial review.

The Council has received expected PFI credits to date in line with the previously agreed payment schedule, and written confirmation from the Department of Transport that it will continue to pay those credits until such time as the Secretary of State takes a further decision on the way forwards. The Council notes that this is not confirmation of continued payment into



perpetuity, or even, for the rest of the scheme, but does acknowledge that it allows for surety of short-term funding and supports the accounting treatment currently included in these accounts.

Note 41 shows the future payments to be made for the PFI contracts and has been prepared on the basis of the Highways PFI continuing.

If the PFI contract ceases the schedule of future payments in Note 41 would reduce significantly as these would no longer be payable. From 2024/25 the outstanding payments over the next 15 years under the Highways PFI contract total £856.2m. This includes £204.8m related to the Capital Liability.

In terms of funding the Council would not expect to receive the annual PFI credits but nor be expected to match fund the PFI credits to fund the Highways PFI. The Council would through its normal budget setting process set an appropriate revenue or capital budget for managing its Highways assets.

The Accounts have been prepared on the basis of the PFI continuing as DfT have to date continued to pay PFI credits as per the agreement and have yet to appeal or make a fresh decision to terminate.

### **Leases**

The Council has applied judgement to determine whether a contract contains a lease or right to control the use of assets. Judgement has also been made over applicable lease terms where there are cancellable terms within the contract. These judgements will impact the value of assets and liabilities disclosed on the Balance Sheet. Where the Council is a lessor leases are categorised between operating and finance leases according to management judgement on the basis of relevant accounting standards, with the premise that long term land leases, typically greater than 110 years, and long term building leases, typically greater than 50 years, are accounted for on the basis of finance leases.

### **The Council acting as Agent**

The Council acts as agent for a range of funding resources. In its role as agent, transactions relating to agency activity are not included in the Council's financial statements. Two of the largest areas where the Council acts as agent are:

- Growing Places Fund
- Regional Growth Fund - Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative

Whilst the Council has received the funding, it is on the basis of an Accountable Body to ensure that resources are spent in compliance with the grant offer letters.

Given the basis of control, the Council has determined that it acts as agent rather than principal for these resources which are, therefore, not included in the Council's financial statements.

Details of the Council's role as agent for external resources are included in Note 47 to these financial statements.



### **Payments to the Local Government Pension Scheme**

The Council has determined that the application of Section 30 of The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003, as amended, requires the Council to charge to its revenue accounts the amount payable for the financial year for retirement benefit payments and contributions to the pension fund as set out in the actuary's certificate following the triennial valuation of 31 March 2022, namely 21.8% of pensionable pay plus £44.0m for 2024/25. This is done through an adjustment in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

### **Equal Pay**

The Council has continued to receive equal pay claims up to the signing of these financial statements. On the basis of detailed work performed, and ongoing discussion with Council staff and their representatives, it is clear that the Council also has a significant, and wider liability relating to further claims, and has, as a result, made provision in its accounts for these future liabilities. Negotiations continue in order to provide both a fair settlement to colleagues and result with a best value outcome for the Council and residents. We are hoping to conclude negotiations prior to finalising these accounts and as such, for these draft accounts being issued for public inspection, we have left the recorded provision unchanged from that shown at March 2022. This position will be reviewed and updated prior to finalising and signing these accounts.

The Council has determined that the likely payment of equal pay claims meets the criteria set out in IAS37, which requires that:

- 1) The Council has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event;
- 2) It is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation; and
- 3) a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

The calculation of the estimate is complex and relies on a number of critical individual assumptions. The Council has sought and received expert legal advice to underpin the approach taken and develop a model that reliably estimates the liability.

As a result of the nature of the assumptions used in calculating the liability, and the scale of the liability itself, the liability recognised sits within a range of potential outcomes. All of these outcomes are significant in value individually, and all of these outcomes would have triggered the issuance of a section 114 notice.

In March 2024 the Council received 'minded to' Exceptional Financial Support which allows the Council to use capital resources to fund the potential Equal Pay liabilities for financial years including 2024/25. As a result the Accounts are based on the assumption of the Equal Pay provision being funded by capital resources instead of the General Fund balances.

### **Timing of impairment of Perry Barr**

The Council is currently negotiating the disposal of built and non-built holdings known as the Perry Barr Residential Scheme. Based on sales to date, and expected future sales, the recoverable amount will be significantly less than the carrying value of the assets.

As such, an impairment charge has been recognised to bring the book value in line with the likely expected proceeds from the sale, a total of £60.8m as at the latest valuation date of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.



The timing of this impairment trigger was 2020/21, but was identified in 2024, therefore impairment charges have been booked proportionately against the spend up to the balance sheet dates to ensure that the asset values reflected at year end are in line with the expected and actual proceeds.

### **Council Dwellings – Use of DCF as Valuation Methodology**

In certain cases, there is a lack of reliable market pricing and an absence of an owner occupied market for Council Dwellings – this means that an alternative approach to valuation is required to generate an equivalent capital value for such assets in the absence of a reliable market for sales. The Council has adopted an approach that calculates the discounted cashflow (DCF) of these properties, to arrive at the valuation.

There are just over 11,000 properties that are valued using DCF, of which, the majority are high rise blocks. The DCF model is required to estimate the cash inflow and outflow, of the relevant properties over a period of 30 years, applying an appropriate discount rate.

While the majority of the assumptions that are required to be included in such complex models can be easily substantiated (discount rates, levels of income, numbers of units), one key area of uncertainty relates to maintenance spend.

The Council is committed to maintaining these properties, which in many cases are in older buildings. The cost of maintaining them though is subject to a wide number of factors, including the state of repair, the current and expected future costs of maintenance, which are inherently uncertain, the anticipated level of budget that the Council has, that may introduce a cap on spend, and any significant, unexpected areas of spend, which includes the recent investment the Council has made to cladding and fire protection.



**Note 3****Accounting Standards That Have Been Issued but Have Not Yet Been Adopted**

The Council is required to disclose information relating to the impact of the accounting change on the financial statements as a result of the adoption by the Code of a new or amended standard that has been issued, but is not required to be adopted by the Council for the 2024/25 accounting period.

The standards introduced by the 2025/26 Code where disclosures are required in the 2024/25 financial statements, in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 3.3.4.3 of the Code, are:

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

This has limited application to Birmingham City Council as there are no material foreign currency transactions. No additional disclosures are being made.

- **IFRS 17 Insurance Contracts** issued in May 2017. IFRS 17 replaces IFRS 4 and sets out principles for recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of insurance contracts.

IFRS 17 Insurance Contracts specifies the financial reporting for insurance contracts by an entity that issues such contracts. The standard does not cover insurance contracts held by a policyholder. A number of transactions such as giving a financial guarantee and product or service warranties are outside the scope of IFRS 17.

This has limited application to Birmingham City Council and no additional disclosures are being made.

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

It is not envisaged that these will have a significant effect on the Council's financial statements.



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

The Statement of Accounts contains estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the Council about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, balances cannot be determined with certainty, and actual results could be materially different if the assumptions and estimates were to change.

The Council is exposed to a degree of estimation uncertainty related to interest rate risk in its financial instruments, principally its borrowing and investments. More information on this can be found in Note 38.

IAS 1 requires the Council to disclose information about the assumptions it makes about the future, and other major sources of estimation uncertainty at the end of the reporting period, that have a significant risk of resulting in a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

In respect of those assets and liabilities, the notes shall include details of:

- (a) their nature, and
- (b) their carrying amount as at the end of the reporting period.

While there are a number of areas of uncertainty that the Council manages, those that have a significant risk of resulting in a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities in the next financial year are as follows:

- Valuation of certain parts of the Council's Plant, Property and Equipment balances, specifically relating to the Council's dwellings, and other land and buildings; and
- The net defined benefit pension liability.

These are dealt with separately below:

***Property, Plant and Equipment***

The Council recognises a variety of land and buildings in its Balance Sheet, and applies a range of valuation methodologies, in line with the adopted accounting policies and required standards, to arrive at a valuation for the portfolio at each Balance Sheet date. A number of these approaches include specific estimates, and uncertainties. The areas for which a risk of material uncertainty is noted are included in the tables below - note that where a part of the balance is not included in a table, it is not considered to have a material uncertainty associated with it.

**Council Dwellings – HRA (31 March 2025 £3,055.1m)**

There are two approaches applied to the valuation of these assets, the beacon approach and discounted cashflow. The beacon approach covers majority of the assets and is set out in the following tables:



Approach to valuation	Council dwellings are subject to a full revaluation every five years, with a desktop review in intervening years. The majority of assets are valued using a beacon approach, where a value is undertaken for the housing stock portfolio based on properties that are a representative sample of the Council's properties across the city. The beacon value is derived from sales of similar, ex Council or comparable properties, suitably adjusted by taking into account information from the land registry and other relevant sources, before being applied to the wider population of properties. In this instance, all beacon properties were revalued at the valuation date.
Nature of uncertainty	The Council recognises the value of nearly 59,000 properties in total (excluding garage sites). Of these properties, approximately 48,000 use this beacon valuation approach, which is the agreed, recommended approach where such large numbers of properties require a valuation. With such a large population of properties being valued there is naturally a degree of estimation uncertainty. A relatively small movement in the beacon values would, once extrapolated, result in a significant change in the overall value of the estate.
Amount recorded in the financial statements at 31 March 2025	£3,055.1m
Sensitivity	Should the property market value change over the 12 months following the Balance Sheet date, the beacon values would likely change as a result, and the overall valuation for these properties could change significantly. Land Registry data suggests that in the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024 property prices in Birmingham increased by an average of 4.2%. A 4.2% movement in the beacon valuations, applied as a general movement across all beacons, extrapolated across the full population would give rise to an increase in the valuation of these properties of £128.3m.

### **Other land and buildings (31 March 2025 £2,472.3m)**

The Council recognises the value of almost 1,430 other land and buildings assets. The valuation approach for other land and buildings is to obtain valuations on the basis of a five year rolling programme, which is supplemented by annual reviews, to reflect significant changes in market value. This results in only a sample of assets being revalued each year. For asset classes that use a DRC valuation, the Council's valuer applies an appropriate index to those properties that don't have a full, detailed valuation performed, to obtain an estimated valuation.

A small subset of assets are not valued. The Council considers the extent to which applying the percentage movement in assets that have been valued, would impact those that have not been valued, to ensure that it is not material. Although this does introduce uncertainty to this component of the valuation, the Council does not believe it to be material and therefore has not included it in the table below.

The areas of this approach that give rise to a material uncertainty are as follows:

*DRC assets, forming part of the five year cycle of valuations that have had indexation applied, rather than a detailed valuation performed*



Approach to valuation	These assets form part of the rolling five year cycle of valuations but are not in the current year population to receive a specific valuation. The Council's valuer applies additional obsolescence and an uplift for movement in the Buildings Cost Information Service (BCIS) index to these assets, to arrive at an estimated, market driven change in the valuation based on building costs. Note that the indexation applied to assets excludes land, as the Council does not believe it appropriate to apply an index to the value of land.
Nature of uncertainty	<p>A market based index is applied to achieve an overall movement in the asset value as a desktop exercise. Based on market movements in building costs, and therefore the index, and individual specific valuations of properties in this population, the 31 March 2025 Statement of Accounts may result in a change in the valuation recorded for these properties at that point.</p> <p>Note that the properties in this population are reviewed, and where specific valuation events occur, then they are included in the in-year rolling programme of valuations and excluded from this approach. This helps to reduce the estimation uncertainty included in this approach.</p>
Amount recorded in the financial statements at 31 March 2025	£1,014.4m
Sensitivity	<p>Indexation is applied to these assets, as a proxy for the changes in likely building costs to replace them.</p> <p>As such, any indexation applied to the value of the assets will change them, during the year to 31 March 2025.</p> <p>The overall movement from 31 March 2024 to the Balance Sheet date equates to a net decrease of 4.5%. If the same movement is applied to these assets in the year to 31 March 2026, the value would further decrease by £112.4m. As a proxy for overall market rises in costs, the ONS published CPI for the 12 months to March 2025 is 2.6%.</p> <p>If 2.6% is applied as the index for the year to 31 March 2026, then these asset values will increase by £65.0m.</p>

### ***Net defined benefit pension liability***

The Council has a number of employees who are members of Pension schemes. One such scheme, the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) is a defined benefit scheme, which can give rise to significant liabilities for the Council.

The liabilities are presented net in the Council's Balance Sheet, having considered both the total assets, and the potential return from them, and all liabilities associated with scheme members. Given the duration of the liabilities, and the complexity of both determining scheme returns, and expected future liabilities, the calculation of the Council's net liability is performed by a qualified actuary.



<p>Approach to valuation</p>	<p>The Council, and the Council's actuary, follow an agreed and accepted process for completing the valuation, which is consistent across the sector. That is to complete a full, detailed valuation every three years, and then in the intervening years, complete a "roll-forward". This approach means that between full valuations, there is inherently a larger degree of uncertainty in the result. The estimate for the Local Government Pension Scheme liability has been performed by a qualified actuary and is based on the latest actuarial valuation and transaction information from 2024/25, which results in a net pension asset of £598.4m (2023/24 net pension liability of £135.5m).</p> <p>The Pension Fund liability is calculated triennially by the appointed actuary with annual updates in the intervening years. The Fund liabilities at 31 March 2025 are based on the last triennial valuation at 31 March 2022. The methodology used in the intervening years follows generally agreed guidelines and is in accordance with IAS 19. These assumptions are summarised in Note 20.</p> <p>Due to the application of IFRIC 14 and an asset ceiling the Pension Liability is being disclosed at £434.2m in the Balance Sheet. This will be updated, if needed, in the final version of the Statement of Accounts.</p>
<p>Nature of uncertainty</p>	<p>The actual valuation results could be significantly different to those in Note 20 were the key assumptions to vary – given the nature of a roll-forward approach, where certain key inputs are updated, rather than formally reassessed, there is a larger inherent degree of uncertainty in any year for which a roll-forward approach is applied. Due to the complexity of the calculation, it is impracticable to disclose the full nature and extent of the change in these assumptions in the next twelve months, however a sensitivity analysis is provided in full in Note 20 which indicates the potential scale and impact of certain key assumptions.</p> <p>In accordance with the requirements of IAS 19 and the related guidance in IFRIC 14, the Council has applied the asset ceiling. The asset ceiling limits the recognised asset to the present value of any available refunds or reductions in future contributions. As the assessment involves forward-looking assumptions and estimates, a significant degree of uncertainty exists in determining the recoverable amount and the recognition of additional liability under IFRIC 14.</p>
<p>Amount recorded in the financial statements at 31 March 2025</p>	<p>£434.2m</p>
<p>Sensitivity</p>	<p>See Note 20 for further details. However, this note and the sensitivity analysis included deals predominantly with the overall calculation itself, and not the uncertainty that relates specifically to the roll-forward approach. While the standard requires the Council to disclose this specific uncertainty, given the complexity of the calculation, the Council has concluded that it is impracticable to quantify it.</p>



### ***Potential Equal Pay Liability***

The Council has recognised a significant provision in relation to a potential equal pay liability. This provision is based on two elements, one related to job evaluation and the second relating to the alleged continuation of the practice of task and finish in the period post-Covid.

Due to the nature of these provisions amounts required to be provided will continue to grow up until such time as the practice(s) that causes the potential liability cease.

Approach to valuation	<p>At the time of publishing these accounts, the Council has had, and continues to receive, claims in relation to equal pay. While the Council is working to determine the best approach to provide a fair reimbursement to colleagues, while protecting value to Birmingham City residents, no settlement scheme has yet been agreed with claimants or their representatives.</p> <p>Accordingly, the Council has, on the basis of legal advice, determined a weighted litigation liability using assumptions around the volumes of claimants, likelihood of payment, potential scale of payment and a range of other critical assumptions. That weighted litigation liability model has been used to determine the value of the provision for these accounts.</p>
Nature of uncertainty	<p>With such a complex model, and large number assumptions being used, to which the calculation is sensitive, a range of outcomes is possible.</p> <p>While it isn't an uncertainty per se, based on the approach taken, the liability will have changed since the Balance Sheet date, and up to the date of signing of these financial statements. In line with IAS37, disclosure of that amount is not provided while the settlement discussions are ongoing, as it may be prejudicial to their outcome.</p>
Amount recorded in the financial statements at 31 March 2025	£404.0m
Sensitivity	In line with IAS37.92, further disclosure of the likely range of outcomes is not provided in these financial statements.



## **Note 5**

### **Events After the Reporting Period**

The CIPFA Code of Practice stipulates that events after the Balance Sheet date must be properly reflected in the statement of accounts up to the date that the statement is authorised for issue.

IAS10 (events after the reporting period) confirms that there are two types of event:

- adjusting events: those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the balance sheet date – where material, the statement of accounts must be amended to reflect the impact of these events.
- non-adjusting events: those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the balance sheet date – the statement of accounts are not amended to reflect these events, but additional explanatory notes may be added.

The Council has identified material adjusting and non-adjusting events after the balance sheet dates for these accounts, up to the date they were authorised for issue.

### **Potential Equal Pay Liability**

The Council is subject to Equal Pay claims, and a provision for these at the Balance Sheet date has been included within these Financial Statements. The potential liability extends to beyond the Balance Sheet date and the estimated provision at the date of issue of these Financial Statements is £404.0m. Negotiations in order to provide both a fair settlement to colleagues and result with a best value outcome for the Council and residents have concluded. Agreement was reached with trade unions representing litigants on 13 October 2025 and offer letters have started to be issued and settlement payments have started to be made. We are hoping to conclude a mitigation strategy for employees who have not brought an equal pay claim but where there is a risk that they could potentially do so at some point in the future. We have left the recorded provision unchanged from that shown at March 2022 until the mitigation strategy is devised and its success known.

The provision has been calculated in line with the requirements of IAS37, which requires an organisation to provide where there is a present obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable that outflow of resources will be required to settle it, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. As noted above, this estimate includes a number of assumptions, which, if incorrect could lead to a range of outcomes, all of which, when crystallised as payments, would be more than the Council could afford to pay from usable reserves.

These potential claims contribute towards the creation of a challenging financial position for the Council, which was marked by the issuance of two Section 114 notices under Section 114 (3) and (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 on 5th September 2023 and 21st September 2023.

These notices outlined the financial challenges for the Council in relation to potential Equal Pay liabilities impacting both the value of financial resources available to the Council in prior year accounts, as well as the ability of the Council to stem the flow of additional potential Equal Pay liabilities.



### **Academisation of Schools**

Since the Balance Sheet date(s) a number of Council maintained schools have become academies. 9 schools became academies in 2024/25 with £19.6m transfer in working capital. In all cases fixed assets related to each school and appropriate proportion of pension liabilities were also transferred. This is an ongoing process with schools expected to continue to join Academy Trusts going forwards, with 14 converted to academies in 2025/26 and 6 planned for 2026/27.

It is the policy of the Council to transfer any such school, with its assets and liabilities in full at the transfer date, along with any retained reserves that the school has built up.

Accordingly, there is no impact to the Council's finances at the point of transfer, other than to remove the related assets, liability and no longer record its income and expenditure from that point.

### **Lendlease (Smithfield)**

Smithfield Birmingham is a landmark mixed use regeneration project and a major contributor to the transformational plans for the City Centre that will stimulate the city's economy. The development will be delivered by the Council in partnership with Lendlease Europe (Lendlease) under a Joint Venture Agreement ("JVA") entered into on 28 June 2021.

In May 2024 Lendlease announced that it is expected to sell off its UK and US contracting operations by the end of 2025, as well as some of its assets and refocus on its Australian home market. It is anticipated that the development will continue to completion, and future progress will be delivered in line with the current contractual arrangements.

In May 2025 a partnership was agreed between the Crown Estate and Lendlease to develop housing and science and innovation districts across the UK, including Smithfield. An amendment to the JVA mentioned above is currently being negotiated.



## Note 6

### Expenditure and Funding Analysis

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis shows how the Council allocates expenditure for decision making purposes between the Council's Directorates. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

2024/25	As Reported to Cabinet	Adjustment to arrive at the Net Amount Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
	£m	(Note 7) £m	£m	(Note 7) £m	£m
Adult Social Care	436.4	(152.3)	284.1	14.3	298.4
Children and Families	377.8	25.2	403.0	37.1	440.1
City Housing	28.3	-	28.3	1.3	29.6
City Operations	210.8	(43.4)	167.4	54.4	221.8
Place, Prosperity and Sustainability	7.3	(27.4)	(20.1)	59.8	39.7
Finance, Legal & Governance, and People Services	24.8	(105.2)	(80.4)	110.9	30.5
Chief Operating Officer	52.3	70.8	123.1	4.1	127.2
Strategy, Equalities and Partnerships	5.5	1.1	6.6	(0.4)	6.2
Centrally Managed	(36.2)	54.2	18.0	(83.0)	(65.0)
Housing Revenue Account	0.0	(4.0)	(4.0)	(37.5)	(41.5)
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>1,107.0</b>	<b>(181.0)</b>	<b>926.0</b>	<b>161.0</b>	<b>(1,087.0)</b>
Other Income and Expenditure	(1,104.6)	0.7	(1,103.9)	(0.6)	(1,104.5)
<b>(Surplus) /Deficit</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>(180.3)</b>	<b>(177.9)</b>	<b>160.4</b>	<b>(17.5)</b>
Opening General Fund and HRA Balance			850.1		
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the Year			177.9		
<b>Closing General Fund and HRA Balance</b>			<b>1,028.0</b>		

2023/24	As Reported to Cabinet	Adjustment to arrive at the Net Amount Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
	£m	(Note 7) £m	£m	(Note 7) £m	£m
Adult Social Care	405.1	(116.9)	288.2	20.2	308.4
Children and Families	419.4	(16.9)	402.5	38.0	440.5
City Housing	29.4	5.2	34.6	0.0	34.6
City Operations	208.2	(2.5)	205.7	40.1	245.8
Place, Prosperity and Sustainability	69.4	(94.4)	(25.0)	6.5	(18.5)
Council Management	48.7	55.0	103.7	(4.8)	98.9
Strategy, Equalities and Partnerships	7.8	(3.2)	4.6	(0.4)	4.2
Centrally Managed	(232.3)	302.4	70.1	(154.7)	(84.6)
Housing Revenue Account	0.0	(94.1)	(94.1)	44.2	(49.9)
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>955.7</b>	<b>34.6</b>	<b>990.3</b>	<b>(10.9)</b>	<b>979.4</b>
Other Income and Expenditure	(952.5)	(60.0)	(1,012.5)	60.0	(952.5)
<b>(Surplus) /Deficit</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>(25.4)</b>	<b>(22.2)</b>	<b>49.1</b>	<b>26.9</b>
Opening General Fund and HRA Balance			827.9		
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the Year			22.2		
<b>Closing General Fund and HRA Balance</b>			<b>850.1</b>		



## Note 7

### Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis

This analysis provides detail of the main adjustments from the Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA balances to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

	Depreciation reported at Directorate level	Reserve Appropriations	Other Adjustments	Total to arrive at amount charged to the General Fund and HRA	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net Change for the Pensions Adjustment	Other Adjustments	Total Adjustment Between Funding and Accounting Basis
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
2024/25								
Adult Social Care	(1.0)	3.5	(154.8)	<b>(152.3)</b>	17.0	(2.7)	0.0	<b>14.3</b>
Children and Families	(39.6)	(3.8)	68.7	<b>25.2</b>	46.9	(7.1)	(2.7)	<b>37.1</b>
City Housing	(9.3)	(0.9)	10.3	<b>0.1</b>	1.8	(0.5)	0.0	<b>1.3</b>
City Operations	(56.3)	(71.3)	84.3	<b>(43.3)</b>	57.8	(3.4)	0.0	<b>54.4</b>
Place, Prosperity and Sustainability	(1.7)	(15.1)	(10.6)	<b>(27.4)</b>	58.5	(1.0)	2.3	<b>59.8</b>
Finance, Legal & Governance, and People Services	2.8	(16.8)	(91.2)	<b>(105.2)</b>	115.1	(2.1)	(2.1)	<b>110.9</b>
Chief Operating Officer	(2.0)	(0.0)	72.8	<b>70.8</b>	7.2	(3.1)	0.0	<b>4.1</b>
Strategy, Equalities and Partnerships	0.0	0.6	0.5	<b>1.1</b>	0.0	(0.4)	0.0	<b>(0.4)</b>
Centrally Managed	(0.1)	(95.0)	149.1	<b>54.0</b>	97.3	6.8	(187.1)	<b>(83.0)</b>
Housing Revenue Account	(69.6)	38.1	27.5	<b>(4.0)</b>	12.1	(0.9)	(48.7)	<b>(37.5)</b>
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>(176.8)</b>	<b>(160.8)</b>	<b>156.6</b>	<b>(181.0)</b>	<b>413.7</b>	<b>(14.4)</b>	<b>(238.3)</b>	<b>161.0</b>
Other Income and Expenditure	176.8	0.0	(176.1)	<b>0.7</b>	0.0	(0.6)	0.0	<b>(0.6)</b>
<b>(Surplus) or Deficit</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>(160.8)</b>	<b>(19.5)</b>	<b>(180.3)</b>	<b>413.7</b>	<b>(15.0)</b>	<b>(238.3)</b>	<b>160.4</b>

	Depreciation reported at Directorate level	Reserve Appropriations	Other Adjustments	Total to arrive at amount charged to the General Fund and HRA	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net Change for the Pensions Adjustment	Other Adjustments	Total Adjustment Between Funding and Accounting Basis
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
2023/24								
Adult Social Care	(2.4)	8.4	(122.9)	<b>(116.9)</b>	22.7	(2.4)	(0.1)	<b>20.2</b>
Children and Families	(65.4)	(31.0)	79.5	<b>(16.9)</b>	41.9	(6.6)	2.7	<b>38.0</b>
City Housing	(1.4)	(24.2)	30.8	<b>5.2</b>	0.5	(0.5)	(0.0)	<b>(0.0)</b>
City Operations	(85.2)	10.9	71.8	<b>(2.5)</b>	43.5	(3.2)	(0.2)	<b>40.1</b>
Place, Prosperity and Sustainability	(13.2)	(7.8)	(73.4)	<b>(94.4)</b>	11.7	(0.8)	(4.4)	<b>6.5</b>
Council Management	(3.4)	31.0	27.4	<b>55.0</b>	0.3	(5.5)	0.4	<b>(4.8)</b>
Strategy, Equalities and Partnerships	0.0	(5.6)	2.4	<b>(3.2)</b>	0.0	(0.4)	(0.0)	<b>(0.4)</b>
Centrally Managed	0.0	10.5	291.9	<b>302.4</b>	(0.3)	(17.9)	(136.5)	<b>(154.7)</b>
Housing Revenue Account	(68.2)	(28.2)	2.3	<b>(94.1)</b>	49.8	(2.2)	(3.4)	<b>44.2</b>
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>(239.2)</b>	<b>(36.0)</b>	<b>309.8</b>	<b>34.6</b>	<b>170.1</b>	<b>(39.5)</b>	<b>(141.5)</b>	<b>(10.9)</b>
Other Income and Expenditure	239.2	0.0	(299.2)	<b>(60.0)</b>	53.5	0.0	6.5	<b>60.0</b>
<b>(Surplus) or Deficit</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>(36.0)</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>(25.4)</b>	<b>223.6</b>	<b>(39.5)</b>	<b>(135.0)</b>	<b>49.1</b>



**Note 8**  
**Expenditure and Funding Analysis by Nature of Activity**

This analysis provides detail of the expenditure and income of the Council on a subjective basis.

2023/24 £m		2024/25 £m
	<b>Expenditure</b>	
1,037.6	Employee Benefits Expenses	1,051.8
2,382.6	Other Service Expenses	2,721.1
318.7	Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	223.0
215.2	Interest Payments	178.3
11.4	Movements in the value of financial assets	15.9
52.1	Precepts and Levies	51.3
0.1	Payments to Housing Capital Receipts Pool	0.0
47.6	Loss on Disposal of Non-Current Assets	79.3
<b>4,065.3</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>4,320.7</b>
	<b>Income</b>	
(715.1)	Fees and Charges and Other Service Income	(737.9)
(917.4)	Income from Council Tax and Business rates	(986.8)
(2,377.3)	Government Grants and Contributions	(2,568.8)
(28.6)	Interest and Investment Income	(44.7)
<b>(4,038.4)</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(4,338.2)</b>
<b>26.9</b>	<b>Deficit /(Surplus) on Provision of services</b>	<b>(17.5)</b>

**Note 9**  
**Material Items of Income and Expense**

The Council's Exceptional Financial Support request of £1.255bn was applied to enable the City Council to set a balanced budget for 2024/25. For the 2024/25 financial year, £199.4m of Exceptional Financial Support was utilised. This consisted of £173.7m to fund the budget gap and a further £25.7m was used to fund in year redundancy costs and Equal Pay legal costs.

There were no other material items of income and expenditure.



**Note 10**  
**Other Operating Expenditure**

Other Operating Expenditure disclosed in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is detailed below.

2023/24		2024/25
£m		£m
1.9	Parish Council Precepts	1.9
33.2	Enterprise Zone Growth Payment	18.8
46.8	Integrated Transport Authority Levy	46.8
0.3	Environment Agency Levy	0.3
3.1	Apprenticeship Levy	2.7
0.1	Payments re: Housing Capital Receipt Pool	-
47.6	(Gains)/Losses on the Disposal of non-current assets	79.3
<b>133.0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>149.8</b>

The Loss on the disposal of non-current assets recognises the difference between the payment for the sale of a non-current asset and the carrying value of that asset within the accounts.

**Note 11**  
**Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure**

Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure disclosed in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) is detailed below.

2023/24				2024/25		
Gross Expenditure £m	Income £m	Net £m		Gross Expenditure £m	Income £m	Net £m
196.5	-	196.5	Interest Payable and similar charges	171.0	-	171.0
18.7	-	18.7	Net Interest on the Net Defined Benefit Liability	7.2	-	7.2
-	(27.2)	(27.2)	Interest Receivable and similar income	-	(25.9)	(25.9)
-	(1.0)	(1.0)	Income and expenditure in relation to investment properties and changes in their fair value	-	-	-
11.4	-	11.4	(Gains)/Losses on financial assets at amortised cost	15.9	-	15.9
30.8	(32.2)	(1.4)	(Surplus)/Deficit on trading operations not consolidated within Service Expenditure Analysis in Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	29.7	(32.6)	(2.9)
-	(0.4)	(0.4)	Other investment income and expenditure	-	(18.9)	(18.9)
<b>257.4</b>	<b>(60.8)</b>	<b>196.6</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>223.8</b>	<b>(77.4)</b>	<b>146.4</b>



**Note 12**
**Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income and Expenditure**

Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income and Expenditure disclosed in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement comprises the following:

2023/24			2024/25		
Gross Expenditure £m	Income £m	Net £m	Gross Expenditure £m	Income £m	Net £m
-	(444.6)	(444.6)	-	(485.7)	(485.7)
-	(439.3)	(439.3)	-	(451.6)	(451.6)
12.0	-	12.0	4.2	-	4.2
60.5	(33.5)	27.0	69.3	(49.4)	19.9
-	(319.6)	(319.6)	-	(343.1)	(343.1)
-	(117.6)	(117.6)	-	(144.5)	(144.5)
-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>72.5</b>	<b>(1,354.6)</b>	<b>(1,282.1)</b>	<b>73.5</b>	<b>(1,474.3)</b>	<b>(1,400.8)</b>

Further information on grant income received is provided in Note 14.



**Note 13**  
**Trading Operations**

Trading operations are those activities where the service is required to operate in a commercial environment and balance their budget by generating income from other parts of the Council or other organisations.

The internal trading expenditure and income is incorporated within the relevant service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. External trading income and expenditure is identified in Note 11, Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure. Details of units with significant trading activity are as follows.

2023/24			2024/25			
Turnover £m	Expenditure £m	(Surplus) / Deficit £m	Trading activity	Turnover £m	Expenditure £m	(Surplus) / Deficit £m
(25.6)	25.8	0.2	Cityserve (Direct Services)	(24.4)	24.2	(0.2)
(8.7)	7.7	(1.0)	Trade Refuse	(8.3)	7.9	(0.4)
(18.2)	16.4	(1.8)	Birmingham Parks and Nurseries	(19.1)	17.3	(1.8)
(0.7)	1.6	0.9	Pest Control	(1.5)	1.8	0.3
-	0.4	0.4	Procurement	(1.8)	0.3	(1.5)
(3.0)	3.0	-	Schools' Human Resources	(3.0)	3.2	0.2
(1.3)	1.8	0.5	Central Payroll	(1.4)	2.2	0.8
(13.0)	11.4	(1.6)	Other Trading Activities	(12.2)	10.5	(1.7)
<b>(70.5)</b>	<b>68.1</b>	<b>(2.4)</b>		<b>(71.7)</b>	<b>67.4</b>	<b>(4.3)</b>
			Allocation of Surplus/Deficit on Trading Operations			
(38.3)	37.3	(1.0)	- consolidated in CIES	(39.1)	37.7	(1.4)
(32.2)	30.8	(1.4)	- consolidated in Note 11, Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	(32.6)	29.7	(2.9)
<b>(70.5)</b>	<b>68.1</b>	<b>(2.4)</b>		<b>(71.7)</b>	<b>67.4</b>	<b>(4.3)</b>

Details of Trading Activities
**Cityserve**

During 2024/25 Cityserve provided school meal services to around 160 schools within the Birmingham conurbation. These were mostly primary schools, where children received free school meals either through the benefit system, or via the Government's Universal Infant Free School Meal fund. All additional school meals were paid for by parents/guardians of the children who elected to receive a service from Cityserve. In addition to primary schools, Cityserve provided school meals to some secondary schools, special schools, community day centres and children's centres.

The Government sets the standard of school meals through the mandatory School Food Standards guidelines, issued by the Department for Education. Cityserve comply with all the recommended policies, practices and standards contained within this document. These standards are set so every child receives a healthy and nutritious meal every school day, by



ensuring the correct portion controls are followed, as well as the nutritional standards and values. In addition to these standards, Cityserve provide a wide range of food to suit the communities in which schools are located. Every school will have a bespoke menu offered to them, which ensures that cultural and religious diet preferences can be delivered to meet the requisite needs of the community.

### **Trade Refuse**

Trade Refuse offers a competitive waste management service to businesses and provides containers and skips, prepaid sacks, hire of equipment and special collections.

### **Birmingham Parks and Nurseries**

Birmingham Parks and Nurseries is responsible for the maintenance of all of the Council's parks and open spaces, as well as the floral displays that have helped to promote the City over the years. In addition, it looks after all of the 'green' maintenance of Council estates, highway verges, traffic islands, schools, residential care homes, cemeteries and crematoria, playing fields, allotments and children's outdoor playgrounds.

### **Pest Control**

The Pest Control service provides treatment to commercial and domestic properties for rats, mice, insect control including wasps, fleas and ants and control of squirrels and pigeons. Rat pest control services are free for domestic users.

### **Procurement Services**

In addition to providing the Council's in-house procurement service, schools may choose to subscribe to utilise the procurement service and are charged for work undertaken.

### **Schools' Human Resources**

Schools have a choice to make in deciding who will support them with a Human Resources function. The Schools' Human Resources team has won competitive contracts to provide a range of schools with this function.

### **Payroll Services**

In addition to providing the Council's payroll service, SLAs or contracts are in place to provide payroll and pensions services to schools, academies and other external bodies.

### **Other**

Other trading activities include Shelforce, Civic Catering, Birmingham City Laboratories and Schools' Management. Shelforce is part of the Council's employment support services to registered disabled people and through the direct employment of registered disabled people in the manufacture of PVCu windows and doors.



**Note 14**  
**Grant Income**

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

2023/24		2024/25
£m		£m
	<b>Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income</b>	
67.5	Business Rates Top Up Grant	73.3
1.4	New Homes Bonus Grant	3.0
18.2	Schools PFI Grant	18.2
50.3	Highways Management and Maintenance PFI Grant	50.3
6.8	Troubled Families Grant	6.6
5.1	Housing Benefit Administration Grant	5.3
35.5	Small Business Rate Relief Grant	32.3
67.9	Business Rates S31 Grant	98.9
46.9	Additional Business Rates Relief Grant	49.3
14.5	Service Grant	2.5
3.0	National Levy Account Surplus	3.0
2.5	Other	0.4
<b>319.6</b>	<b>Revenue Grants credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income</b>	<b>343.1</b>
	<b>Credited to Cost of Services</b>	
10.9	Adult Education	11.4
572.2	Housing Benefit Subsidy	609.6
717.7	Dedicated Schools Grant	774.7
9.4	Education Funding Agency	8.9
43.6	Pupil Premium Grant	43.1
5.0	Illegal Money Lending	5.3
6.9	Universal Infants Free School Meals Grant	6.6
6.2	NHS Trusts and CCG Adult Social Care Contributions	6.2
99.1	Public Health Grant	103.0
113.3	Better Care Fund (including improved Better Care Fund)	115.7
10.8	Asylum Seekers	15.4
7.4	Homeless Prevention	9.5
10.8	Enterprise Zone - Projects	14.5
3.1	Primary PE and Sport Grant	3.0
3.3	Domestic Abuse New Burdens Duty	3.4
8.2	Holiday Activities and Food Programme	7.9
3.9	Highways Commuted Maintenance	0.3
6.8	Coronavirus (COVID-19) Recovery Premium	1.7
1.6	Local Sport Delivery Pilot	-
0.7	National Tutoring Programme – Academic Mentors	-
13.1	Schools Supplementary Fund	-
21.6	Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund	24.5
9.5	Adults Social Care Discharge Fund-Grant	15.8
25.0	Household Support Fund	25.5
2.0	Homes For Ukraine	2.1
4.5	Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery	9.5
6.1	UK Shared Prosperity Fund	11.5
5.6	Teachers' Pay Grant	9.5
3.5	Family Hubs	2.7



9.3	Contribution from Enterprise Zone	3.0
3.0	Local Council Tax Support Schemes grant	-
5.5	Early years supplementary grant	-
-	Teachers' Pensions Grant	12.9
-	Wraparound Childcare Programme Costs	4.2
-	Afghan Interpreters Relocation	3.2
-	Core School Budget Grant (CSBG)	13.7
106.5	Adult Social Care Support Grant	138.6
58.7	Grants and contributions of less than £3m	63.0
<b>1,914.8</b>	<b>Total Revenue Grants Credited to Cost of Services</b>	<b>2,079.9</b>
<b>2,234.4</b>	<b>Total Revenue Grants</b>	<b>2,423.0</b>
<b>Capital Grants</b>		
33.6	Education Funding Agency	18.7
24.5	Department for Transport - Tame Valley Viaduct	25.9
3.5	West Midlands Combined Authority - Commonwealth Games	-
-	West Midlands Combined Authority/Sport England - Alexander Stadium	6.5
17.8	Department of Health - Better Care Fund	12.3
5.2	Levelling Up Fund & LEP Contribution - A457 Dudley Road	3.3
4.8	Capital Grant - West Midlands Combined Authority	-
2.3	Capital Grant - Bordesley Wheels	-
2.6	Capital Grant - MEND - Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery	1.5
13.0	Capital Grant - Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund	14.1
11.3	Capital Grant - Local Authority Housing Fund	24.0
3.6	Capital Grant - ERDF - Employment Services	-
-	Capital Grant – DEFRA - Food Waste Collections	7.1
-	West Midlands Combined Authority – Perry Barr	3.7
-	West Midlands SME Grant	3.3
-	MHCLG - Moseley Road Baths	4.5
-	Net Zero Grant - Capital	1.8
-	Integrated Transport Block Grant	1.5
-	Brickfield Rd CPO	1.4
4.9	Department for Transport	-
2.1	Capital Grant - Historic England - City Deal: Warwick Barr	2.6
8.3	Other Grants and Contributions	12.3
<b>117.6</b>	<b>Capital Grants credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income</b>	<b>144.5</b>
<b>Capital Grants funding Revenue Expenditure under Statute credited to Cost of Services</b>		
2.2	Capital Grant - Energy Efficiency Scheme	-
-	E1 UK Shared Prosperity Fund Communities and Place Pillar	1.9
3.1	Other Grants and Contributions	-
<b>25.2</b>	<b>Total Capital Grants funding Revenue Expenditure Under Statute</b>	<b>1.9</b>
<b>142.8</b>	<b>Total Capital Grants Received</b>	<b>146.4</b>

All Capital Grants received are either non-conditional or the conditions have been met, therefore there are no entries to the Capital Grants Receipts in Advance Account for 2024/25. The Capital Grants received have been credited to the Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income line on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement except where the grant is used to finance Revenue Expenditure funded from Capital under Statute (REFCUS) or where the grant is credited to the service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.



**Note 15**  
**Dedicated Schools Grant**

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

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

	<b>Central Expenditure</b>	<b>Individual Schools Budget</b>	<b>Total</b>
	£m	£m	£m
Final DSG for 2024/25 before Academy Recoupment			1,577.6
Academy figure recouped for 2022/23			(796.5)
<b>Total DSG after Academy recoupment for 2024/25</b>			<b>781.1</b>
Plus: Brought forward from 2023/24	52.8	(2.4)	50.4
<b>Agreed initial budgeted distribution in 2024/25</b>	<b>398.6</b>	<b>432.9</b>	<b>831.5</b>
<b>Final budgeted distribution for 2024/25</b>	<b>398.6</b>	<b>432.9</b>	<b>831.5</b>
Less: Actual Central Expenditure	343.3		343.3
Less: Actual ISB deployed to schools		432.9	432.9
<b>Carry forward to 2025/26</b>	<b>55.3</b>		<b>55.3</b>

The above shares a year end net surplus of £4.9m, which is composed of 4 elements:

- The Schools' Block is overspent by £0.864m.
- The Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) is underspent by £0.128m.
- The High Needs Block is underspent by £4.656m.
- The 2024/25 Early Years Block is underspent by £0.931m.



**Note 16****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 the statutory fund into which all the receipts of the Council are required to be paid and out of which all liabilities of the Council are to be met, except to the extent that statutory rules might provide otherwise. These rules can also specify the financial year in which liabilities and payments should impact on the General Fund Balance, which is not necessarily in accordance with proper accounting practice. The General Fund Balance therefore summarises the resources that the Council is statutorily empowered to spend on its services or on capital investment (or the deficit of resources that the Council is required to recover) at the end of the financial year. However, the balance is not available to be applied to fund Housing Revenue Account (HRA) services.

Housing Revenue Account Balance

The HRA 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 or, where in deficit, that is required to be recovered from tenants in future years.

Major Repairs Reserve

The Council is required to maintain the Major Repairs Reserve (MRR), which controls an element of the capital resources limited to being used on capital expenditure on HRA assets or the financing of historical capital expenditure by the HRA. The balance on the reserve shows the resources that have yet to be applied at the 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 the year-end.

Capital Grants Unapplied

The Capital Grants Unapplied Account (Reserve) holds the grants and contributions received towards capital projects for which the Council has met or is expected to meet 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.



	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied
2024/25	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
<b>Adjustments to Revenue Resources</b>					
Adjustments by which income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements:					
Pension costs (transferred to/from the Pensions Reserve)	(14.2)	(0.9)	-	-	-
Financial Instruments (transferred to/from the Financial Instrument Adjustments Account)	8.5	-	-	-	-
Council Tax and Business Rates (transfers to/from the Collection Fund)	(39.2)	-	-	-	-
Holiday Pay (transferred to/from the Accumulated Absences Reserve)	4.6	-	-	-	-
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure (these items are charged to the Capital Adjustment Account)	422.8	81.6	-	-	52.1
<b>Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources</b>	<b>382.5</b>	<b>80.7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>52.1</b>
<b>Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources</b>					
Transfer of non-current asset sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve	(219.7)	(48.6)	268.3	-	-
Administrative costs of non-current asset disposals (funded by a contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve)	2.3	-	(2.3)	-	-
Contribution to the costs of Equal Pay (funded by the Capital Receipts Reserve)	0.2	-	(0.2)	-	-
Posting of HRA resources from revenue to the Major Repairs Reserve	-	(69.6)	-	69.6	-
Provision for the repayment of debt (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)	(139.4)	-	-	-	-
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)	(27.5)	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources</b>	<b>(384.1)</b>	<b>(118.2)</b>	<b>265.8</b>	<b>69.6</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Adjustments to Capital Resources</b>					
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure	-	-	(54.7)	-	-
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to repay debt	-	-	-	-	-
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance EFS	199.4	-	(199.4)	-	-
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance capital expenditure	-	-	-	(86.2)	-
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	-	-	-	-	(51.8)
Cash payments in relation to deferred capital receipts	-	-	10.6	-	-
Other	0.1	-	(5.1)	-	0.1
<b>Total Adjustments to Capital Resources</b>	<b>199.5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(248.6)</b>	<b>(86.2)</b>	<b>(51.7)</b>
<b>Total Adjustments</b>	<b>197.9</b>	<b>(37.5)</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>(16.6)</b>	<b>0.4</b>



2023/24

**Adjustments to Revenue Resources**

Adjustments by which income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements:

	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Pension costs (transferred to/from the Pensions Reserve)	34.9	2.3	-	-	-
Financial Instruments (transferred to/from the Financial Instrument Adjustments Account)	(1.8)	-	-	-	-
Council Tax and Business Rates (transfers to/from the Collection Fund)	76.5	-	-	-	-
Holiday Pay (transferred to/from the Accumulated Absences Reserve)	(6.4)	-	-	-	-
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure (these items are charged to the Capital Adjustment Account)	67.4	155.7	-	-	65.3
<b>Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources</b>	<b>170.6</b>	<b>158.0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>65.3</b>

**Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources**

Transfer of non-current asset sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve

Administrative costs of non-current asset disposals (funded by a contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve)

Payments to the government housing receipts pool (funded by a transfer from the Capital Receipts Reserve)

Posting of HRA resources from revenue to the Major Repairs Reserve  
 Provision for the repayment of debt (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)

Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)

**Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources**
**Adjustments to Capital Resources**

Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure

Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to repay debt

Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance capital expenditure

Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure

Cash payments in relation to deferred capital receipts

Other

**Total Adjustments to Capital Resources**
**Total Adjustments**

	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
(19.1)	(46.1)	65.2	-	-	-
1.0	-	(1.0)	-	-	-
0.1	-	(0.1)	-	-	-
-	(67.7)	-	67.7	-	-
(136.5)	-	-	-	-	-
(11.2)	-	-	-	-	-
<b>(165.7)</b>	<b>(113.8)</b>	<b>64.1</b>	<b>67.7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
-	-	(70.0)	-	-	-
-	-	0.2	-	-	-
-	-	-	(55.5)	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	(57.0)
-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	0.1
<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(69.8)</b>	<b>(55.5)</b>	<b>(56.9)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>4.9</b>	<b>44.2</b>	<b>(5.7)</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>-</b>



**Note 17**  
**Usable Reserves**

Details of the major reserves held by the Council are set out below. Further information on the movements in reserves is shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement and Note 16.

The Reserves have been split into the following major categories:

- Unearmarked Reserves – Reserves that the Council can use for any purpose within the General Fund
- Earmarked Reserves – Reserves that the Council has set aside to meet specific future liabilities
- Grant Reserves – Reserves arising as a result of revenue grants received by the Council for specific projects that haven't been fully utilised by 31 March 2025 but will be used to offset expenditure incurred in subsequent years
- Ringfenced Reserves – Reserves that are required to be used for specific activities undertaken by the Council. These are mainly for schools or for the Housing Revenue Account and cannot be used to support general Council activity
- Capital Reserves – Reserves that have been set aside to finance capital schemes. These reserves cannot be used to support revenue expenditure without the consent of the Secretary of State.

<b>Usable Reserves</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March 2024</b>	<b>Transfers Out 2024/25</b>	<b>Transfers In 2024/25</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March 2025</b>
	£m	£m	£m	£m
<b><u>Unearmarked Reserves</u></b>				
General Fund Balances	25.0	(21.8)	54.3	57.5
Strategic Reserve	115.6	(13.4)	17.5	119.7
<b>Total Unearmarked Reserves</b>	<b>140.6</b>	<b>(35.2)</b>	<b>71.8</b>	<b>177.2</b>
<b><u>Earmarked Reserves</u></b>				
Insurance Fund	7.3	-	3.7	11.0
Housing Benefit Subsidy Reserve	4.2	-	1.6	5.8
Cyclical Maintenance Reserve	12.2	(0.4)	3.1	14.9
Equipment Renewal Reserve	11.9	(1.3)	3.4	14.0
Business Rates	16.4	-	-	16.4
Clean Air Zone Reserves	73.7	(11.4)	20.5	82.8
General Maintenance Tenants Reserve	3.8	(0.2)	0.2	3.8
Capital Fund	-	-	34.3	34.3
Selective Licensing	11.6	-	7.8	19.4
Capitalisation Contingency	-	-	10.1	10.1
Other Earmarked Reserves	17.8	(11.0)	50.9	57.7
<b>Total Reserves Earmarked by the Council</b>	<b>158.9</b>	<b>(24.3)</b>	<b>135.6</b>	<b>270.2</b>
<b><u>Revenue Grant Reserves</u></b>				
Section 256 Grant from the NHS (Adults & Communities)	14.5	(5.9)	7.2	15.8
Public Health	29.2	(6.3)	7.7	30.6



Better Care Fund (BCF) and Improved BCF	9.6	(6.4)	3.0	6.2
Highways PFI Grant	149.4	(0.1)	57.9	207.2
General Fund Section 106 Grants	38.7	(5.6)	5.3	38.4
HRA Section 106 Grants	4.6	-	-	4.6
Community Infrastructure Levy	17.2	(2.4)	2.5	17.3
Public Health Test and Trace	3.1	(3.1)	-	-
Clean Air Zone Grant Reserve	7.3	(0.1)	-	7.2
Other Grant Reserves	121.1	(79.5)	80.8	122.4
<b>Total Revenue Grant Reserves</b>	<b>394.7</b>	<b>(109.4)</b>	<b>164.4</b>	<b>449.7</b>
<b>Ringfenced Reserves</b>				
Schools' Balances	95.0	(12.5)	8.3	90.8
Housing Revenue Account	61.0	(20.8)	-	40.2
HRA Major Repairs Reserve	30.1	(254.2)	237.6	13.5
<b>Total Ringfenced Reserves</b>	<b>186.1</b>	<b>(287.5)</b>	<b>245.9</b>	<b>144.5</b>
<b>Capital Reserves</b>				
Capital Receipts Reserve	332.5	(255.5)	272.8	349.8
Capital Receipts Funding Equal Pay	(404.0)	-	-	(404.0)
Capital Grants Unapplied	146.2	(51.8)	52.1	146.5
<b>Total Capital Reserves</b>	<b>74.7</b>	<b>(307.3)</b>	<b>324.9</b>	<b>92.3</b>
<b>Total Usable Reserves</b>	<b>955.0</b>	<b>(763.7)</b>	<b>942.6</b>	<b>1,133.9</b>

Details of the major usable reserves as at 31 March 2025 are set out below.

Unearmarked Reserves comprising:

General Fund Balances - reflects the accumulated surpluses of income over expenditure from previous years and any resources set aside as general contingency against adverse future events.

Strategic Reserve – to provide contingency funding in case of overspends and financial difficulties in the future.

Earmarked Reserves comprising:

Insurance Fund – the Council is sufficiently large to be able to self-insure against all bar the most catastrophic business risks. A budget is held to cover insurance losses in-year and the Insurance Fund exists to act as a buffer should losses exceed budgeted expectations in any given financial year. The fund increases in those years where losses incurred do not exceed the budget and decreases where losses incurred exceed the budget.

Housing Benefit Subsidy – has been earmarked as a contingency reserve should there be any adjustments to funding arising from the audit of grant claims.

Cyclical Maintenance – has been earmarked to fund major maintenance work on the Council's assets including the Library of Birmingham.



Equipment Renewal – has been earmarked to fund equipment renewal for bus lane enforcement.

Business Rates – An overall reserve for Business Rates related activities, including:

- A contingency in case there is a requirement to make a payment under the Council's "no detriment" agreement with the other West Midlands Business Rates Retention Pilot authorities.
- To address the timing difference between grant received and when the Council has assumed it will be required.

Clean Air Zone Reserves – earmarked to fund projects from surplus, and to fund the eventual costs of decommissioning and compliance monitoring.

General Maintenance Tenants Reserve - earmarked to fund repairs and maintenance on specific service chargeable buildings within the Council's property portfolio.

Capital Fund – containing resources from dividends held to support capital projects in 2025/26 and containing underspend from Treasury Management to help smooth the cost of future borrowing requirements.

Selective Licensing – earmarked as a property licensing account.

Capitalisation Contingency – containing underspend in 2024/25 set aside to provide extra cover for 2025/26.

Other Earmarked Reserves – there are a large number of small value reserves which cover a wide range of services that have been set aside to support future years' service delivery. The reserves cover a wide range of areas and include, for example, resources earmarked for special educational needs reform, highways initiatives and subvention for major events including the Commonwealth Games.

Revenue Grant reserves comprising:

Grant Reserves – relate to the unused element of grant support for which the conditions of the grant are expected to be met or for which there are no conditions of grant. The reserves will be used to meet future years' expenditure for the service for which the grant was awarded. In addition to the resources set aside in the Council's budget to meet the costs of the Highways PFI scheme, grant support is also received on an equal annual basis over the life of the contract. There was expected to be a budget surplus in the early years of the contract as the unitary charge payable to the contractor would increase during the initial core investment period until all milestones had been completed. The excess of available resources together with any deductions from unitary charge payments as a result of poor performance against the contract have been set aside in the Highways PFI reserve and will be used in the later period of the contract where the unitary charge payable is expected to exceed the budgeted resources and grant support. The reserve is expected to be fully utilised by the end of the contract.



Ringfenced reserves comprising:

Schools' Balances - are the net cumulative balances held by the local authority maintained schools which, under national school funding regulations, the schools are entitled to retain for unexpected commitments and/or for planned school curriculum/infrastructure improvements and investment. Within the total Schools' Balances there are 38 (2023/24: 38) local authority maintained schools with deficit balances totalling £12.2m (2023/24: £12.1m).

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) – the HRA is a statutory account, ringfenced from the rest of Council funds, so that rents charged to tenants in respect of dwellings cannot be subsidised from Council Tax. Similarly, rents collected from HRA tenants cannot be used to subsidise the General Fund. The balances on the HRA reflect the accumulated surpluses of income over expenditure.

HRA Major Repairs Reserve – the Council is required by The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 to maintain the Major Repairs Reserve. The reserve controls an element of the capital resources required to be used on HRA assets or for capital financing purposes. Capital reserves comprising:

#### Capital Reserves

Capital Receipts Reserve – reflects the income received from the disposal of capital assets prior to being used to fund future capital expenditure or for the redemption of debt. Capital receipts cannot be used to fund revenue expenditure except where allowed by statute, for example to meet costs of Equal Pay.

Capital Receipts Funding Equal Pay – reflects the capital receipts set aside to specifically fund the Council's potential Equal Pay liabilities, as permitted under the Capitalisation Direction (Exceptional Financial Support).

Capital Grants Unapplied – reflect the unused element of capital grants or capital contributions awarded to the Council, for which the conditions of the grant support are expected to be met or for which there are no conditions. The reserve will be used to meet future years' capital expenditure.



**Note 18**  
**Unusable Reserves**

The following table shows the value of reserve balances that have come about as a result of accounting adjustments and are not therefore available to spend.

31 March 2024		31 March 2025
£m		£m
2,490.0	Revaluation Reserve	2,293.2
(97.1)	Capital Adjustment Account	(100.1)
(61.0)	Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	(70.0)
(135.5)	Pensions Reserve	(434.2)
67.3	Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve	63.9
(48.4)	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	(9.2)
(12.0)	Accumulated Absences Account	(16.7)
<b>2,203.3</b>	<b>Total Unusable Reserves</b>	<b>1,726.9</b>

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 Heritage 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.

2023/24			2024/25	
£m	£m		£m	£m
	<b>2,662.3</b>	<b>Balance at 1 April</b>		<b>2,490.0</b>
193.6		Upward revaluation of assets	207.7	
(284.6)		Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/(Deficit) on the Provision of Services	(209.0)	
	(91.0)	Surplus/(Deficit) on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus/(Deficit) on the Provision of Services		(1.3)
(50.1)		Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	(43.6)	
(31.2)		Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	(151.9)	
	(81.3)	Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account		(195.5)
	<b>2,490.0</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March</b>		<b>2,293.2</b>



### Capital Adjustment Account

The Capital Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of non-current assets and for financing the acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions. The Account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement when 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 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. Note 16 provides details of the source of all the transactions posted to the Account, apart from those involving the Revaluation Reserve.

2023/24			2024/25	
£m	£m		£m	£m
	(218.1)	Balance at 1 April		<u>(97.1)</u>
		Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES):		
(172.0)		Charges for depreciation and impairment of non current assets	(170.7)	
(22.3)		Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	(46.0)	
(7.1)		Amortisation and impairment of intangible assets	(6.0)	
1.0		Changes in the Fair Value of Investment Properties	-	
(0.1)		Changes in the Fair Value of Financial Instruments	0.4	
		Impairment of Capital Debtors/Grants	-	
(50.7)		Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(80.9)	
(116.7)		Amounts of non current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/(loss) on disposal to the CIES	(345.3)	
	(367.9)			<u>(648.5)</u>
	81.3	Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve		<u>195.5</u>
	(286.6)	Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year		
		Capital financing applied in the year:		
70.0		Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	54.7	
55.4		Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	86.2	
77.5		Capital grants and contributions credited to the CIES that have been applied to capital financing	92.5	
57.0		Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	51.8	
136.5		Provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	139.5	
11.2		Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	27.5	
	407.6			<u>452.2</u>
	-	Repayment of long term debtors		<u>(2.2)</u>
	<b>(97.1)</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March</b>		<b><u>(100.1)</u></b>



### Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

The Financial Instruments Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for income and expenses relating to certain financial instruments and for bearing losses or benefiting from gains in accordance with statutory provisions. The Council uses this account to manage premia paid and discounts received on the early redemption of loans and the recognised losses on loans advanced at less than a commercial interest rate. These values are debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when they are incurred, but reversed out of the General Fund Balance to the Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Over time, these values are posted back to the General Fund Balance in accordance with statutory arrangements for spreading the burden on Council Tax. For premia and discounts, this period is the unexpired term that was outstanding on the loans when they were redeemed.

In the 2024/25 financial year, the Council have not agreed early repayment of long term loans with the lenders (2023/24 no early repayment of long term loans with the lenders).

2023/24			2024/25	
£m	£m		£m	£m
	<b>(63.0)</b>	<b>Balance at 1 April</b>		<b>(61.0)</b>
2.0		Proportion of premia incurred in previous financial years to be charged against the General Fund Balance in accordance with statutory requirements	(9.0)	
	2.0	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		(9.0)
	<b>(61.0)</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March</b>		<b>(70.0)</b>

### Pensions Reserve

The Pensions Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post-employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. The Council accounts for post-employment benefits in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs. However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed as the Council makes employer's contributions to pension funds or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible.

In line with the requirements of IAS 19 and the guidance set out in IFRIC 14, an adjustment has been made to reflect the limit on recognising a defined benefit pension asset. IFRIC 14 specifies that a pension surplus can only be recognised on the employer's balance sheet if the entity has an unconditional right to realise that surplus either through a refund from the Scheme, or a reduction in future contributions. Following a review by the Scheme actuary, an additional liability of £1,032.6m was recognised to reflect the asset ceiling restriction. As a result, the net pension liability disclosed on the Balance Sheet is £434.2m.

Generally, the Pensions Reserve will match exactly the Pension Liabilities recorded on the Balance Sheet at the end of each year.



2023/24 £m		2024/25 £m
<b>(357.6)</b>	<b>Balance at 1 April</b>	<b>(135.5)</b>
261.6	Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability	(313.7)
(39.5)	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	15.0
<b>(135.5)</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>(434.2)</b>

#### Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve

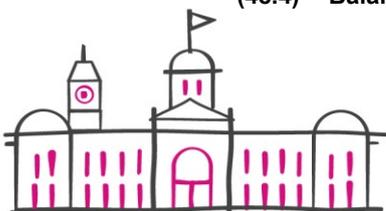
The Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve holds the gains recognised on the disposal of non-current assets but for which cash settlement has yet to take place. Under statutory arrangements, the Council does not treat these gains as usable for financing new capital expenditure until they are backed by cash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

2023/24 £m		2024/25 £m
<b>63.0</b>	<b>Balance at 1 April</b>	<b>67.3</b>
4.9	Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited to the General Fund under capital finance regulations	7.3
(0.5)	Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	-
(0.1)	Transfer to the Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash	(10.7)
<b>67.3</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>63.9</b>

#### Collection Fund Adjustment Account

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

2023/24 £m		2024/25 £m
<b>28.5</b>	<b>Balance at 1 April</b>	<b>(48.4)</b>
(76.9)	Amount by which Council Tax/Business Rates income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from Council Tax/Business Rates income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	39.2
<b>(48.4)</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>(9.2)</b>



### Accumulated Absences Account

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

2023/24 £m		2024/25 £m
<b>(18.4)</b>	<b>Balance at 1 April</b>	<b>(12.0)</b>
-	Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	
<b>6.4</b>	Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	<b>(4.7)</b>
6.4	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	(4.7)
<b>(12.0)</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>(16.7)</b>

### **Note 19**

#### **Pension Schemes Accounted for as Defined Contribution Schemes**

##### Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

The scheme is a multi-employer defined benefit scheme. 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 4,300 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 on the same basis as a defined contribution scheme.

In 2024/25, the Council paid £58.4m (2023/24: £47.2m) to the Teachers' Pensions Scheme in respect of teachers' retirement benefits, representing 28.68% (2023/24: 23.68%) of pensionable pay. The contributions due to be paid in the 2025/26 financial year are estimated to be £58.4m on the basis of employer contributions of 28.68%.

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 20.

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



## NHS Pension Scheme

Staff who joined the Council on 1 April 2014 upon the transfer of Public Health responsibilities from the National Health Service were members of the NHS Pension Scheme. The scheme provides its members with specified benefits upon their retirement and the Council has taken responsibility for making contributions based on a percentage of members' pensionable salaries.

The scheme is a multi-employer defined benefit scheme covering NHS employers, GP practices and other bodies allowed under the direction of the Secretary of State in England and Wales. The scheme is unfunded and is not designed to be run in a way that would enable member organisations to identify their share of the underlying assets and liabilities. Actuarial valuations of the scheme are undertaken every four years with a valuation of the scheme liability carried out on an annual basis by the scheme actuary through an update of the result of the full actuarial valuation. For the purposes of this Statement of Accounts, the scheme is accounted for on the same basis as a defined contribution scheme.

In 2024/25, the Council paid £0.056m (2023/24: £0.065m) to the NHS Pension Scheme in respect of employees' retirement benefits, representing 14.38% (2023/24: 14.38%) of pensionable pay. There were no contributions remaining payable at the year end. The contributions due to be paid in the 2025/26 financial year are estimated to be £0.056m on the basis of an employer contribution rate of 14.38%.

The Council is responsible for the costs of any additional benefits awarded upon early retirement outside of the terms of the NHS Pension Scheme. These costs are accounted for on a defined benefit basis and detailed in Note 20.

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

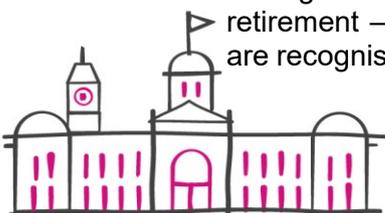
## **Note 20** **Defined Benefit Pension Schemes**

### Participation in Pension Schemes

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

The Council participates in two post-employment schemes accounted for as defined benefit schemes:

- The Local Government Pension Scheme, administered locally by the West Midlands Pension Fund offices at Wolverhampton City Council – this is a funded defined benefit career average salary scheme for benefits accrued since 1 April 2014, meaning that the Council and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pensions liabilities with investment assets. Benefits accrued to 31 March 2014 are based on final salary. An employer's future service contribution rate of 21.8% was set for the Council for 2024/25 (2023/24: 21.8%).
- 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 pensions liabilities, and cash has to be generated to meet actual pension payments as they eventually fall due.

The 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 pensions committee of Wolverhampton City Council. Policy is determined in accordance with the Pensions Fund Regulations.

The principal risks to the Council of the scheme are:

- the longevity assumptions
- statutory changes to the scheme
- structural changes to the scheme (for example, large-scale withdrawals)
- changes to inflation
- bond yields, and
- the performance of the equity investments held by the scheme.

These risks are mitigated, to a certain extent, by the statutory requirements to charge to the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account the amounts required by statute as described in the accounting policies note.

#### Transactions 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 the Council is required to make against Council Tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of post-employment/retirement benefits is reversed out of the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account via the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The table below shows the transactions that have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the General Fund Balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement during the year. The major change from 2023/24 to 2024/25 in the table relates to remeasurement net gains of £851.4m, mostly due to changes in financial assumptions.

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Unfunded Teachers Pension Scheme	
	2023/24	2024/25	2023/24	2024/25
	£m	£m	£m	£m
<b>Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</b>				
<b>Cost of Services:</b>				
current service cost	120.7	111.9		
past service costs, including curtailments	5.2	0.7		
effect of settlements	(2.2)	(1.2)		
<b>Financing and investment income and expenditure:</b>				
Net interest expense	16.7	5.4	2.0	1.9
<b>Total post-employment benefit charged to the (Surplus)/Deficit on the provision of services</b>	<b>140.4</b>	<b>116.8</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.9</b>
<b>Movement in Reserves Statement</b>				
Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus/Deficit on the provision of services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the Code	(42.2)	11.9	2.7	3.1
<b>Net charge against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year comprising:</b>				
<b>employer's contributions payable to scheme</b>	<b>98.2</b>	<b>128.7</b>		
retirement benefits payable to retirees			4.7	5.0



	Local Government Pension Scheme		Unfunded Teachers Pension Scheme	
	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement				
Total post-employment benefit charged to the (Surplus)/Deficit on the provision of services	140.4	116.7	2.0	1.9
Other post-employment benefit charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement				
remeasurements (liabilities and assets)	(359.1)	(851.4)	(4.5)	(1.2)
<b>Total Post-Employment Benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</b>	<b>(218.7)</b>	<b>(734.7)</b>	<b>(2.5)</b>	<b>0.7</b>

	2020/21 £m	2021/22 £m	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m
<b>Present Value of Liabilities</b>					
- Local Government Pension Scheme	(8,334.9)	(8,078.1)	(5,572.5)	(5,636.5)	(4,905.2)
- Unfunded Teachers' Scheme	(54.8)	(50.7)	(43.8)	(41.2)	(41.8)
<b>Total Present Value of Liabilities</b>	<b>(8,389.7)</b>	<b>(8,128.7)</b>	<b>(5,616.3)</b>	<b>(5,677.7)</b>	<b>(4,947.0)</b>
Fair Value of Assets in the Local Government Pension Scheme	5,116.6	5,418.7	5,258.7	5,542.2	5,545.6
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) in the scheme</b>					
- Local Government Pension Scheme	(3,218.3)	(2,659.4)	(313.8)	(94.3)	640.3
- Unfunded Teachers' Scheme	(54.8)	(50.7)	(43.8)	(41.2)	(41.9)
<b>Net (Liability) / Asset arising from defined benefit obligation</b>	<b>(3,273.1)</b>	<b>(2,710.1)</b>	<b>(357.6)</b>	<b>(135.5)</b>	<b>598.4</b>
Effect of Asset Ceiling	-	-	-	-	(1,032.6)
<b>Net Liability arising from defined benefit obligation</b>	<b>(3,273.1)</b>	<b>(2,710.1)</b>	<b>(357.6)</b>	<b>(135.5)</b>	<b>(434.2)</b>

The estimate for the Local Government Pension Scheme liability has been performed by a qualified actuary and is based on the latest actuarial valuation and transaction information from 2024/25, which results in a net pension asset of £598.4m (2023/24 net pension liability of £135.5m). In line with the requirements of IAS 19 and the guidance set out in IFRIC 14, an adjustment has been made to reflect the limit on recognising a defined benefit pension asset. IFRIC 14 specifies that a pension surplus can only be recognised on the employer's balance sheet if the entity has an unconditional right to realise that surplus either through a refund from the Scheme, or a reduction in future contributions. Following a review by the Scheme actuary, an additional liability of £1,032.6m was recognised to reflect the asset ceiling restriction. As a result, the net pension liability disclosed on the Balance Sheet is £434.2m.

#### Pension Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

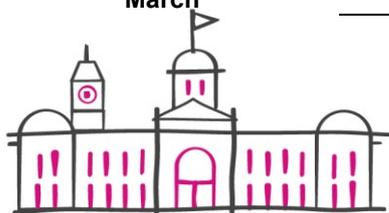
The amount included in the Balance Sheet arising from the Council's obligation in respect of its defined benefit plans is as follows:



	Local Government Pension Scheme				Unfunded Teachers' Pension Scheme		Total	
	Funded		Unfunded					
	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m
Benefit Obligation at 1 April	5,516.9	5,583.0	55.7	53.5	43.7	41.2	<b>5,616.3</b>	<b>5,677.7</b>
Current Service Cost	120.6	111.9	-	-	-	-	<b>120.6</b>	<b>111.9</b>
Interest on Pension Liabilities	259.9	265.5	2.5	2.4	2.0	1.9	<b>264.4</b>	<b>269.8</b>
Member Contributions	26.8	26.9	-	-	-	-	<b>26.8</b>	<b>26.9</b>
Actuarial (gains)/losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	(35.3)	(9.7)	(0.4)	(0.1)	(0.3)	(0.1)	<b>(36.0)</b>	<b>(9.9)</b>
Actuarial (gains)/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	(245.6)	(827.9)	(0.3)	(1.0)	(0.1)	(0.4)	<b>(246.0)</b>	<b>(829.3)</b>
Experience (gains)/losses on liabilities	175.8	(58.2)	1.1	1.1	0.6	4.2	<b>177.5</b>	<b>(52.9)</b>
Past Service Cost/ Curtailments	5.2	0.7	-	-	-	-	<b>5.2</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Settlements	(6.9)	(3.5)	-	-	-	-	<b>(6.9)</b>	<b>(3.5)</b>
Unfunded Pension Payments	-	-	(5.1)	(5.2)	(4.7)	(5.0)	<b>(9.8)</b>	<b>(10.1)</b>
Benefits/Transfers paid	(234.4)	(234.2)	-	-	-	-	<b>(234.4)</b>	<b>(234.2)</b>
<b>Benefit Obligation at 31 March</b>	<b>5,583.0</b>	<b>4,854.5</b>	<b>53.5</b>	<b>50.7</b>	<b>41.2</b>	<b>41.8</b>	<b>5,677.7</b>	<b>4,947.1</b>

### Reconciliation of the Movements in the Fair Value of Scheme Assets

	LGPS Funded		LGPS Unfunded		Unfunded TPS			
	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m
Fair Value of Assets at 1 April	5,258.7	5,542.2	-	-	-	-	<b>5,258.7</b>	<b>5,542.2</b>
Interest on Plan Assets	245.7	262.5	-	-	-	-	<b>245.7</b>	<b>262.5</b>
Remeasurements (assets)	157.1	(173.2)	-	-	-	-	<b>157.1</b>	<b>(173.2)</b>
Settlements	(4.8)	(2.1)	-	-	-	-	<b>(4.8)</b>	<b>(2.1)</b>
Employer contributions	93.0	123.5	5.2	5.2	4.7	5.0	<b>102.9</b>	<b>133.7</b>
Member contributions	26.9	26.9	-	-	-	-	<b>26.9</b>	<b>26.9</b>
Benefits/transfers paid	(234.4)	(234.2)	(5.2)	(5.2)	(4.7)	(5.0)	<b>(244.3)</b>	<b>(244.4)</b>
<b>Fair Value of Assets at 31 March</b>	<b>5,542.2</b>	<b>5,545.6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,542.2</b>	<b>5,545.6</b>



### Local Government Pension Scheme assets

An analysis of the Local Government Pension Scheme assets is set out below.

	2023/24		2024/25	
	Total	Percentage of Total	Total	Percentage of Total
	£m	%	£m	%
<b>Equity</b>	2,343.3	42.3%	2,057.5	37.1%
<b>Gilts</b>	720.0	13.0%	740.6	13.4%
<b>Bonds</b>	1,154.1	20.8%	1,469.4	26.5%
<b>Property</b>	353.0	6.4%	374.2	6.7%
<b>Other</b>	710.5	12.8%	635.5	11.5%
<b>Cash</b>	261.3	4.7%	268.4	4.8%
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>5,542.2</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5,545.6</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Basis for estimating assets and liabilities

Liabilities for both the Local Government Pension Scheme and the unfunded Teachers' Pension Scheme have been assessed by Hymans Robertson LLP, an independent firm of actuaries. The assessment has been on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method, an estimate of the pensions that will have to be paid in future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels etc. The estimates for the Local Government Pension Scheme have been based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2025. The principal assumptions used by the actuary have been:

Assumptions	Local Government Pension Scheme	
	2023/24	2024/25
Mortality assumptions:		
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners:		
Men (years)	20.7	20.6
Women (years)	23.4	23.4
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners retiring in 20 years:		
Men (years)	21.2	21.1
Women (years)	24.8	24.8
Rate of CPI inflation	2.80%	2.80%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.80%	3.80%
Rate of increase in pensions	2.80%	2.80%
Rate for discounting of scheme liabilities	4.80%	5.80%



The time horizon end date of the Council's past service liability is estimated to be 2041 based on the membership data used for the most recent full valuation undertaken as at 31 March 2022.

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 to 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, it is unlikely that isolated changes 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, that is, on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method. The methods and types of assumptions used in preparing the sensitivity analyses below did not change from those used in the previous period.

	Impact on the Defined Benefit Obligation in the Scheme		
	Change in assumption	Impact on Council Liability	Impact on Council Deficit
	£m	%	%
Longevity assumptions (increase by 1 year)	197.9	4.0	(33.1)
Pension increase assumptions (increase by 0.1%)	76.7	1.6	(12.8)
Salary increase assumption (increase by 0.1%)	3.7	0.1	(0.6)
Discount scheme liability assumptions (increase by 0.1%)	(78.2)	(1.6)	13.1

### Impact on the Council's Cash Flows

The objectives of the scheme are to keep employers' contributions at as constant a rate as possible. The Council has agreed a strategy with the scheme's actuary to achieve a funding level of 100% over the next 16 years. Funding levels are monitored on an annual basis. The most recent triennial valuation was carried out as at 31 March 2022 and set contributions for the period for 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2026.

Set out below are the contribution rates for the period to 31 March 2026.

Financial Year	Employer's Future Service Contribution Rate	Past Service Cost Deficit Payment
	%	£m
2025/26	21.8	£48.9



### The case Virgin Media Ltd v. NTL Pension Trustees II Ltd

The case Virgin Media Ltd v. NTL Pension Trustees II Ltd is a significant legal decision in UK pensions law, particularly affecting contracted-out defined benefit pension schemes between 1997 and 2016. The dispute centred on amendments made to the pension scheme rules during the contracted-out period without the required actuarial confirmation under Section 37 of the Pension Schemes Act 1993.

The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) is a statutory public service pension scheme, and although there has been some discussion about potential implications, any rules changes to LGPS benefits are made through legislation rather than by the administering authorities or employers.

In November 2024, the Local Government Association (LGA) issued guidance in LGPC Bulletin 257, noting that HM Treasury was still assessing the implications but did not believe the case expressly addressed whether actuarial certifications are required for public service pension schemes. Amendments to such schemes are made by legislation, which remains valid until revoked or repealed by subsequent legislation, or specifically declared void by a court.

In September 2025, the Government tabled amendments to the Pension Schemes Bill to allow retrospective actuarial confirmations. This is expected to address any remaining uncertainty in the private sector, leaving only rule changes that did not meet the "broadly equivalent" test at risk of being voided.

On the basis that HM Treasury has not indicated that the ruling applies to the LGPS, and the fact that there has been no authoritative identification of any LGPS rule changes that might be at risk of being voided, the Council has concluded that no adjustment is required to the pensions liabilities recognised in these accounts and no contingent liability needs to be disclosed.



**Note 21**  
**Property, Plant and Equipment**

The following tables analyse movements in the carrying values of non-current assets during the year.

	Council dwellings	Other land and buildings	Vehicles, plant, furniture & equipment	Community assets	Surplus assets	Assets under construction	Total Property, Plant and Equipment	PFI / Service Concession assets Included in Property, Plant and Equipment
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
<b>Cost or Valuation</b>								
<b>At 1 April 2024</b>	<b>2,966.5</b>	<b>2,634.4</b>	<b>131.5</b>	<b>91.1</b>	<b>205.7</b>	<b>288.2</b>	<b>6,317.4</b>	<b>1,087.2</b>
Additions	285.6	11.9	5.7	2.0	2.8	75.5	<b>383.5</b>	19.1
Assets reclassified between categories	11.3	30.4	6.9	-	-	(60.9)	<b>(12.3)</b>	-
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	-	-	-	-	(31.1)	-	<b>(31.1)</b>	-
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	(177.1)	76.6	-	-	(16.3)	-	<b>(116.8)</b>	0.3
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	(50.0)	-	-	(5.6)	(0.4)	<b>(56.0)</b>	-
Derecognition - Disposals	(31.2)	(171.7)	(1.6)	(0.2)	(79.6)	-	<b>(284.3)</b>	-
Other movements in cost or valuation	-	(42.5)	-	-	42.5	0.2	<b>3.7</b>	-
<b>At 31 March 2025</b>	<b>3,055.1</b>	<b>2,489.1</b>	<b>142.5</b>	<b>92.9</b>	<b>118.4</b>	<b>302.6</b>	<b>6,204.1</b>	<b>1,106.6</b>
<b>Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment</b>								
<b>At 1 April 2024</b>	-	<b>(18.8)</b>	<b>(67.1)</b>	-	-	-	<b>(85.9)</b>	<b>(320.5)</b>
Depreciation charge	(69.6)	(54.0)	(10.8)	-	(1.8)	-	<b>(136.2)</b>	(38.1)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	69.0	42.9	-	-	3.6	-	<b>115.5</b>	0.4
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	9.2	-	-	0.7	-	<b>9.9</b>	-
Derecognition - Disposals	0.6	1.4	1.6	-	-	-	<b>3.6</b>	-
Other movements in depreciation and impairment	-	2.5	-	-	(2.5)	-	-	-
<b>At 31 March 2025</b>	-	<b>(16.8)</b>	<b>(76.3)</b>	-	-	-	<b>(93.1)</b>	<b>(358.2)</b>
<b>Net Book Value</b>								
<b>At 31 March 2025</b>	<b>3,055.1</b>	<b>2,472.3</b>	<b>66.2</b>	<b>92.9</b>	<b>118.4</b>	<b>302.6</b>	<b>6,111.0</b>	<b>748.4</b>
<b>At 31 March 2024</b>	<b>2,966.5</b>	<b>2,615.6</b>	<b>64.4</b>	<b>91.1</b>	<b>205.7</b>	<b>288.2</b>	<b>6,231.5</b>	<b>766.7</b>



Movements in Balances: 2023/24

	Council dwellings	Other land and buildings	Vehicles, plant, furniture & equipment	Community assets	Surplus assets	Assets under construction	Total Property, Plant and Equipment	PFI / Service Concession assets included in Property, Plant and Equipment
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
<b>Cost or Valuation</b>								
<b>At 1 April 2023</b>	<b>3,000.9</b>	<b>2,609.1</b>	<b>129.4</b>	<b>86.5</b>	<b>276.3</b>	<b>287.8</b>	<b>6,390.0</b>	<b>1,057.9</b>
Additions	208.5	44.9	3.0	2.3	12.9	89.7	<b>361.3</b>	31.0
Assets reclassified between categories	23.3	55.4	1.1	2.2	2.8	(89.3)	<b>(4.5)</b>	(1.8)
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	(229.3)	4.9	-	0.1	22.9	-	<b>(201.4)</b>	0.1
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	-	(12.8)	-	-	(66.8)	-	<b>(79.6)</b>	-
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(34.8)	(44.5)	(2.0)	-	(0.3)	-	<b>(81.6)</b>	-
Derecognition - Disposals	(2.0)	-	-	-	(64.7)	-	<b>(66.7)</b>	-
Other movements in cost or valuation	(0.1)	(22.6)	-	-	22.6	-	<b>(0.1)</b>	-
<b>At 31 March 2024</b>	<b>2,966.5</b>	<b>2,634.4</b>	<b>131.5</b>	<b>91.1</b>	<b>205.7</b>	<b>288.2</b>	<b>6,317.4</b>	<b>1,087.2</b>
<b>Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment</b>								
<b>At 1 April 2023</b>	-	<b>(14.7)</b>	<b>(56.2)</b>	-	<b>(0.1)</b>	-	<b>(71.0)</b>	<b>(287.0)</b>
Depreciation charge	(67.7)	(57.2)	(12.2)	-	(1.5)	-	<b>(138.6)</b>	(37.2)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	67.1	42.3	-	-	1.0	-	<b>110.4</b>	3.2
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	9.6	-	-	0.6	-	<b>10.2</b>	0.5
Derecognition - Disposals	0.6	0.2	1.3	-	-	-	<b>2.1</b>	-
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other movements in depreciation and impairment	-	1.0	-	-	-	-	<b>1.0</b>	-
<b>At 31 March 2024</b>	-	<b>(18.8)</b>	<b>(67.1)</b>	-	-	-	<b>(85.9)</b>	<b>(320.5)</b>
<b>Net Book Value</b>								
<b>At 31 March 2024</b>	<b>2,966.5</b>	<b>2,615.6</b>	<b>64.4</b>	<b>91.1</b>	<b>205.7</b>	<b>288.2</b>	<b>6,231.5</b>	<b>766.7</b>
<b>At 31 March 2023</b>	<b>3,000.9</b>	<b>2,594.4</b>	<b>73.2</b>	<b>86.5</b>	<b>276.2</b>	<b>287.8</b>	<b>6,319.0</b>	<b>770.9</b>



## Revaluations

The valuation has been prepared in accordance with Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) – Global Standards (January 2022 and International Valuation Standards).

### Operational Land and Buildings (other than Housing)

The Council carries out valuations of its property assets over a five year cycle and reviews those assets that are not in the valuation cycle for the year to ensure that carrying values remain materially correct at the Balance Sheet date. David M Harris, Member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (MRICS), Head of Property Consultancy and other similarly qualified staff within the Council’s Property Services section carried out the valuations. A full Valuation Certificate has yet to be issued in accordance with the Appraisal and Valuation Standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

The effective date of the current year’s valuation was 31 March 2025.

A review was undertaken to assess the impact of obsolescence and the movement in building costs on the value of those assets not subject to revaluation in 2024/25. As a result, a desktop exercise was undertaken to update those values in the Balance Sheet, reflecting a more up to date value as at 31 March 2025 resulting in a relatively small increase in relevant asset values.

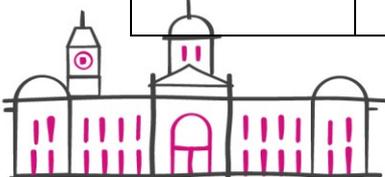
### Housing

The Council’s housing stock was valued as at 31 March 2025 by David Harris MRICS Registered Valuer, and similarly qualified staff within the Council’s Property Services section, assisted by an external contractor (Sure Surveyors - Debbie Fawcner MRICS Registered Valuer) in line with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government’s Guidance on Stock Valuation for Resource Accounting published in November 2016. The basis of the valuation for the housing stock element is in accordance with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors using the Existing Use Value – Social Housing basis, which takes open market value for the underlying dwellings and applies a multiplier to reflect the reduced value as a result of the use for social housing for 2024/25 of 40% (2023/24: 40%). Part of the housing stock comprising mainly the high-rise blocks of flats and some defective properties have been valued on the basis of a Discounted Cash Flow method of valuation (DCF). Details are included in Notes H1 and H3 of the Supplementary Statements

### Surplus Assets

A small number of assets have been deemed surplus to the requirement of the Council but do not meet the criteria to be classified as Assets Held for Sale. As such they are classified as surplus assets and revalued during 2024/25 at fair value, assessing the assets in their highest and best use, using Level 2 inputs. The increase in value reflects the reclassification of assets previously identified as either Assets held for Sale or as Other Land and Buildings.

Recurring Fair Value Measurements	Input Level in Fair Value Hierarchy	Valuation technique used to measure Fair Value	31 March 2024 Fair Value £m	31 March 2025 Fair Value £m
Highest and Best Use	Level 2	The fair value of surplus properties has been measured using a market approach, which takes into account quoted prices for similar assets in active markets, existing lease terms	205.7	118.4



Recurring Fair Value Measurements	Input Level in Fair Value Hierarchy	Valuation technique used to measure Fair Value	31 March 2024 Fair Value £m	31 March 2025 Fair Value £m
		and rentals, research into market evidence including market yields, the covenant strength for existing tenants, and data and market knowledge gained in managing the Council's Property Portfolio. Market conditions are such that similar properties are actively purchased and sold and the level of observable inputs is significant, leading to the properties being categorised as Level 2 on the fair value hierarchy.		

An analysis of the gross carrying value, by class of asset, broken down by the basis and date of valuation is set out on the following table.

	Council dwellings £m	Other land and buildings £m	Vehicles, plant, furniture & equipment £m	Community assets £m	Surplus assets £m	Assets under construction £m	Total Property, Plant and Equipment £m
Carried at Historical Cost				92.9	118.4	302.6	513.9
Carried at Depreciated Historical Cost			97.5				97.5
Valued at current value as at:							
31 March 2025	3,055.1	539.5	17.0				3,611.6
31 March 2024		669.4					669.4
31 March 2023		409.1					409.1
31 March 2022		382.9					382.9
31 March 2021		458.8					458.8
31 March 2020		18.5	28.0				46.5
31 March 2019		10.9					10.9
<b>Total cost or valuation</b>	<b>3,055.1</b>	<b>2,489.1</b>	<b>142.5</b>	<b>92.9</b>	<b>118.4</b>	<b>302.6</b>	<b>6,200.6</b>



## Capital Commitments

At 31 March 2025, the Council has entered into a number of contracts for the construction or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment in 2025/26 and future years. The commitments are:

	£m
PFI Lifecycle Costs	386.8
HRA New Build, Investment & Refurbishment	311.4
Perry Barr Infrastructure	3.1
Dudley Road (A457)	4.2
Long Nuke Road	11.1
Highgate Road	4.6
Waste Vehicles	25.1
Tame Valley Viaduct	8.3
HS2 Station Environment	25.4
Food Waste Collections	6.8
Alexander Stadium Works	1.2
Education & Early Years	7.4
Other Projects <£5m	8.6
<b>Total Capital Commitments</b>	<b>804.0</b>

## Capitalisation of Borrowing Costs

The Council has adopted an accounting policy, detailed in Note 1 - section xxi., of capitalising borrowing costs in relation to qualifying assets. In 2024/25 the amount of borrowing costs capitalised during the period was £2.9m (2023/24: £8.6m). The interest does not relate to a specific loan and was calculated using the Council's average borrowing rate in the year expenditure was incurred. This was 4.22% in 2024/25 (2023/24: 4.39%). For 2024/25, interest capitalised by scheme was as follows:

	£m
Enterprise Zone	2.9

## Infrastructure Assets

In accordance with the temporary relief offered by the Update to the Code on infrastructure assets [Local Government Circular 09/2022 Statutory Override Accounting for Infrastructure Assets for Scottish Local Authorities] this note does not include disclosure of gross cost and accumulated depreciation for infrastructure assets because historical reporting practices and resultant information deficits mean that this would not faithfully represent the asset position to the users of the financial statements. The authority has chosen not to disclose this information as the previously reported practices and resultant information deficits mean that gross cost and accumulated depreciation are not measured accurately and would not provide the basis for the users of the financial statements to take economic or other decisions relating to infrastructure assets.



	2023/24	2024/25
	£m	£m
Net Book Value (modified historical cost)		
at 1 April	643.7	638.7
Additions	23.9	4.5
Assets Reclassified between Categories	4.5	12.3
Depreciation	(33.4)	(34.6)
Other movements in cost	-	-
<b>Net Book Value at 31 March</b>	<b>638.7</b>	<b>620.9</b>

## Note 22

### Heritage Assets

The Council has significant collections of assets that contribute towards the rich and diverse heritage of the city, reflecting two thousand years of historic development, across Museums, Historic Buildings, Public Art, Libraries and Civic Collections.

Where historical cost information is available, the Council has used this when compiling the Balance Sheet; otherwise insurance valuations, reviewed annually, have been used, where applicable. Where there is evidence of a movement in valuations as a result of material acquisitions or disposals, or a significant movement in comparable market values, a revaluation will be considered.

Heritage Assets held by the Council:

	Museum Collections	Historic Buildings	Public Art	Libraries and Archive collections	Civic Regalia and Plate	Total Assets
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
<b>01 April 2023</b>						
- At Cost	1.8	11.1	0.5	-	-	13.4
- At Valuation	215.6	-	-	18.4	1.8	235.8
<b>31 March 2024</b>	<b>217.4</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>249.2</b>
<b>01 April 2024</b>						
- At Cost	1.8	11.1	0.5	-	-	13.4
- At Valuation	215.6	-	-	18.4	1.8	235.8
<b>31 March 2025</b>	<b>217.4</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>249.2</b>

## Museum Collections

The Council holds collections of artworks, ceramics, jewellery and items of archaeological and scientific significance. The vast majority of the Museum's Loan collection is held within the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, which holds one of the finest collections of art, history and science in the UK and the best collection of Pre-Raphaelite works in the world. There are significant exhibits and artwork comprising the Permanent Collection on display in community museums, for example Aston Hall and Soho House, together with items held in storage at the Museum's Collection Centre. The value of the collection has been adjusted to reflect updated



insurance valuations. In addition, there is a collection of Boulton silverware, a set of 24 pieces in silver jointly owned by the Council and the Birmingham Assay Office.

### **Historic Buildings and the Historical Environment**

The Council either owns or holds on trust in excess of 150 listed buildings and structures, with Grade I and Grade II properties being the most significant. These include Aston Hall, a Grade I listed Jacobean manor house completed in 1635, Blakesley Hall, an Elizabethan timber house built by a local merchant in 1590 and Soho House, home of Birmingham industrialist and entrepreneur Matthew Boulton, all of which are included as Heritage Assets.

### **Public Art**

The Council owns over 80 pieces of public art, including statues, sculpture and fountains, some of which are listed structures. Victoria Square fountain and the King Edward VII statue are included in the Balance Sheet as reliable information is available for these works of art.

### **Libraries and Archive Collections**

The Library of Birmingham is unique amongst UK public libraries for the range and depth of the collections it houses. The library houses a large photography collection and the Council also holds over 6,000 archive collections including major collections of national importance, such as those relating to the industrial innovators James Watt and Matthew Boulton. There are significant collections of early and fine printing, incorporating over 8,000 books printed before 1701, and an extensive collection of literature and rare books, including Audubon's 19th Century work, The Birds of America, and one of the world's most comprehensive Shakespeare collections.

### **Civic Regalia and Plate**

The Council owns in excess of 230 items of civic regalia and plate, kept either on display, in storage or used on ceremonial and other formal occasions. There is a large variety of items within the collection, the main ones being the Mayoral Chains of Office and Mace, which was cast in silver, in the late 19th Century, by Elkington and Co.

The Council has developed a Heritage Strategy, which provides a framework and context for how it preserves, manages, interprets and promotes the Council's Heritage Assets, and how they are taken forward during the 21st Century. This is supported by a more detailed collecting policy within the Museums service, which informs the Council's policy on acquisition, management and disposal, together with Documentation and Conservation policies, which detail how the service manages and cares for the collections. These are all available on the Council's website, or via the relevant service area. Both Libraries and Museums use database systems to manage their collections.

Access to heritage assets is provided through permanent displays of historical material, temporary exhibitions and events, publications, catalogues and digital and web-based resources. In addition the Museum's Collection Centre schedules occasional open days allowing public access to some of the Museum's stored historical artefacts. For the wider historical environment, guided tours, printed leaflets and publications, heritage trails and interpretive panels are effective in enabling intellectual access.

Birmingham Museums Trust exists to promote heritage within Birmingham, with the aims of advancing education through the operation, maintenance, development and promotion of museums, galleries and libraries in Birmingham. The Council continues to retain ownership of the buildings and collections.



**Note 23**  
**Intangible Assets**

The Council accounts for its software as intangible assets, to the extent that the software is not an integral part of a particular IT system and accounted for as part of the hardware item of Property, Plant, Furniture and Equipment.

The carrying amount of intangible assets is amortised on a straight-line basis over a five year period, which is deemed to be the period that intangible assets are expected to be of use to the Council.

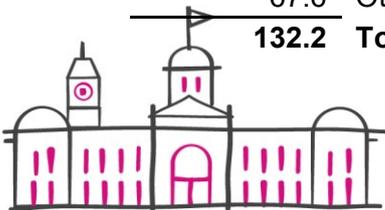
The movement on intangible asset balances during the year is as follows:

	2023/24			2024/25		
	Internally Generated Assets	Other Assets	Total	Internally Generated Assets	Other Assets	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Balance at start of year:						
- Gross carrying amounts	-	33.3	33.3	-	33.1	33.1
- Accumulated amortisation	-	(3.8)	(3.8)	-	(10.9)	(10.9)
<b>Net carrying amount at start of year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>22.2</b>
Additions:						
Other changes	-	(0.2)	(0.2)	-	(6.0)	(6.0)
Amortisation for the period	-	(7.1)	(7.1)	-	(6.0)	(6.0)
Net carrying amount at end of year		22.2	22.2	-	12.7	12.7
Comprising:						
Gross carrying amounts	-	33.1	33.1	-	29.6	29.6
Accumulated amortisation	-	(10.9)	(10.9)	-	(16.9)	(16.9)
	<b>-</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>16.2</b>

**Note 24**  
**Long Term Debtors**

The table below shows amounts owed to the Council that are due for payment more than 12 months after the Balance Sheet date. The outstanding balances have been split by type of debt.

31 March 2024 £m		31 March 2025 £m
64.4	External Loans	62.5
0.2	Mortgages: former Council House Tenants	0.3
67.6	Other Debtors	66.8
<b>132.2</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>129.6</b>



**Note 25**  
**Short Term Investments**

Details of the amounts invested by the Council that are due for repayment within 12 months of the Balance Sheet date are detailed below.

31 March 2024		31 March 2025	
£m		£m	
120.5	Money Market Funds	122.6	
1.1	Financial Institutions	1.1	
115.7	Public Sector Bodies	90.3	
<b>237.3</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>214.0</b>	

**Note 26**  
**Assets Held for Sale**

The table below details the value of assets whose carrying amount will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through their continuing use.

	2023/24	2024/25
	£m	£m
<b>Balance outstanding at start of year</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>64.5</b>
Assets newly classified as held for sale:		
- Property, Plant and Equipment	64.5	31.1
Assets declassified as held for sale:		
- Property, Plant and Equipment	-	-
- Assets sold	(0.4)	(64.5)
Other Movements	-	-
<b>Balance outstanding at year end</b>	<b>64.5</b>	<b>31.1</b>

Assets held for sale are those assets where the expectation is that their disposal will occur within twelve months.

Assets held for sale are measured at the lower of carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell. The value of capital receipts may differ from the carrying value of the assets and is heavily dependent on how much the market is willing to pay for a particular asset at any one time and this can fluctuate.



**Note 27**  
**Short Term Debtors**

The table below shows the amounts owed to the Council at the end of the year that are due for payment within 12 months. An allowance has been made, within the overall level of debt due, to reflect an element of non-recovery.

The amounts owed have been analysed by type of debtor to allow an assessment of the risk of non-recovery.

31 March 2024		31 March 2025
£m		£m
105.2	Central government bodies	107.0
25.0	Other local authorities	40.5
2.9	NHS bodies	2.1
0.8	Public corporations and trading funds	1.1
381.4	Other entities and individuals	381.8
<b>515.3</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>532.5</b>

**Note 28**  
**Cash and Cash Equivalents**

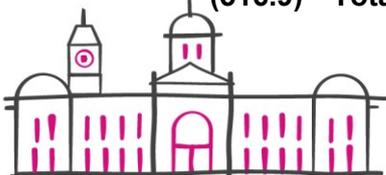
The balance of Cash and Cash Equivalents is made up of the elements detailed below.

31 March 2024		31 March 2025
£m		£m
2.2	Cash held by the Council	0.4
62.3	Bank current accounts	34.7
<b>64.5</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>35.1</b>

**Note 29**  
**Short Term Creditors**

The table below shows amounts owed by the Council at the end of the year that are due for payment within 12 months. The amounts due have been analysed by type of creditor.

31 March 2024		31 March 2025
£m		£m
(47.4)	Central government bodies	(36.3)
(12.5)	Other local authorities	(15.5)
(2.6)	NHS bodies	(1.2)
(61.4)	Public corporations and trading funds	(71.2)
(393.0)	Other entities and individuals	(381.1)
<b>(516.9)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>(505.3)</b>



**Note 30**  
**Provisions**

The following table shows the value of the Council's liabilities that will probably result in a transfer of economic benefits in line with the Accounting Policy for Provisions.

	<b>Balance at 31 March 2024</b>	<b>Additional provisions made in 2024/25</b>	<b>Amounts used in 2024/25</b>	<b>Transfer between current and non-current provisions</b>	<b>Unused amounts reversed in 2024/25</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March 2025</b>
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
<b>Short Term</b>						
Equal Pay	-	-	-	404.0	-	<b>404.0</b>
Business Rates						
Appeals	<b>25.8</b>	12.3	(21.9)	(4.6)	-	<b>11.6</b>
Other Provisions	<b>9.3</b>	16.0	-	-	(4.4)	<b>20.9</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>35.1</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>(21.9)</b>	<b>399.4</b>	<b>(4.4)</b>	<b>436.5</b>
<b>Long Term</b>						
Equal Pay	<b>404.0</b>	-	-	(404.0)	-	-
Business Rates						
Appeals	<b>13.9</b>	-	-	4.6	-	<b>18.5</b>
Other Provisions	<b>0.2</b>	-	-	-	(0.2)	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>418.1</b>	-	-	<b>(399.4)</b>	<b>(0.2)</b>	<b>18.5</b>

### Equal Pay

The Equal Pay Act 1970 was enacted at a time when it was not uncommon for employers to openly give different rates of pay to men and women performing the same job, or to reserve certain jobs for men and other (lower-paid) jobs for women. The Equality Act 2010 repealed and replaced the Equal Pay Act 1970 from 1 October 2010 and implemented the principle that men and women should receive equal pay for equal work in Great Britain.

The provision is determined on a weighted litigation liability basis using assumptions around the volumes of claimants, likelihood of payment, potential scale of payment and a range of other critical assumptions.

The Council has set aside a provision of £404.0m (2023/24: £404.0m) in respect of its estimate of potential liability for Equal Pay. Negotiations continue in order to provide both a fair settlement to colleagues and result with a best value outcome for the Council and residents. We are hoping to conclude negotiations prior to finalising these accounts and as such, for these draft accounts being issued for public inspection, we have left the recorded provision unchanged from that shown at March 2022. This position will be reviewed and updated prior to finalising and signing

The Council has received Exceptional Financial Support from Central Government which allows it to use capital resources to fund the potential Equal Pay liability. The potential liability at the date of signing these financial statements has not been provided, in line with IAS37 paragraph 92.



### Business Rates Appeals

As a result of the change in the funding of Local Government in 2013/14, local authorities have assumed part of the liability for refunding Business Rates payers who have successfully appealed against the rateable value of their properties in the rating list. This liability includes amounts that were collected in respect of both the current year and prior years.

The Council, as Billing Authority, is required to make a provision for this liability on behalf of the major preceptors and itself. From 1 April 2017 the Council became part of a 100% Local Business Rates Retention Pilot. Under the pilot the Council retains 99% of the Business Rates it collects including 99% of any amounts due to be collected in future. The other 1% is retained by the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority (WMFRA). Prior to 1 April 2017 the Council's share was 49% with 1% due to the WMFRA and the other 50% being due to Central Government. Under the pilot the Council has assumed responsibility to pay for 99% of backdated appeals, even those prior to 1 April 2017. However, the Council has also been allowed to take the Government's 50% share of the provision set aside for backdated appeals prior to 1 April 2017.

These accounts include a provision of £30.1m representing 99% of the total provision (2023/24: £39.7m representing 99% of the total provision) set aside to cover the Council's share of the total estimated unpaid liability relating to the settlement of all appeals received up to 31 March 2025. The remaining 1% share of the liability is attributable to the WMFRA.

The Council has assessed the likely cost of settling appeals, based upon the history of appeals settled to date and details of those appeals that are still outstanding. The information used in this modelling has been provided by the Valuations Office Agency (VOA).

### Other Provisions

Details of the major items included in other provisions are:

#### *Equal Pay Legal Costs*

The Council has set aside a provision for legal costs associated with the handling or defending of Equal Pay claims. The provision will be used when legal fees are agreed for each case and may be subject to assessment; the timing of which is uncertain.

## **Note 31** **Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets**

### Contingent Liabilities

These relate to pending legal or contractual claims not included in the accounts and guarantees given by the Council for repayment of loans taken out by certain associated companies. The Council currently has the following contingent liabilities:

1. The Council's final Housing Benefit claims for 2022/23 and 2023/24 are still being considered by the Department for Work and Pensions. There may be clawback of subsidy from the Council which would reduce the level of benefit income shown and reduce the General Fund balance carried forward.
2. The Council enters into a number of arrangements with external partners for the delivery of services or as part of infrastructure developments within the city. There are occasions where the Council faces claims from external partners where it is believed



that specific outcomes have not been delivered. Currently the validity of any outstanding claims is being assessed.

3. Under the Equality Act 2010, employees are entitled to equal pay for work of equal value. The Council has received a number of claims under the Equality Act and, as a result, has set aside a provision in these accounts of £404.0m (31 March 2025: £404.0m).

The Council has, on the basis of legal advice, determined a weighted litigation liability using assumptions around the volumes of claimants, likelihood of payment, potential scale of payment and a range of other critical assumptions.

At the time of publishing these accounts, the Council has had, and continues to receive, claims in relation to equal pay. Disclosure of the estimated provision at the date of signing these accounts is not provided, in line with IAS37 paragraph 92. With such a complex model, and large number assumptions being used, to which the calculation is sensitive, a range of outcomes is possible. There is the potential that as a result of the outcome related to those assumptions the liability may be higher than this amount.

4. As documented in note 5 to these accounts, the Council is seeking the disposal of built and non-built holdings known as the Perry Barr residential scheme. Of the total cost of £501m, a sum of £171m of the funding for the scheme was through local and Central Government grants, a number of which had conditions applied to them. The Council is confident that those conditions are met, and will continue to be so, regardless of the sales process. However, given the complexities associated with grant funding and associated conditions, there is a small chance that one of the providing bodies may choose to seek re-payment of the funding if they feel conditions are not continuing to be met. In line with the requirement of IAS37, this uncertain possible obligation is considered a contingent liability.

### Contingent Assets

At 31 March 2025 the Council has identified the following material contingent assets.

When disposing of non-current assets which may be the subject of further development by the purchaser, the Council may include clauses within the disposal agreement that require the purchaser to make additional payments to the Council depending on the outcome of the development. The Council does not recognise such potential additional consideration at the time of disposal as its receipt and amount is too uncertain. The Council has included such clauses in the agreement for the disposal of a number of developments and anticipates generating additional capital receipts in future years.

Due to the commercially sensitive nature of the agreements, detailed information on further anticipated receipts has not been disclosed.



**Note 32**  
**Council Borrowing**

A breakdown of the Council's borrowings is summarised below:

2023/24			2024/25		
Long Term	Short Term		Long Term	Short Term	
£m	£m		£m	£m	
(30.4)	(32.0)	Lender's Option Borrower's Option (LOBO) loans	(30.4)	(22.0)	
(437.8)	(9.4)	Local Bonds	(337.9)	(7.3)	
(2,799.2)	(108.8)	Public Works Loan Board	(2,765.4)	(149.6)	
(0.1)	(197.0)	Other Borrowing (mainly Other Local Authorities)	(0.1)	(116.5)	
<b>(3,267.5)</b>	<b>(347.2)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,133.8</b>	<b>295.4</b>	

**Note 33**  
**Cash Flow Statement - Operating Activities**

The cash flows from operating activities include the following items:

2023/24		2024/25	
£m		£m	
(27.2)	Interest received	(25.9)	
196.5	Interest paid	171.0	
(0.4)	Dividends received	(18.9)	
<b>168.9</b>		<b>126.2</b>	

**Note 34**  
**Cash Flow Statement - Investing Activities**

The cash flows from investing activities include the following:

2023/24		2024/25	
£m		£m	
(350.0)	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(385.8)	
(3,346.7)	Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	(5,079.5)	
65.3	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	273.9	
3,221.2	Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments	5,125.8	
-	Other receipts from investing activities	(29.6)	
<b>(410.2)</b>	<b>Net cash flows from investing activities</b>	<b>(95.2)</b>	



**Note 35**  
**Cash Flow Statement - Financing Activities**

The cash flows from financing activities include the following:

2023/24 £m		2024/25 £m
117.6	Other receipts from financing activities	144.5
1,022.1	Cash receipts of short-term and long-term borrowing	492.5
(129.2)	Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases and on-balance sheet PFI contracts	(21.0)
(820.5)	Repayments of short-term and long-term borrowing	(668.9)
1.6	Other payments for financing activities	20.1
<b>191.6</b>	<b>Net cash flows from financing activities</b>	<b>(32.8)</b>

**Note 36**  
**Cash Flow Statement – Other Adjustments**

The cash flow adjustments to the net surplus/deficit on the provision of services include:

2023/24 £m		2024/25 £m
172.0	Depreciation/Impairment charge	170.9
7.1	Amortisation of Intangible Assets	6.0
-	Assets reclassified between categories	(3.5)
(0.6)	(Increase)/Decrease in Investments	-
68.6	Revaluation of Non-Current Assets	46.0
82.0	Derecognition of Non-Current Assets	348.8
(60.0)	(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	(8.0)
86.4	Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	(28.7)
0.9	(Increase)/Decrease in Inventories	0.4
17.0	Increase/(Decrease) in Provisions	1.8
39.5	Pensions Liability	(15.0)
<b>412.9</b>	<b>Net Cash Flow - Other Adjustments</b>	<b>518.7</b>

The cash flow adjustments included in the net surplus/deficit on the provision of services that are investing or financing activities include:

2023/24 £m		2024/25 £m
(117.6)	Capital Grants	(144.5)
(65.3)	Capital Receipts	(273.9)
(1.6)	Council Tax and Business Rates Adjustments	(20.1)
<b>(184.5)</b>		<b>(438.5)</b>



**Note 37**  
**Financial Instruments****Financial Instruments – Classifications**

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

**Financial Liabilities**

A financial liability is an obligation to transfer economic benefits controlled by the Council and can be represented by a contractual obligation to deliver cash or financial assets or an obligation to exchange financial assets and liabilities with another entity that is potentially unfavourable to the Council.

All of the Council's financial liabilities held during the year are measured at amortised cost and comprise:

- long-term loans from the Public Works Loan Board and commercial lenders
- bonds issued
- long-term LOBO loans
- loans from other local authorities
- Private Finance Initiative contracts
- lease payables
- transferred debt
- trade payables for goods and services received
- overdraft with banks

**Financial Assets**

A financial asset is a right to future economic benefits controlled by the Council that is represented by cash, equity instruments or a contractual right to receive cash or other financial assets or a right to exchange financial assets and liabilities with another entity that is potentially favourable to the Council. The financial assets held by the Council during the year are accounted for under the following two classifications:

- Amortised cost (where cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest and the Council's business model is to collect those cash flows) comprising:
  - loans to organisations made for service purposes
  - loans to other local authorities
  - current and deposit bank accounts
  - cash in hand
  - trade receivables for goods and services provided
- Fair value through profit and loss (all other financial assets) comprising:
  - money market funds
  - equity investments in companies
  - loans to organisations where the cash flows are not solely payments of principal and interest

Financial assets held at amortised cost are shown net of a loss allowance reflecting the statistical likelihood that the borrower or debtor will be unable to meet their contractual commitments to the Council.



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

	Long Term		Short Term	
	31 March 2024 £m	31 March 2025 £m	31 March 2024 £m	31 March 2025 £m
<b><u>Investments</u></b>				
Fair Value through Profit or Loss	1.7	1.7	121.6	123.7
Amortised Cost	-	-	115.7	90.2
Investments in subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures	35.7	35.7	-	-
<b>Total investments</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>237.3</b>	<b>213.9</b>
<b><u>Debtors</u></b>				
Fair Value through Profit or Loss	4.4	4.7	-	-
Amortised Cost	97.8	124.9	344.0	361.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>102.2</b>	<b>129.6</b>	<b>344.0</b>	<b>361.7</b>
<i>Debtors that are not financial instruments</i>	30.0		171.3	170.8
<b>Total debtors</b>	<b>132.2</b>	<b>129.6</b>	<b>515.3</b>	<b>532.5</b>
<b><u>Cash</u></b>				
Cash in Hand			65.4	35.1
<b>Total cash: asset</b>			<b>65.4</b>	<b>35.1</b>
<b><u>Borrowings</u></b>				
Fair Value through Profit or Loss	-		-	
Fair Value at Amortised Cost	(3,267.5)	(3,133.8)	(347.2)	(295.4)
<b>Total borrowings</b>	<b>(3,267.5)</b>	<b>(3,133.8)</b>	<b>(347.2)</b>	<b>(295.4)</b>
<b><u>Other Long Term Liabilities</u></b>				
PFI and finance lease liabilities	(315.5)	(297.9)		
<b>Total</b>	<b>(315.5)</b>	<b>(297.9)</b>		
<i>Transferred Debt and Other Liabilities</i>	(17.7)	(8.8)		
<b>Total long term liabilities</b>	<b>(333.2)</b>	<b>(306.7)</b>		
<b><u>Creditors</u></b>				
Fair Value at Amortised Cost	(0.3)	(0.3)	(362.8)	(386.3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(0.3)</b>	<b>(0.3)</b>	<b>(362.8)</b>	<b>(386.3)</b>
<i>Creditors that are not financial instruments</i>	-	-	(154.1)	(119.0)
<b>Total creditors</b>	<b>(0.3)</b>	<b>(0.3)</b>	<b>(516.9)</b>	<b>(505.3)</b>

### Material Soft Loans Made by the Council

The Council has made the following material soft loans:

Warwickshire County Cricket Club was granted a loan of £20m in 2009 to support the major ground refurbishment undertaken. The loan is deemed to be a material soft loan and is carried in the accounts at £13.2m, paying a fixed interest rate of 5%. During the development phase



of the project, interest was rolled up in the loan. In 2016/17, Warwickshire County Cricket Club exercised its right, under the terms of the loan agreement, to defer interest and principal repayment for two quarters from March 2013 and extend the loan maturity to make these payments. The club applied for a further 18 month interest and principal deferral, which was granted by the Council. All interest on the deferred payments is rolled up and the term of the loan has been extended to 2045.

On the creation of Birmingham Children's Trust CIC it was offered loan facilities to ensure that it had sufficient cash resources to operate efficiently given that the company was a company limited by guarantee and had no equity. The Council advanced a loan of £4m in April 2018 at an interest rate of 2.41% and a further loan of £6m in April 2019 at an interest rate of 1.87%. The Trust exercised its right under the contract and repaid the £6m loan in full in January 2022. The Trust also exercised its right under the contract and repaid the £4m loan in full in February 2025.

The treatment of soft loans in the financial statements is as follows:

	2023/24	2024/25
	£m	£m
<b>Opening balance at 1 April</b>	<b>27.4</b>	<b>15.6</b>
Movement in balance WCCC	-	1.6
Loans repaid	(11.5)	(4.6)
Movement in Expected Credit Loss per IFRS9	(0.2)	0.4
(Increase)/Reduction in discount	(0.1)	0.2
<b>Closing Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>13.2</b>
Nominal value at 31 March	21.7	16.7

### *Valuation Assumptions*

The interest rate at which the fair value of soft loans has been made at recognition is arrived at by taking the Council's prevailing cost of borrowing and adding an allowance for the risk that the loan might not be repaid.

As with all loans made by the Council, reviews of the repayment schedule are undertaken with the borrowing counterparties, particularly in the light of the impact of inflation and interest rate pressures to determine whether the level of risk has increased sufficiently to make any changes to the assessment the carrying value of the loans.

### Income, Expenses, Gains and Losses

The gains and losses recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in relation to financial instruments are shown in the following table. The losses on financial instruments recognise that some debts will not be recovered.



	2023/24	2024/25
	Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services
	£m	£m
<b>Net (Gains)/Losses on financial instruments:</b>		
Financial assets measured at amortised costs	11.4	15.9
<b>Total Net (Gains)/Losses on financial instruments</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>15.9</b>
<b>Income/Expenditure in (Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>		
Interest Receivable from financial assets measured at amortised costs	(27.2)	(25.9)
Investment income from financial assets measured through profit and loss	(0.4)	(18.9)
Interest Expense	196.5	171.0
<b>Net Income/Expenditure in (Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>	<b>168.9</b>	<b>126.2</b>
<b>Net (gain)/loss for the year</b>	<b>180.3</b>	<b>142.1</b>

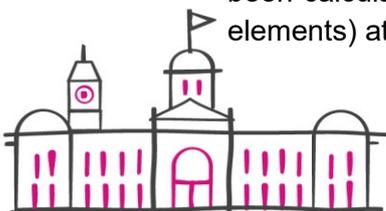
#### Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The fair value of a financial instrument is the price that would be received when selling an asset, or the price that would be paid when transferring a liability, to another market participant in an arms'-length transaction. Where liabilities are held as an asset by another party, such as the Council's borrowing, the fair value is estimated from the holder's perspective.

Financial instruments, except those classified at amortised cost, are carried in the Balance Sheet at fair value. For most assets, including bonds and shares in money market funds, the fair value is taken from the market price.

Financial instruments classified at amortised cost are carried in the Balance Sheet at their amortised cost. Their fair values disclosed below have been estimated by calculating the net present value of the remaining contractual cash flows at 31 March 2025, using the following methods and assumptions:

- Loans borrowed by the Council have been valued by discounting the contractual cash flows over the whole life of the instrument at the appropriate market rate for local authority loans.
- Discount rates for "Lender's Option Borrower's Option" (LOBO) loans have been reduced to reflect the value of the embedded options. The size of the reduction has been calculated using proprietary software.
- The fair values of other long-term loans and investments have been discounted at the market rates for similar instruments with similar remaining terms to maturity on 31 March.
- The fair values of finance lease assets and liabilities and of PFI scheme liabilities have been calculated by discounting the contractual cash flows (excluding service charge elements) at the PWLB's new annuity loan certainty rates.



- No early repayment or impairment is recognised for any financial instrument.
- The fair value of short-term instruments, including trade payables and receivables, is assumed to approximate to the carrying amount given the low interest rate environment.

Fair values are shown in the tables below, split by their level in the fair value hierarchy:

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

Details of the impact of fair value assessments on specific categories of financial liabilities are set out below.

Financial Liabilities	Input level in Fair Value Hierarchy	Valuation inputs and assumptions used to measure Fair Value	31 March 2024	31 March 2024	31 March 2025	31 March 2025
			Carrying Amount £m	Fair Value £m	Carrying Amount £m	Fair Value £m
<b>Financial Liabilities held at amortised cost:</b>						
Long-term loans from PWLB	Level 2	PWLB new maturity loan certainty rate	2,908.0	2,692.0	2,915.0	2,500.1
Bonds issued (BIRCTY 9.675% 21/04/2030)	Level 2	Market rate for similar instruments	282.8	281.1	182.3	177.5
Bonds issued (NECF 7.5625% 30/09/2027)	Level 1	Quoted price from Bloomberg	78.4	75.0	76.9	71.1
LOBO loans	Level 2	Market rate for similar instruments	62.4	79.1	52.4	61.2
Other long-term loans	Level 2	Market rate for similar instruments	86.2	67.9	86.1	61.6
Lease payables and PFI Liabilities	Level 2	PWLB new annuity loan certainty rate	319.1	395.5	317.5	390.2
Transferred debt *	Level 2	Market rate for similar instruments	15.9	15.9	8.4	8.4
Other long-term liabilities/creditors	N/A	Fair value is approximated at their carrying amount	9.6	9.6	9.1	9.1
Short term loans (mainly from other local authorities)	N/A	Fair value is approximated at their carrying amount	196.9	196.9	116.5	116.5
Short term creditors	N/A	Fair value is approximated at their carrying amount	362.8	362.8	353.8	353.8
<b>TOTAL Financial Liabilities</b>			<b>4,322.1</b>	<b>4,175.8</b>	<b>4,118.0</b>	<b>3,749.5</b>



\*The Transferred Debt information is provided by Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, who have responsibility for the West Midlands County Council Debt Administration Fund. The fair values were provided to them by their Treasury Advisors.

The fair value of financial liabilities held at amortised cost is now lower than their Balance Sheet carrying amount because the Council's portfolio of loans includes a number of loans where the interest rate payable is lower than the current rates available for similar loans as at the Balance Sheet date.

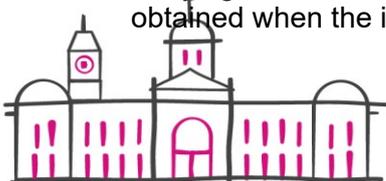
## PWLB Loans

The difference between the carrying amount and the fair value measures the additional interest that the Council will pay over the remaining terms of the loans under the agreements with the PWLB, against what would be paid if the loans were at prevailing market rates. However, the Council has a continuing ability to borrow at concessionary rates from the PWLB rather than from the markets. If the Council were to repay the loans to the PWLB, the PWLB would raise a penalty charge for early redemption in addition to charging a premium for the additional interest that will not now be paid.

Details of the impact of fair value assessments on specific categories of assets are set out below.

Financial Assets	Input level in Fair Value Hierarchy	Valuation inputs and assumptions used to measure Fair Value	31 March 2024	31 March 2024	31 March 2025	31 March 2025
			Carrying Amount £m	Fair Value £m	Carrying Amount £m	Fair Value £m
<b>Financial assets held at fair value:</b>						
Money Market Funds/equity - short term	Level 1	Market price	121.6	121.6	123.7	123.7
Shares in companies - long term	Level 3	With significant unobservable inputs	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
Loans to organisations for service purposes - long term	Level 3	With significant unobservable inputs	4.4	4.4	4.7	4.7
<b>Financial assets held at amortised cost:</b>						
Deposits (DMADF and other local authorities) - short term	N/A	Fair value is approximated at their carrying amount	115.5	115.5	90.2	90.2
Loans to organisations for service purposes	Level 3	With significant unobservable inputs	60.7	60.5	60.9	54.1
Long term asset/long term debtors	N/A	Fair value is approximated at their carrying amount	37.5	37.5	34.1	34.1
Short term debtors	N/A	Fair value is approximated at their carrying amount	344.0	344.0	359.3	359.3
Cash/bank deposits - short term	N/A	Fair value is approximated at their carrying amount	65.4	65.4	35.1	35.1
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>			<b>750.8</b>	<b>750.6</b>	<b>709.7</b>	<b>702.9</b>

The fair value of financial assets held at amortised cost is higher than their Balance Sheet carrying amount because the interest rate on similar investments is now lower than that obtained when the investment was originally made.



**Note 38**
**Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments**

The Council's activities expose it to a variety of risks relating to its financial instruments, including:

- Credit risk – the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the Council;
- Liquidity risk – the possibility that the Council may not have funds available to meet its payment commitments;
- Market risk – the possibility of financial loss due to changes in interest rates and market prices.

These risks are mainly managed by a central Treasury Management team in accordance with policies and approvals set by the Council in its annual Budget Report, Treasury Management Strategy, and Treasury Management Practices in particular. The Council complies with CIPFA's Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services and the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, both of which regulate the use of financial instruments and establish a treasury risk management framework.

**Credit Risk**

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

This risk is measured and managed primarily through the investment policies and strategy in the approved Budget, which requires that deposits are made in accordance with approved credit criteria and limits, including minimum credit ratings as follows:

<b>'Specified' short term loan investments (all in Sterling)</b>	<b>Minimum Short term rating*</b>	<b>Minimum Long term rating*</b>	<b>Maximum investment per counterparty</b>
Banks (including overseas banks) and Building Societies	F1+ /A1+ /P1	AA- /AA- /Aa3	£25m
	F1+ /A1+ /P1	A- / A- /A3	£20m
	F1 /A1 /P1	A- / A- /A3	£15m
	F2 /A2 /P2	BBB+ /BBB+ /Baa1	£10m
Sterling commercial paper and corporate bonds	F1+ /A1+ /P1	A- / A- /A3	£15m
Sterling Money Market Funds (short term and Enhanced)	AAA (with rating indicating lowest level of volatility where applicable)		£40m
Local authorities	n/a	n/a	£25m
UK Government and supranational bonds	n/a	n/a	None
UK Nationalised Banks and Government controlled agencies	n/a	n/a	£25m
Secured investments including repo and covered bonds	Lending limits determined as for banks (above) using the rating of the collateral or individual investment		

\* Fitch / S&P / and Moody's rating Agencies respectively. Institutions must be rated by at least two of the Agencies, and the lowest rating will be taken into account.

This risk is minimised through the Treasury Management Policy, which requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet minimum credit ratings from the three major credit ratings agencies. The Treasury Management Policy also imposes a maximum



sum to be invested with a financial institution located within each rating category and country. The Treasury Management Policy is contained within the Council's approved Financial Plan.

The Council will not invest more than £400m in long term investments as follows:

- Government stocks (or "Gilts") and other supranational bonds, with a maturity of less than five years.
- Corporate Bonds, Certificates of Deposit (CD) or Commercial Paper (CP) with a maturity of less than three years, subject to a long term credit rating of not less than AA (in addition to the restrictions in the table above). CD or CP shall not exceed 20% of long-term investments (i.e. those maturing in one year or more).

The Council also uses information from a variety of other sources in reaching a view about the suitability of particular investments.

The Council also makes a variety of investments in support of its service objectives. These investments are not subject to the above credit quality requirements, but are individually appraised and approved in relation to their support for service outcomes as well as their financial consequences and risks.

The Council's maximum exposure to credit risk, in relation to its investments in financial institutions, cannot be assessed generally, as the risk of any institution failing to make due payments will be specific to each individual institution. In relation to the Council's outstanding treasury deposits with financial institutions, local authorities and other institutions, no such deposits have defaulted in the year or are impaired. A risk of recoverability applies to all deposits, but there was no evidence at 31 March 2025 that this was likely to crystallise.

The Council does not hold collateral as security on its treasury deposits.

### Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk arises from the need to borrow to finance capital expenditure, loan maturities and other payments. The Council has a comprehensive cash flow management system that measures liquidity and seeks to ensure that cash is available as needed. The Council has ready access to loans from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) in accordance with the PWLB circulars currently in force, and there is no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments. The Council sets limits on the proportion of its fixed rate borrowing maturing in specified periods. The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is as follows:

	31 March 2024	31 March 2025
	£m	£m
Less than 1 year	(816.0)	(677.1)
Between 1 and 2 years	(155.4)	(187.8)
Between 2 and 5 years	(510.8)	(498.0)
Between 5 and 20 years	(1,649.6)	(1,565.8)
Between 20 and 40 years	(1,239.3)	(1,159.2)
Over 40 years	(30.1)	(30.1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(4,401.2)</b>	<b>(4,118.0)</b>

All trade and other payables are due to be paid in less than 1 year.



### LOBO loans

The LOBO maturity profile assumes that the lender will not exercise their option until maturity. The LOBOs are of fixed rates, ranging between 4.33% and 11.5%. Of the total amount, £30m have a break clause of every 5 years, £10m have a break clause twice a year and £11.1m have a break clause any day at one month's notice. In the current high interest rate environment, it is possible that some lenders may exercise their option to request early repayment of their LOBOs.

### Market Risk

#### Interest rate risk

The Council is exposed to significant risk in relation to interest rate movements on its borrowing and investments.

The Council is exposed to changes in interest rates as a result of most of its borrowings being at long-term fixed rates and investment being short-term or at variable rates of interest. Consequently, falls in interest rates will have an adverse impact on the Council's finances.

For instance, a rise in interest rates would have the following effects:

- Borrowings 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 for borrowings 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/(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/(Deficit) on the Provision of Services and affect the General Fund Balance. Movements in the fair value of fixed rate investments that have a quoted market price will be reflected in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

These risks are measured and managed in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Strategy, including the setting and monitoring of risk limits on the level of variable rate instruments and on the amount of borrowing maturing in future years.

At 31 March 2025, if interest rates had been 1% higher with all other variables held constant, the financial effect would be:

	£m
Increase in interest payable on variable rate borrowings	1.4
Increase in interest receivable on variable rate investments	(2.2)
Impact on Surplus/(Deficit) on the Provision of Services	(0.8)
Share of overall impact charged to the HRA	2.1
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate investment assets	2.1
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate borrowing liabilities (no impact on the Surplus/(Deficit) on the Provision of Services or Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure)	(239.5)



The impact of a 1% fall in interest rates would be as above but with the movements being reversed. The above sensitivities have been prepared and based on loan debt and loan investments outstanding at 31 March 2025.

### Price Risk

The Council's holdings of shares are all unquoted shares held primarily to support service objectives rather than as financial investments. The financial value of these shares will vary according to general market conditions and the particular circumstances of the share issuers. Active prices for these investments are not available. Any temporary fluctuations in the market value of such investments would have no significant impact on the Council's finances.

### **Note 39** **Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing**

The Council's capital expenditure on an accruals basis, analysed between types of asset, is summarised below. This also includes revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute.

	31 March 2024 £m	31 March 2025 £m
<b>Opening Capital Financing Requirement</b>	4,909.2	4,922.8
<b><u>Capital Investment</u></b>		
Property, Plant and Equipment	385.2	388.1
Intangible Assets	-	
Revenue Expenditure funded from Capital under Statute	42.3	80.9
Secretary of State Direction - Flexible use of Capital Receipts	8.4	5.2
<b><u>Sources of Finance</u></b>		
Capital Receipts	(82.1)	(56.2)
Government Grants and other Contributions	(134.5)	(144.2)
Sums set aside from Revenue:		
- Direct Revenue Contributions	(11.2)	(27.5)
- Use of Major Repairs Reserve	(55.5)	(86.2)
- Revenue Provision for Debt Redemption	(136.5)	(139.4)
- Capital Receipts set aside for debt redemption	(2.5)	(1.4)
<b>Closing Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>4,922.8</b>	<b>4,942.1</b>
<b><u>Explanation of Movements in Year</u></b>		
Movement in underlying need to borrow	(9.6)	17.0
Assets acquired under finance leases		-
Assets acquired under PFI contracts	23.3	2.3
Increase/(decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement	<b>13.7</b>	<b>19.3</b>
<b>Movement in Year</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>19.3</b>

The Secretary of State direction relates to the permission given to local authorities to use capital receipts generated between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2025 to finance the revenue costs of transformation that deliver savings to the public sector. This flexibility has been subsequently further extended for a further three years.



**Note 40**  
**Leases**

As at the date of publishing these accounts, the Council has not fully completed its transition to IFRS 16, and therefore all figures within Note 40 remain the same as the prior year.

The Council has a significant number of leases, as summarised below.

**Council as the lessee**
**Finance leases**

The Council has acquired a number of buildings and other assets under finance leases. The assets acquired under these leases are carried in the Balance Sheet at the following net amounts.

31 March 2024 £m		31 March 2025 £m
27.5	Other Land and Buildings	27.5
2.5	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	2.5
<b>30.0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>30.0</b>

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

31 March 2024 £m		31 March 2025 £m
	Finance lease liabilities (net present value of minimum lease payments):	
0.9	- current (not later than 1 year)	0.9
2.6	- non-current (later than 1 year)	2.6
6.6	Finance costs payable in future years	6.6
<b>10.1</b>	<b>Minimum Lease Payments</b>	<b>10.1</b>

The minimum lease payments will be payable over the following periods:

	Minimum lease payments		Finance lease liabilities	
	31 March 2024 £m	31 March 2025 £m	31 March 2024 £m	31 March 2025 £m
Not later than 1 year	1.1	1.1	0.9	0.9
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	1.5	1.5	0.9	0.9
Later than 5 years	7.5	7.5	1.7	1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>



The minimum lease payments do not include rents that are contingent on events taking place after the lease was entered into, such as adjustments following rent reviews. In 2024/25 contingent rents of £nil were payable (2023/24: £nil).

The Council has not sublet any of the assets held under these finance leases.

### Operating leases

The Council has acquired a number of administrative buildings under operating leases. The future minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable leases where the length of lease was greater than 1 year at inception are:

31 March 2024 £m		31 March 2025 £m
0.5	Not later than 1 year	0.5
0.9	Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	0.9
3.3	Later than 5 years	3.3
<u>4.7</u>	<b>Total</b>	<u>4.7</u>

The Council has not sublet any of the assets held under these operating leases.

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

31 March 2024 £m		31 March 2025 £m
0.4	Minimum lease payments	0.4
0.1	Contingent rents	0.1
<u>0.5</u>	<b>Total</b>	<u>0.5</u>

### Council as the lessor

#### Finance leases

The Council has leased out property to a number of parties on finance leases. 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 the lessee, 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 2024 £m		31 March 2025 £m
	Finance lease debtor (net present value of minimum lease payments):	
1.6	- current (not later than 1 year)	1.6
30.0	- non-current (later than 1 year)	30.0
238.6	Unearned finance income	238.6
<del>(30.7)</del>	Less – Unguaranteed residual value of property	<del>(30.7)</del>
<u>239.5</u>	<b>Gross investment in the lease</b>	<u>239.5</u>



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

	Finance Lease debtor		Minimum Lease payments	
	31 March 2024 £m	31 March 2025 £m	31 March 2024 £m	31 March 2025 £m
Not later than 1 year	1.6	1.6	3.5	3.5
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	1.6	1.6	8.1	8.1
Later than 5 years	28.4	28.4	258.6	258.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>31.6</b>	<b>31.6</b>	<b>270.2</b>	<b>270.2</b>

The minimum lease payments do not include rents that are contingent on events taking place after the lease was entered into, such as adjustments following rent reviews. In 2024/25 £2.7m contingent rents were receivable by the Council (2023/24 £2.7m).

### Operating leases

The Council has leased out property to a number of parties as operating leases.

The future minimum lease payments receivable under non-cancellable leases where the length of lease was greater than 1 year at inception are:

31 March 2024 £m		31 March 2025 £m
11.1	Not later than 1 year	11.1
31.1	Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	31.1
65.1	Later than 5 years	65.1
<b>107.3</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>107.3</b>

The minimum lease payments receivable do not include rents that are contingent on events taking place after the lease was entered into, such as adjustments following rent reviews. In 2024/25 £2.8m contingent rents were receivable by the Council (2023/24 £2.8m).

### Leases - contingent rent

Contingent rents are determined from the comparison of the property lease rental system to the accounts leasing system.



**Note 41**  
**Service Concession Arrangements**

The Council has entered into a number of Service Concession arrangements, formerly classed as Private Finance Initiative (PFI), through which assets are constructed or refurbished and services are provided under long-term contracts with private sector firms. The main contracts cover Schools and Highways Management and Maintenance.

The main terms of the material arrangements are as follows:

- Schools. There are four separate arrangements in place for the rebuild / refurbishment and management of a total of 26 schools within Birmingham. These arrangements are of varying duration and service providers: 10 schools from 2001/02 (for 32 years), 11 schools from 2004/05 (for 35 years), four schools from 2011/12 (for 25 years) and a single secondary school from 2013/14 ending 2038/39. The service provider is paid a Unitary Charge monthly for the duration of the contracts, with indexation applied annually as per the terms of each contract. Within each contract the Council retains both the schools' assets and the liability for future contract commitments in the Balance Sheet, with the exception of when schools gain Academy status. There are a number of PFI managed schools that have gained Academy status, a total of ten schools to date across the four separate school PFI contracts. Whilst the assets no longer belong to the Council and are thus removed from the Balance Sheet, the ongoing liability remains as a Council responsibility.
- Birmingham Highways Management and Maintenance Public Finance Initiative (PFI). This contract provides for the management and maintenance of all public highway and other contractually designated areas within the Birmingham boundary by the contractor; Birmingham Highways Limited (BHL). The original contract commenced on 7 June 2010, with a contract period of 25 years and was originally designed so that the initial five year period was for capital improvement to the highways network followed by a 20 year period during which the improved highway condition was maintained. These financial statements are based on a continuance of the current contract arrangements.

Indexation is applied annually on 1 April by reference to movements in the Retail Price Index. Deductions can be levied for non-performance of the contractual deliverables as specified within the contract. As the size and scale of the highway network varies, the contract provides for these changes to be accrued into the network maintained by the Service Provider, Birmingham Highways Limited, attracting an increase/decrease in payments made as appropriate.

The Council continues to have full use of the roads and roadside furniture during the period of the arrangement, at the end of which all rights revert to the Council. There are no early terminations or period clauses within the PFI arrangement.

Following poor performance and subsequent legal action, a settlement agreement was reached which addressed the dispute between the Council and the contractor. As a result, the original subcontractor, Amey Plc, exited the contract on 31 March 2020 and a new interim sub-contractor; Kier Highways Ltd was appointed by BHL from 1 April 2020 for an initial period of 15 months, in order to develop a way forward with the contract. An extension to the arrangement with Kier has been negotiated pending procurement of a long-term replacement subcontractor.



On the basis of a transfer of responsibilities under the contract to a new provider, these financial statements are based on a continuance of the current contract arrangements.

<b>Payments Remaining as at 31 March 2025</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Repayment of Liability</b>	<b>Payment for Services</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
Within 1 year	24.6	18.7	56.5	99.8
Between 2 and 5 years	81.7	95.7	246.1	423.5
Between 6 and 10 years	54.1	158.4	336.8	549.3
Between 11 and 15 years	87.6	41.2	54.7	183.5
Between 16 and 20 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	<b>248.0</b>	<b>314.0</b>	<b>694.1</b>	<b>1,256.1</b>

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 movement in the liabilities to repay the contractors for capital expenditure incurred is as follows:

2023/24 £m		2024/25 £m
351.0	Liability outstanding at the start of the year	332.6
(41.7)	Repayment of liability	(21.0)
23.3	Lifecycle and further capital expenditure	2.3
<b>332.6</b>	<b>Liability outstanding at the year end</b>	<b>313.9</b>

### Service Concessions - contingent rent

Contingent rents in respect of service concession arrangements total £1.8m in 2024/25 (£32.1m 23/24).

### Note 42 Members' Allowances

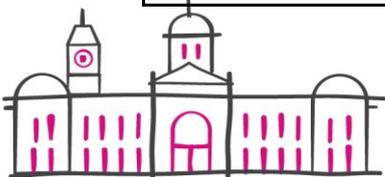
Allowances paid to Members of the Council in 2024/25 totalled £2.6m (2023/24: £2.5m). These figures include Members' allowances and expenses. Further information can be found on the Council's website.



**Note 43**  
**Officers' Remuneration**

The remuneration paid to or receivable by the Council's senior employees in the new structure is detailed in the table below. Where post holders started, or left, during a financial year, only the pro-rata remuneration is shown for that year.

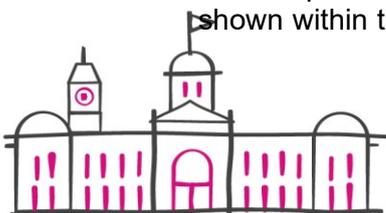
		Salary, fees and allowances	Compensation for loss of office	Expense allowances	Pension contributions	Total
		£	£	£	£	£
Joanne Roney, Managing Director <sup>(1)</sup>	2023/24	-	-	-	-	-
	2024/25	169,719	-	381	46,164	216,264
Deborah Cadman, Chief Executive	2023/24	269,750	130,194	251	68,961	469,156
	2024/25	-	-	-	-	-
Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Intervention	2023/24	36,176	N/A	N/A	9,840	46,016
	2024/25	148,303	-	-	40,338	188,641
Professor Graeme Betts, Acting Chief Executive and Director, Adult Social Care <sup>(2)</sup>	2023/24	204,540	-	-	-	204,540
	2024/25	164,390	-	-	-	164,390
Louise Collett, Acting Director, Adult Social Care	2023/24	3,981	-	-	1,083	5,064
	2024/25	172,938	-	-	47,039	219,977
Director, Council Management	2023/24	41,684	-	-	8,083	49,767
	2024/25	-	-	-	-	-
Paul Langford, Strategic Director, City Housing	2023/24	74,000	-	-	20,128	94,128
	2024/25	194,336	-	-	52,868	247,204
Craig Cooper, Strategic Director, City Operations	2023/24	181,125	-	-	47,076	228,201
	2024/25	190,295	-	-	51,760	242,055
Paul Kitson, Strategic Director, Place, Prosperity and Sustainability <sup>(3)</sup>	2023/24	176,653	-	-	48,050	224,703
	2024/25	3,435	-	-	934	4,369
Susan Harrison, Director, Children and Families	2023/24	187,212	-	-	50,194	237,406
	2024/25	196,689	-	-	53,499	250,188
Richard Brooks, Director, Strategy, Equalities and Partnerships	2023/24	130,577	-	-	35,517	166,094
	2024/25	156,713	-	-	42,626	199,339
Director, Public Health <sup>(4)</sup>	2023/24	125,900	-	-	34,245	160,145
	2024/25	72,167	-	82	18,250	90,499
Philip Nell, Acting Strategic Director, Place, Prosperity and Sustainability	2023/24	-	-	-	-	-
	2024/25	153,369	-	-	41,716	195,085
Katy Fox, Director of People Services (HR)	2023/24	79,570	-	-	21,643	101,213
	2024/25	170,592	-	-	46,401	216,993



		Salary, fees and allowances	Compensation for loss of office	Expense allowances	Pension contributions	Total
		£	£	£	£	£
Interim Transformation Director <sup>(11)</sup>	2023/24	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2024/25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Interim Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer <sup>(8)</sup>	2023/24	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2024/25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Interim Strategic Director, Place, Prosperity and Sustainability <sup>(9)</sup>	2023/24	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2024/25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Interim Chief Operating Officer <sup>(10)</sup>	2023/24	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2024/25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Executive Director of Finance and S151 Officer <sup>(5)</sup>	2023/24	-	-	-	-	-
	2024/25	8,669	-	-	2,358	11,027
Executive Director, Place, Prosperity and Sustainability <sup>(6)</sup>	2023/24	-	-	-	-	-
	2024/25	17,679	-	-	-	17,679
Interim City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer <sup>(12)</sup>	2023/24	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2024/25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Acting Director of Public Health <sup>(7)</sup>	2023/24	-	-	-	-	-
	2024/25	65,919	-	-	17,930	83,849

**Notes:**

- (1) Joanne Roney, Managing Director took up the role on 09 September 2024.
- (2) Professor Graeme Betts, Director, Adult Social Care and Acting Chief Executive, left the Council on 03 November 2024. The acting up period when Professor Graeme Betts was covering the Chief Executive role in addition to the Director, Adult Social Care role, was 22 March 2024 to 03 November 2024, for which he received a total of £3,380.45 in acting up payments for 2024/25, as part of a total salary of £164,390.
- (3) Paul Kitson, Strategic Director, Place, Prosperity and Sustainability left the Council on 07 April 2024.
- (4) The Director, Public Health left the Council on 30 September 2024.
- (5) The Executive Director of Finance and S151 Officer took up the role on 17 March 2025
- (6) The Executive Director, Place, Prosperity and Sustainability took up the role on 24 February 2025.
- (7) The Acting Director of Public Health took up the role on 01 October 2024.
- (8) The Interim Strategic Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer was employed through a third party and left the Council on 16 March 2025, the costs of which were £341,544 in 2024/25 (£386,219 in 2023/24). This amount is not the amount that would have been received by the postholder.
- (9) The Interim Acting Strategic Director, Place Prosperity and Sustainability took up the role on 08 April 2024 until the 31 January 2025. The payroll costs of the appointment are shown within the table above. For the full month of February 2025 they were employed



through a third party, the costs of which were £23,461 in 2024/25. The third party amount is not the amount that would have been received by the postholder.

- (10) The Interim Chief Operating Officer was employed through a third party and left the Council on 29 August 2024, the costs of which were £155,000 in 2024/25 (£38,750 in 2023/24). This amount is not the amount that would have been received by the postholder.
- (11) The Transformation Director was employed through a third party and left the Council on 27 October 2023, the costs of which were £127,405 in 2023/24. This amount is not the amount that would have been received by the postholder.
- (12) The Interim City Solicitor & Monitoring Officer was employed through a third party on 8 November 2023, the costs of which were £233,713 in 2024/25 (£89,621 in 2023/24). This amount is not the amount that would have been received by the postholder.

Coverage of statutory posts during periods of annual leave or sickness absence was by officers within the relevant teams under delegated responsibilities.

Other Council employees receiving more than £50,000 remuneration for the year (excluding employer's pension contributions) were paid the amounts detailed in the table below. Staff within Voluntary Aided and Foundation schools are employed by the governing body of the school and have therefore been excluded from the table below.

2023/24			Remuneration band	2024/25		
Teaching Staff & Staff in Schools	Other Council Employees	Total		Teaching Staff & Staff in Schools	Other Council Employees	Total
No	No	No		No	No	
254	355	<b>609</b>	£50,000 - £54,999	318	390	<b>708</b>
139	150	<b>289</b>	£55,000 - £59,999	169	175	<b>344</b>
97	163	<b>260</b>	£60,000 - £64,999	96	162	<b>258</b>
67	78	<b>145</b>	£65,000 - £69,999	69	81	<b>150</b>
43	30	<b>73</b>	£70,000 - £74,999	49	45	<b>94</b>
40	29	<b>69</b>	£75,000 - £79,999	42	24	<b>66</b>
35	33	<b>68</b>	£80,000 - £84,999	47	48	<b>95</b>
14	12	<b>26</b>	£85,000 - £89,999	18	15	<b>33</b>
7	5	<b>12</b>	£90,000 - £94,999	19	7	<b>26</b>
3	7	<b>10</b>	£95,000 - £99,999	6	6	<b>12</b>
5	15	<b>20</b>	£100,000 - £104,999	4	6	<b>10</b>
4	5	<b>9</b>	£105,000 - £109,999	-	5	<b>5</b>
1	6	<b>7</b>	£110,000 - £114,999	4	5	<b>9</b>
2	3	<b>5</b>	£115,000 - £119,999	3	4	<b>7</b>
-	1	<b>1</b>	£120,000 - £124,999	3	5	<b>8</b>
-	1	<b>1</b>	£125,000 - £129,999	-	3	<b>3</b>
-	1	<b>1</b>	£130,000 - £134,999	-	4	<b>4</b>
-	2	<b>2</b>	£135,000 - £139,999	-	-	<b>-</b>
-	1	<b>1</b>	£140,000 - £144,999	-	1	<b>1</b>
-	-	<b>-</b>	£145,000 - £149,999	-	6	<b>6</b>
-	2	<b>2</b>	£150,000 - £154,999	-	1	<b>1</b>
-	-	<b>-</b>	£155,000 - £159,999	-	1	<b>1</b>
-	-	<b>-</b>	£160,000 - £164,999	-	1	<b>1</b>
-	1	<b>1</b>	£165,000 - £169,999	-	-	<b>-</b>
-	1	<b>1</b>	£170,000 - £174,999	-	1	<b>1</b>
-	-	<b>-</b>	£175,000 - £179,999	-	-	<b>-</b>
-	-	<b>-</b>	£180,000 - £184,999	-	-	<b>-</b>
-	1	<b>1</b>	£185,000 - £189,999	-	-	<b>-</b>
<b>711</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>1,613</b>		<b>847</b>	<b>996</b>	<b>1,843</b>

Remuneration includes salary, allowances, bonuses and compensation for loss of employment.



Employees earning £150,000 or more (non-senior)

The following directly employed officers earned £150,000 or more but do not hold senior officer posts. They are therefore presented separately from the Senior Officers table.

Wayne Davies, Service Director Asset Management, Total Salary £162,132.96  
 Robert Edmondson, Assistant Director Waste, Total Salary £152,093.29

The 'Other Council Employees' figures for both years include those employees with planned termination payments, 94 in 2024/25 (8 in 2023/24). Excluding employees in receipt of planned termination payments, 902 employees in 2024/25 (894 in 2023/24) received remuneration of £50,000 or more.

The number of Teaching Staff and Staff in Schools reflect those staff employed by the Council and has been affected by the conversion of a number of schools to Academy Status. Academy schools are independent of the Council and their employees are therefore excluded from the Council's financial statements. The number of staff in Voluntary Aided and Foundation Schools, with a remuneration of more than £50,000 per annum, was 387 in 2024/25 (2023/24: 271).

**Note 44**  
**Exit Packages**

The costs of exit packages are amounts payable as a result of either the Council's decision to terminate an employee's employment before the normal retirement date, or an employee's decision to accept voluntary redundancy in exchange for those benefits. The following table provides information on the number of exit packages payable by the Council for the year, with total cost per band and total cost of both compulsory redundancies and other departures.

Exit packages include the costs of compulsory and voluntary redundancy, pension fund strain payments and other departure costs. The increase in values between years is due to redundancy payments being calculated based on an employee's age, length of service and salary.

		2023/24						2024/25				
Compulsory No.	£m	Voluntary No.	£m	Total No.	£m	Value of individual package £000	Compulsory No.	£m	Voluntary No.	£m	Total No.	£m
-	-	1	0.4	1	0.4	£250+	-	-	4	1.3	4	1.3
-	-	1	0.2	1	0.2	£200 - £250	-	-	8	1.7	8	1.7
-	-	-	-	-	-	£150 - £200	-	-	17	2.9	17	2.9
-	-	2	0.2	2	0.2	£100 - £150	-	-	21	2.6	21	2.6
-	-	2	0.2	2	0.2	£80 - £100	-	-	31	2.8	31	2.8
-	-	1	0.1	1	0.1	£60 - £80	-	-	35	2.5	35	2.5
1	0.1	5	0.2	6	0.3	£40 - £60	-	-	27	1.4	27	1.4
4	0.1	4	0.1	8	0.2	£20 - £40	-	-	88	2.2	88	2.2
14	0.1	84	0.4	98	0.5	less than £20	1	-	187	2.2	188	2.2
<b>19</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>19.6</b>



**Note 45**  
**Auditor Remuneration**

The Council is expected to incur the following costs in relation to the audit of the Statement of Accounts, certification of grant claims and for non-audit services provided by the Council's external auditors.

2023/24 £m		2024/25 £m
1.1	Fees payable to Grant Thornton UK LLP with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year	1.2
0.1	Fees payable to Grant Thornton UK LLP for the certification of grant claims and returns for the year	0.1
<b>1.2</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1.3</b>

**Note 46**  
**Related Parties**

The Council is required to disclose material transactions with related parties – bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence the Council or to be controlled or influenced by the Council. Disclosure of these transactions allows readers to assess the extent to which the Council might have been constrained in its ability to operate independently or might have secured the ability to limit another party's ability to bargain freely with the Council.

**Central Government**

Central Government has effective control over the general operations of the Council – it is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Council operates, provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties (for example, Council Tax bills, Business Rates, Housing Benefits). Grants received from Government departments are set out in Note 14. Grant receipts outstanding at 31 March 2025 are included in the balances within Note 27.

**Members**

Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operational policies. The total of Members' allowances paid in 2024/25 is shown in Note 42.

**Officers**

There were no transactions between Senior Officers of the Council and the Council and its related parties, other than the receipt of emoluments due as employees of the Council and payments of Council Tax due as appropriate.

**School Governors**

All school governors and staff should complete the school's Register of Business Interests. This register should be kept up-to-date and be freely available for inspection by governors, staff and parents.

**Other Public Bodies**

**Aligned Budgets**

The Council is party to an aligned commissioning agreement with the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) covering the Birmingham area, namely, Birmingham & Solihull CCG and West Birmingham and the Black Country CCG. Under this arrangement the strategic



commissioning of Mental Health (MH) services is overseen by the Mental Health System Strategic Board. The Adults with Learning Disabilities (LD) Integrated Commissioning Board performs the same function for LD services. Each Board has representation from the City Council and NHS bodies and reviews the expenditure plans for the services but there is no arrangement in place to pool City Council and NHS budgets for the services. The objective of the arrangement is to improve services for users through closer working and co-operation in the commissioning of services and have been established pursuant to Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006 and related Regulations with the Council hosting the Learning Disability element and the combined CCGs hosting Mental Health Services provision.

### **Other Related Parties**

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

The Council maintains involvement with a number of associated and subsidiary companies where the assets and liabilities of these companies are not included in the Council's core financial statements. Group accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25.

**The subsidiaries that have been consolidated into the group financial statements are listed below:**

<b>Subsidiaries</b>	Exp.	Income	Loans		Council Assets at year end	Council Liabilities at year end
			Granted	Repaid		
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Acivico Limited	21.0	0.5	-	0.3	0.9	5.9
Birmingham Children's Trust CIC	329.2	13.6	23.7	4.0	11.0	90.6
Birmingham City Propco Limited	0	4.69	-	-	28.04	0
InReach (Birmingham) Limited	0.81	1.64	-	-	16.70	0
National Exhibition Centre (Developments) Plc	11.2	-	-	-	-	76.9
PETPS (Birmingham) Limited	-	-	-	-	-	-
PETPS (Birmingham) Pension Funding Scottish Limited Partnership	-	-	-	-	-	-

**The associate and joint venture that have been consolidated into the group financial statements are listed below:**

	Expenditure	Income	Council Assets at year end	Council Liabilities at year end
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Birmingham Airport Holdings Limited (BAH)	0	1.25	25.67	0.00
Paradise Circus Limited Partnership	1.30	0.40	0.44	0.44

The Council also has relationships with a number of other companies and third party organisations where the assets and liabilities of the Council's holding is not material to the



Group Accounts or where the Council has representation and influence on the board of the organisation but has no claim on the assets and liabilities of the organisation. Details of the organisation and its relationship to the Council are set out in the tables below.

Organisations where the Council has 100% share ownership of the company, but the level of activity is not material to the Council's Group Accounts, are detailed below.

B:Music Ltd	Creative Advantage West Midlands Limited
Birmingham Charities Limited	Finance Birmingham Limited
Birmingham Curzon Regeneration Company Limited	Forward Homes (Birmingham) Limited
Birmingham Endeavour Limited	Frontier Development Holding Limited
Birmingham Municipal Housing Limited	Greater Birmingham and West Midlands Brussels Office
Birmingham Museums Trust	NEC Pension Trustee Company Limited
Birmingham Venture Capital Limited	NEC Pension Trustee Company No.2 Limited
B:Music Ltd	Creative Advantage West Midlands Limited

#### Entities where the Council has some influence

Organisations, including associated subsidiaries, where the Council is a minority shareholder of the company and the level of activity is not material to the Council's Group Accounts are detailed below.

Ascarii Limited	Frontier Development Capital Limited
Ascension Ventures	Goodfish Limited
Auctus	Learning Labs Limited
Big Button	Midlands Industrial Association Ltd
Birmingham LEP Company (also known as Birmingham Lend Lease Partnership)	Mutt Motorcycles Limited
Birmingham Schools SPC Phase 1A Limited	Natural HR Limited
Birmingham Schools SPC Phase 1B Limited	Opinsta Limited
Birmingham Wholesale Market Company Limited	Owned It
Bridge Street Management Ltd	Stockfield Community Association
Central Technology Belt	UK Municipal Bonds Agency PLC
Crowd Technologies	Veolia Environmental Services Birmingham Ltd
CSR City Limited	Vision Technologies
Ex Cathedra	West Midlands Growth Company Limited
Eyoto Group Limited	

The Council also has representation on the board of a number of organisations but has no associated shareholding or entitlement to returns from the organisation. Details of the relevant companies are set out below.

Acocks Green Primary School Academy	King Edward VI Academy Trust
Arts Council England	Midlands Arts Centre



Betel UK  
 Birmingham Citizens Advice Bureau Service Ltd  
 Birmingham Disability Resource Centre  
 Birmingham Opera Company  
 Birmingham Organising Committee for the 2022 Commonwealth Games Limited  
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre  
 Birmingham Retirement Council

Birmingham Royal Ballet  
 Birmingham Settlement Ltd  
 Birmingham Voluntary Service Council  
 Canal & River Trust  
 Care Plus  
 City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra  
 Clifton Road Youth Centre  
 Culture Spectrum  
 Foundation for Conductive Education  
 Friends of Acocks Green Recreation Ground  
 Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP Ltd.  
 Gurdwara Baba Deep Singh Ji Shaheed  
 Holloway Hall Community Association

Millennium Point Property Ltd  
 Millennium Point Trust  
 Mind  
 New Local Ltd  
 Pen Museum  
 Royal Orthopaedic Hospital  
 Royal Sutton Coldfield Community Town Hall Trust  
 SIFA Fireside  
 Sikh Council UK  
 St Barnabas School (Academy)  
 St. Basil's  
 St. Paul's Community Development Trust  
 Warwickshire County Cricket Club  
 West Midlands Ambulance Service  
 West Midlands Combined Authority  
 West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority  
 Witton Lodge Community Association Ltd  
 Workers' Educational Association  
 Yenton Primary School (Academy)

Business Improvement Districts (BID) are business led partnerships, created to deliver additional services to local businesses. A BID covers a defined area in which a levy is charged on all business rate payers, which is then used to develop projects that will benefit business within the area. The Council has representation on BID boards within the Birmingham area as detailed below.

Colmore Business District BID  
 Erdington Town Centre Partnership  
 Harborne Village BID Limited  
 Jewellery Quarter Development Trust CIC  
 Kings Heath BID

Northfield Town Centre BID  
 Retail Birmingham Limited  
 Soho Road BID  
 Southside BID  
 Sutton Coldfield Town Centre BID  
 Westside Partnership Limited

Tenant Management Organisations (TMO) – The Council, whilst not having shareholding, entitlement to returns, nor board representation, does still hold significant influence over these bodies.

Bloomsbury Estate Management Board  
 Four Towers TMO  
 Holly Rise Housing Co-operative

Manor Close Residents' Management Org.  
 Roman Way Estate CIC



**Note 47**  
**Joint Funding Arrangements/Pooled Budgets**

The Better Care Fund (including the improved Better Care Fund)

The Better Care Fund (BCF) was announced in June 2013 with the intention of driving the transformation of local care services and is operated through pooled budget arrangements between the Council and local Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). Specific resources were earmarked for the BCF by NHS England in its allocation to CCGs. The remainder of the fund was made up of the Social Care Capital Grant and the Disabled Facilities Grant which were paid to local authorities. No new money was made available at the time to the health and care system, but the BCF provided an opportunity for joint working between local authorities and health organisations to deliver better outcomes for service users. The funding the Council receives through the BCF replaces the Section 256 transfer from the NHS that had been made in previous years.

The improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) was introduced in 2016/17. It was implemented through two statements, the first – iBCF1 in November 2016 and the second - iBCF2 in Spring 2017. This Section 31 Grant is received by local authorities and is included in the BCF Pool. iBCF Funding received in 2024/25 remained at £67.9m.

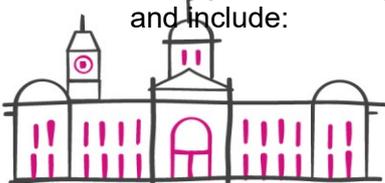
On 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 Clinical Commissioning Groups were abolished and Integrated Commissioning Boards (ICB) were established. Birmingham & Solihull CCG became Birmingham and Solihull ICB and merged the West Birmingham element of the Black Country and West Birmingham CCG, which became the Black Country ICB.

In 2024/25 funding of £109.3m (2023/24: £106.6m) was earmarked for the BCF by the Department of Health via the ICBs as detailed in the table below. The ICB contributed an additional £2.6m. The Council's initial contribution of £104.6m was made up of the Disabled Facilities Grant (£14.1m), iBCF Grant (£67.9m), together with £22.6m of additional support to the wider Health and Social Care System.

In 2024/25 Discharge Funding of £15.9m was received by the Council with the purpose of reducing hospital discharge delays by supporting local authorities to building additional adult social care and community-based reablement capacity, ultimately improving patient flow and outcomes. Discharge Funding of £11m was also received by the ICB to support local health and care systems in reducing hospital discharge delays, improving patient flow, and ensuring timely access to appropriate post-discharge care and support. This provided an additional £26.8m into the Better Care Fund for 2024/25.

<b>Contribution to the BCF Pooled Fund</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
Birmingham & Solihull ICB	106.6	110.7
ICB Discharge Fund	5.0	11.0
<b>NHS Contribution</b>	<b>111.6</b>	<b>121.7</b>
Birmingham City Council	22.0	21.8
iBCF Section 31 Grant	67.9	67.9
Disabled Facilities Grant	14.1	14.1
BCC Discharge Fund	9.5	15.9
<b>BCC Contribution</b>	<b>113.5</b>	<b>119.7</b>
<b>Total BCF Pooled Fund</b>	<b>225.1</b>	<b>241.4</b>

The BCF is used to fund various schemes as identified in the agreed joint plan. The management arrangements for the individual projects depend on the services being provided and include:



- Sole Commissioning of the activities by ICBs;
- Sole Commissioning of the activities by the Council;

Whilst independently Commissioned many of the services provided within the Better Care Fund have a joint controlled element. Details of the specific projects are set out below and for 2024/25 schemes were refreshed and the revised descriptions are included below.

<b>Better Care Fund Service Provision 2024/25</b>	<b>Sole Commissioning ICB</b>	<b>Sole Commissioning Council</b>	<b>Total Expenditure 24/25</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
Assistive Technologies and Equipment (incl. DFG £0.6m)	0.8	7.6	8.4
Bed based intermediate Care Services	9.7	6.2	15.9
Care Act Implementation Related Duties	0	1.3	1.3
Carers Services	0	3.1	3.1
Community Based Schemes	7.3	0	7.3
DFG Related Schemes	0	14.1	14.1
Enablers for Integration	0.2	0.7	0.9
High Impact Change Model for Managing Transfer of Care	0.5	7.9	8.4
Home Care or Domiciliary Care	0	22.8	22.8
Home-based intermediate care services	0	18.1	18.1
Integrated Care Planning and Navigation	9.9	12.4	22.3
Other	3.7	0	3.7
Personalised Care at Home	43.7	0	43.7
Prevention / Early Intervention	0.1	0	0.1
Residential Placements	0	67.8	67.8
Workforce recruitment and retention	0	3.5	3.5
<b>Total BCF</b>	<b>75.9</b>	<b>165.5</b>	<b>241.4</b>



**Note 48**  
**The Council Acting as Agent**

The Council acts as an intermediary in its role as agent for a number of external bodies. The Council processes transactions through its financial ledger but does not include them in its financial statements as there is no exposure to significant risk or reward associated with the transactions. Details of the major activities where the Council acts as agent are detailed below:

<b>Agency Role</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Level of Reserve</b> £m	<b>Gross Expenditure</b> £m
Accountable Body	45	152.4	25.3
Provision of External Payrolls	104	0	0
Arrangements supporting Housing activities	2	0	0
Reporting of Trust activities	16	24.1	0.6
Subsidiary Companies	6	21.0	3.1
Other transactions	34	1.0	0.1

External Payrolls

The Council provides payroll services to external organisations, including Academy Schools and Colleges of Further Education, using capacity within its payroll system. The cost of providing the service is charged to the external organisation. The payroll records for the external organisations do not form part of the Council’s financial statements.

Accountable Body Role

The Council acts as accountable body for a number of external activities, including the Greater Local Enterprise Zones and the England Illegal Money Lending Team.

The Council records and reports the financial activities of the bodies for which it is accountable and may receive directly the funds allocated to the activities and incur expenditure as directed by the external party. The Council may also receive funds in its own right from the arrangement to support eligible projects, which will form part of the Council’s financial statements.

*Enterprise Zones*

The Council provides accountancy support, collecting Business Rate contributions through its role as agent for the Collection Fund and making payments on its behalf against LEP approved projects as contained in the Enterprise Zone Investment Programme.

*England Illegal Money Lending Team*

The England Illegal Money Lending Team seizes and holds cash from third parties temporarily as part of its accountable body activities on behalf of the Courts.



### Housing Activities

For a number of mixed tenure housing developments on Council owned land, the Council receives payment for any market sales prior to distribution between the Council and the developer.

### Trusts

The Council provides administrative and accountancy support to a number of trusts and some of those are transacted through the Council's bank accounts. Included within this group are activities related to the collection of rent and management of properties on behalf of Housing Trusts and Community Associations.

### Subsidiary Companies

Following the disposal of the Council's interests in NEC Group Limited, NEC (Developments) Plc has a minimal number of transactions going through it in respect of its loan stock. The company is consolidated into the Council's Group Accounts. The Council provided guarantees to the Trustees of the Fund and the Scheme to meet the current and future funding obligations that may arise in respect of the liabilities. In 2017/18, the Council set up an arrangement through PETPS (Birmingham) Capital Limited, PETPS (Birmingham) General Partner Limited and their joint partnership, PETPS (Birmingham) Pension Funding Scottish Limited Partnership that will enable the Council to spread the implications of the guarantee across the anticipated deficit recovery period.

### Other

The Council provides accountancy support to:

- a number of National and Regional bodies, collecting contributions and making payments on their behalf
- service users who require support in managing their resources.



## Note 49

### Trust Funds

The Council administers several trust funds which have been established from donations and bequests made to it to meet a variety of objectives and purposes. The total funds held at 31 March 2025 was £28.7m (2023/24: £28.7m). The trust funds do not represent assets of the Council and have not been included in the Consolidated Balance Sheet. The major trust funds are detailed below.

	Balance at 31 March 2024	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31 March 2025
	£m	£m	£m	£m
<b>Council acting as Sole Trustee</b>				
Birmingham Municipal Charity - general charitable objectives	0.8	0.3	0.1	1.0
Charles Baker Trust – for the elderly and disabled	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.3
Cropwood Estate – management of the estate	10.2	0.0	0.0	10.2
Elford Trust – healthy recreation for Birmingham citizens	5.0	0.1	0.1	5.0
Harriet Louisa Loxton Charity – for the aged and infirm	2.4	0.0	0.1	2.3
Highbury Trust – for the benefit of the citizens of Birmingham	2.0	0.1	0.1	2.0
Other	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2
<b>Total Council acting as Sole Trustee</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>21.0</b>
<b>Council acting as Custodian</b>				
Alderson – to let dwelling houses to ex-servicemen and other persons in need	0.7	0.2	0.1	0.8
Bodenham Trust – for children with special educational needs	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.8
Clara Martineau Trust – for children with special educational needs	6.0	0.2	0.4	5.8
Moseley Road Friends Institute – provision and maintenance	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2
Other	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
<b>Total Council acting as Custodian</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>7.7</b>
<b>Total Trust Balances</b>	<b>28.7</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>28.7</b>

Analysis of the assets of the main funds:



	Restricted Funds at	Unrestricted Funds at	<b>Total Funds</b>
	31 March 2025	31 March 2025	<b>31 March 2025</b>
	£m	£m	£m
<b>Council acting as Sole Trustee</b>			
Birmingham Municipal Charity - general charitable objectives	0.9	0.1	1.0
Charles Baker Trust – for the elderly and disabled	0.1	0.2	0.3
Cropwood Estate – management of the estate	0.7	9.4	10.1
Elford Trust – healthy recreation for Birmingham citizens	4.2	0.8	5.0
Harriet Louisa Loxton Charity – for the aged and infirm	2.2	0.2	2.4
Highbury Trust – for the benefit of the citizens of Birmingham	1.8	0.2	2.0
Other	0.1	0.1	0.2
<b>Total Council acting as Sole Trustee</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>21.0</b>
<b>Council acting as Custodian</b>			
Alderson – to let dwelling houses to ex-servicemen and other persons in need	0.0	0.8	0.8
Bodenham Trust – for children with special educational needs	0.0	0.8	0.8
Clara Martineau Trust – for children with special educational needs	0.6	5.2	5.8
Moseley Road Friends Institute – provision and maintenance	0.2	0.0	0.2
Other	0.1	0.0	0.1
<b>Total Council acting as Custodian</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>7.7</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>28.7</b>



# SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2024/25



## Housing Revenue Account - Income and Expenditure Statement

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) reflects a statutory obligation to maintain a revenue account for local Council housing provision in accordance with Part 6 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The Account is required to be self-financing and cannot subsidise or be subsidised by the General Fund. The 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. The Council charges 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 on the HRA Statement.

2023/24		Note	2024/25
£m			£m
	<b>Income</b>		
(278.2)	Dwellings rents		(297.6)
(9.5)	Non-dwellings rents		(10.9)
(22.3)	Charges for services and facilities		(24.0)
<b>(310.0)</b>	<b>Total Income</b>		<b>(332.5)</b>
	<b>Expenditure</b>		
90.7	Repairs and maintenance		98.7
99.6	Supervision and management		101.8
1.9	Rent, rates, taxes and other charges		20.7
67.7	Depreciation and impairment charge	H3 & H6	69.6
0.2	Debt management costs		0.2
<b>260.1</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>291.0</b>
	<b>Net Income of HRA Services as included in the whole authority Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and Net (Income) / Cost of HRA Services</b>		
<b>(49.9)</b>			<b>(41.5)</b>



2023/24	<b>HRA share of the operating income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:</b>	2024/25
(17.9)	Change in fair value of financial instruments	0.2
49.2	Interest payable and similar charges	60.3
0.7	Amortisation of premia and discounts	1.3
(2.9)	HRA interest and investment income	(4.0)
38.9	(Gains)/ Losses on the disposal of HRA non-current assets	5.4
1.0	Pensions interest cost and expected return on pensions assets	0.4
(0.2)	Capital Grants and Contributions Receivable	(39.0)
<b>18.9</b>	<b>(Surplus)/Deficit for the Year on HRA Services</b>	<b>(16.9)</b>

### Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement

2023/24		2024/25
£m		£m
18.9	(Surplus)/Deficit for the year on the HRA Income and Expenditure Account	(16.9)
(44.2)	Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statute (Note 16)	37.5
<b>(25.3)</b>	Net (increase) / decrease before transfers to / (from) reserves	20.6
(1.4)	Transfer to / (from) reserves	-
<b>(26.7)</b>	(Increase) / decrease for the year on HRA balance	<b>20.6</b>
<b>(34.1)</b>	HRA Balance Brought Forward	<b>(60.8)</b>
<b>(60.8)</b>	HRA Balance Carried Forward	<b>(40.2)</b>
<b>Total HRA Reserve</b>		
(60.8)	HRA Balance	(40.2)
(4.6)	HRA Earmarked Reserve	(4.6)
<b>(65.4)</b>	<b>Total HRA Reserve</b>	<b>(44.8)</b>



## Notes to the Housing Revenue Account

### H1. Housing Stock

The types of properties (including Shared Ownership properties) owned by the Council at 31 March comprise:

31 March 2024		31 March 2025
3,673	1 bedroom bungalows	3,674
14,515	1 bedroom flats	14,504
54	1 bedroom houses	63
293	2 bedroom bungalows	298
10,035	2 bedroom flats	10,090
8,088	2 bedroom houses	7,998
29	3 or more bedroom bungalows	30
3,591	3 or more bedroom flats	5,532
17,657	3 or more bedroom houses	17,580
<b>57,935</b>	<b>Total housing stock</b>	<b>57,769</b>

The change in the property numbers is analysed below:

31 March 2024		31 March 2025
58,270	Stock at 1 April	57,935
(586)	Sales	(508)
(46)	Demolitions / transfers	(25)
297	Acquisitions	367
<b>57,935</b>	<b>Stock at 31 March</b>	<b>57,769</b>

The Balance Sheet values of HRA non-current assets are as follows:

31 March 2024		31 March 2025
£m		£m
2,966.5	Council dwellings/garages	3,055.1
11.3	Assets under Construction	11.3
24.2	Other land and buildings	24.2
<b>3,002.0</b>	<b>Total operational assets</b>	<b>3,090.6</b>
46.8	Non-operational assets	46.8
<b>3,048.8</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,137.4</b>

The housing stock, land and other property within the HRA are valued in line with the MHCLG Guidance on Stock Valuation for Resource Accounting published in November 2016. The basis of the valuation for the housing stock element is in accordance with the Royal Institution



of Chartered Surveyors using the Existing Use Value - Social Housing basis, which takes open market value for the underlying dwellings and applies a discount factor to reflect the reduced value as a result of use for social housing for 2024/25 of 40%. The change reflects properties lost through sales, demolitions, acquisitions, and revaluation of Beacon Values and depreciation. £297.1m was spent on HRA dwellings during the year.

As at 31 March 2025, the Council also owned 188 dwellings (31 March 2024: 200) that were occupied by trespassers following the death or departure of the tenant of that property. These properties are, therefore, not available for social housing. These properties are not considered to have a value whilst they are occupied in this way, but if they were to become available for social housing, their value, on the basis of an Existing Use Value – Social Housing (EUV-SH) would be £10.2m (31 March 2024: £10.2m).

The value of the Council dwellings is broken down into components as follows:

31 March 2024		31 March 2025
£m		£m
715.0	Land	715.0
18.5	Kitchens	18.5
27.5	Bathrooms	27.5
52.9	Windows	52.9
46.8	Heating	46.8
11.0	Roofs	11.0
2,094.8	Remaining Structure	2,183.4
<b>2,966.5</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,055.1</b>

## H2. Value of Dwellings on Vacant Possession

(a) The vacant possession value of dwellings within the Council's HRA, valued in accordance with the Guidance, as at 31 March 2024 (being the most recent valuation available) is £7,009.3m.

(b) The difference between the above figure and the figure of £3,183.6m in the Balance Sheet notionally represents diminution in the value of assets caused by their being let at social housing rents, according to the MHCLG's stock valuation model as explained in Supplementary Note H1.

## H3. Revaluations and Impairment Charges

Revaluations and impairment charges reflect an increase or reduction in the value of property due to the economic environment or an event that has occurred to the assets. This could include a decline in demand, obsolescence, and commitments to make significant changes to housing. There has been an impairment in HRA asset values in 2024/25 of £0.1m (2023/24: £0.1m). The net value of HRA dwellings has increased by £217.1m to £3,183.6m.



#### H4. Major Repairs Reserve

A transfer is made to the Major Repairs Reserve each year of a value equivalent to the amount charged to the HRA for depreciation of dwellings based on the componentised valuation of the dwellings and individual component residual lives, to make provision for ongoing elemental renewal over the longer term.

The main movements on the Major Repairs Reserve are set out below

2023/24		2024/25
£m		£m
17.9	Balance on Major Repairs Reserve at 1 April	30.1
67.7	Amount transferred to Major Repairs Reserve during the year	69.6
(55.5)	Charge to the Major Repairs Reserve during the financial year in respect of capital expenditure on the land, houses and other property within the Council's HRA	(86.2)
<b>30.1</b>	<b>Balance on Major Repairs Reserve at 31 March</b>	<b>13.5</b>

#### H5. Capital Expenditure on HRA Assets

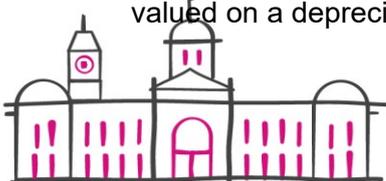
Expenditure on HRA assets was funded from the following sources:

2023/24		2024/25
£m		£m
60.8	Usable Capital Receipts (Right to Buy/Land)	50.2
55.4	Major Repairs Reserve	86.2
24.8	HRA Revenue contributions	39.0
66.1	Prudential Borrowing	120.0
3.8	Other resources	1.7
<b>210.9</b>		<b>297.1</b>

The total capital receipts from disposals of land, houses and other property within the HRA during the financial year was £48.7m (land £11.1m, houses £37.6m). The values for 2023/24 were £46.1m (land £3.2m and houses £42.9m). The Government operates a capital receipts pooling framework and of these amounts £0.1m was paid to Central Government (2023/24: £0.2m).

#### H6. Depreciation Charges

The total charge for depreciation for the houses and other property within the Council's HRA is £69.6m (2023/24: £67.7m). The depreciation charge is calculated by reference to an assessment of the remaining useful life of the key components of each individual dwelling valued on a depreciated replacement cost basis.



## H7. Contribution from Pension Reserve

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement includes pension costs calculated in accordance with International Accounting Standard 19 as described in detail in Note 20 to the Financial Statements. To ensure that these costs do not affect the level of HRA balances and Council House rents, an appropriation is made from the Pensions Reserve so that the movement in balances only reflects the actual employer's pension contribution.

## H8. Rent Arrears

Rent arrears from current tenants at 31 March 2025 totalled £13.0m (2023/24: £15.7m). Other arrears including Housing Benefit overpayments, leaseholder major works and miscellaneous services totalled £20.8m at 31 March 2025 (2023/24: £21.7m).

A provision for bad debts has been made to meet possible future write offs of rent and other services/leaseholder/benefit overpayments. The provision was £17.7m at 31 March 2025 (2023/24: £18.3m) and has been calculated based on value/aged analysis in accordance with Government guidelines.

31 March 2024		31 March 2025
£m		£m
15.7	Current tenants	13.0
7.4	Housing benefit overpayment	6.1
14.3	Other debt (services/leaseholders)	14.7
<b>37.4</b>	<b>Total arrears</b>	<b>33.8</b>
18.3	Provision for bad debts	17.7



## Collection Fund Income and Expenditure Account

The Collection Fund Income and Expenditure Account reflects the statutory requirement for the Council to maintain a separate Collection Fund for Council Tax and Business Rates or National Non Domestic Rates (NNDR). The statement shows transactions in relation to the collection of income from tax payers and the distribution to major preceptors and the Council itself, as principal. The resulting balance is apportioned between the Council and major preceptors.

2023/24	2023/24	2023/24		2024/25	2024/25	2024/25	
Council Tax	NNDR	Total		Council Tax	NNDR	Total	
£m	£m	£m		£m	£m	£m	
(520.7)		(520.7)	<b>Income</b>	(576.2)		(576.2)	
<b>(520.7)</b>		<b>(520.7)</b>		<b>(576.2)</b>		<b>(576.2)</b>	
	(397.4)	(397.4)			(414.5)	(414.5)	
	(32.4)	(32.4)			(12.1)	(12.1)	
	<b>(429.8)</b>	<b>(429.8)</b>			<b>(426.5)</b>	<b>(426.5)</b>	
			<b>Enterprise Zone Deficit Repayable to the Collection Fund</b>			-	
			<b>Apportionment of Prior Year Deficit:</b>				
14.0	11.2	25.2	Birmingham City Council	(4.2)	(60.1)	(64.3)	
	-	-	Central Government			-	
0.6	0.1	0.7	West Midlands Fire & Rescue Authority	(0.2)	(0.6)	(0.8)	
1.7		1.7	West Midlands Police and Crime Comm.	(0.5)		(0.5)	
<b>16.3</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>27.6</b>	<b>Total Apportionment of Prior Year Deficit</b>	<b>(4.9)</b>	<b>(60.7)</b>	<b>(65.6)</b>	
<b>(504.4)</b>	<b>(418.5)</b>	<b>(922.9)</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>(581.1)</b>	<b>(487.2)</b>	<b>(1,068.3)</b>	
2023/24	2023/24	2023/24		2024/25	2024/25	2024/25	
Council Tax	NNDR	Total		Council Tax	NNDR	Total	
£m	£m	£m		£m	£m	£m	
			<b>Expenditure</b>				
				<b>Precepts Demands &amp; Shares Incl Prior Years Surplus:</b>			
431.3	424.1	855.4		Birmingham City Council	482.3	454.6	936.9
		-		Central Government			-
	1.4	1.4		<b>Enterprise Zone Surplus Repayable from the Collection Fund</b>		(2.9)	(2.9)
19.2	4.2	23.4		West Midlands Fire & Rescue Authority	20.1	4.4	24.5
53.3		53.3		West Midlands Police and Crime Comm.	57.8		57.8
				<b>Charges:</b>			
15.3	7.9	23.2		Increase/(Decrease) in Provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts	17.0	(1.5)	15.5
	40.1	40.1		Increase/(Decrease) in Provision for Appeals		(9.7)	(9.7)
	1.8	1.8		Cost of Collection		1.8	1.8
<b>519.1</b>	<b>479.5</b>	<b>998.6</b>		<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>577.2</b>	<b>446.7</b>	<b>1,023.9</b>
<b>14.7</b>	<b>61.0</b>	<b>75.7</b>		<b>(Surplus)/Deficit for the year</b>	<b>(3.9)</b>	<b>(40.5)</b>	<b>(44.4)</b>
<b>(14.0)</b>	<b>(11.3)</b>	<b>(25.3)</b>		<b>(Surplus)/Deficit brought forward</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>49.7</b>	<b>50.4</b>
<b>0.7</b>	<b>49.7</b>	<b>50.4</b>		<b>(Surplus)/Deficit carried forward</b>	<b>(3.2)</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>6.0</b>



## Notes to the Collection Fund

### C1. Contributions from Council Taxpayers

The Council's tax base at January 2023 (the number of chargeable dwellings in each valuation band net of discounts) converted to an equivalent number of Band D dwellings was calculated as follows:

Band	Number of Properties	Ratio	Band D equivalent dwellings
AR	156	5/9	87
A	92,091	6/9	61,394
B	93,157	7/9	72,456
C	65,838	8/9	58,522
D	35,271	1	35,271
E	19,890	11/9	24,310
F	8,402	13/9	12,137
G	5,573	15/9	9,288
H	814	18/9	1,628
<b>Total</b>	<b>321,192</b>		<b>275,092</b>
Less adjustment for collection rate			<u>(7,153)</u>
			<b>267,940</b>

The level of Council Tax is calculated at the beginning of the year and is calculated so as to ensure that the Council has enough money to pay for the services it provides. The amount of tax paid by local residents is based on how much it is estimated that the property they live in would have been worth in 1991. There are nine property valuation bands, AR to H.

The total required by the Collection Fund is divided by the Council Tax base. The Tax base represents the number of properties in the City, expressed as equivalent Band D properties. The level of Council Tax paid for a Band D property is the total income required divided by the Council Tax base, subject to any discounts to which a Council Tax payer may be entitled. The amount is adjusted for discounts and exemptions that particular residents in the City are entitled to.

### C2. Business Ratepayers

The Council collects Business Rates (NNDR) receipts for its area, which are based on local rateable values multiplied by a uniform rate which is set by the Government (49.9p for 2024/25: 49.9p for 203/24). The total non-domestic rateable value at 31 March 2025 was £1,218.52m (31 March 2024: £1,212.46m).

Since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017, the Council is included in a 100% Local Business Rates Retention pilot. The amount raised each year, less certain reliefs and adjustments, is distributed on the following basis:

- 99% - Birmingham City Council
- 1% - The West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority.



### C3. Precept Payments

The preceptors on the Council Tax element of the Collection Fund are the City Council, the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority and the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner.

The preceptors on the NNDR element of the Collection Fund are the City Council and the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority.

### C4. Debtors Outstanding but not Impaired

Balances outstanding for both Council Tax and Business Rates including amounts net of an allowance for impairment are apportioned between the Council and its major preceptors as follows:

#### Analysis of Council Tax debtors past due but not impaired

	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2024/25	2024/25	2024/25
	BCC £m	Fire £m	Police £m	BCC £m	Fire £m	Police £m
Council Tax Arrears	181.2	7.6	21.7	205.1	8.5	24.3
Impairment Allowance for doubtful debts	(76.6)	(3.2)	(9.2)	(91.3)	(3.8)	(10.8)
<b>Amounts Past Due but not Impaired</b>	<b>104.6</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>113.7</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>13.5</b>
<b>Represented by Amounts:</b>						
Less than 1 Year	42.8	1.8	5.1	44.9	1.9	5.3
1-2 Years	21.8	0.9	2.6	23.9	1.0	2.8
2-6 Years	31.7	1.3	3.8	35.9	1.5	4.3
Over 6 Years	8.3	0.4	1.0	9.0	0.4	1.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>104.6</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>113.7</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>13.5</b>

#### Analysis of Business Rates debtors past due but not impaired

	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2024/25	2024/25	2024/25
	BCC £m	Fire £m	CG £m	BCC £m	Fire £m	CG £m
Business Ratepayer Arrears	140.6	1.4	0.0	126.7	1.3	0.0
Impairment Allowance for doubtful debts	(92.5)	(0.9)	0.0	(86.0)	(0.9)	0.0
<b>Amounts Past Due but not Impaired</b>	<b>48.1</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>40.7</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Represented by Amounts:</b>						
Less than 1 Year	25.1	0.3	0.0	21.1	0.2	0.0
1-2 Years	12.1	0.1	0.0	9.7	0.1	0.0
2-6 Years	10.9	0.1	0.0	9.9	0.1	0.0
Over 6 Years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>48.1</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>40.7</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>





## Statement of GROUP Accounts 2024/25



## NARRATIVE REPORT

### Introduction

In common with many other local authorities, the Council uses different forms of service delivery, where this is appropriate. In some cases, it has created separate companies with its partners to deliver those services. The use of separate companies means that the Council's single entity financial statements on their own do not fully reflect the assets and liabilities or income and expenditure associated with all of its activities. The Group Accounts more fully reflect the overall financial picture of the Council's activities.

This section presents the statutory financial statements for Birmingham City Council Group (the Group) for the period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 (The Code) published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). The aim of the Group Accounts is to provide the reader with an overall view of the material economic activities of the Council.

These Group Accounts have been prepared using uniform accounting policies for like transactions and other events in similar circumstances. The accounting policies of its subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures have been aligned with the policies of the Council, for the purposes of Group Accounts, where materially different. Such adjustments as are necessary to align the Group Accounting Policies are made as consolidation adjustments.

This narrative report provides a summary of the Group's financial position and details of material items that have impacted on the accounts during the year.

The financial statements contain a number of technical accounting terms and concepts. A glossary of the major accounting terms has been provided at the end of the financial statements to help the reader's understanding.

The pages which follow contain the Group's Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025, with comparative figures for the previous financial year.

### Consolidation of Subsidiaries, Associate Companies and Joint Ventures

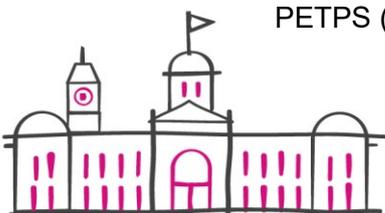
The Council operates through a variety of undertakings, either exercising full control of an organisation (subsidiary undertakings) or in partnership with other organisations (associate undertakings or joint ventures). To provide a full picture of the activities of the Council, Group Accounts have been prepared which include those organisations where the interest and the level of activity is considered material to the Group as a whole.

There have been no changes to the Group structure within the financial year 2024/25.

The entities consolidated into the Council's Group Accounts are:

#### Subsidiaries

Acivico Limited  
Birmingham Children's Trust Community Interest Company (CIC)  
Birmingham City Propco Limited  
InReach (Birmingham) Limited  
National Exhibition Centre (Developments) Plc  
PETPS (Birmingham) Limited  
PETPS (Birmingham) Pension Funding Scottish Limited Partnership



Associate  
 Birmingham Airport Holdings Limited

Joint Venture  
 Paradise Circus Limited Partnership

Further detail regarding the Council's relationship with the above companies is given in notes G20 and G21.

The Council maintains involvement with a number of other related entities where the assets and liabilities of the companies are not included in these Group Financial Statements, either on the basis of materiality or that the Council does not exercise control or has no significant influence over the operation of the entity. Further details are set out in Note 46, Related Parties to the Council entity accounts.

### The Main Financial Statements

The following statements consolidate the accounts of the Council with those of its subsidiaries, associate and joint venture. Transactions between the Council and its Group entities are eliminated on consolidation. Details of the inter-company transactions are set out in Note 46, Related Parties, to the entity accounts.

The Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (GCIES) – provides the accounting cost in year recognised by the Group, in a specified format, in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. Details of the net (surplus)/deficit on the provision of services is detailed below.

	2023/24		2024/25	
	Entity £m	Group £m	Entity £m	Group £m
(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services	26.9	25.4	(17.5)	(27.9)

The 2024/25 GCIES shows a positive movement of £53.3m from £25.4m deficit to £27.9m surplus in the net Surplus/(Deficit) on Provision of Services compared to 2023/24 as shown in the table above. Details of the major movements are set out in the Narrative Report in the Council entity accounts.

Group Movement in Reserves Statement (GMiRS) – provides a reconciliation of the movement in year on the different reserves held and how the balance of resources generated or used in the year reconciles to the Council's statutory requirements for raising Council Tax.

Group Balance Sheet – shows the value of assets and liabilities recognised by the Group at 31 March 2025 and the level of reserves, split into usable and unusable.



	2023/24		2024/25	
	Entity £m	Group £m	Entity £m	Group £m
Long Term Assets	7,327.9	7,320.7	7,177.5	7,221.8
Current Assets	884.2	861.4	814.0	817.7
Current Liabilities	(899.2)	(857.8)	(1,237.2)	(1,216.1)
Long Term Liabilities	(4,154.6)	(4,149.8)	(3,893.5)	(3,936.7)
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>3,158.3</b>	<b>3,174.5</b>	<b>2,860.8</b>	<b>2,886.7</b>
Represented by:				
Usable Reserves	955.0	949.2	1,133.9	1,139.9
Unusable Reserves	2,203.3	2,225.3	1,726.9	1,746.8
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>3,158.3</b>	<b>3,174.5</b>	<b>2,860.8</b>	<b>2,866.7</b>

The Net Group assets have decreased to £2,886.7m in 2024/25 from £3,174.5m in 2023/24 a movement of £287.8m. This is mainly due to movements in the Council's Accounts. Further details on this can be found in Note 20 of the Entity Accounts.

The difference in the level of usable reserves attributable to Group entities has increased from £949.2m in 2023/24 to £1,139.9m in 2024/25, a movement of £190.7m. This is mainly due to movements in the Council's reserves, details of which can be found in Note 17 of the Entity Accounts.

Group Cash Flow Statement – shows how the Group generates and uses cash during the year and the impact this has on the balances of cash and cash equivalents.

The notes below will provide information only where there are material differences between the entity and Group Accounts.





## Group Movement in Reserves Statement

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held, analysed into 'usable reserves' (that is, those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other reserves.

	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied Account	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Council Reserves	Council's Share of Reserves of Subsidiaries, Associates and Joint Ventures	Total Group Reserves
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
<b>Balance at 1 April 2023</b>	<b>787.8</b>	<b>40.1</b>	<b>(65.7)</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>137.8</b>	<b>917.9</b>	<b>2,096.7</b>	<b>3,014.6</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>3,014.8</b>
<b>Movement in Reserves during 2023/24</b>										
Surplus/(Deficit) on the provision of services	299.2	(18.9)				280.3		280.3	(299.7)	(19.4)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure							170.6	170.6	8.5	179.1
<b>Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>	<b>299.2</b>	<b>(18.9)</b>				<b>280.3</b>	<b>170.6</b>	<b>450.9</b>	<b>(291.2)</b>	<b>159.7</b>
Adjustments between Group Accounts and Council Accounts	(307.2)					(307.2)		(307.2)	307.2	-
<b>Net Increase/(Decrease) before Transfers</b>	<b>(8.0)</b>	<b>(18.9)</b>				<b>(26.9)</b>	<b>170.6</b>	<b>143.7</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>159.7</b>
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 16)	4.9	44.2	(5.7)	12.2	8.4	64.0	(64.0)	-	-	-
<b>Increase/(Decrease) in 2023/24</b>	<b>(3.1)</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>(5.7)</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>37.1</b>	<b>106.6</b>	<b>143.7</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>159.7</b>
<b>Balance at 31 March 2024</b>	<b>784.7</b>	<b>65.4</b>	<b>(71.4)</b>	<b>30.1</b>	<b>146.2</b>	<b>955.0</b>	<b>2,203.3</b>	<b>3,158.3</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>3,174.5</b>
<b>Movement in Reserves during 2024/25</b>										
Surplus/(Deficit) on the provision of services	320.6	16.9				337.5	-	337.5	(302.0)	35.4
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure							(315.0)	(315.0)	(8.2)	(323.2)
<b>Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>	<b>320.6</b>	<b>16.9</b>				<b>337.5</b>	<b>(315.0)</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>(310.3)</b>	<b>(287.8)</b>
Adjustments between Group Accounts and Council Accounts	(320.0)					(320.0)	-	(320.0)	320.0	-
<b>Net Increase/(Decrease) before Transfers</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>16.9</b>				<b>17.5</b>	<b>(315.0)</b>	<b>(297.5)</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>(287.8)</b>
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 16)	197.9	(37.5)	17.2	(16.6)	0.4	161.4	(161.4)	-		
<b>Increase/(Decrease) in 2024/25</b>	<b>198.5</b>	<b>(20.6)</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>(16.6)</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>178.9</b>	<b>(476.4)</b>	<b>(297.5)</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>(287.8)</b>
<b>Balance at 31 March 2025</b>	<b>983.2</b>	<b>44.8</b>	<b>(54.2)</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>146.6</b>	<b>1,133.9</b>	<b>1,726.9</b>	<b>2,860.8</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>2,886.7</b>



## Group Balance Sheet

The Group Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Group.

31 March 2024 £m		Note	31 March 2025 £m
6,871.1	Property, Plant and Equipment		6,728.8
249.2	Heritage Assets		249.2
42.6	Investment Properties	G5	43.1
23.9	Intangible Assets		18.3
5.8	Long Term Investments		5.3
104.3	Long Term Debtors		143.1
23.8	Investments in Associates	G21	34.0
<b>7,320.7</b>	<b>Total Long Term Assets</b>		<b>7,221.8</b>
237.3	Short Term Investments		214.0
64.5	Assets Held for Sale		31.1
1.7	Inventories		1.3
486.9	Short Term Debtors	G7	533.5
71.0	Cash and Cash Equivalents		37.8
<b>861.4</b>	<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>817.7</b>
(319.9)	Short Term Borrowing		(217.4)
(502.8)	Short Term Creditors	G8	(562.2)
(35.1)	Provisions		(436.5)
<b>(857.8)</b>	<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>(1,216.1)</b>
(73.4)	Long Term Creditors		(69.7)
(416.0)	Provisions		(20.3)
(3,195.7)	Long Term Borrowing		(3,105.8)
(333.2)	Other Long Term Liabilities		(306.7)
(131.5)	Net Liability on Defined Benefit Pension Scheme	G18	(434.2)
<b>(4,149.8)</b>	<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>		<b>(3,936.7)</b>
<b>3,174.5</b>	<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>2,866.7</b>
949.2	Usable Reserves	G9	1,139.9
2,225.3	Unusable Reserves	G10	1,746.8
<b>3,174.5</b>	<b>Total Reserves</b>		<b>2,886.7</b>



### Group Cash Flow Statement

The Group Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Group during the reporting period.

2023/24		Note	2024/25
£m			£m
(19.4)	Net Surplus/(Deficit) on Continuing Operations		35.4
<b>(19.4)</b>	<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit) on the provision of services</b>		<b>35.4</b>
411.9	Adjustments to net Surplus/(Deficit) on the provision of services for non-cash movements	G14	504.3
(184.5)	Adjustments for items included in the net Surplus/(Deficit) on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities		(438.5)
<b>208.0</b>	<b>Net cash flows from Operating Activities</b>		<b>101.2</b>
(430.9)	Investing Activities	G12	(145.4)
201.0	Financing Activities	G13	11.0
<b>(21.9)</b>	<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>(33.2)</b>
92.9	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		71.0
<b>71.0</b>	<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>		<b>37.8</b>



## NOTES TO THE GROUP ACCOUNTS

### Note G1 Accounting Policies

The Group Financial Statements summarise the Council's and its Group's transactions for the 2024/25 financial year. The Group Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

Members within the Group have been classified as either subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures with details included in respect of the classification within Notes G20 and G21. Subsidiaries have been consolidated into the Group Financial Statements on a line by line basis, with associates and joint ventures consolidated under the equity method.

Investments in subsidiaries and associates in the Council's entity accounts are carried at cost rather than fair value less any provision for losses unless there is evidence of impairment.

Notes to the Group Financial Statements have been presented where the figures are materially different from those of the Council entity accounts. Where there are no material differences, the Notes to the Council entity accounts provide the required disclosures.

Accounting policies of the individual members of the Group have been aligned to the Council's accounting policies.

The accounting policies applied to the Group Financial Statements are consistent with those set out in Note 1 to the Council entity accounts, with additional policies specific to the Group set out below.

### Disposal of a Subsidiary Company

When a subsidiary company is disposed of, the assets and liabilities of the subsidiary are derecognised at their carrying value at the time of disposal and the value of any consideration received is recognised. The transactions plus any resulting differences are identified in the Profit/Loss on disposal of a subsidiary and form part of the Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services within the Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

### Defined Contribution Pension Schemes

The NEC Limited Group funded two defined benefit schemes, which ceased to provide future service accrual with effect from 30 June 2010 and operated two contributory benefit schemes comprising a Stakeholder Scheme to which only members contribute, and a Group Personal Pension Plan where the company matched member contributions to an agreed maximum. The schemes transferred to PETPS (Birmingham) Limited on 1 May 2015 on the Council's disposal of NEC Ltd. Further information may be found in Note G18.

### Defined Benefit Pension Scheme

Acivico Limited and Birmingham Children's Trust CIC participate in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). The scheme is a funded defined benefit scheme based upon career average salary for benefits accrued since 1 April 2014 and on final pensionable salary for benefits accrued to 31 March 2014. Further information may be found within the Council's entity accounting policies and Note G18.



## **Note G2**

### **Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies**

In addition to the Critical Judgements set out in Note 2 of the entity accounts, the Council has considered the following judgement in respect of the application of its accounting policies.

The Council has created a number of companies that are limited by guarantee that are also charitable companies. In such cases the Council is sole member on creation of the company.

The Trustees of a charity have the responsibility for determining the policies and the activities of the company in line with the specific remit of the charity. Where the Council is sole member of the charitable company, it also has, through the Articles of Association, the right to appoint Directors or Trustees to sit on the company board. Whilst the Council has the right to appoint Directors, this right is limited to appointing a minority of Directors such that they have less than 20% of the voting rights. The charitable company board is responsible for the day to day management and for setting the direction of the company. Trustees of charities must always act in the best interest of the charity and not in the interests of the body that appointed them.

Whilst the Council is sole member of charitable companies and whilst it may pass resolutions to impact on the operation of the companies, to date it has not done so. There are also financial barriers to the Council exercising any form of control as this may jeopardise the charitable nature of the organisations which would lead to financial detriment.

On the basis of the above factors, the Council considers that it does not have the current ability to direct the relevant activities of charitable companies given its minority level of representation, the Trustees must act independently of the Council in the best interest of the charity and should the Council exercise any rights through its role as sole member, it is considered that this would have an adverse financial impact. Therefore, the Council does not consider that it should consolidate any charitable companies into the Council's Group Accounts.

## **Note G3**

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

Information on pension valuations has been provided by actuaries supporting the relevant funds based on the best information available at the time of producing the reports. Details of the pension funds and their sensitivity to changes in determinants of the funds' assets and obligations are set out in Note 20 in the Council entity accounts and Note G18 of the Group Financial Statements.

Other assumptions made about the future and other major sources of estimation and uncertainty are provided in Note 4 to the Council entity accounts.



**Note G4**  
**Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure**

Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure disclosed in the Group CIES are detailed below.

2023/24			2024/25		
Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net £m	Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net £m
194.7	-	194.7	170.5	(0.7)	169.9
17.3	-	17.3	7.2	-	7.2
-	-	-	-	-	-
11.4	-	11.4	15.9	-	15.9
2.2	-	2.2	(1.3)	-	(1.3)
-	(25.1)	(25.1)	-	(25.9)	(25.9)
-	(1.0)	(1.0)	-	-	-
30.8	(32.2)	(1.4)	29.7	(32.6)	(2.9)
-	(0.4)	(0.4)	-	(18.9)	(18.9)
<b>256.4</b>	<b>(58.7)</b>	<b>197.7</b>	<b>222.0</b>	<b>(78.1)</b>	<b>144.0</b>

**Note G5**  
**Investment Properties**

The Council, Birmingham City Propco Limited and InReach (Birmingham) Limited have non-current assets that meet the criteria for treatment as Investment Properties. Details of the financial impact of Investment Properties are set out below.

	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m
<b>Cost or Valuation</b>		
<b>At 1 April</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>42.6</b>
Assets reclassified between categories		
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(0.4)	0.5
<b>At 31 March</b>	<b>42.6</b>	<b>43.1</b>



Recurring Fair Value Measurement	Input Level in Fair Value Hierarchy	Valuation Technique used to measure Fair Value	Fair Value 31 March 2024	Fair Value 31 March 2025
			£m	£m
Highest and Best Use	Level 2	The fair value has been measured using a market approach, taking into account quoted prices for similar assets in active markets and data and market knowledge.	33.9	34.4
Highest and Best Use	Level 3	The fair value has been measured using a market approach taking into account yields from rental compared to similar assets.	8.7	8.7

The fair value of the Council's Group Investment Properties is measured annually at each reporting date. The valuations for Propco have not yet been received for 2024/25 so the figures for 2023/24 have been used for the draft Accounts. Valuations are carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). The valuations were undertaken by appropriately qualified valuers as detailed below:

- For the Council, David M. Harris MRICS, Head of Property Consultancy within the Council's Property Services section.
- For InReach (Birmingham) Limited, Mark Shelley MRICS and James Cartwright MRICS of Avison Young (UK) Ltd.
- For Birmingham City Propco Limited, Agata Janda and Ian Elliot MRICS of Avison Young (UK) Ltd (awaiting valuations for 2024/25)

## Note G6 Financial Instruments

This note sets out the differences from the information contained in Note 37 of the Council entity accounts to enable the reader to determine, more clearly, the impact of group company transactions.

### Debtors and Cash

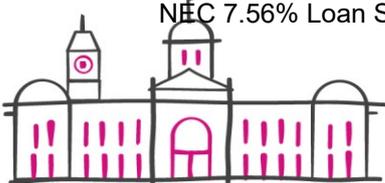
Debtors and cash consolidated as part of the Group Financial Statements are classified as loans and receivables. Further information on Group debtors is provided in Note G7.

### Creditors

Short term creditors consolidated as part of the Group Financial Statements are classified as financial liabilities at amortised cost. Further information on Group creditors is provided in Note G8.

Long term creditors consolidated as part of the Group Financial Statements relate to debt issued by NEC (Developments) Plc on the London Stock Exchange. The following long-term creditors are brought into the Group Financial Statements upon group consolidation.

<b>Long-term Creditors</b>	31 March 2024	31 March 2025
	£m	£m
NEC 7.56% Loan Stock – maturity 30 September 2027	(73.0)	(73.0)



The basis of the fair value of the NECD bond is in accordance with IFRS 9 fair value hierarchy 'Level 1 - fair value is only derived from quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities'. The quoted market price is obtained from Bloomberg on 31 March 2025 and used to calculate the fair value of the NECD bond.

Financial Liabilities	Input level in Fair Value Hierarchy	Valuation inputs and assumptions used to measure Fair Value	31 March 2024		31 March 2025	
			Carrying Amount £m	Fair Value £m	Carrying Amount £m	Fair Value £m
NEC Loan Stock	Level 1	Stock Market valuation	73.0	75.0	73.0	71.1

Within the Council entity accounts, the guarantee given to NEC Developments (NECD) for the repayment of the Loan Stock is treated as borrowing and as a reimbursement right within NECD. The guarantee was determined at fair value on the disposal of the NEC in 2015 and is accounted for using the Effective Interest Rate method.

#### Long Term Borrowing

The reduction in long term borrowing at 31 March 2024 between the Council entity accounts, £3,133.8m and the group accounts, £3,071.1m, is largely represented by the borrowing recognised by the Council associated with group entities, namely NECD. These transactions are eliminated on consolidation.

#### Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

These amounts in the Group Financial Statements are not considered materially different from those in the Council entity accounts.

#### Fair Values of Assets and Liabilities

The amounts consolidated as part of the Group Financial Statements are not considered significantly different from the carrying amounts.

#### Nature and extent of risks arising from financial instruments

The nature and extent of risks from financial instruments arising in the Group Financial Statements are not considered materially different from those in the Council entity accounts.

### **Note G7**

#### **Short Term Debtors**

The table below shows amounts owed to the Council's Group undertakings at the end of the year that are due within 12 months. These balances have been split by type of organisation to reflect the potential relative risks that the Council faces. The actual level of recovery will continue to be monitored to ensure that the recovery rate is as high as practicable.

31 March 2024		31 March 2025	
£m		£m	
105.2	Central government bodies	107.0	
25.0	Other local authorities	40.5	
2.9	NHS bodies	2.1	
0.8	Public corporations and trading funds	1.1	
353.0	Other entities and individuals	382.8	
<b>486.9</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>533.5</b>	



**Note G8**  
**Short Term Creditors**

The table below shows amounts owed by the Council's Group undertakings at the end of the year that are due within 12 months, split by type of organisation.

31 March 2024		31 March 2025
£m		£m
(47.4)	Central government bodies	(36.3)
(12.5)	Other local authorities	(15.5)
(2.6)	NHS bodies	(1.2)
(61.4)	Public corporations and trading funds	(71.2)
(378.9)	Other entities and individuals	(438.0)
<b>(502.8)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>(562.2)</b>

**Note G9**  
**Usable Reserves**

Details of the Group's usable reserves are set out below.

31 March 2024		31 March 2025
£m		£m
	General Fund Balances comprising:	
140.6	Unearmarked Reserves	177.2
154.4	Earmarked Reserves	270.2
394.7	Grants Reserves	445.1
95.0	Ringfenced Reserves	90.8
65.4	Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	44.8
(71.4)	Capital Receipts Reserve	(54.2)
30.1	Major Repairs Reserve	13.5
146.2	Capital Grants Unapplied	146.5
(10.6)	Company Profit & Loss	1.2
4.8	Merger Reserve	4.8
<b>949.2</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,139.9</b>

Details of General Fund Balances are set out in Note 17 of the entity accounts.



**Note G10**  
**Unusable Reserves**

The following table shows the value of Group reserve balances that have come about as a result of accounting adjustments and are not therefore available to spend.

31 March 2024		31 March 2025	
£m		£m	
2,507.8	Revaluation Reserve	2,309.4	
(94.0)	Capital Adjustment Account	(97.0)	
(60.5)	Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	(70.0)	
67.3	Deferred Capital Receipts	63.9	
(135.5)	Pensions Reserve	(434.2)	
(48.4)	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	(9.2)	
(12.0)	Accumulated Absences Account	(16.7)	
0.6	Called up Share Capital	0.6	
<b>2,225.3</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,746.8</b>	

Further analysis is provided below for unusable reserves which are materially different from the balances included in the Council entity accounts.

**Revaluation Reserve**

The Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the Group arising from increases in the value of its Property, Plant, Equipment, Heritage Assets 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.

For amounts arising in the Council entity accounts, the Reserve contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 1 April 2007, the date that the Reserve was created. Accumulated gains arising before that date are consolidated into the balance on the Capital Adjustment Account.



2023/24		2024/25
£m		£m
<b>2,680.3</b>	<b>Balance at 1 April</b>	<b>2,507.8</b>
	<b>Revaluations not posted to (Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>	
193.6	Council: Upward revaluation of assets	207.7
(284.6)	Council: Downward revaluation of assets	(209.0)
<b>(91.0)</b>	<b>Council: Surplus/(Deficit) on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the (Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>	<b>(1.3)</b>
	<b>Amounts written off to the Capital Adjustment Account</b>	
(50.1)	Council: Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	(43.6)
-	Adjustment for Transfer of land to Investment Property	(151.9)
(31.2)	Council: Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	-
<b>2,508.0</b>	<b>Council: Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account</b>	<b>(195.5)</b>
	<b>Group Movements</b>	
(0.2)	Other movements in reserve in Group entities	(1.6)
<b>(0.2)</b>	<b>Total Group Movements</b>	<b>(1.6)</b>
<b>2,507.8</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>2,309.4</b>

The Council is allowed under statute to reverse out the financial impact from its Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement where it has impaired or revalued equity in a company or where it has given a 'soft' loan to another organisation. The impact of adjustments form part of the unusable reserves.

In consolidating group accounts, inter-company transactions are eliminated. However, where the Council has either revalued assets or has given a soft loan to a group entity then the carrying values in the two organisations would be different. For consolidation, the entries in the Council entity accounts, reducing the carrying value of assets, would need to be reversed prior to elimination.

## Note G11

### Cash Flow Statement - Operating Activities

The cash flows from operating activities include the items set out below.

2023/24		2024/25
£m		£m
(28.2)	Interest Received	(27.3)
198.6	Interest Paid	170.3
(0.4)	Dividends Received	(18.9)
<b>170.0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>124.1</b>



**Note G12**  
**Cash Flow Statement - Investing Activities**

The cash flows from investing activities are set out below.

2023/24		2024/25
£m		£m
(350.0)	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(385.8)
(3,367.4)	Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	(5,129.7)
65.3	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	273.9
3,221.2	Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments	5,125.8
-	Other Receipts from Investing Activities	(29.6)
<b>(430.9)</b>	<b>Net cash flows from investing activities</b>	<b>(145.4)</b>

**Note G13**  
**Cash Flow Statement - Financing Activities**

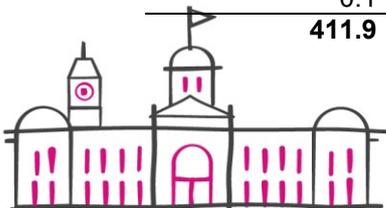
The cash flows from financing activities are set out below.

2023/24		2024/25
£m		£m
117.6	Other receipts from financing activities	144.5
1,022.1	Cash receipts from short-term and long-term borrowing	492.5
(129.2)	Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases and on-Balance Sheet PFI contracts	(21.0)
(811.1)	Repayments of short-term and long-term borrowing	(625.1)
1.6	Other payments for financing activities	20.1
<b>201.0</b>	<b>Net cash flows from financing activities</b>	<b>11.0</b>

**Note G14**  
**Cash Flow Statement – Other Adjustments**

The cash flow adjustments to the net surplus/deficit on the provision of services are set out below.

2023/24		2024/25
£m		£m
171.6	Depreciation/Impairment charge	171.4
9.1	Amortisation of Intangible Assets	5.6
82.0	Derecognition of Non-Current Assets	348.8
(4.0)	(Increase)/Decrease in Associate & Joint Venture	(10.2)
68.6	Revaluation of Non-Current Assets	46.0
(46.6)	(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	(78.0)
76.4	Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	38.6
0.9	(Increase)/Decrease in Inventories	0.4
17.3	Increase/(Decrease) in Provisions	5.7
36.5	Pensions Liability	(18.6)
0.1	Other Non-Cash Movements	(5.4)
<b>411.9</b>		<b>504.3</b>



**Note G15**  
**Expenditure and Funding by Nature of Activity**

Detail of the Council's Expenditure and Funding by Nature of Activity is provided in Note 8 to the entity accounts.

2023/24		2024/25
£m	Expenditure	£m
1,151.9	Employee Benefits Expenses	1,171.6
2,242.0	Other Service Expenses	2,595.7
319.0	Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	223.2
212.0	Interest Payments	177.8
13.6	Movements in the value of financial assets	14.6
52.1	Precepts and Levies	51.3
0.1	Payments to Housing Capital Receipts Pool	-
47.6	Loss on Disposal of Non-Current Assets	79.3
<b>4,038.3</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>4,313.5</b>
	Income	
(691.7)	Fees, Charges and Other Service Income	(740.4)
(917.4)	Income from Council Tax and Business Rates	(986.8)
(2,377.3)	Government Grants and Contributions	(2,568.8)
(26.5)	Interest and Investment Income	(45.4)
<b>(4,012.9)</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(4,341.4)</b>
<b>25.4</b>	<b>Deficit /(Surplus) on Provision of Services</b>	<b>(27.9)</b>

**Note G16**  
**Related Parties**

Details of the Council's material transactions with related parties are provided in Note 46 to the Council entity accounts. Details of the subsidiary companies, associates and joint ventures of group entities are detailed in the relevant Notes G20 and G21 of these group financial statements.

In addition to the related parties detailed within Note 46 to the Council entity accounts, Birmingham Airport Holdings Limited transacts business with the shareholding West Midlands District Councils, with Solihull MBC acting as the lead authority. Transactions would be undertaken in a number of areas and include Business Rates, planning applications and building control services. All of these transactions are carried out on an arms-length basis at full commercial rate.

Birmingham Airport Limited entered into a lease arrangement with Solihull MBC, on behalf of all the Districts, which has been treated as a finance lease in its accounts by the company. The total amount payable in the year under the arrangement was £1.0m with an amount due at the year-end of £4.7m.



**Note G17**  
**Leases**
**Group as the lessee**

Details of the Council's finance and operating leases are included in Note 40 to the Council entity accounts.

**Group as the lessor**

Within the Group there are leases between Group entities and also leases from Group entities to external organisations. Details of the Council's finance leases are provided in Note 40 to the Council entity accounts. This note sets out the impact of intra-Group leases and leases of Group entities to external organisations.

**Leases by Group entities to External Organisations**
**Finance leases**

Details of the Council's finance leases are provided in Note 40 to the Council entity accounts.

The Council created Birmingham City Propco Limited in 2017/18 to provide a vehicle for commercial investment. The company purchased the leasehold interests of the Council in respect of the Crowne Plaza NEC and Hilton Metropole NEC Hotels. Details of the leases are set out below.

31 March 2024 £m		31 March 2025 £m
	Finance lease debtor (net present value of minimum lease payments):	
0.1	- Current	0.1
19.8	- Non-current	19.7
41.3	Unearned finance income	40.3
<b>61.2</b>	<b>Gross investment in the lease</b>	<b>60.1</b>

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

	Finance lease debtor		Minimum lease payments	
	31 March 2024 £m	31 March 2025 £m	31 March 2024 £m	31 March 2025 £m
Not later than one year	0.1	0.1	1.0	1.0
Later than one year and not later than five years	0.3	0.3	4.0	4.0
Later than five years	19.5	19.3	56.1	55.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>61.1</b>	<b>60.1</b>

**Operating Leases**


The future minimum lease payments receivable under non-cancellable leases where the length of lease was greater than 1 year at inception are:

31 March 2024		31 March 2025
£m		£m
0.4	Not later than one year	0.4
1.7	Later than one year and not later than five years	1.7
24.1	Later than five years	23.7
<b>26.2</b>	<b>Gross investment in the lease</b>	<b>25.8</b>

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

### Note G18 Defined Benefit and Defined Contribution Pension Schemes

Details of the Council's involvement in the Teachers' Pensions Scheme and Local Government Pension Scheme are provided in Notes 19 and 20 to the Council entity accounts.

#### Acivico Limited Group

The Company's subsidiary companies participate in the West Midlands Pension Fund, a Local Government Pension Scheme.

A ruling was made regarding age discrimination arising from public sector pension scheme transition arrangements put in place when moving from final salary to average salary scheme arrangements. Court of Appeal judgements were made in cases affecting judges' pensions (the McCloud Judgement) and firefighter pensions. Allowance has been made for the potential impact in the results reported.

The information disclosed below is in respect of the whole of the plans for which the Company is either the sponsoring employer or has been allocated a share of cost under an agreed group policy throughout the periods shown.

	2023/24	2024/25
	£m	£m
Present value of funded defined benefit obligations	(62.0)	(54.5)
Fair value of plan assets	106.1	105.1
Adjustment for pension surplus in Acivico (Building Consultancy)	(40.1)	(50.6)
<b>Net (Liability)/Asset</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>-</b>

Movements in the present value of defined benefit obligation:

	2023/24	2024/25
	£m	£m
Balance at beginning of period	60.3	62.0
Current service cost	1.0	1.0
Interest cost	2.9	2.9
Actuarial gains	(0.7)	(9.8)
Contributions by members	0.4	0.4
Benefits paid	(1.9)	(2.0)
<b>31 March</b>	<b>62.0</b>	<b>54.5</b>



Movements in the fair value of plan assets:

	2023/24	2024/25
	£m	£m
Balance at beginning of period	97.9	106.1
Interest on assets	4.7	5.1
Actuarial gains	4.7	(4.7)
Settlements	-	-
Contributions	0.7	0.7
Benefits paid	(1.9)	(2.0)
<b>31 March</b>	<b>106.1</b>	<b>105.1</b>

Expense recognised in the profit and loss account:

	2023/24	2024/25
	£m	£m
<b>Operating Costs:</b>		
Current Service Cost	1.0	1.0
Included in Operating Cost	1.0	1.0
<b>Financing Costs:</b>		
Interest cost on pension scheme liabilities	2.9	2.9
Interest income on plan assets	(4.7)	(5.1)
Interest on the effect of the asset ceiling	-	1.9
Net interest cost	(1.8)	(0.9)
<b>Total income statement expense/(income)</b>	<b>(0.8)</b>	<b>0.8</b>

### Other Comprehensive Income

The amounts recognised in Acivico's Other Comprehensive Income and consolidated into the Group Consolidated Other Comprehensive Income are as follows:

	2023/24	2024/25
	£m	£m
Actuarial (gain)/loss on liabilities	(0.7)	(9.8)
Actuarial (gain)/loss on plan assets	4.7	(4.7)
<b>Remeasurement (gain)/loss recognised during the period</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>(14.5)</b>

The fair value of the plan assets and the return on those assets were as follows:

	2023/24		2024/25	
	Fair Value		Fair Value	
	£m	%	£m	%
Equities	64.7	61	51.5	49
Government Bonds	29.7	28	38.9	37
Other Bonds	6.4	6	-	-
Property	5.3	5	7.3	7
Cash/Liquidity	-	-	7.4	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>106.1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>105.1</b>	<b>100</b>



Principal actuarial assumptions (expressed as weighted averages) at the year-end were as follows:

	2023/24	2024/25
	%	%
Discount rate	4.8	5.8
Future salary increases	3.8	3.8
Future pension increases	2.8	2.8
CPI increases	2.8	2.8

In valuing the liabilities of the Pension Fund at 31 March 2025, mortality assumptions have been made as indicated below.

The life expectancy for members as at the Balance Sheet date:

	31 March 2024	31 March 2025
Male: member aged 65 (current life expectancy)	22.3	21.5
Male: member aged 45 (life expectancy at age 65)	22.8	22.6
Female: member aged 65 (current life expectancy)	24.0	24.3
Female: member aged 45 (life expectancy at age 65)	25.1	25.1

The valuation of the defined benefit obligation is sensitive to the assumption adopted for the discount rate. The effect of a 0.1% increase in the discount rate is set out below

Effect on defined benefit obligation	£m (0.9)
--------------------------------------	-------------

### Birmingham Children's Trust CIC

Birmingham Children's Trust CIC participates in the West Midlands Pension Fund, a Local Government Pension Scheme. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme, which pays out pensions at retirement based on length of service and final pay for service earned up to 31 March 2014 and on a career salary average for service earned from 1 April 2014.

The Council has not yet received the draft Statement of Accounts for 2024/25 for Birmingham Children's Trust. Therefore, the figures for 2023/24 have been used as a proxy for 2024/25.

The information disclosed below is in respect of the whole of the plans for which the Company is either the sponsoring employer or has been allocated a share of cost under an agreed group policy throughout the periods shown.

	2023/24	2024/25
	£m	£m
Present value of funded defined benefit obligations	(273.7)	(244.9)
Fair value of plan assets	273.7	244.9
<b>Net (Liability)/Asset</b>	-	-



Movements in the present value of defined benefit obligation:

	2023/24	2024/25
	£m	£m
Balance at beginning of period	260.3	273.7
Current service cost	15.0	14.2
Interest cost	12.7	13.6
Change in financial assumptions	(20.7)	(55.6)
Change in demographic assumptions	(1.7)	(0.5)
Contributions by scheme members	5.0	5.4
Experience/(gain) on defined benefit obligation	7.2	(2.2)
Benefits paid	(4.1)	(3.7)
<b>31 March</b>	<b>273.7</b>	<b>244.9</b>

Movements in the fair value of plan assets:

	2023/24	2024/25
	£m	£m
Balance at beginning of period	252.2	273.7
Derecognition of Pension Scheme Surplus	(20.8)	(49.2)
Return on assets (less interest)	12.9	(13.6)
Interest on assets	12.3	14.7
Contributions paid by employer	16.1	17.6
Contributions by scheme members	5.1	5.4
Benefits paid	(4.1)	(3.7)
<b>31 March</b>	<b>273.7</b>	<b>244.9</b>

Expense recognised in the profit and loss account:

	2023/24	2024/25
	£m	£m
<b>Operating Costs:</b>		
Current Service Cost	15.0	14.2
Included in Operating Cost	15.0	14.2
<b>Financing Costs:</b>		
Interest cost on pension scheme liabilities	12.7	13.1
Interest income on plan assets	(12.3)	(13.6)
Net interest cost	0.4	(0.5)
<b>Total Income Statement expense</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>13.7</b>



### Other Comprehensive Income

The amounts recognised in the Trust's Other Comprehensive Income and consolidated into the Group Consolidated Other Comprehensive Income are as follows:

	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m
Return on plan assets in excess of interest income	12.9	(13.6)
Derecognition of Pension Scheme Surplus	(20.8)	(49.2)
Actuarial gain/(loss) on liabilities due to changes in financial assumptions	20.7	55.6
Actuarial gain/(loss) on liabilities due to changes in demographic assumptions	1.7	0.5
Experience gain on defined benefit obligation	(7.2)	2.2
<b>Remeasurement gain/(loss) recognised during the period</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>(4.5)</b>

Principal actuarial assumptions (expressed as weighted averages) at the year-end are as follows:

	2023/24 %	2024/25 %
Discount rate	4.85	5.80
Future salary increases	3.75	3.75
Future pension increases	2.75	2.75
CPI increases	2.75	2.75

In valuing the liabilities of the Pension Fund at 31 March 2025, mortality assumptions have been made as indicated below.

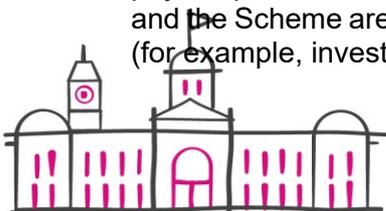
The life expectancy for members as at the Balance Sheet date:

	2023/24	2024/25
Male: member aged 65 (current life expectancy)	20.8	20.7
Male: member aged 45 (life expectancy at age 65)	21.5	21.4
Female: member aged 65 (current life expectancy)	23.6	23.6
Female: member aged 45 (life expectancy at age 65)	25.0	24.9

### PETPS (Birmingham) Limited

Following completion of the sale of the NEC Group by the Council on 1 May 2015, NEC Limited was replaced as principal employer by PETPS (Birmingham) Limited (PETPS), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Council, which assumed the ongoing funding obligation of the NEC Limited Pension Fund (the Fund) and the NEC Executive Pension Scheme (the Scheme) with the agreement of the pension trustees. The Fund and the Scheme had ceased to provide future service accrual with effect from 30 June 2010.

The Fund and the Scheme are defined benefit schemes, operating under UK trust law, which pay out pensions at retirement based on service and final pay. The trustee boards of the Fund and the Scheme are independent of the Council and are responsible for setting certain policies (for example, investment and contribution policies).



Under guarantees provided, the Council is responsible for meeting the current and future contingent funding obligations. The Fund and the Scheme therefore expose the Council to actuarial risks, such as longevity, currency, interest rate and market (investment) risk.

The assets of the Fund and the Scheme are held separately from those of PETPS and the Council. On the advice of an independent qualified actuary, contribution payments are made to the Fund and the Scheme by the Council to ensure that the assets are sufficient to cover future liabilities. Assets of the Fund and the Scheme are measured using fair market values.

The most recently completed formal actuarial valuations of the Fund and the Scheme were at 5 April 2022. The funding requirements are based on the Statements of Funding Principles of the Fund and the Scheme. The funding is based on a separate actuarial valuation for funding purposes, for which assumptions may differ from the assumptions set out in these disclosures. The defined benefit obligations are measured using the projected unit credit method and discounted at the rate of return on high quality corporate bonds of equivalent term.

The retirement benefit obligations in respect of the defined benefit schemes as calculated in accordance with IAS 19 (revised 2011) are disclosed below. Comparative figures for 2023/24 for the Fund and the Scheme have been provided.

### Balance Sheet

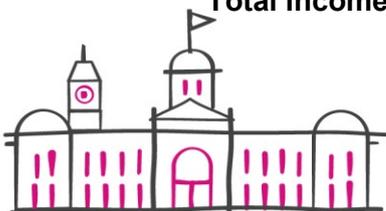
The following amounts have been recognised in PETPS' Balance Sheet and so consolidated into the Group Balance Sheet.

	31 March 2024 £m	31 March 2025 £m
Present value of funded obligations	(126.1)	(116.3)
Fair value of plan assets	134.3	123.0
Surplus for funded plans	8.2	6.7
Unrecognised asset due to the asset ceiling	(8.2)	(6.7)
<b>Retirement Benefit Obligation</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

### Income Statement

The amounts recognised in PETPS' Income Statement and consolidated into the Group Consolidated Income and Expenditure Statement are as follows:

	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m
<b>Operating Costs:</b>		
Administration Expenses	0.8	0.8
Past Service Cost	(0.8)	(0.8)
Included in Operating Cost	-	-
<b>Financing Costs:</b>		
Interest cost on pension scheme liabilities	0.6	0.3
Interest income on plan assets	(0.6)	(0.3)
Net interest cost	-	-
<b>Total Income Statement expense</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>



### Other Comprehensive Income

The amounts recognised in PETPS' Other Comprehensive Income and consolidated into the Group Consolidated Other Comprehensive Income are as follows.

	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m
Return on plan assets in excess of interest income	(10.0)	(11.9)
Actuarial gain/(loss) on liabilities due to changes in financial assumptions	1.5	9.9
Actuarial gain/(loss) on liabilities due to changes in demographic assumptions	5.6	-
Actuarial gain/(loss) on liabilities due to experience	2.9	(0.5)
Gain due to the asset ceiling	-	1.8
Actuarial (loss)/gain due to reimbursement right	-	(0.3)
<b>Remeasurement gain/(loss) recognised during the period</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

### Reconciliation of Liabilities and Assets

Movements in the retirement benefit obligations are as follows:

	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m
Beginning of Period	(129.7)	(126.3)
Interest Cost	(5.9)	(5.9)
Actuarial gain/(loss) on liabilities due to experience	4.2	10.5
Benefits Paid	5.1	5.4
<b>Present value of obligation at 31 March</b>	<b>(126.3)</b>	<b>(116.3)</b>

Movements in the fair value of plan assets are as follows:

	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m
Beginning of Period	142.9	134.4
Interest income on plan assets	6.6	6.3
Return on plan assets in excess of interest income	(10.0)	(11.9)
Contributions by employer	0.8	0.5
Administration expenses paid	(0.8)	(5.2)
Benefits paid	(5.1)	(0.9)
<b>Fair value of plan assets at 31 March</b>	<b>134.4</b>	<b>123.0</b>



### Plan Assets

The major categories of plan assets are as follows:

	31 March 2024		31 March 2025	
	£m	%	£m	%
Equities, GTAA* and Hedge Funds	13.4	13	13.5	11
Bonds and Cash	89.9	64	80.0	65
Infrastructure	11.0	8	11.0	9
Property	16.1	12	16.0	13
Gilts	4.0	3	2.5	2
	<b>134.4</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>123.0</b>	<b>100</b>

\* Global Tactical Asset Allocation

### Assumptions

The principal assumptions made by the actuary were:

	31 March 2024		31 March 2025	
	Fund	% Scheme	Fund	% Scheme
Discount rate	4.8	4.7	5.65	5.45
RPI Inflation rate	3.25	3.40	3.20	3.35
CPI Inflation rate	2.75	2.80	2.75	2.85
Future Pension increases				
pension accrued prior to 5 April 2005	3.0	3.1	3.00	3.10
pension accrued after 5 April 2005	1.95	2.0	2.00	2.00

The base mortality assumptions for the Fund and the Scheme are based on the SAPS tables (S3 series) (2024: SAPS tables (S3 series)). Future improvements are based on the CMI 2023 projection (2024: CMI 2023 projection) with a long-term rate of improvement of 1.00% p.a. (2024: 1.00% p.a.).

The life expectancy for members as at the Balance Sheet date:

	31 March 2024		31 March 2025	
	Fund	Scheme	Fund	Scheme
Male: member aged 65 (current life expectancy)	20.2	21.7	20.2	21.7
Male: member aged 45 (life expectancy at age 65)	20.5	22.9	20.6	23.0
Female: member aged 65 (current life expectancy)	22.7	23.8	22.7	23.9
Female: member aged 45 (life expectancy at age 65)	23.5	24.5	23.6	24.6



### Sensitivity Analysis

An increase of 0.25 per cent in the discount rate would decrease the retirement benefit obligations by £3.5m (2024: £4.5m).

An increase of 0.25 per cent in the inflation rate would increase the retirement benefit obligations by £2.3m (2024: £3.9m).

An increase of one year to the life expectancy would increase the retirement benefit obligations by £3.4m (2024: £4.0m).

The duration of the NEC Limited Pension Fund liabilities is approximately 15 years (2024: 15 years), and the duration of the NEC Executive Pension Scheme liabilities is approximately 9 years (2024: 10 years).

### Expected Contributions for 2024/25

The contribution schedule in force sets out contributions of £0.0m that will be paid into the Fund in the 2025/26 financial year.

### **Note G19**

#### **Adjustments between Group Accounts and Council Accounts**

The following adjustments are made in the Group's Movement in Reserves Statement in order to reconcile the General Fund Balance back to its Council position prior to funding basis adjustments being made.

	General Fund Balance £m	Housing Revenue Account (HRA) £m	Capital Receipts Reserve £m	Major Repairs Reserve £m	Capital Grants Unapplied £m	Total Usable Reserves £m	Unusable Reserves £m	Total Council Reserves £m	Council's Share of Reserves of Subsidiaries, Associates and Joint Ventures £m	Total Group Reserves £m
<u>2023/24</u>										
Provision of goods and services to subsidiaries	26.9					26.9		26.9	(26.9)	-
Purchases of goods and services from subsidiaries	(334.1)					(334.1)		(334.1)	334.1	-
<b>Total adjustments between Group accounts and Council accounts</b>	<b>(307.2)</b>					<b>(307.2)</b>		<b>(307.2)</b>	<b>307.2</b>	<b>-</b>
<u>2024/25</u>										
Provision of goods and services to subsidiaries	14.1					14.1		14.1	(14.1)	
Purchases of goods and services from subsidiaries	(334.1)					(334.1)		(334.1)	334.1	
<b>Total adjustments between Group accounts and Council accounts</b>	<b>(320.0)</b>					<b>(320.0)</b>		<b>(320.0)</b>	<b>320.0</b>	



**Note G20**  
**Subsidiary Companies**

**I. Acivico Limited**

Acivico Limited is a registered company, which is wholly owned by the Council. The company was launched in April 2012, with three special purpose vehicles: one holding company and two trading companies. The two trading companies, Acivico (Design Construction and Facilities Management) Limited and Acivico (Building Consultancy) Limited, have been operational since April 2012 and provide a range of statutory and non-statutory services on behalf of and to the Council and to other public and private sector clients. The Council has held the £1 issued ordinary share (100%) for the whole of the reporting period covered by these financial statements.

The year-end of the company is 31 March and for the purposes of consolidation the draft accounts for the period to 31 March 2025 have been used, as amended for alignment of accounting policies.

	2023/24	2024/25
	£m	£m
Total Comprehensive Income/Expense for the Year	6.3	(3.6)
Net Assets/(Liabilities) at the year-end	3.4	(0.1)

There was no qualification to the audit opinion on the last audited accounts of the company. Information regarding transactions during the year and balances held at the year-end between the Council and Acivico Limited Group can be found within Note 46 of the Council entity accounts.

**II. Birmingham Children’s Trust CIC**

Birmingham Children’s Trust (BCT) CIC was incorporated on 17 May 2017 and became independently operational on 1 April 2018. The Council is sole member of the company. However, as the company is an asset locked entity, the Council has no entitlement to any assets of the company. At the time of publication of these draft statement of accounts BCT accounts for 2024/25 had not been received. For the purposes of consolidation, the Council has used the Trust’s final accounts for 2023/24, as amended for alignment of accounting policies. Details of the outturn, before elimination of intra-group transactions, are set out below.



	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m
<b>Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>		
Turnover	310.2	334.3
Operating Expenses	(309.8)	(322.3)
<b>Operating Profit/(Loss)</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>12.0</b>
Interest Receivable	1.9	3.1
Interest Payable	(0.8)	(0.1)
<b>Profit/(Loss) for the Year</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>3.0</b>
Actuarial Gain/(Loss) on defined benefit scheme	7.3	(4.4)
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the Year</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>10.6</b>
<b>Balance Sheet</b>		
Intangible Asset	2.2	2.2
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.2</b>
Debtors	42.1	17.7
Short Term Investments	27.3	78.0
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3.8	1.1
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>73.2</b>	<b>96.8</b>
Cash Overdrawn		
Creditors due within one year	(62.9)	(79.9)
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>(62.9)</b>	<b>(79.9)</b>
Long Term Borrowing	(4.0)	-
<b>Total Long-Term Liabilities</b>	<b>(4.0)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Assets/(Liabilities)</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>19.1</b>
Reserves	8.5	19.1
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>19.1</b>

There was no qualification to the audit opinion on the last audited accounts of the Trust.

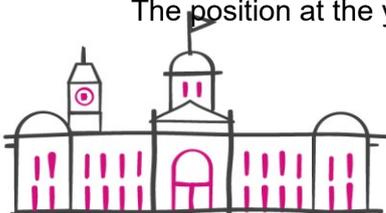
Information regarding transactions during the year and balances held at the year-end between the Council and Birmingham Children's Trust Community Interest Company can be found within Note 46 of the Council entity accounts.

### III. The National Exhibition Centre (Developments) Plc

The company was set up to provide an additional 30,000 square metres of exhibition space in four halls. The building was financed by a loan stock issue of £73 million, at 7.5625%, by the company and is guaranteed by the Council and which is due for repayment in 2027.

The Council has held all 1,000 issued ordinary shares of £1 each and all 100,000 £1 preference shares throughout the reporting period covered by these financial statements.

The position at the year end is detailed below.



	2023/24	2024/25
	£m	£m
Loss for the year	(1.0)	(1.0)
Net Assets) at the year-end	3.2	2.3

The year end of the company is 30 September. For the purposes of consolidation the management accounts to 31 March have been used. There was no qualification to the audit opinion on the last audited accounts of the company.

The Council continues to retain ownership of NEC (Developments) Plc.

#### IV. PETPS (Birmingham) Limited

PETPS (Birmingham) Limited, a company limited by guarantee, was incorporated on 14 November 2014. The company is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Council.

Following completion of the sale of the National Exhibition Centre Limited Group (NEC Limited) on 1 May 2015, PETPS (Birmingham) Limited replaced NEC Limited as the principal employer and assumed the ongoing funding obligation of two defined benefit pension schemes with the agreement of the pension trustees.

	2023/24	2024/25
	£m	£m
Profit for the year	-	-
Net Assets at the year-end	0.2	-

The year-end of the company is 31 March 2025 and for the purposes of consolidation the draft accounts have been used. There was no qualification to the audit opinion on the last audited accounts of the company.

Information regarding transactions during the year and balances held at the year-end between the Council and PETPS (Birmingham) Limited can be found within Note 46 of the Council entity accounts.

#### V. PETPS (Birmingham) Pension Funding Scottish Limited Partnership

PETPS (Birmingham) Pension Funding Scottish Limited Partnership (SLP) was formed by PETPS (Birmingham) Capital Limited (PETPS Capital) and PETPS (Birmingham) General Partner Limited (PETPS General), which are both wholly owned subsidiaries of the Council.

The arrangement was created in 2017/18 to enable the Council to manage the funding implications of its guarantee in respect of the pensions from the NEC Group Limited following its disposal. The Council has invested equity in PETPS Capital which it has subsequently invested in SLP. The rights of the investment in SLP have been assigned to the NEC Pension Fund Trustees whilst the pension fund is in deficit. At 31 March 2025, the level of investment in SLP that is currently assigned to the NEC Pension Fund Trustees was £0.0m (31 March 2024: £0.0m).

At 31 March 2025, there were nominal balances in PETPS Capital and PETPS General with the major transactions in SLP.



	2023/24	2024/25
	£m	£m
Profit for the year	-	-
Net Assets at the year-end	-	-

The year-end of the company is 31 March 2025 and for the purposes of consolidation the draft accounts have been used. Advantage has been taken of the exemption not to produce partnership accounts or obtain an audit, under regulation 7 of The Partnerships (Accounts) Regulations 2008 as the financial information for the partnership has been consolidated into these group accounts.

The accounts have been voluntarily prepared by the members, PETPS (Birmingham) Capital Limited, PETPS (Birmingham) General Partner Limited and NEC Pension Company No. 2 Limited in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 as applied by the Partnerships (Accounts) Regulations 2008, regulation 4; however an audit has not been obtained.

Information regarding transactions during the year and balances held at the year-end between the Council and PETPS (Birmingham) Pension Funding Scottish Limited Partnership can be found within Note 46 of the Council entity accounts.

## VI. InReach (Birmingham) Limited

The Council set up InReach (Birmingham) Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Council, in 2015/16 to facilitate the development of new private rented homes for market rent.

Throughout the whole of the reporting period considered in these financial statements, the Council has held 100% of the £2,000,100 share capital of the company.

	2023/24	2024/25
	£m	£m
Operating Profit for the year	0.7	0.7
Change in value of Investment Property	(2.2)	1.3
Interest Payable	(0.8)	(0.8)
Tax	0.6	(0.3)
Total Comprehensive Expense/Income for the Year	(1.7)	0.9
Net Assets at the year-end	1.5	2.4

The year end of the company is 31 March and for the purposes of consolidation the draft accounts for the 12 month period ending 31 March 2025 have been used. There was no qualification to the audit opinion on the last audited accounts of the company.

## VII. Birmingham City Propco Limited

The Council set up Birmingham City Propco Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Council, in 2017/18 to provide a vehicle for commercial investment. The initial transactions of the company were to purchase the leasehold interests of the Council in respect of the Crowne Plaza-NEC and Hilton Metropole NEC Hotels, which were completed on 15 March 2018.



	2023/24	2024/25
	£m	£m
Profit for the year	1.4	0.2
Net Assets at the year-end	11.7	11.0

The year end of the company is 31 March and for the purposes of consolidation the draft accounts for the 12 month period ending 31 March 2025 have been used. There was no qualification to the audit opinion on the last audited accounts of the company.

Information regarding transactions during the year and balances held at the year-end between the Council and Birmingham City Propco Limited can be found within Note 46 of the Council entity accounts.

## Note G21 Associate and Joint Venture

The associate that has been consolidated into the Group Financial Statements is listed below.

### I. Birmingham Airport Holdings Limited

The seven West Midlands District Councils together own 49% of Birmingham Airport Holdings Limited (BAH) (the Council holds 18.68% of the total shareholding). The remaining shares of the company are held by Airport Group Investments Limited, 48.25%, and 2.75% is held for the benefit of employees. The Shareholders' Agreement provides for the District Councils to cast their 49% vote in all circumstances in one consolidated block. The vote of 75% of ordinary shareholders is required for certain major decisions of the company.

The seven West Midland Districts together own all £15.4m of BAH's 6.31% preference shares (the Council owns £5.9m) which are cumulative and redeemable.

The BAH Group Accounts incorporate:

- Birmingham Airport Limited;
- Birmingham Airport Air Traffic Limited;
- Birmingham Airport Developments Limited;
- Birmingham Airport (Finance) Plc;
- Birmingham Airport Operations Limited;
- Birmingham Airport Services Limited;
- BHX Fire and Rescue Limited;
- BHX (Scotland) Limited;
- BHX Limited Partnership;
- Euro-Hub (Birmingham) Limited; and
- First Castle Developments Limited.

The principal activity of the group is the operation and management of Birmingham Airport and the provision of facilities and services associated with those operations.

The year-end of the company is 31 March 2025. For the purposes of consolidation the draft accounts have been used. There was no qualification to the audit opinion on the last audited accounts of the group.

BAH is accounted for as an associate for the following reasons:



- The Shareholders' Agreement provides for the Districts to cast their 49% vote in all circumstances in one consolidated block. As the Council holds 18.68% within this 49% it is considered that the Council has greater power to influence the voting of the block;
- At 1 July 2020, 2 of the 11 Directors were Council councillors, at 27 October 2021, 2 of the 12 Directors were Council councillors, at 31 March 2023, 2 of the 14 Directors were Council councillors, at 31 March 2024, 2 of the 14 Directors were Council councillors and at 31 March 25, 2 of the 14 Directors were Council councillors.
- Following adjustments to the financial information to align accounting policies with those of the Council, in accordance with the principal of equity accounting under the Code, the summarised financial information for the associate for the year ended 31 March is detailed below:

31 March 2024		31 March 2025
£m		£m
556.6	Non-Current Assets	568.2
66.4	Current Assets	95.0
(65.3)	Current Liabilities	(73.3)
(422.3)	Non-Current Liabilities	(506.6)
135.4	Net Assets	83.3
<b>25.2</b>	<b>Council Interest in Net Assets @ 18.68%</b>	<b>15.6</b>
<b>184.3</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>221.1</b>
33.5	Post-Tax Profit	45.7
(3.8)	Other Comprehensive Income/(Expenditure)	1.4
<b>29.7</b>	Total Comprehensive Income	47.1
-	Less Dividends paid	(97.2)
<b>29.7</b>	<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>(50.1)</b>
<b>5.5</b>	<b>Council Interest in Total Comprehensive Income/(Expenditure) @ 18.68%</b>	<b>(9.3)</b>

The carrying value of the Council's interest in net assets of this entity is £15.6m (2023/24: £5.5m), which is included within Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures in the Group Balance Sheet.

Birmingham Airport Holdings Limited at 31 March 2025 has disclosed the following contingent liabilities within its financial statements:

- On 3 December 2013 the company along with other group members of Birmingham Airport Holdings Limited, provided guarantees in support of £75 million private placement senior notes issued by Birmingham Airport (Finance) plc. Series A senior notes of £30 million are for a period of ten years maturing on 3 December 2023 and carry a fixed interest rate of 4.472 per cent per annum. Series B senior notes of £45 million are for a period of 15 years maturing on 3 December 2028 and carry a fixed interest rate of 4.557 per cent per annum;
- On 30 March 2016 the company along with other group members of Birmingham Airport Holdings Limited, provided guarantees in support of £76 million private



placement senior notes issued by Birmingham Airport (Finance) plc. The notes are for a period of twenty five years maturing on 30 March 2041 and carry a fixed interest rate of 3.8 per cent per annum.

- On 24 January 2019, the company, along with other group members of Birmingham Airport Holdings Limited, provided guarantees in support of £90 million private placement senior notes issued by Birmingham Airport (Finance) plc on 24 January 2019. The senior notes are for a period of 30 years maturing 24 January 2049 and carry a fixed interest rate of 3.21 per cent per annum.
- On 23 January 2020, the company, along with other group members of Birmingham Airport Holdings Limited, provided guarantees in support of £85 million private placement senior notes issued by Birmingham Airport (Finance) plc on 24 January 2020. The senior notes are for a period of 30 years maturing 24 January 2050 and carry a fixed interest rate of 2.44 per cent per annum.
- On 21 May 2020, the company, along with other group members of Birmingham Airport Holding Limited, provided guarantees in support of £45 million private placement senior notes issued by Birmingham Airport (Finance) PLC on 21 May 2020. The senior notes are for a period of 30 years maturing 21 May 2050 and carry a fixed interest rate of 2.94 per cent per annum.
- On 13 March 2025, the Company, along with other group members of Birmingham Airport Holdings Limited, provided guarantees in support of £80 million private placement senior notes issued by Birmingham Airport (Finance) PLC on 13 March 2025. The senior notes are for a period of 7 years maturing 13 March 2032 and carry a fixed interest rate of 5.65 per cent per annum. Company
- The company, in its role as parent company to the group, has provided a statutory guarantee to certain subsidiaries for all outstanding liabilities as at 31 March 2025. This guarantee allows the subsidiary companies to take the audit exemption from obtaining a signed statutory audit opinion under section 479A of the Companies Act 2006. The subsidiaries provided with the guarantee were:
  - Birmingham Airport Air Traffic Limited;
  - Birmingham Airport Developments Limited;
  - Birmingham Airport Operations Limited;
  - Birmingham Airport Services Limited;
  - BHX Fire and Rescue Limited;
  - Euro-Hub (Birmingham) Limited; and
  - First Castle Developments Limited.

The joint venture that has been consolidated into the Group Financial Statements is listed below.

## II. Paradise Circus Limited Partnership

Paradise Circus Limited Partnership (the partnership) is a joint venture arrangement between the Council, BriTel Funds Trustees Limited (BriTel) and Paradise Circus General Partner Limited, which is itself formed through a partnership of the Council and BriTel. The Council and BriTel share control of the joint venture on a 50/50 basis.



The partnership is facilitating the development of the area known as Paradise Circus, supporting delivery against one of the Council's strategic aims of making Birmingham an entrepreneurial city to learn, work and invest in. The entity was incorporated on 11 September 2013, with operational activity commencing in January 2015.

The year-end of the company was 30 June 2024. For the purposes of consolidation management accounts have been used for information for the nine-month period to 31 March 2025. The audit of the 2023/24 Accounts is ongoing and no audit opinion has been given to date.

Following adjustments to the financial information to align accounting policies with those of the Council, in accordance with the principles of equity accounting under the Code, the summarised financial information for the joint venture for the year ended 31 March is as follows:

31 March 2024		31 March 2025
£m		£m
28.5	Non-Current Assets	28.3
19.0	Current Assets	13.3
(8.0)	Current Liabilities	(7.1)
(56.5)	Non-Current Liabilities	(52.8)
(17.0)	Net Liabilities	(18.3)
<b>(8.5)</b>	<b>Council Interest in Net Liabilities @ 50%</b>	<b>(9.1)</b>
<b>0.1</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>0.7</b>
(2.0)	Post-Tax Loss	(1.2)
	Other Comprehensive Income/(Expenditure)	
(2.0)	Total Comprehensive Expenditure	(1.2)
<b>(1.0)</b>	<b>Council Interest in Total Comprehensive Expenditure @ 50%</b>	<b>(0.6)</b>

The carrying value of the Council's interest in this entity is a net deficit of £9.1m (2023/24: £8.5m deficit), which is included within the current liabilities in the Group Balance Sheet.



# Birmingham City Council

## Annual Governance Statement 2024-25



## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Birmingham City Council has been working under the oversight of government Commissioners since October 2023. During this time, significant work has been undertaken to improve its governance processes and financial position.
- 1.2 Birmingham City Council is committed to acting in the public interest, in resolving its financial difficulties and making inclusive, robust decisions and plans that will see an improved Council and services for its citizens at the end of the process. However, it is clear that these changes will take time.
- 1.3 October 2024 saw the appointment of a new Managing Director, Joanne Roney, and a new Corporate Leadership Team appointed late 2024/early 2025. The Council has worked to reset its guiding principles and updated policies and procedures to improve its ways of working.
- 1.4 The Council recognises that the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) is a valuable means of explaining its governance arrangements to its citizens, service users, taxpayers and other stakeholders. This statement holds the Council to account and sets out how the controls it has in place manage the risk that it will fail to deliver its strategic outcomes.
- 1.5 The council is required by law to conduct a review, at least once a year, of the effectiveness of its governance arrangements, and communicate this publicly in an annual governance statement. This report covers the financial year 2024/25 and accompanies the Council's statutory accounts.
- 1.6 For the previous four financial years, the Council has been delayed in publishing its audited Statement of Accounts and AGS, meaning the areas of concern identified were often reported too late for improvement to be made in a timely manner. This 2024/25 AGS has been produced close to the end of the relevant financial year and therefore its findings should be addressed appropriately to ensure they do not continue into the 2025/26 financial year.
- 1.7 This AGS has reviewed the council's performance across all of its activities. The review has identified a number of areas where its governance arrangements could be improved and strengthened, and these are set out at the end of the document.
- 1.8 Birmingham City Council is committed to addressing each of these governance issues identified and will continue to seek to improve as a Council and address the shortcomings identified in this AGS. Progress in implementing the action plan set out in the AGS will be carefully monitored during the year ahead, and an update will be reported in next year's AGS.

Signed by:

Joanne Roney CBE  
Managing Director

Cllr John Cotton  
Leader of the Council



## 2. Introduction

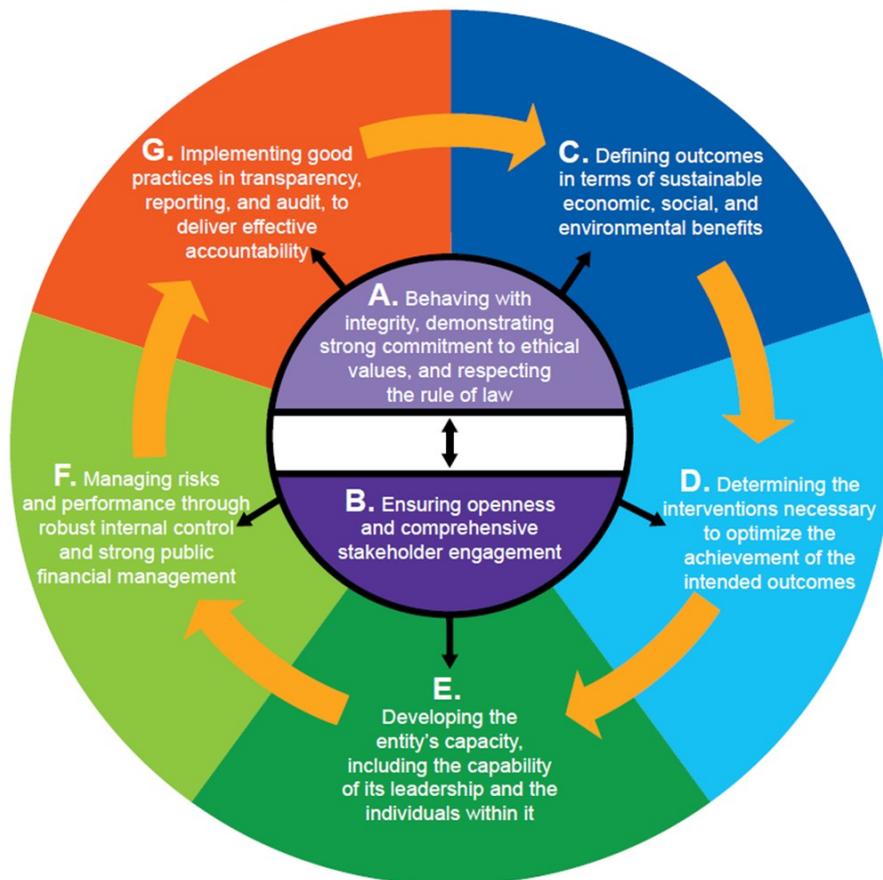
- 2.1 Good governance is about how a local authority ensures that it is doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people, in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner.
- 2.2 Birmingham City Council (the Council) is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards and that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively.
- 2.3 In delivering its statutory functions, the Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, which includes having appropriate systems of internal control, including arrangements for managing risk.
- 2.4 Governance comprises the arrangements put in place to ensure that the intended outcomes for stakeholders are defined and achieved.
- 2.5 Good governance should ensure the Council is doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner. Good governance leads to effective:
- Leadership and management
  - Performance and risk management
  - Stewardship of public money; and
  - Public engagement and outcomes for our residents, taxpayers and service users.
- 2.6 The responsibility for leading and directing the annual review of the effectiveness of the Council's governance arrangements and providing ongoing oversight and challenge lies with the Council's statutory officers, comprising the Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer (s.151 officer) and Monitoring Officer. The findings in this report have been presented and agreed by the Council's Audit Committee.
- 2.7 In this document the Council:
- Acknowledges its responsibility for ensuring there is a sound system of governance;
  - References the effectiveness of key elements of the governance framework and the roles and responsibilities of individuals and bodies within that framework;
  - Provides an opinion on the level of assurance that the governance arrangements can provide and their fitness for purpose;
  - Produces an action plan showing actions taken, or proposed, to deal with significant governance issues;
  - References how issues raised in the previous year's annual governance statement have been resolved;



**3. Good Governance**

- 3.1 The Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016), published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), in association with the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE), sets the standard for local authority governance in the United Kingdom.
- 3.2 The framework is designed to help local authorities develop and implement high standards of governance, to ensure that:
- resources are directed in accordance with agreed policy and priorities;
  - there is sound and inclusive decision making; and
  - there is accountability for the use of resources to achieve desired outcomes for residents and communities.
- 3.3 The framework sets out a continuous process of seven principles, as illustrated in Figure 1 below, with a core of A and B being about behaviours. The seven principles underpin good governance in the public sector. It shows that achieving good governance is a continuous process of evaluation and review.

Figure 1 – Delivering Good Governance Core Principles  
**Achieving the Intended Outcomes  
While Acting in the Public Interest at all Times**



3.4 This Annual Governance Statement (AGS) demonstrates how Birmingham City Council's governance arrangements deliver these seven principles in practice.

#### 4. **Birmingham City Council's Governance Framework**

4.1 The council has a duty under the Local Government Act 2003 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

4.2 The Council is also responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs and the effective management of risk. To achieve this, the council has adopted a code of governance which is consistent with the seven principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016).

4.3 The council's code of governance consists of a number of policy documents and procedures and is underpinned by an ethos and shared values in which the highest standard of conduct is expected from all Members and officers.

4.4 A key component of the code of governance is the council's written Constitution. This sets out how decisions are made and the procedures which are followed to ensure efficiency, transparency, and accountability to residents. A copy of the council's constitution can be found on the council's website: [Birmingham City Council Constitution](#).

4.5 The Constitution defines the roles and responsibilities of the executive, non-executive, scrutiny and chief officer functions. Figure 2, below, illustrates the council's policy and decision-making processes, as defined by the Constitution.



**Figure 2 – Birmingham City Council’s decision-making structure chart**



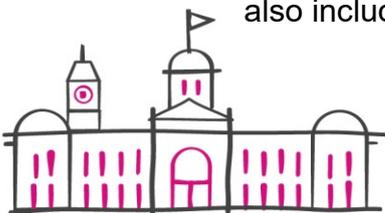
- 4.6 Another significant aspect of the council's code of governance is its system of internal control, which is designed in accordance with the council's key rules and procedures, including the Constitution, Code of Conduct for Employees and Financial Regulations.
- 4.7 The system of internal control is intended to identify the risks that threaten the achievement of the council's strategic aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood and impact of those risks, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.
- 4.8 2024/25 saw some significant changes to the Council's leadership and management structures with the following changes:-
- Changes to the Council's Executive Structure with changes in cabinet membership and the portfolio's they manage;
  - Appointment of a new Managing Director, Joanne Roney;
  - Appointment of new Executive Director of Finance, Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health, Executive Director of Place, Prosperity and Sustainability, Director of Public Health and Director of Law and Governance (although it should be noted that some of these individuals did not take up post until the 2025/26 financial year).

### **Improvements Undertaken Following 2023/24 AGS**

Appendix One provides an update on the governance issues identified in the 2023/24 AGS and actions taken as a result.

#### **5. Review of Corporate Governance**

- 5.1 2023/24 saw the Council introduce the Improvement and Recovery Plan ("IRP") as a result of the Intervention Directions and the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) independent review of governance.
- 5.2 The 2024/25 financial year was to take the Council to the Recover and Reset part of the IRP. The Priority Programmes aim to deliver three outcomes:-
1. A Well-Run Council
  2. Delivering Good Services
  3. Financially Sustainable Council
- 5.3 As part of being a well-run council and delivering good service, a review of Corporate Governance was required. Work has been undertaken on this with amendments to the constitution, a new member/officer code of conduct and the launch of a new report writing programme. However, it is recognised that further improvement is needed.
- 5.4 An updated Governance Board has been developed as a result of the Intervention Directions. Led jointly by the Leader and Managing Director it also includes key officers and government commissioners. The group aims



to oversee the improvements to the Council's governance and ensure that the progress sought in the IRP is delivered.

- 5.5 In addition Birmingham has strengthened its project management approach to major projects it is dealing with. This should improve governance in relation to individual projects such as equal pay and Brindley Oracle.

## **6 Financial Situation**

- 6.1 The Council's financial position is extremely challenging with a General Fund budget deficit of £225.9m for the 2024/25 financial year. The budget was only able to be approved with the approval of Exceptional Financial Support from the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

- 6.2 In addition to these budgetary issues, the Council faces significant potential Equal Pay liabilities. The Council is under statutory intervention, with commissioners appointed by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

## **7 Oracle Issues**

- 7.1 The new Oracle system has still not been fully implemented within the Council and remains an area of concern. However, work is progressing to reimplement Oracle Fusion by April 2026.

- 7.2 Significant exploration work was carried out in 2024/25 and immediate improvements were made where this was possible. A review of processes is now being undertaken to adapt to work with Oracle Fusion which will avoid the issues previously faced.

## **8. Equal Pay**

- 8.1 Significant work was undertaken in 2024/25 to settle outstanding equal pay claims. This has culminated in an agreement being signed with the trade unions on 13 October 2025 and individual offers started to be made on 8 December under this agreement. This process will continue into early 2026.

- 8.2 The Equal Pay Programme team were formed to deliver the critical Equal Pay programme by April 2025. This deadline was not been met. A new Pay and Grading Structure for staff formerly on NJC grades 1-5 has been agreed with the trade unions and has been implemented with effect from October 2025.

- 8.3 Work continues on the evaluation and implementation of a revised approach to Job Evaluation and Pay and Grading for NJC grades 6 and 7 and JNC roles in the Council.



## **9. Waste Service**

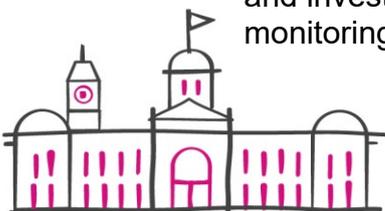
- 9.1 The Waste Service had aimed to implement a Waste Transformation Programme in 2025/26 to address poor service delivery, poor financial controls and ensure compliance with changes in waste collection requirements being implemented in 2026.
- 9.2 Industrial action, in the form of strikes, has led to a delay in implementing the Waste Transformation Programme. Resources have been put into managing service delivery and dealing with the industrial action. The legal implications of pushing ahead with the Waste Transformation Programme during industrial action was also carefully considered. At December 2025, service delivery issues caused by the industrial action have now settled and the Waste Service are now starting to progress with the Waste Transformation Programme.
- 9.3 Overview by the Waste Programme Board and through relevant Cabinet approvals continues and timetable slippages are being carefully monitored.
- 9.4 The industrial action has led to the use of emergency planning processes, multi-agency coordination groups and the declaration of a major incident. The need to act quickly and make decisions in a timely manner called on the use of emergency decision-making under the constitution but reporting lines were set up and scrutiny of all decisions took place through a strategic board.
- 9.5 The requirement for confidentiality in relation to decisions being taken by the Council in relation to service delivery issues and negotiations around the industrial action has led to the Audit Committee members feeling that councillors have been “kept in the dark” over what is happening with the strikes.

## **10. Fleet Management**

- 10.1 Issues were identified with the lack of fleet management within the Waste Service, but also more widely within the Council. A Vehicle Management Scheme has now been created and oversight is taking place on fleet vehicles and decisions in relation to the purchase or replacement of vehicles. Whilst this scheme is new, there is a lot of work required to get this operating as needed but work is being undertaken to embed the scheme.

## **11. Housing**

- 11.1 The service is now operating in compliance with the Housing Ombudsman’s Complaints Handling Code and majority of complaints now relate to the legacy period (arising before the changes in the service).
- 11.2 The Council improved compliance with the Decent Homes Standard by 6% and invested £236m in housing stock. The Housing IRP workstream is now monitoring compliance and improvements to ensure that progress continues.



## 12. Corporate Landlord

- 12.1 As part of the Council's savings targets Corporate Landlord were challenged to find revenue efficiencies in the Council's estate. Corporate buildings were closed and disposed of in 2023/24 and rationalisation of office space took place. It was identified that there was no Asset Strategy in place which considered occupational costs, operational efficiencies or service needs. An Asset Strategy is required, setting out the aims and objectives of each asset in the Council's property portfolio with all other relevant information recorded centrally.
- 12.2 It is also identified that there are potential risks to property disposals which contribute to the Council's savings targets with risks such as delays in identifying sufficient and suitable property assets, or in the timeframe for disposal. Any slippage of individual deals or, following due diligence, proposed receipts be at insufficient value to satisfy best consideration, could lead to under-delivery of proposed savings.
- 12.3 The intention is to centralise all operational property management activity within the Corporate Landlord team. This is currently difficult due to uncertainty on the size and shape of the asset profile. There is also a need to review contractual arrangements for the provision of compliance and facilities management services to maintain the estate. Action is required to consider the contractual arrangements and value for money of the current service provider and consider the extent of services required for the new asset portfolio.

## 13. Climate Emergency and Net Zero

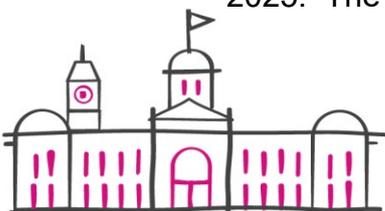
- 13.1 The Council has made a Climate Emergency Commitment to achieve net zero by 2030. Priority is currently being given to prioritise actions within the control of the Council to achieve this reduction, yet the Council directly controls less than 5% of the city's emissions.
- 13.2 Individual service areas are working on improvements but there is a need for a corporate Energy and Net Zero Strategy to define and set goals and objectives and maximise opportunities through joint working and having a corporate oversight. There is also a need for collaboration and collective commitment with wider city stakeholders to achieve the wider city ambition.

## 2024/25 Findings

### 14. Review of Effectiveness

#### 14.1 Best Value Commissioners

- 14.1.1 The Commissioners issued their second Best Value report on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025. The Executive Summary reported



“The Council faces significant challenges on finances, Equal Pay, culture, governance, services and transformation. While many of the challenges and best value failure identified in the first report persist, in recent months the Council has shifted towards a better understanding of the work required for recovery. Commissioners have seen considerable hard work and dedication from the Leader and Cabinet, the recently appointed Managing Director (MD), senior officers and Council staff since our last report. The Council has a major improvement journey ahead and has started to make progress, but the organisation is not yet effecting change at the pace needed. Progress, although more evident in some areas, is fragile, and the path to stability – to become confident that improvements are embedded and sustainable – remains long and demanding.”

#### 14.1.2 The Commissioners identify 5 key areas of concern:-

“On finances – The Council’s 2024/25 budget was set and is forecast to be largely delivered, but the medium-term financial plan (MTFP) is not transformational. The 2025/26 budget-setting process has not been pursued with sufficient urgency, being characterised by a repeated failure to meet key budget milestones. This has led to Cabinet not seeing the Council’s budget report until February and very late changes to proposals, limited opportunity for robust due diligence and a consequent risk to the implementation processes.

On governance and culture – while some procedural governance changes have been implemented, these do not remedy the deeper, cultural dysfunction that led to the Council’s failure. The Council remains deeply wedded to old ways of working. The diagnosis that root and branch improvement in governance and culture is needed – particularly in the quality of option appraisals and committee reports and the subsequent timely implementation of decisions – is now, largely, accepted. Such improvement is crucial if progress is to be embedded and sustained.

Performance management - the absence of an embedded, effective performance management framework – at both an organisational and individual level – and lack of benchmarked informed target-setting and regular performance monitoring, has resulted in the Council not having sufficient knowledge or corporate grip on the issues it has faced or the scale of those issues. The history of corporate culture at the Council has led to a highly defensive and siloed management approach in many areas. There has been progress in most areas where Commissioners are actively involved but Commissioners have not yet seen the Council self-initiating improvement in areas where Commissioners have not taken a personal role. Some areas have performed well specifically due to individual officers and despite the lack of organisational grip. The new MD has begun the journey to improve corporate performance oversight and has established a performance management framework with corporate KPIs which is to be implemented in April 2025 and should lead to an increase in corporate oversight of performance both at an individual and organisational level. It is a task for the new corporate team to lead the Council out of its entrenched way of working



and to a place where it is honestly reporting, actively monitoring and managing its performance and risk.

On service improvement – key service areas remain below acceptable standards and the Council’s ability to provide high-quality, financially sustainable services whilst delivering a transformation of core functions remains a central challenge in its recovery. There have been some important first steps in stabilising services but delivering savings whilst improving service outcomes is a complex balancing act and, in many cases, planned efficiencies have not been realised. For example, improved data in housing has revealed that 70% of the Council’s homes are now recorded as failing the Decent Homes Standard which is far higher than previously recorded and a completely unacceptable level of performance. Services in some areas are well managed despite the Council’s issues, but improvement in all areas is hindered by a lack of processes and procedures, sound data, an inability to self assess and learn from mistakes and a lack of commercial capability. These issues are further compounded in an organisation where financial control and management is poor and significant cultural and governance reform is necessary. The fragility of the improvements that have been made to date and a lack of pace in progress on companies and procurement, necessitates continued external oversight as risks and possible BCC liabilities, remain extremely high.

On the waste dispute - Ministers will be aware that the Council and Unite (the Union, Trade Union) are currently engaged in a dispute relating to the refuse collection service. Commissioners are working in partnership with the Council to promote a resolution to this dispute which is essential for service transformation.”

## 14.2 External Audit

14.2.1 In February 2025, the Council’s External Auditors, Grant Thornton, issued a Public Interest Report in relation to the implementation of Oracle. This report identified significant failings in the governance of the programme and little reporting on the risks to the Council. There were a number of lessons learnt set out within the report to be addressed by the Oracle Programme Team going forward.

14.2.2 External Auditors also presented a report to the Audit Committee in January 2025 covering the reasons for the Council’s financial difficulties and what more the Council needed to do to address this. Further emphasis was put on improving culture within the Council as well as settling Equal Pay and better budget setting processes. The report made seven key recommendations for the Council to address.

14.2.3 Overall, however, the External Auditors did note that the budget setting process had improved and was more transparent than previous years.



### 14.3 Internal Audit

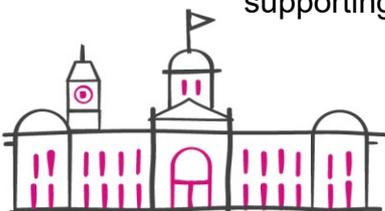
- 14.3.1 In accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS), Standard 2450 Overall Opinions, the designated Chief Audit Executive must deliver an annual internal audit opinion and report.
- 14.3.2 The Annual Internal Audit report and opinion was considered by the Audit Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The report summarised the work of Internal Audit and draws a conclusion on the systems of internal control. Drawing on the range of assurances available, for 2024/25, the Chief Audit Executive was only able to provide a limited assurance that the system of governance, risk and control framework were sound and operating on a consistent basis during the year.
- 14.3.3 A significant proportion of the Internal audit work completed for 2024/25 only provided a limited assurance opinion on key corporate processes and controls. This remains an ongoing concern and demonstrates that robust internal controls and compliance with procedures were not consistently in place or followed. However, it is acknowledged that improvements are being made and are underway as part of the Improvement and Recovery Plan and the Brindley Oracle project which seek to strengthen business processes. Reviewing the effectiveness of these improvement is a key feature of the 2025/26 audit plan agreed by the Audit Committee.

### 14.4 Scrutiny and Overview Committee

- 14.4.1 Four Cabinet decisions were requested to be called in for review by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the 2024/25 financial year. Only one decision was returned to Cabinet for reconsideration (in relation to the Property Acquisition Programme). The other three were considered but the call in not agreed.
- 14.4.2 298 recommendations were made by the various Scrutiny and Overview Committees in 2024/25 following consideration of a number of different proposals and financial changes. Deep dives took place on many different matters, giving the various Committees opportunity to understand the proposals further and make recommendations for improvements and changes.
- 14.4.3 Scrutiny and Overview Committee and Audit Committee also completed a Memorandum of Understanding in February 2025 stating the commitment of the two Committees to build an effective working relationship and ensure good communication between the two groups and ensuring that the two can complement each other and enhance the governance framework.

## 15. Risk Management Strategy & Framework

- 15.1 Work continues on refreshing the Risk Management Framework and its supporting components, including the Principal Risk Register. Following the



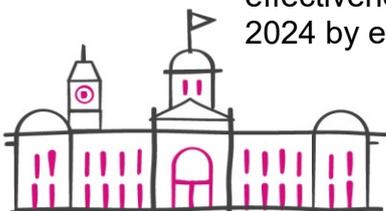
recent Risk Maturity Assessment, the Council will continue efforts to embed risk management across all services and operations.

## **16. Performance and Budget Monitoring Information**

- 16.1 Throughout the 2024/25 financial year the Council has continued to undertake stringent financial management in order to address any remaining issues within the underlying budget, as well as ensuring the savings programme for 2024/25 is delivered, for 2025/26 is robust and deliverable, and for 2026/27 sets the foundation for a reduced and sustainable cost base for the Council over the medium-term financial plan (MTFP). These efforts have been strengthened by work completed by officers and members through the Budget Scrutiny Task & Finish process.
- 16.2 The 2025/26 Budget is unbalanced by £11.0m (Exceptional Financial Support used to balance the budget), and 2026/27 has a £83.1m gap. The indicative gap for 2027/28 is £127.9m and for 2028/29 is £158.9m. These indicative budget gaps are cumulative. A revised budget timetable has been created and will be shared with Cabinet. The Council has also undertaken a lessons learned on the previous year's budget setting process and changes will be implemented on the outcome of this review.
- 16.3 The Provisional Outturn for 2023/24 was taken to Cabinet on 21 January 2025. This presented an overspend of £76.5m that is to be funded from Reserves. This leaves the Council's reserves forecast closing balance as £811.0m as at 31 March 2024. It should be noted that of this total, only £156.2m is within general reserves and balances, the remainder of the reserves are for specific committed purposes and represent timing differences rather than available resources. There is a governance and approval process in place for use of reserves.
- 16.4 Issues stemming from the original implementation of the Oracle system, both in terms of the reliability of the accuracy and completeness of actuals and the ability to produce reports easily, have made it difficult to get into a routine with the production of budget monitoring reports. However, during 2024/25 quarterly updates have been taken to Cabinet and Scrutiny detailing how the Council is performing against the agreed budget and tracking of delivery of savings. As well as regular reporting on the in-year performance, regular reporting has also been taken to Cabinet regarding the medium-term financial plan and progress being made to close the budget gap.
- 16.5 The 24/25 Outturn position was presented to Cabinet on 24 June 2025. The Council's General Fund Revenue Budget showed a net overspend of £182.1m. This was £43.8m below the planned EFS funded deficit of £225.9m, a favourable movement of £33.0m since the last report.

## **17 Self Assessment**

- 17.1 In accordance with the CIPFA/SOLACE Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016), a self-assessment of the effectiveness of governance arrangements was completed in April and May 2024 by each directorate, at Director level, to inform the AGS. Where these



self-assessments identified particular governance issues or areas where improvements are needed, these are detailed in Appendix Two of the AGS.

- 17.2 The Council has made significant improvements in its governance arrangements since the issuing of the Section 114 notice in September 2023. There is greater member and senior officer oversight on project boards and programme management arrangements, with greater reporting also.
- 17.3 Significant work has been undertaken to review and update the constitution and provide additional training to both officers and members on key skills such as report writing and framing recommendations.
- 17.4 Whilst there are still improvements to be made, with many reviews still being undertaken (including reviews of the Council's wholly owned companies, trusts and charities and traded services) there are clear programmes in place which are regularly monitored for progress.
- 17.5 Therefore, it is felt that a reasonable level of assurance can be placed on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's framework of governance for the 2024/25 financial year.
- 17.6 Whilst there are some significant governance issues identified (see Appendix 2 below), there are clear proposals to address these going forward.

## 18. **Governance Issues**

- 18.1 A key element of the annual governance statement is to identify any significant governance issues. Appendix Two below summarises the governance issues which management will continue to monitor and address in the year ahead.



**Appendix One**  
**Update on 2023/24 Significant Governance Issues**

<b>Ref No.</b>	<b>Governance Issue Identified</b>	<b>Action To Be Taken in 2024/25</b>	<b>Action completed in 2024/25</b>
1	The Council must now implement the Stabilisation Plan which was jointly produced with the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny. The Stabilisation Plan is designed to stabilise and strengthen governance within the Council.	The Plan covers 13 work streams including:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Refocus corporate attention and priorities on ensuring safe, legally compliant, and fairly delivered services to local people;</li> <li>2. Begin work to reframe values and expected behaviour;</li> <li>3. Develop and publicise a set of baseline behavioural standards for members and officers;</li> <li>4. Review the Constitution;</li> <li>5. Reframe the scrutiny work programme to focus on the Council's improvement and recovery priorities;</li> <li>6. Strengthen working relationships between the Chairs of Scrutiny Committees and the Chair of the Audit Committee to lead and direct the function;</li> <li>7. Put in place new arrangements for the support of the internal audit function, the Audit Committee and the links between audit and scrutiny;</li> <li>8. Design, and being to put in place, new risk &amp; information management arrangements – with an initial focus on member accountability;</li> <li>9. Put in place robust arrangements for the members' oversight of</li> </ol>	Significant amount of work has been undertaken on the Stabilisation Plan and overview of the governance arrangements in the Council.

		<p>the development of the 2024/25 budget and MTFS;</p> <p>10. Integrate action on external auditor's recommendations in to wider practice;</p> <p>11. Continue to rebuild relationships with external partners;</p> <p>12. Put in place proportionate arrangements to manage governance and decision-making in the context of the role of Commissioners;</p> <p>13. Modernise systems and practices in Scrutiny and Committee Services.</p>	
2	<p>General issues with the implementation and set up of Oracle (and particularly the Band Reconciliation System) continue to cause issues for the Council.</p>	<p>All outstanding issues with Oracle to be resolved and rectified in line with the Oracle Programme deadlines set within the project plan.</p>	<p>Significant work has been undertaken on Oracle implementation and is still ongoing. As yet work is still being undertaken to provide a fully operating system.</p>
3	<p>Since April 2022 the Council has not been able to produce Spend Compliance Reports.</p>	<p>The reintroduction of Spend Compliance Reports to directorates on a monthly basis is to take place with effect from April 2024.</p>	<p>The reintroduction of Spend Compliance Reports to directorates has started and has now extended to a monthly basis during the 2025/26 financial year.</p>
4	<p>The Council must comply with the timescales set out in the Equal Pay Programme which has set out clear governance arrangements.</p> <p>There is concern that the key outcomes of the programme will not</p>	<p>The first major milestone is the delivery of the benchmarking phase of the programme by end of May 2024. This should be closely monitored and reports back to the Governance Board and Improvement Board to assess likely adherence with the Programme.</p>	<p>The programme has executed its activities as per approved timeline under Commissioner Governance led protocols and Equal Pay Board oversight. The Programme has encountered issues relating to TU dynamics (i.e., securing of Collective Agreement) that have led to delays. Mitigation activities and change protocols were adhered as</p>

	be delivered by April 2025.		per approved Programme Governance arrangements. The issues encountered resulted in the need re-baseline the programme plan.
5	Poor service delivery and financial controls as well as challenging industrial relations in the Waste Service.	The Council much achieve successful implementation of the Waste Transformation Programme.  Close monitoring by the Waste Programme Board and City Operations Transformation Board of such implementation	This has not been achieved due to the waste strikes which commenced in January 2025. Planning for transformation and discussions on implementation continue.
6	Failure to establish suitable fleet management and fleet maintenance arrangements. Failure to comply with relevant policies leading to assets falling into disrepair and creating potential health and safety issues.	As part of the Waste Transformation Programme (see above) the team must procure a reliable and modern waste collection fleet of vehicles and ensure regular maintenance and renewal of fleet going forwards.	This procurement has been undertaken and vehicles procured. The role up of new vehicles is currently being delayed by the waste strikes.
7	The Procurement Act 2023 will come into force in February 2025 and the Council needs to ensure that it is fully prepared with relevant changes to the constitution and Contract Procedure Rules. Further, work is required to oversee procurement decisions and ensure effective project management of procurement processes to provide confidence on compliance	A working group has been set up to ensure that the Council is prepared for the implementation of the Procurement Act 2023 with a link with the Cabinet Office has been established to keep abreast of the developments.  The Council is in the process of establishing a Procurement board to oversee the procurement decisions as well as monitor project management effectiveness.	The Contract Procedure Rules were updated to ensure compliance with the Procurement Act 2023.  Further work is required to support changes introduced by the Procurement Board but this is being monitored closely.

8	Contract management is inconsistent across the Council with directorates carrying out their own contract reviews.	<p>The Commercial, Procurement and Contract Management Board is to be established to deliver a consistent and effect approach to these processes.</p> <p>A Contract Management Pioneering Programme is to be established along with the production of contract management toolkits and training to develop skills and knowledge.</p>	Work is being undertaken on this but has not been fully completed as yet.
9	Concern has been identified, given the wider issues with Oracle, that the Council's Contract Register is not up to date and accurate.	Undertake an audit of the Contract Register to identify missing information and ensure that an action plan is created to address any areas for improvement.	An audit of the Contracts Register has been completed and work is taking place to finalise the action plan and start working on improvements.
10	Some of the capital projects which are approved by the Council are taking a significant amount of time to agree the contract by which time the costs quoted have increased or the requirements for the project changed. This is leaving the Council vulnerable.	All approved capital projects will have a two-year longstop date. This means that a new, updated approval will be required where it has not been possible to enter contract within two years of approval.	This has been noted and will be applied.
11	Since the implementation of Oracle in April 2022 it has not been possible to provide Quarterly Budget Monitoring Reports to Cabinet. This impacts on the ability for members to monitoring performance against	<p>Quarterly Budget Monitoring Reports to be reinstated asap.</p> <p>In addition, all Capital Project Budgets to receive a two-year longstop date for spend. Any contracts not entered into within this will require additional approval for an extension of time.</p>	Quarterly Budget Monitoring Reports were reintroduced from Quarter 1 of 2024/25 and are planned to continue.

	budget and consider amendments of budgets in line with operational issues.		
12	Weaknesses have been identified in the Council's corporate knowledge and cross-directorate information sharing on partner relationships. There is some excellent practice across the organisation but too often the Council's approach is driven too much by the teams own agendas within siloes, rather than genuinely seeking solutions to challenges together.	<p>Consideration to be given to utilise available technology to assist with data sharing and management of partner relationships.</p> <p>A Stakeholder sentiment tracking process is to be developed. This will see partnership surveys being carried out to assess working arrangements and identify any improvements that could be made.</p>	Work is ongoing with this recommendation.
13	The Council received large number of Ombudsman complaints in relation to the Housing service. The Housing service must review the approach taken to handling complaints and Ombudsman findings.	Operationally mitigations have been identified and the approach approved by DMT. A review of the mitigations, and their application, to be undertaken and reported back to DMT.	The Council are now compliant with the Housing Ombudsman Complaints Handling Code and have stabilised complaints performance. The number of severe maladministration cases significantly reduced across 2024-2025 in comparison with 2023-2024.
14	Capital investment and repairs/asset management continue to cause issues with damp and mould related complaints increasing.	The service has created a plan to tackle damp and mould issues and manage repairs effectively. Continued monitoring will be undertaken and an extensive acceleration programmes have been identified.	The Council improved compliance with Decent Homes Standards by 6% in 2024/2025 and invested £236m in the stock portfolio. A further 7% increase has been committed to for 2025/2026 and this will be monitored quarterly through the IRP.

		<p>Regular reporting and monitoring of contract performance, monitoring the success of new programmes and actual reductions in Ombudsman complaints is required to show success.</p> <p>This includes the close monitoring of HRA finance which must continue on a monthly basis.</p>	<p>The Council is currently 36% compliant with Decent Homes Standards meaning that a significant proportion of Council homes do not meet legal standards. The Housing service must ensure annual investment is undertaken in line with the HRA Business Plan to achieve compliance with Decent Homes in 7 years</p>
15	<p>The Housing Service have identified a need for change and optimisation of income collection across the service, with greater integration of income collection. The Temporary Accommodation Strategy identified the value of further resources for income collection.</p>	<p>Working with colleagues from the Corporate Revenues Team additional resources must be brought in to ensure that the income collection operation is being run effectively and that income collection is taking place to generate monies for the Council where this is due.</p>	<p>Resources are transitioning from Housing Solutions &amp; Support into the Income Collection service to support this activity, ensuring collection of income is streamlined across the Council.</p>
16	<p>Following the issuing of the two Section 114 Notices by the Council, Intervention Directions were issued by the Government which requires the Council to prepare and agree an Improvement and Recovery Plan.</p>	<p>An IRP has been created and this will be going to Full Council for approval in April. The Council should ensure compliance with the IRP with regular monitoring and reporting.</p>	<p>The initial IRP has been implemented and progress made. The Council is now undertaking its second iteration of the IRP to continue with the improvements seen.</p>

**Appendix Two**  
**Significant Governance Issues Identified in 2024/25**

<b>Ref No.</b>	<b>Governance Issue Identified</b>	<b>Action To Be Taken</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>
1	Ongoing equal pay issues continue to be a problem for the Council. This must be addressed and resolved to avoid further claims arising.	<p>The Council must continue to implement the Equal Pay Programme in line with its clear governance arrangements.</p> <p>The Council must seek to address this asap and not allow new Equal Pay claims to arise.</p> <p>Continue with the settlement of existing Equal Pay claims in line with approval already received.</p>	Executive Director - HR, OD and Transformation
2	Delays in the Waste Transformation Programme leading to issues with service delivery and failure to comply with legal requirements.	<p>The Council must achieve successful implementation of the Waste Transformation Programme although accepting that this has been delayed from the previously envisaged timescales.</p> <p>The Waste Programme Board to closely follow the progress of this Programme and ensure that the changes are achieved as quickly as possible in light of the current industrial action.</p>	Executive Director - City Operations
3	Failure to comply with public procurement requirements and insufficient internal processes to monitor such compliance.	<p>Establishment and Council wide implementation of the Procurement Board and procurement processes.</p> <p>Successful introduction of an update to date contract register.</p> <p>Contract reviews and timely procurement of new contracts (not reliance on repeated extensions)</p>	Executive Director - Finance
4	Concerns over Group Company Governance, Council involvement in companies and external organisations and decision making of council appointed board members and representatives.	<p>Completion of the review of Group Companies and introduction of governance procedures for Directors, Trustees or Shareholder Representatives for these groups.</p> <p>Production of guidance on decision making processes and reporting.</p>	Executive Director - Finance

		Completion of the Paradise Circus restructured joint venture agreement	
5	Failure to comply with the Decent Homes Standards requirements.	<p>The service to continue to operate it's HRA Business Plan to tackle damp and mould issues and manage repairs effectively.</p> <p>Regular reporting and monitoring of contract performance, monitoring the success of new programmes must continue.</p>	Executive Director – City Housing
6	Concerns over the knowledge and oversight of the Corporate Landlord function for all properties owned and occupied by the Council.	<p>Corporate Landlord to develop an Asset Strategy setting out the aims and objectives for each asset in the property portfolio.</p> <p>Corporate Landlord to hold all information on properties owned and occupied by the Council including occupational costs, operational efficiencies and how surplus asset disposal will be implemented.</p>	Executive Director – Place, Prosperity and Sustainability
7	There is risk that a failure to identify sufficient and suitable property assets, and to mobilise their disposal within the timeframe required, will mean that the Council's financial savings target will not be met.	<p>An Assurance Plan to be developed to ensure disposals programme can be delivered and aligned to Corporate Finance requirements as these are confirmed.</p> <p>The Assurance Plan will need to capture the position in respect of all property assets that could be sold, and associated recommendations for retention vs disposal.</p>	Executive Director – Place, Prosperity and Sustainability
8	There is a need to renew the contractual arrangements for the provision of Compliance and Facilities Management services required to maintain the Council's operational estate.	<p>A better understanding of Asset Strategy planning to deliver a more optimum asset profile. The Corporate Landlord team need to continue to work with officers and Members, at cross-directorate level, to develop a better understanding of these requirements.</p> <p>A review of its relationship with the current Facilities Management Service is required to review if the</p>	Executive Director – Place, Prosperity and Sustainability

		<p>contractual relationship represents of value for money.</p> <p>New KPIs and governance arrangements need to be embedded to provide accurate metrics in terms of the current providers performance.</p>	
9	<p>Concerns over the ongoing Waste Industrial Action. Action started in January 2025 and is ongoing. The strikes are impacting on the Council's ability to deliver the waste service and future transformation plans.</p>	<p>Produce robust Contingency Plans setting out how services will continue to be delivered through industrial action which are reviewed and updated regularly.</p> <p>Ensure robust monitoring and reporting arrangements are in place to ensure operational and financial impacts can be monitored.</p>	<p>Executive Director - City Operations</p>
10	<p>The ERP Public Interest Report presented in February 2025 identified a number of ongoing issues with the ERP/Oracle programme which need to be addressed.</p>	<p>To learn from the issues identified in the ERP Public Interest Report to ensure that mistakes are not repeated in current phase of delivery.</p> <p>To ensure robust reporting processes are in place to ensure CLT, Member and Commissioner oversight on the project and its implementation.</p>	<p>Executive Director - Finance</p>
11	<p>It has been identified that there is ongoing failure by the Council to comply with the statutory requirement that no household with dependents will be accommodated in B&amp;B/hotel temporary accommodation.</p>	<p>Development, publication and delivery of a Homelessness Prevention Strategy and a Temporary Accommodation Strategy.</p> <p>To have a focus on preventing homelessness wherever possible and delivering further and better temporary accommodation.</p> <p>Regular oversight from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government as well as Housing Sub-Board and Oversight and Scrutiny on how the service is taking steps to ensure statutory compliance.</p>	<p>Executive Director – City Housing</p>
12	<p>The Government has agreed Exceptional Financial Support for the Council in relation to balancing its accounts. Such agreement has</p>	<p>Monitor compliance with all EFS conditions placed by Government to ensure that EFS remains available.</p>	<p>Executive Director - Finance</p>

	conditions which must be met by the Council in order for the funding to be provided. The Council must ensure compliance with these conditions.		
13	Concerns over continued delays in reaching a decision on the restructuring of the Highways PFI. This has been outstanding since the Government's formal rejection of the Outline Business Case on 30 November 2023. Delays are creating prolonged uncertainty for service delivery and preventing the establishment of a value-for-money contractual arrangement.	<p>Apply pressure to agree a revised decision timeline with Government to provide clarity on the expected approval pathway and milestones for the restructured PFI proposal.</p> <p>Implement interim service assurance measures to maintain service quality and mitigate operational risks during the period of uncertainty.</p> <p>Undertake a commercial review to reassess contract levers, risks, and financial implications caused by the decision delays, ensuring readiness to progress once approval is granted.</p> <p>Ensure robust monitoring and reporting of contingency plan arrangements so that operational and financial impacts can be effectively tracked and managed.</p>	Executive Director - City Operations

## **Glossary**

### **Academy School**

A school that chooses to opt out of Local Authority control and receive its funding from the Education Funding Agency directly.

### **Accounting Policies**

The rules and practices adopted by the Council that determine how the transactions and events are reflected in the Accounts.

### **Accruals**

Income and expenditure are recognised as they are earned or incurred, not as money is received or paid (see Debtors and Creditors).

### **Amortised Cost**

Some financial assets and liabilities are carried at amortised cost, where part of their carrying amount in the Balance Sheet will be either written down or written up via the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement over the term of the instrument.

### **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.

### **Balance Sheet**

The Balance Sheet shows the value, as at the Balance Sheet date, of the assets, liabilities and other balances recognised by the Council.

### **Balances**

The total level of funds an authority has accumulated over the years, available to support expenditure within the year.

### **Beacon Properties**

In valuing the Housing Stock the Council's properties are grouped into types of a similar nature. A sample from each type, known as beacon properties, are valued with the results being multiplied up to give a total value for each type.

### **Business Rates**

A local tax paid by businesses to their local authority, based on the value of their premises as assessed by the Government Valuation Office Agency (VOA).

### **Capital Charge**

A charge to service revenue accounts to reflect the cost of non-current assets used in the provision of services.

### **Capital Expenditure**

Expenditure on the acquisition of a non-current asset, or expenditure which adds to, and not merely maintains, the value of an existing non-current asset. The Government has also enacted regulations which result in certain other types of spending being treated as capital expenditure.

### **Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)**

A measure of an authority's cumulative need to borrow to finance capital expenditure, or to meet the costs of other long-term liabilities.

**Capital Receipt**

Cash received from the disposal of land and other non-current assets, and from the repayment of grants and loans of a capital nature made by the Council.

**Cash Flow Statement**

The Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Council during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Council generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as being from operating, investing or 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 (that is borrowing) to the Council.

**CIPFA/SOLACE Framework**

The CIPFA/SOLACE Framework helps local authorities to develop and maintain their own codes of governance and discharge their accountability for the proper conduct of public business.

**Collection Fund**

A separate account administered by the Council collecting receipts from Council Tax and Business Rates and paying it on to the General Fund and other public authorities.

**Community Assets**

Assets that the local authority 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.

**Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)**

This Statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation.

**Consistency**

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

**Creditors**

Amounts owed by the Council for work done, goods received or services rendered or taxation owed, but for which payment has not been made by the end of the year.

**Current Value**

Current Value is a measurement base which reflects the economic environment prevailing for the service or function that an asset supports when valuing the asset. The Current Value measurement bases include Existing Use Value, Depreciated Replacement Cost and Fair Value (see below).

**Debtors**

Amounts owed to the Council for work done, goods received, services rendered or taxation due but not received by the end of the year.

**Deferred Capital Receipts**

Income that is still due following disposal of a non-current asset.

**Defined Benefit Pension Scheme**

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

**Defined Contribution Pension Scheme**

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

**Depreciated Replacement Cost**

A method of valuation which provides the current cost of replacing an asset with its modern equivalent asset less deductions for physical deterioration and obsolescence.

**Depreciation**

The measure of the wearing out, consumption or other reduction in the useful economic life of a non-current asset.

**Earmarked Reserve**

A reserve which has been set aside for a specific purpose.

**Effective Interest Rate**

The rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments or receipts through the expected life of the financial instrument.

**Emoluments**

Payments received in cash and benefits for employment.

**Events After the Reporting Period**

Those events, both favourable and adverse, that occur between the Balance Sheet date and the date on which the Statement of Accounts is signed by the Responsible Financial Officer.

**Existing Use Value**

The estimated amount for which a property should exchange on the date of valuation between a willing buyer and a willing seller in an arm's length transaction, disregarding potential alternative uses and any other characteristics of the property that would cause its market value to differ from that needed to replace the remaining service potential at least cost.

**Expenditure and Funding Analysis**

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis shows how the Council allocates between the Council's Directorates, expenditure for decision making purposes. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

**Fair Value**

Fair Value is defined as 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.

**Fees and Charges**

Income arising from the provision of services, for example, the use of car parks.

**Finance Lease**

A lease that transfers substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of a non-current asset to the lessee. The payments usually cover the full cost of the asset together with a return for the cost of finance.

**Financial Instruments**

Financial Instruments are financial assets that can be traded. They can also be seen as packages of capital that may be traded. Most types of Financial Instruments provide an efficient flow and transfer of capital throughout all the world's investors. These assets can be cash, a contractual right to deliver or receive cash or another type of Financial Instrument, or evidence of one's ownership of an entity.

**General Fund**

The account which records income and expenditure for all the services of the Council except for the Housing Revenue Account and the Collection Fund, the net costs of which is met by Council Tax, Business Rates and Government grants.

**Government Grants**

Financial assistance from Government or other external bodies as a contribution towards the costs of services. Some grants may be accompanied by strict conditions relating to how the money can be spent. These are referred to as ring-fenced grants.

**Heritage Assets**

Assets that the Council intends to hold for the purpose of informing or educating the public about their heritage and which are not held for their investment value. Examples include collections of antiques in museums.

**Housing Revenue Account (HRA)**

A separate account detailing the expenditure and income arising from the provision of Council housing. Local authorities are required to maintain this separately from the General Fund.

**Impairment**

A diminution in value of a fixed asset resulting from, for example, obsolescence or physical damage. To comply with accounting standards the Council undertakes annual reviews of its assets to identify any assets which have been impaired.

**Infrastructure Assets**

These are inalienable assets, the value of which is recognised only by continued use of the asset created. Examples of such assets are highways and footpaths.

**Intangible Assets**

An intangible (non-physical) item may be defined as an asset when access to the future economic benefits it represents is controlled by the reporting entity.

**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). These are the standards which local authorities adhere to as interpreted for the public sector by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

**Investment Properties**

Interest in land and/or buildings in respect of which construction work and development have been completed, or which is held for its investment potential with rental income being negotiated at arm's length.

**Investments – long term**

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

**Investments - short term**

A short-term investment is an investment that will mature to cash within a one-year time period and is considered liquid. An asset is liquid if the owner can readily access it.

**Lender Option Borrower Option (LOBO)**

A LOBO is a type of loan instrument where borrowing is undertaken, initially at a fixed rate of interest. Periodically, at specific points, the lender has the option to alter the interest rate charged. Should the lender exercise the option to alter the interest rate, the borrower then has the option to continue with the loan instrument at the new rate or alternatively to terminate the agreement and pay back the sum borrowed with no other penalty.

**Liabilities**

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

**Long Term Creditors**

These creditors represent existing liabilities to be settled beyond 12 months of the Balance Sheet date.

**Long Term Debtors**

These debtors represent income still to be received beyond 12 months of the Balance Sheet date, for example on the sale of an asset or granting of a loan.

**Market Value**

The estimated amount for which a property should exchange on the date of valuation between a willing buyer and a willing seller in an arm's-length transaction after proper marketing wherein the parties had each acted knowledgeably, prudently and without compulsion.

**Materiality**

An item is material if its omission, non-disclosure or mis-statement in the financial statements could be expected to lead to a distortion of the view given by the financial statements.

**Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)**

Minimum Revenue Provision is a charge to the revenue account in relation to capital expenditure financed from borrowing or credit arrangements. The Council is required by law to make an annual determination of MRP that it considers to be prudent.

**Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRS)**

This Statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into 'usable reserves' (that is, those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other reserves.

**Net Book Value**

The amount at which non-current assets are included in the Balance Sheet, i.e. their historical cost or current value less the cumulative amounts provided for depreciation.

**Operating Lease**

A lease other than a finance lease.

**Operational Assets**

Non-current assets held, occupied, used or consumed in the direct delivery of services for which the Council has a statutory duty or discretionary power to provide.

**Precept**

Amounts levied on the Council by other Councils or public bodies (Police and Crime Commissioners, Fire and Rescue Authorities and Parish Councils), which the Council collects on their behalf.

**Prior Period Adjustments**

Those material adjustments applicable to prior years, arising from changes in accounting policies or from the correction of fundamental errors. They do not include normal recurring corrections or adjustments of accounting estimates made in prior years.

**Property, Plant and Equipment**

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

**Provisions**

Contributions to provisions are amounts charged to the revenue account during the year for costs, resulting from a past event and with uncertain timing of payment and where a reliable estimate of the cost involved can be made.

**Related Parties**

There is a detailed definition of related parties in FRS8, Related Party Disclosures. For the Council's purposes, related parties are deemed to include the elected Members of the Council and their partners; the Chief Officers of the Council and the companies in which the Council has an interest.

**Reserves**

Reserves are reported in two categories.

Usable Reserves

Usable reserves are reserves that the Council may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use (for example the Capital Receipts Reserve that may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt).

Unusable Reserves

Unusable reserves are reserves that the Council is not able to use to provide services. This category includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line 'Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'.

**Revenue Expenditure**

Expenditure on the day-to-day running costs of services e.g. employees, premises, supplies and services.

**Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute (REFCUS)**

Expenditure incurred during the year that is treated as capital expenditure under statutory provision but does not result in a non-current asset owned by the Council. Examples of these are expenditure on items such as improvement grants.

**Right to Buy (RTB) Capital Receipts**

Capital receipts generated from the sale of Council housing under the national scheme available to existing tenants. These receipts can only be used in ways determined by the Government, for example to pay for further capital expenditure on Council housing.

**Service Concession Agreements**

A form of contract involving an external company providing services for a fixed period, using facilities that they have inherited/provided/constructed.

**Soft Loan**

Loans at nil or below prevailing interest rates are often referred to as soft loans.

**Top-up Grant**

Additional grant which the Government provides to reflect the difference between Business Rates income that the Council can generate and the amount which the Government has calculated it needs to spend on services.

**Voluntary Revenue Provision (VRP)**

Voluntary Revenue Provision is a charge to the revenue account in relation to capital expenditure financed from borrowing or credit arrangements that the Council chooses to make over and above Minimum Revenue Provision.

## Independent auditor's report to the members of Birmingham City Council

### Report on the audit of the financial statements

#### Disclaimer of opinion

We were engaged to audit the financial statements of Birmingham City Council (the 'Authority') and its subsidiaries and joint venture and associate (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2025, which comprise the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, the Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement, the Collection Fund Income and Expenditure Account, the Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Group Movement in Reserves Statement, the Group Balance Sheet, the Group Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25.

We do not express an opinion on the accompanying financial statements of the Authority or the group. Because of the significance of the matters 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

##### [Accounts and Audit \(Amendment\) Regulations 2024](#)

The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (the 'Regulations') require the Authority to publish audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 by 27 February 2026 (the 'backstop date'). The backstop date has been put in law with the purpose of clearing the backlog of historical financial statements. The latest date on which unaudited accounts could be published to enable local elector rights to be met in time for the backstop was 15 January 2026. The Authority published its unaudited accounts on 14 July 2025.

On 21 November 2025, we issued a disclaimer of opinion on the Authority's and the group's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024. We reported that we could not obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence by the backstop date to conclude that the Authority's and group's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 were free from material misstatement. In addition, we reported that we were unable to obtain sufficient evidence that the financial information extracted from the Authority's Enterprise Resource Planning finance system (ERP) financial system was free from material misstatement following the failed implementation of the system in 2022/23. We were also unable to assess whether issues reported with regard to equal pay, the Housing Revenue Account, laws and regulations, subsequent events and going concern in our disclaimers of opinion for 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 had been resolved. We were also unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence over the corresponding figures for the same reason. We concluded that the possible effects on the financial statements of undetected misstatements arising from these matters could be both material and pervasive. We therefore issued a disclaimer of opinion on the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

For the financial period ending 31 March 2025, as a result of the limitations imposed by the backstop date, we have been unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence over the Authority's and group's opening balances, in-year movements, and closing balances reported in the financial statements. In addition, we were unable to obtain sufficient evidence that the financial information extracted from the Authority's ERP financial system is free from material misstatement following the failed implementation of the system in 2022/23. Nor were we able to obtain sufficient assurance over key areas of the accounts such as property, right of use assets and the associated lease liabilities, creditors, debtors, income, expenditure, and cash. Had we not disclaimed our audit opinion, these matters would have required a modification to the opinion. We have also been

unable to assess whether issues reported previously with regard to equal pay, housing revenue account, laws and regulations, subsequent events and going concern in our disclaimers of opinion for 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 have been resolved. We were also unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence over the corresponding figures for the same reason.

We have concluded that the possible effects on the financial statements of undetected misstatements arising from these matters could be both material and pervasive. We have therefore issued a disclaimer of opinion on the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 and include details of the matters arising below:

#### Implementation and operation of ERP finance system

The Authority has experienced significant financial reporting and management difficulties following the implementation of its new Enterprise Resource Planning finance system (ERP system). This has significantly impacted on the Authority's ability to operate business-as-usual activities and to produce appropriate financial information, due to the workarounds and manual interventions needed to operate the system.

We identified the implementation of the ERP system as a key audit matter. The ERP system is fundamental to the Authority's finance operations and therefore has a pervasive impact over the entirety of the financial statements as well as reporting to members.

We consider that the majority of the Authority's business processes have been negatively impacted by the inadequate implementation of the ERP system and consider that control weaknesses existed in the majority of financial statement line items in 2024/25. As the ERP system is fundamental to appropriate financial reporting, and adequate controls have not operated over it, and given the restrictions placed upon us by the backstop legislation we consider that there is insufficient evidence to allow us to conclude whether the financial information extracted from the ERP system is materially accurate.

#### Significant deficiencies in the Authority's financial accounting and record keeping

Our audit identified significant control deficiencies in the Authority's financial accounting and record keeping. The Authority, amongst other matters:

- did not carry out an assessment of its leases and Right of Use assets (as required by IFRS16), and therefore could not update its balance sheet for any changes in accounting or valuation. We have not therefore been able to undertake any audit work on these balances.
- did not update the accounts for current year valuation of land and buildings, council dwellings and investment properties until January 2026. We have therefore not been able to undertake any work on these balances.
- did not complete two bank account reconciliations until 19 December 2025, and two further reconciliations were provided on 13 and 14 January 2025. We have not therefore been able to complete our substantive testing of cash balances.
- was not able to provide a cleansed transactional level breakdown of Goods Received Not Invoiced accruals (£55 million) ahead of the backstop deadline. We have therefore not been able to undertake any work on this balance.
- failed to post a number of accruals for income and expenditure that related to the year ended 31 March 2025, which we consider presents a risk of material risk of understatement in income and expenditure.

- was not able to provide sufficient appropriate audit evidence to support the reasonableness of provisions for bad debt (£200 million), credit loss allowances (£162 million), and associated disclosures reported in the financial statements as at 31 March 2025. We have therefore not been able to determine whether this balance is misstated.
- was not able to provide sufficient appropriate audit evidence to support the occurrence and accuracy of school income and expenditure reported in the financial statements ahead of the backstop deadline. We have therefore not been able to undertake any work on these transactions
- the Authority is redeveloping Paradise Circus via a joint venture (Paradise Circus Limited Partnership (PCLP)) between Birmingham City Council and the BT Pension Scheme. Audited accounts are not available for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years. We understand PCLP may be restructured and refinanced, and that the Authority's potential liability is significant. The accounts have not been updated for this matter.
- the Authority is the accountable body for a range of fundings sources, most notably Growing Places Fund and Regional Growth Fund – Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative. Prior to 1 July 2023 these projects were managed by Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP). From 1 July 2023 the GBSLEP was dis-established and responsibility for the management of the recycled regional growth fund transferred to the Authority. We note that Internal Audit has recently issued a report giving limited assurance on the management of the scheme and that the accounts have not been updated for the revised governance arrangements.

We have not been able to undertake all the substantive testing we consider to be necessary on the matters listed above due to the introduction of the government-imposed backstop legislation referred to above.

### Equal Pay

Under the Equality Act 2010, employees are entitled to equal pay for work of equal value and the Authority has faced a significant level of claims under that and other relevant legislation for a number of years. As at 31 March 2025 the Authority has set aside a provision of £404 million (2024: £404 million) in respect of current and potential claims (see note 4, note 5, note 17, note 30, and note 31). The Authority has capitalised the cost of these provisions.

The Authority's provision for equal pay costs is considered a significant accounting estimate due to the scale and degree of estimation uncertainty involved, its impact on the Authority's financial sustainability and the public interest in the Authority's estimated liability.

A settlement was reached with litigants (represented by the Authority's recognised Trade Unions) in December 2025 but negotiations and settlement strategies for other potential claimants are incomplete. Due to the limitations arising from the backstop date, management have not been able to reassess and consider potential updates to their provision. Therefore, we have not been able to undertake procedures in respect of these statements and the equal pay settlement or their impact on the provision recognised in the financial statements.

Furthermore and prior to the recent developments, we were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence over management's estimate of the equal pay provisions in the 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial statements which may or may not still be relevant to the 2024/25 financial statements. In particular:

- The completeness and accuracy of relevant supporting documentation;

- The appropriateness and completeness of the significant assumptions employed by management in determining their estimate of equal pay liabilities;
- The exclusion of certain assumptions in management's model which, based on legal advice at the time, we would expect to be included even if the probability of success is determined to be low;
- The disclosures related to the Equal Pay provision do not meet the requirements of IFRS, notwithstanding certain exemptions for legal privilege; and
- Due to the matters set out above we have been unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence to conclude whether the possible increase in pension liability, arising from the potential equal pay provision, and other associated disclosures is complete and accurate.

We have concluded that the possible effects on the financial statements of undetected misstatements arising from this matter could be both material and pervasive.

### Housing Revenue Account

The Authority provides several services on behalf of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The cost of these services, where not charged directly to the HRA, is recharged to the HRA mainly through journal entries. Our audit procedures in prior years identified significant errors in the amounts of these recharges included in the 2021/22, 2020/21 and 2019/20 financial statements. The Authority has corrected for the errors in 2021/22 and 2020/21. We requested for prior year audits that the Authority undertake a review of historic transactions to determine the full extent of the errors in the previous years and correct the associated balances as at 1 April 2020. Management has undertaken a review and an adjustment for the previous years associated balances has been adjusted for within the 2022/23 accounts. We have been unable to complete procedures on this review due to the limitations arising from the backstop date and as such we were unable to conclude on the potential impact of any undetected misstatements on the financial statements.

We have completed procedures on in-year transactions allocated to the Housing Revenue Account and identified two instances where management was not able to provide sufficient audit evidence to support the percentage apportionment of charges between the Housing Revenue Account and the General fund. We have been unable to complete procedures on a number of other in-year transactions due to the limitations arising from the backstop date and as such we were unable to conclude on the potential impact of any undetected misstatements on the financial statements.

When considered with the laws and regulations matter raised below, we were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to conclude that the opening and closing HRA reserve balances were free from material misstatement.

### Laws and regulations

During our prior year audits, we became aware of suspected non-compliance of laws and regulations in a number of areas, namely:

- Equal pay: the Authority has paid a significant sum in respect of equal pay claims made by workers over the last 10 years and is now subject to further claims in respect of potential historic non-compliance of equal pay laws.
- Recharges to the HRA from the General Fund: our audit procedures identified unsupported recharges of costs from the General Fund to the HRA, which is in breach of the Authority's duties under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- Acivico Group ('Acivico'): the Authority's contract with its wholly owned subsidiary, Acivico, lapsed on 31 March 2020 but the Authority has continued to trade with the company. We

consider that the Authority may not have complied with legal tendering requirements or its internal contracting and procurement policies and procedures.

- Pollinations cabinet report - we have received a copy of the Pollinations cabinet report dated 2 September 2024. The report notes that there were inadequate governance procedures and insufficient approvals obtained prior to the Pollinations festival. The festival delayed the public realm works at a cost of c£500k, which now requires retrospective approval. This may constitute a breach of internal policies or regulations.
- Regulator of Social Housing – on 23 May 2023 the RSH issued a regulatory notice stating that the Authority had not completed statutory fire, electrical and asbestos checks and inspections for every property that needed one.

In response to this we requested the Authority to:

1. investigate how and why the identified breaches of laws and regulations set out above were not detected by the Authority's internal control system; and
2. assess whether the Authority's governance arrangements and system of internal control had identified any other breaches of laws or regulations.

The Authority informed us on 1 November 2024 that it was not aware of other breaches in relevant laws and regulations, but that it was unable to undertake further investigations within the timescale imposed by the backstop date. However, further suspected breaches were reported to us on 7 November 2024.

The Authority has not completed its further investigations as at the date of our report. Consequently, due to the limitations arising from the backstop date, we were unable to determine whether there have been any further breaches of applicable laws or regulations and the potential impact on the amounts of any transactions during the year and balances at the end of the year as recorded in the financial statements.

### Subsequent events

Due to the limitations arising from the backstop date and issues relating to the failed implementation of the Enterprise Resource Planning system in April 2022, which continues to impact the Authority's operations and financial reporting, we have been unable to complete our audit procedures in respect of events which occurred post the balance sheet date (for example the collectability of debt, provisions, appeals, group companies and joint ventures, and Regional Growth Funds).

### Going concern

On 5 September 2023 the Authority issued a Section 114 notice due to a negative general fund position and the fact that the Authority had insufficient resources to meet its legally obligated expenditure. The Authority requested exceptional financial support of £1.2 billion from the government; to date the government has written to the Authority to say it is minded to provide this support but no capitalisation directive has been approved or issued as at the date of our report. Due to the cumulative effect of the issues noted above and the uncertainty regarding the capitalisation directive we have not been able to complete our audit procedures in respect of going concern.

### Conclusion

Consequently, due to the introduction of the legislation referred to above, the matters relating to the flawed implementation and subsequent operation of the ERP finance system and associated

business controls, and the other matters outlined above we were unable to undertake sufficient audit work to support an audit opinion by the statutory deadline of 27 February 2026.

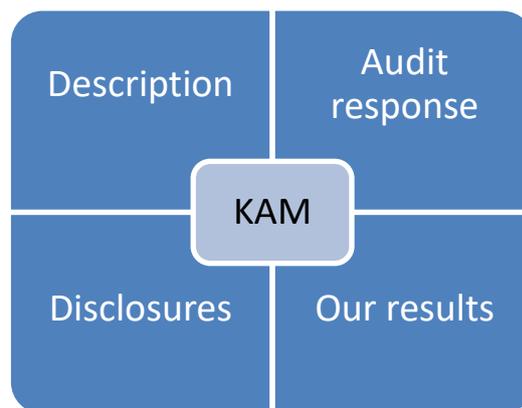
We have concluded that the possible impact of these matters could be both material and pervasive to the current year financial statements. While the uncertainties set out above are within the Authority, we also consider them to be material and pervasive to the group, as the Authority is the only significant component.

**Our approach to the audit**

  	<p><b>Overview of our audit approach</b>  <b>Financial statements audit</b></p>
	<p>Overall materiality</p> <p>Group: £41.6 million, which represents 1% of the group’s forecast gross expenditure</p> <p>Authority: £41.6m million, which represents 1% of the Authority’s forecast gross expenditure</p>
	<p>As described in the basis for disclaimer of opinion section of our report, key audit matters for the Authority and group were identified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implementation and operation of ERP system</li> <li>- Significant deficiencies in financial accounting and record keeping</li> <li>- Valuation and completeness of equal pay provision</li> <li>- Classification of expenditure recorded in the Authority’s Housing Revenue Account</li> <li>- Compliance with laws and regulations</li> </ul> <p>Items 1, 3, 4 and 5 were also reported in our auditor’s report for the year ended 31 March 2024.</p> <p>Our auditor’s report for the year ended 31 March 2024 included no key audit matters that have not been reported as key audit matters in our current year’s report.</p>
	<p><b>Value for money arrangements</b></p> <p>We are required to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2025. Our approach to this work is set out in the ‘Report on other legal and regulatory requirements – the Authority’s arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources’ section of this report.</p>

**Key audit matters**

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgement, were of most significance in our audit of the group and Authority’s financial statements of the current year and include the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement (whether or not due to fraud) that we identified. These matters included those that had the greatest effect on: the overall audit strategy; the allocation of resources in the audit; and directing the efforts of the engagement team. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.



In the graph below, we have presented the key audit matters, significant risks and other risks relevant to the audit.



Key

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| A - Implementation and operation of new ERP system                                    | L – Cash and cash equivalents   |
| B - Valuation and completeness of equal pay provision                                 | M - Government Grants and contributions   |
| C - Management override of control  | N - Other services expenditure  |
| D - Valuation of pension liability  | O - Completeness of both income and expenditure (ie the risk that transactions have not been accounted for in the correct period) |
| E - Valuation of Council Dwellings (both beacon methodology and discounted cash flow) | P - HRA rental income   |
| F - Valuation of other land and buildings   | Q - Going concern   |
| G - Additions to property, plant and equipment  | R - Compliance with laws and regulations  |
| H - Debtors   | S - Right of use assets and lease liabilities   |
| I - Creditors   | T - REFCUS and Flexible use of capital receipts   |
| J - Fees, charges and other service income  | U - Assets under construction   |

K - Income from Council Tax and Business Rates

V - Significant deficiencies in financial accounting and record keeping

W - Classification of expenditure recorded in the Authority's Housing Revenue Account

	Key audit matter		Significant risk
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Our response to the key audit matters is as detailed above in the disclaimer section of our report.

**Our application of materiality**

We apply the concept of materiality both in planning and performing the audit, and in evaluating the effect of identified misstatements on the audit and of uncorrected misstatements, if any, on the financial statements and in forming the opinion in the auditor's report.

Materiality was determined as follows:

**Materiality measure**

**Materiality for financial statements as a whole**

We define materiality as the magnitude of misstatement in the financial statements that, individually or in the aggregate, could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of the users of these financial statements. We use materiality in determining the nature, timing and extent of our audit work.

	Group	Authority
Materiality threshold	£41.6 million (2024: £30.1 million), which is 1% of forecast gross expenditure	£41.6 million (2024: £30.0 million), which is 1% of forecast gross expenditure

Significant judgements made by auditor in determining the materiality

In determining materiality, we made the following significant judgements; we considered the significant challenges the Authority (as the only significant component of the Group) is currently facing such as the equal pay provision and problems rolling out the new ERP system. We also considered the last thematic review by the FRC which included revenue as a benchmark for PIEs noting that this did not account for the difference between commercial and public sector entities.

Materiality for the current year is consistent with the level that we determined for the year ended 31 March 2024 to reflect the Authority's financial position, potential understatement of the equal pay provision and problems rolling out the new ERP system.

**Performance materiality used to drive the extent of our testing**

We set performance materiality at an amount less than materiality for the financial statements as a whole to reduce to an appropriately low level the probability that the aggregate of uncorrected and undetected misstatements exceeds materiality for the financial statements as a whole.

Performance materiality threshold	£20.8 million (2024: £15.1million), which is 50% of financial statement materiality	£19.7 million (2024: £15.0 million), which is 50% of financial statement materiality
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Significant judgements made by auditor in determining the performance materiality

In determining performance materiality, we made the following significant judgements; we considered the significant challenges the Authority is currently facing such as the equal pay provision and problems rolling out the new ERP system. We also considered the last thematic review by the FRC which included revenue as a benchmark

**Materiality measure**

for PIEs noting that this did not account for the difference between commercial and public sector entities.

**Specific materiality**

We determine specific materiality for one or more particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures for which misstatements of lesser amounts than materiality for the financial statements as a whole could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

Specific materiality

We have determined a lower level of specific materiality of £21,500 in relation to senior officer remuneration.

**Communication of misstatements to the Audit Committee**

We determine a threshold for reporting unadjusted differences to the Audit Committee.

Threshold for communication

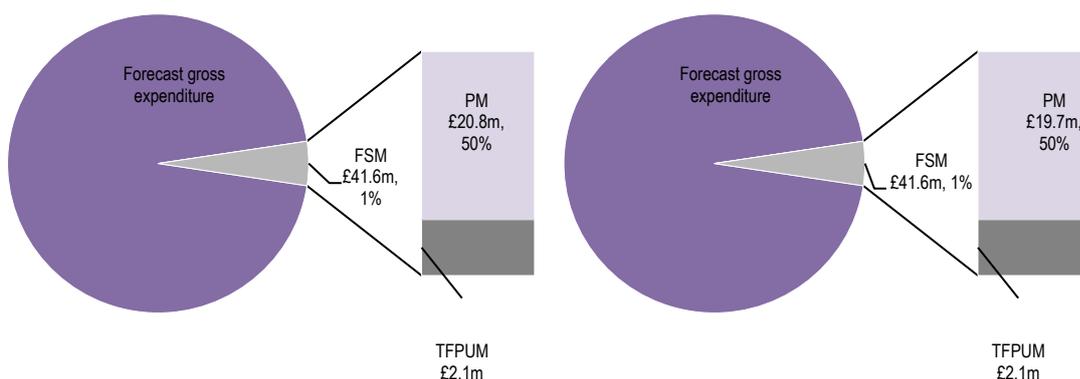
£2.1 million (2024: £1.505 million) and misstatements below that threshold that, in our view, warrant reporting on qualitative grounds.

£2.1 million (2024: £1.5 million) and misstatements below that threshold that, in our view, warrant reporting on qualitative grounds.

The graph below illustrates how performance materiality interacts with our overall materiality and the tolerance for potential uncorrected misstatements.

Overall materiality – Group

Overall materiality – Authority



FSM: Financial statements materiality, PM: Performance materiality, TFPUM: Tolerance for potential uncorrected misstatements

**An overview of the scope of our audit**

We performed a risk-based audit that requires an understanding of the group's and the Authority's business and in particular matters related to:

Understanding the group, the Authority and its other components, and their environments, including group-wide controls

- The engagement team obtained an understanding of the group, the Authority and its environment, including group-wide controls, and assessed the risks of material misstatement at the group and Authority level.

#### Identifying significant components

- We evaluated the components of the group to assess the significance of each component and to determine the planned audit response based on measures of the materiality and significance of each component as a percentage of the group's current assets, total assets, current liabilities, total liabilities, reserves, revenues and expenditures.
- We determined that the Authority was the only significant component of the group, although there are material balances within Birmingham Children's Trust and NEC Developments Plc.

#### Performance of our audit

- We have performed a consideration of IT controls and security, data migration, and core processes such as: system controls, journal controls, control account reconciliations, and cash.

#### Changes in approach from previous period

- The scope of the audit is consistent with the previous financial year, with significant attention given to the implementation of the new ERP system.
- In terms of our approach to the group audit, the scope was consistent with prior year.

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

Because of the significance of the matters described in the basis for disclaimer of opinion section of our report, we have been unable to consider whether the Annual Governance Statement does not comply with the requirements of the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Audit Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 or is misleading or inconsistent with the information of which we are aware from our audit. We are not required to consider whether the Annual Governance Statement addresses all risks and controls or that risks are satisfactorily addressed by internal controls.

#### **Opinion on other matters required by the Code of Audit Practice**

The Executive Director (and Section 151 Officer) is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts, other than the Authority and group's financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Because of the significance of the matters described in the basis for disclaimer of opinion section of our report, we have been unable to form an opinion, whether based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit of the financial statements and our knowledge of the Authority gained through our work in relation to the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, whether the other information published together with the financial statements in the Statement of Accounts for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

#### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

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

- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we make a written recommendation to the Authority under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we make an application to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law under Section 28 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we issue an advisory notice under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we make an application for judicial review under Section 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit.

In respect of the above matters on 29 September 2023 we issued twelve written recommendations to the Authority under section 24 of the Local Accountability Act 2014 and on 12 February 2025 we issued a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in relation to significant weaknesses in the Authority's governance arrangements for the implementation of its Enterprise Resource Planning System (ERP). Our written recommendations were in relation to various matters including emerging equal pay issues, the failure of the ERP IT system implementation, savings and financial pressures, issues relating to the financial sustainability of the Authority, matters relating to its governance and management capacity and preparation of the statutory accounts. The following written recommendation remains outstanding:

#### **Governance and management capacity**

- Given the significant risks facing the Authority it should ensure that it cooperates with external audit in a timely and appropriate manner, and in accordance with legal requirements.

We have nothing further to report in respect of the matters we are required to report by exception under the Code of Audit Practice.

#### **Responsibilities of the Authority and the Executive Director Finance (and s151 Officer)**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities, the Authority is required to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this authority, that officer is the Executive Director Finance (and s151 Officer). The Executive Director Finance (and s151 Officer) is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25, for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Executive Director Finance (and s151 Officer) 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 Executive Director Finance (and s151 Officer) is responsible for assessing the Authority's and the group'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 they have been informed by the relevant national body of the intention to dissolve the Authority and the group without the transfer of its services to another public sector entity.

#### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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

We are independent of the Authority and group 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 entities, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

#### **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 material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that material misstatements in the financial statements may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with the ISAs (UK).

The audit was defective in its ability to detect irregularities, including fraud, on the basis that we were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence due to the matters described in the basis for disclaimer of opinion section of our report.

#### **Other matters which we are required to address**

We were reappointed by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited in December 2017, and again in September 2022, to audit the financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2019 and subsequent financial periods. The period of total uninterrupted engagement is 14 years, covering the years ending 31 March 2012 to 31 March 2025.

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

The following services, in addition to the audit, were provided by the firm to the Authority or its subsidiaries since 1 April 2024 and have not been disclosed in the financial statements or elsewhere in the Statement of Accounts:

- Certification of 2023/24 Housing Benefits Subsidy claim (May 2024 – December 2024)
- Certification of Module X relating to 2023/24 Housing Benefits Subsidy Claim (commenced June 2025)
- Certification of 2024/25 Housing Benefits Subsidy claim (commenced June 2025)
- Certification of 2021/22 Teachers' Pension return (May 2022 – October 2024)
- Certification of 2021/22 Housing Capital Receipts grant (March 2023 – August 2024)
- Certification of 2022/23 Housing Capital Receipts grant (commenced April 2024)
- BEIS grants assurance work for the 2023/24 year (commenced April 2024)
- H2020 Project JIVE (May 2024 – August 2024)
- Independent review of the WMRE Blueprint for rail devolution (commenced February 2025)

Our audit report is consistent with the additional report to the Audit Committee.

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

#### **Matter on which we are required to report by exception – the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources**

Under the Code of Audit Practice, we are required to report to you if, in our opinion, we have not been able to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2025.

We have nothing to report in respect of the above matter except:

On 29 September 2023, we made written recommendations to the Authority under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in respect of significant weaknesses identified. One of these significant weaknesses, relating to governance and management capacity, remains outstanding. This is reflected within 'Matters on which we are required to report by exception' section above of this audit report.

On 8 November 2024 we identified three significant weaknesses in the Authority's governance arrangements. These were in relation to the following:

- Our work on the Authority's culture change programme identified that the improvement journey needs to permeate down all levels of management and staff to ensure success. Furthermore, our work highlighted that throughout the improvement journey the relationship between officers and members is imperative to not only drive that change but to also embed improvements throughout the Authority.
- We recommended that the Authority implements sufficient external support to ensure that momentum is maintained and that the improvement permeates down through the tiers of management across all services. There should be particular emphasis on the relationship

between officers and members. Progress should be subject to internal review on a regular basis to test progress.

- Our work identified several key issues within the Authority's current risk management framework. We found that emerging risks are often not reported early enough; that there is a lack of regular spot checks and mandatory training, resulting in inconsistent risk management practices and insufficient staff awareness; and that there is an absence of designated risk champions and coaching opportunities.
  - We recommended that the Authority should ensure that the new risk management arrangements are fully embedded through the different tiers of management within each service, with a particular focus on the early reporting of emerging risks. This may require spot checking, mandatory training, the appointment of risk champions and access to coaching. An open and transparent culture should be developed where officers and members are encouraged to report 'bad' news and action is taken in response to the concerns raised.
- Our work identified several critical issues within the current Internal Audit framework.
  - We recommended that any revised approach to Internal Audit includes a focus on clarity of reporting to members of the Audit Committee. This should include:
    - appointing a Head of Internal Audit as a matter of urgency;
    - a more robust and independent assessment of risk in the development of the audit plan by the internal audit function, to ensure that service directors do not unduly influence whether or not work is undertaken;
    - greater focus on the follow up of outstanding internal audit recommendations;
    - direct commentary to escalate cases where services have failed to engage properly with internal audit or where internal audit have been asked to defer or delay work;
    - service directors being directly held to account by the audit committee where recommendations or risks have not been effectively managed.

On 8 November 2024 we also identified two significant weaknesses in the Authority's arrangements for improving efficiency, economy and effectiveness. These were in relation to the following:

- Our work identified issues in the Authority's performance reporting framework. In particular the coverage of key risk areas, alignment with corporate priorities, and supporting data quality.
  - We recommended that the Authority's performance reporting framework should be revised to ensure that it provides comprehensive coverage of key risk areas and programme delivery in the services. This should avoid any over emphasis on areas that lend themselves to Key Performance Indicator (KPI) measurement or are likely to demonstrate positive outcomes. This should make clear how the performance management framework reconciles to corporate priorities. This should be developed to compliment a strengthened corporate risk management reporting process. This should incorporate a process for providing assurance on KPI data quality.
- Our work highlighted several critical issues within City Operations that necessitate urgent action. We identified inefficiencies and areas where services do not represent value for money, impacting overall performance and resource utilisation. Additionally, there were instances of non-compliance with terms and conditions among employees, leading to inconsistencies and potential governance issues.
  - We recommended that the Authority, as a matter of urgency, should implement its transformation plan in City Operations and ensure that services are efficient and represent value for money. The Authority should ensure that employees within the directorate comply in full with their terms and conditions.

On 10 January 2025 we identified one significant weakness in the Authority's arrangements for ensuring its financial sustainability:

- we identified that the then Authority's officer leadership (in relation to the effective planning and use of resources) lacked the coherence and collegiate qualities to ensure the wider organisation understood and responded to significant financial challenges. We further identified that the focus was on highlighting positive progress and good news at the expense of real and significant risks to the Authority's financial sustainability.
- We recommended that the Authority should recognise the specific cultural challenges it faces in terms of suppression of 'bad news' and silo behaviours and should reinforce appropriate values.
- We recommended that the Authority commit to a long-term programme of organisational development and change which re-sets cultural norms and expectations, reinforces ethical values and behaviours, strengthens accountability, encourages people to raise concerns.

On 12 February 2025 we issued a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in relation to significant weaknesses in the Authority's governance arrangements for the implementation of its Enterprise Resource Planning System, which is reflected within 'Matters on which we are required to report by exception' section of this report.

On 25 February 2026 we also identified two significant weaknesses in the Authority's arrangements for ensuring its financial sustainability. These were in relation to the following:

- Our work identified that the Authority's is carrying a high level of debt (£3.5 billion) which has a significant impact on its revenue budgets, that a proportion of the borrowing is not supported by assets due to either failed development schemes and Equal Pay claims, and that the Authority is planning to borrow an additional £798 million by March 2029.
- We recommended that the Authority should review its debt levels and consider how it can be reduced to reduce the cost to the General Fund and HRA.
- Our work identified that there are substantial budget gaps in the medium-term financial plan (MTFP) and continuing financial risks including Equal Pay, Paradise Circus, the Highways PFI funding, the affordability gap related to the school PFI portfolio, and the continuing Waste strike.
- We recommended that the Authority develop credible and deliverable plans to address the future budget gaps in its MTFP, taking into account the additional financial risks it is facing.

On 25 February 2026 we also identified seven significant weaknesses in the Authority's governance arrangements. These were in relation to the following:

- Our work highlighted that the Authority had inadequate oversight of its group companies and entities throughout 2024/25 and failed to make reasonable progress in reviewing its arrangements or improving governance of its companies. We reported that Commissioners had concluded that the extent of financial risks remains unknown, and that the Authority does not understand its liabilities or how to extract value from the arrangements.
- We recommended that the Authority ensures that its governance review of group companies and other entities including trusts and charities and traded services is carried out with pace and supported by an appropriate level of internal and external capacity.
- Our review of the ERP system and Income Management System (IMS) identified that programme governance arrangements for the re-implementation of the systems appear to be robust and fit for purpose. Our work highlighted a number of key actions to ensure the effective implementation of the ERP system: the Authority needs to evaluate the capacity and capability

of its post go live support model, actively manage the data cleansing process, and ensure that Directorates understand the business processes and operational design of the Oracle and IMS systems.

- We recommended that the Authority adheres to the governance arrangements now in place for the current IMS and Oracle re-implementation programme. It should consider the findings of our Value for Money Report entitled 'Oracle Implementation Follow-up' (December 2025) and strengthen programme management arrangements in line with the recommendations outlined in this report. In doing so the Authority must ensure that the programme manages its risks in the run up to go-live.
- Our work identified that the Authority is involved in an ambitious range of complex and significant regeneration projects, including the Smithfields and Paradise Circus projects. Commissioners have raised concerns that previous projects suffered from poor business cases, delivery mechanisms and that commercial capacity and capability were. We reported that there was a potential liability associated with the Paradise Circus project.
  - We recommended that the Authority should determine how to best deal with the re-financing of the Paradise Circus project and ensure that its governance arrangements regarding this and other major regeneration projects and group companies are strengthened and embedded.
- Our work identified that the Authority is the accountable body for Recycled Regional Growth Funding (RRGF), which provides local support to SMEs. An internal audit review (30 October 2025) provided limited assurance and reported the Authority's monitoring arrangements have been inadequate and ineffective, which have adversely impacted on its ability to adequately fulfil its roles and responsibilities as the accountable body.
  - We recommended that the Authority should implement the recommendations made by Internal Audit in its review of RRGF monitoring. The Authority should apply the lessons learned from Internal Audit's findings where it holds the accountable body role in relation to other government funding.
- Our work highlighted that the Authority has successfully implemented its Equal Pay litigation strategy and settled the trade union claims. It now needs to implement its mitigation strategy which covers other workers. We also reported that the planned implementation of the Pay & Grading (P&G) systems and the Job Evaluation (JE) process have been delayed by a year, to at least 31 March 2026, with risk of further delay.
  - We recommended that the Authority should successfully implement the Equal Pay mitigation strategy. It should also ensure that the JE process is completed and that the P&G system is in place by 31 March 2026 or as soon as possible after this date.
- Our work highlighted that in linking the P&G agreement with agreement over the historic Equal Pay liabilities, the recurring additional costs of the new P&G arrangements are, in effect, part of the 'deal' agreed with the unions. The P&G business case does not make this clear or fully justify the £38.5 million cost of the P&G scheme. Without a detailed assessment, it is uncertain how the Authority can be confident that the revised P&G system is optimal in terms of value for money, risk, and fairness.
  - We recommended that the Authority should undertake a full evaluation of all the inter-related elements of its Equal Pay strategy to ensure the combined effect represents value for money against the Government's formal Best Value criteria. In the medium term (2-3 years) the Authority should review the new P&G system to ensure that it continues to provide value for money for residents. If necessary, a new P&G process should be undertaken. We also recommended that the Authority should establish monitoring arrangements to ensure that job descriptions are all in place, are evaluated on a three yearly basis, and that once in place Job descriptions are not tailored without approval from the corporate centre.

- Our work highlighted that the on-going waste dispute is disruptive to residents and is preventing the Authority from transforming waste services. We reported that the decisions to delete the WRCO and DTL roles, and withdraw the offer of compensation to the WRCO and DTL employees has impacted on the Authority's relationship with its workforce, the Unite trade union, and service delivery. We also noted that in doing so, the Authority had avoided the risk of further Equal Pay claims (in relation to the payment of any settlements) and that it is the first time that the Authority has been willing and able to make the difficult decisions necessary to ensure that the waste service operates effectively and that waste workers operate in line with their job evaluations and terms and conditions.
  - We recommended that the Authority should only conclude the waste strike in a manner that protects its future operating and financial arrangements.

On 25 February 2026 we also identified two significant weaknesses in the Authority's arrangements for improving efficiency, economy and effectiveness. These were in relation to the following:

- Our work reported that, since the issue of a Regulatory Notice in May 2023 by the Regulator for Social Housing, the Authority has undertaken physical stock condition surveys for 45% of the stock portfolio to inform the investment needed to meet the Decent Homes Standard. In October 2025, the Authority estimated it will continue to be non-compliant with the Decent Homes Standard for the next seven years, until the investment programme is fully delivered.
  - We recommended that the Authority should maintain the rate of Decent Homes Standard investment made since 2023.
- Our work highlighted that it is unlikely that best value was obtained through procurement in 2024/25 because the Authority lacked the skilled resources and robust processes required to achieve it. We noted that in October 2025 proposals for a new target operating model were shared with Cabinet.
  - We recommended that the Authority should implement a governance model to oversee transformation in the procurement function. This should include providing resources required to support the Procurement Board. We also recommend that the Authority should bring forward the roll out of the transformation programme to ensure it is delivered before 2031.

#### **Responsibilities of the Authority**

The Authority is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

#### **Auditor's responsibilities for the review of the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources**

We are required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to be satisfied that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

We undertake our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in November 2024. This guidance sets out the arrangements that fall within the scope of 'proper arrangements'. When reporting on these arrangements, the Code of Audit Practice requires auditors to structure their commentary on arrangements under three specified reporting criteria:

- Financial sustainability: how the Authority plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services;
- Governance: how the Authority ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks; and

- Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness: how the Authority uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.

We document our understanding of the arrangements the Authority has in place for each of these three specified reporting criteria, gathering sufficient evidence to support our risk assessment and commentary in our Auditor's Annual Report. In undertaking our work, we consider whether there is evidence to suggest that there are significant weaknesses in arrangements.

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

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate for Birmingham City Council for the year ended 31 March 2025, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice, until we have completed our work necessary in relation to:

- the Authority's arrangements for the management of equal pay; and
- the Authority's consolidation returns and received confirmed from the National Audit Office that the Whole of Government Accounts is complete for the year ended 31 March 2025.

We are satisfied that this work does not impact the disclaimer of opinion on the financial statements issued for the year ended 31 March 2025.

#### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the members of the Authority, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and as set out in paragraph 85 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Authority's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Authority and the Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*M C Stocks*

Mark Stocks, Key Audit Partner

for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Local Auditor

Birmingham

26 February 2026