



County Durham and Darlington  
**Fire and Rescue Authority**

**Statement of Accounts**  
for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017



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## **1. Message from Anthony Hope CPFA – Treasurer to County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority.**

In the face of an ongoing reduction in government funding, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority remains committed to protecting front line services to the public by ensuring that there is no increase in risk and no change to emergency response standards. However, this is proving to be extremely challenging due to fundamental changes in government policy together with continuing austerity. The Authority's funding from central government has reduced by £5.8M during the period 2010/11 to 2016/17. In spite of the challenging financial circumstances, the Authority has been successful in achieving savings through its service transformation programme which has enabled it to balance the budget, whilst at the same time protecting front line services.

The Authority has set a balanced budget for the forthcoming financial year (2017/18) and needs to identify a further £0.4M of savings during the period 2018/19 to 2019/20. Work is ongoing to identify additional savings through service transformation in order to ensure that the Authority continues to provide the best possible service to the residents of County Durham and Darlington.

This document (the "Statement of Accounts") presents the published accounts for County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority (referred to as the "Authority" throughout this document) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

It is my intention to provide the readers of these accounts with information about the money that the Authority has received and spent during the financial year, that it has been accounted for properly, that the financial standing of the Authority continues to be secure and that the service delivered by the Authority continues to meet the principles of value for money at all times.

The presentation of the accounts has been designed to assist readers in understanding and interpreting the financial statements, which follow accounting standards and are, by their nature, complex in some areas.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank officers of the Fire and Rescue Authority and Durham County Council, who have co-operated to produce this Statement of Accounts.

I hope that this document proves to be both informative and of interest to readers, the Authority is keen to improve both the quality and suitability of the information provided, so your feedback would be welcome. If you have any suggestions or comments on either the format of the report or its contents, or if you would like any further information, please contact my office:

Telephone	0191 375 5554
E-mail	PA@ddfir.gov.uk
Write to:	The Treasurer County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters Belmont Business Park Durham DH1 1TW

**Anthony Hope CPFA**  
**Treasurer to County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority**

# **NARRATIVE REPORT**

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## **2. Introduction**

The purpose of the Statement of Accounts is to give electors, those subject to locally levied taxes and charges, members of the Authority, employees and other interested parties clear information about the finances of the Authority. It is important in demonstrating the stewardship of public money and shows the resources available and how they have been used to deliver services.

The purpose of this Narrative Report is to provide a clear guide to the most significant matters reported in the accounts. It explains the purpose of the financial statements that follow and provides a summary of the Authority's financial activities during 2016/17 and its financial position at 31 March 2017. This report focuses on the matters that are of relevance to the principal users of the accounts. In addition to complementing and supplementing the information provided in the accounts, it also provides a forward look at the issues that have affected the development, performance and position of the Authority during the financial year, which are likely to have an impact in the future.

The Narrative Report includes:

1. Message from the Treasurer
2. Introduction
3. Background to County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority
4. Financial Performance 2016/17
5. Non-Financial Performance 2016/17
6. Operating Environment and Future Plans
7. Going Concern
8. Statement of Accounts

## **3. Background to County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority**

The Authority was established as a separate corporate body covering the County of Durham and Darlington Borough under the provisions of the Durham Fire Services (Combination Scheme) Order 1996. The Authority comprises members appointed by Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council. With effect from 1 April 2004, the Fire and Rescue Authority became a precepting authority as defined under the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

The vision of the Authority is "Safest People, Safest Places" and six strategic priorities underpin this:

- Emergency Response;
- Community Safety;
- Business Fire Safety;
- Value for Money;
- Working Together;
- Our People, Our Way.

## 4. Financial Performance 2016/17

### *Review of the Financial Year*

The Authority's spending is planned and controlled by a rigorous budget and financial management process. The Authority received resources direct from the Government in the form of Revenue Support Grant and Non-Domestic Rates, with the balance of funding coming from precepts on billing authorities for amounts chargeable to local taxpayers. During 2016/17, the Authority's net revenue expenditure, which was met from the above sources, was £28.678m, while spending on capital projects totalled £5.533m.

The Authority's general reserve balance, which represents the sum set aside to meet unforeseen future circumstances, was £2.824m at 31 March 2017. This equates to 9.87% of the 2016/17 Net Expenditure Budget and is in line with the Authority's policy on reserves to broadly maintain reserves of between 7.5% and 10%, with a maximum General Reserve of 15% of the Net Expenditure Budget for the short to medium term.

Financial performance against the approved budget is reported to elected members on a quarterly basis throughout the year. Further information on the Authority's financial performance is available on our website: [www.ddfire.gov.uk](http://www.ddfire.gov.uk).

### *Revenue Income and Expenditure*

The estimated net revenue expenditure for 2016/17, to be met from Government Grants and local taxpayers, was approved at £28.609m.

## NARRATIVE REPORT

The following table summarises the actual revenue financial position for the year in comparison with the budget:

Budget Heading	Original Budget	Actual	Variance	
	£000	£000	£000	%
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>				
Employees	21,753	21,883	130	0.60
Premises	3,488	2,440	-1,048	-30.03
Transport	631	589	-42	-6.70
Supplies & Services	3,806	3,708	-98	-2.59
Contingencies	117	-	-117	-100.00
Capital Financing	1,606	5,439	3,833	238.62
Provisions and Write-offs	-	-	-	-
Transfers to Reserves	792	558	-234	-29.54
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>32,193</b>	<b>34,617</b>	<b>2,424</b>	<b>7.53</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>				
Government Grants	-3,191	-2,127	1,064	-33.34
Other Income	-172	-697	-525	305.23
Transfers from Earmarked Reserves	-221	-3,114	-2,893	1,309.05
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-3,584</b>	<b>-5,938</b>	<b>-2,354</b>	<b>65.68</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>28,609</b>	<b>28,679</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>0.24</b>
<b>Taxation and Non Specific Grants Income</b>	<b>-28,609</b>	<b>-28,679</b>	<b>-70</b>	<b>0.24</b>
<b>Outturn</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

## NARRATIVE REPORT

An explanation of the major variances is provided in the table below:

	Over spend / Under spend (-)	Over spend / Under spend (-)	Explanation for major variances
	£m	%	
Employees	0.130	0.60	An underspend resulting from a number of vacancies on the establishment and savings from redundancies made earlier in the year has been offset by the cost of these redundancies. The redundancy costs have been covered by a transfer from the Modernisation Reserve.
Premises	-1.048	-30.03	The underspend is mainly due to the allocation of the rent free periods in relation to Headquarters and the Technical Services Centre, compared to the original budget. This is offset by the reduction in government grant income.
Transport	-0.042	-6.70	Savings have been made following a reduction in expenditure on the repair and maintenance of vehicles.
Supplies & Services	-0.098	-2.59	A reduction in spending on a number of supplies and services budget headings has been achieved as a result of initiatives to reduce costs, together with strict control of non-essential items of expenditure.
Contingencies	-0.117	-100.00	The contingencies budget includes an allowance for inflation and pay awards which was not required.
Capital Financing	3.833	238.62	An additional revenue contribution to finance capital expenditure was made at the year end using the Capital Modernisation Reserve and reducing the need for future borrowing
Transfers to Reserves	-0.234	-29.54	The profile of the receipt of grant income in relation to the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP) Project changed from that anticipated in the original budget, resulting in a lower than anticipated transfer to earmarked reserves.
Government Grants	1.064	-33.34	The level of Government grant credited to the revenue account was less than included in the original budget due to the allocation of costs associated with Headquarters. In addition, the profile of the receipt of grant income in relation to the ESMCP Project changed from that anticipated in the original budget, resulting in less grant income being recognised in 16/17.
Other Income	-0.525	305.23	The increase in other income was due to an increase in investment interest, contributions from other bodies in relation to the Safer Homes Project and the contribution to the service from the Community Interest Company and Vital Fire Solutions Limited for work carried out by Service employees.
Taxation & Non-specific grants	-0.070	0.24	The amount of grant received in relation to the business rates retention scheme was more than anticipated when the original budget was set.
Contributions from Reserves	-2.893	1,309.05	Transfers were made from the Capital Modernisation Reserve to finance capital expenditure and from the Modernisation Reserve to cover the costs of redundancies in the year
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>		

## NARRATIVE REPORT

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### Capital Expenditure

The Authority approved a capital programme for 2016/17 of £5.191m. The actual capital expenditure for the year was £5.533m; £0.342m more than the original budget. The following table analyses the expenditure:

Project	Original Budget	Actual	Variance
	£m	£m	£m
Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	1.403	1.453	0.050
Land & Buildings	3.788	4.080	0.292
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>5.191</b>	<b>5.533</b>	<b>0.342</b>

The variances are set out in the table below:

	Over spend / Under spend (-)	Over spend / Under spend (-)	Explanation for major variances
	£m	%	
Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	0.050	3.56	Additional essential expenditure was incurred on ICT and furniture replacement which was not envisaged when the original budget was set.
Land & Buildings	0.292	7.71	Changes to the estimated build times of capital projects resulted in expenditure originally planned for previous years slipping into the 2016/17 financial year.
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.342</b>	<b>6.59</b>	

Capital expenditure was financed by revenue contributions, capital receipts, capital grants and internal borrowing.

The Authority's Capital Financing Requirement was £9.419m at 31 March 2017. Further details are set out in Note 8.5 to the accounts.

### Future Capital Commitments

The Authority is nearing the completion of a significant Estates Improvement Programme of capital building projects, which was substantially complete at 31 March 2017. ICT, vehicles, plant and operational equipment will continue to be renewed in accordance with agreed replacement programmes.

### Current Borrowing Facilities and Capital Borrowing Provision

The Budget Report, incorporating Prudential Indicators and the Treasury Management Strategy, submitted to the Authority meeting in February 2016, detailed the 2016/17 borrowing limits for the Authority.

The specific borrowing limits, set under the requirements of the Prudential Code, were as follows:

- Authorised Limit for External Debt for 2016/17 of £18.2 million;
- Operational Boundary for External Debt for 2016/17 of £16.5 million.

### ***Pension Liability***

The Authority's accounts are compliant with International Accounting Standard 19 (IAS19) which is based on the principle that an organisation should account for retirement benefits when it is committed to giving them, even if the actual payment of those benefits will be many years into the future.

The net overall impact of IAS19 accounting entries is neutral in the accounts. However, the overall financial position is in effect being distorted by future years' pension deficits. The fact that all pension costs would never be incurred in one year (as implied by IAS19) means the Balance Sheet Net Worth is effectively being distorted by this reporting standard. If this element is removed then the Authority has a "real" net worth of £43.426m. The Authority also has assets worth £56m and cash backed reserves of £6.7m, which support the view that the Authority's Balance Sheet and finance are in fact healthier than implied by the published accounts.

Further details of the impact of IAS19 are set out in note 8.17 to the accounts.

## **5. Non- Financial Performance 2016/17**

Performance is monitored by management on an on-going basis and considered in detail by elected members at the end of each quarter. A comprehensive suite of performance indicators (PI's) are employed to measure both operational and corporate performance and targets are set with the aim of achieving continuous improvement. During 2016/17, 73% of the strategic PI's met or exceeded their target level and 58% either maintained or improved when compared to the previous year's performance.

During 2016/17 the service experienced an increase in the overall number of incidents which was primarily due to attendance at 2,744 emergency medical response (EMR) incidents as part of a national trial. There was also a 1.1% increase in fires which was broadly in line with the latest national statistics.

Information on current performance is reported to the Fire Authority on a quarterly basis and further information is available on our website: [www.ddfire.gov.uk](http://www.ddfire.gov.uk).

## **6. Operating Environment and Future Plans**

The plans of the Authority have been developed in a very challenging economic climate and during a time of significant change for local government.

## NARRATIVE REPORT

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Looking ahead, the Authority's revenue expenditure for 2017/18 is estimated at £27.805m, together with a capital programme of £0.617m.

The Authority will continue to face significant reductions in Government funding over the Medium Term Financial Plan period of 2017/18 to 2019/20. The 2017/18 budget has been prepared taking this funding reduction into account. Significant efficiency savings and service transformational savings have been identified to enable the Authority to set a balanced budget.

The Medium Term Financial Plan outlines the financial position of the Authority over the next 3 years, and is set out in the table below:

	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>27.805</b>	<b>27.704</b>	<b>28.411</b>
Total Government Funding	9.949	9.426	9.202
Local Non Domestic Rates	1.345	1.388	1.438
Council Tax	16.367	16.851	17.358
Surplus on Collection Fund	0.144	-	-
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>27.805</b>	<b>27.665</b>	<b>27.998</b>
<b>Shortfall</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-0.039</b>	<b>-0.413</b>

The Authority needs to identify a further £0.413m of savings during the period 2018/19 to 2019/20. Work is ongoing to identify additional savings through the Authority's service transformation programme in order to balance the budget over the plan period.

During this continued period of austerity, the main priority of the Authority continues to be the protection of front line services to the public. Over the medium term, this needs to be balanced with the need for the Authority to reduce expenditure.

On 5<sup>th</sup> January 2016, ministerial responsibility for fire and rescue policy transferred to the Home Office in order to support the Government's aim to transform how police and fire services collaborate. The Policing and Crime Act has significant implications for Fire and Rescue Authorities. The Act requires fire, police and ambulance services to collaborate, where the proposed collaboration would be in the interests of their own efficiency and effectiveness and one or more of the other services take the same view. The legislation also makes provision for a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to take responsibility for the fire and rescue service in their area where a local business case is made, as well as to take the additional step to create a single employer for police and fire.

County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service has an excellent track record of collaboration and has secured government funding to progress a number of innovative collaboration projects. This includes the building of a new quad station at Barnard Castle which will provide a joint facility for the Fire, Police, Ambulance and Mountain Rescue Services.

Going forward, the service will continue to work collaboratively with partners in order to secure further efficiencies to assist in protecting front line service provision.

### **7. Going Concern**

Each year, the Authority makes an assessment of whether it should be considered a "Going Concern", and whether the accounts should be prepared on that basis. This assessment covers the period of at least 18 months from the Balance Sheet date.

The Code requires that a local authority's Statement of Accounts is prepared on a Going Concern basis; that is the accounts should be prepared on the assumption that the functions of the Authority will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

In assessing its ability to continue as a Going Concern, an organisation must consider its financial performance. This should consider factors relating to historical, current and future performance.

The future plans of the Authority are set out in Section 6 and demonstrate that:

- the Authority has set a balanced budget for 2017/18 and has a plan in place to continue to deliver local services until at least 2020. On this basis, it is apparent that the Authority remains a Going Concern;
- the Authority has demonstrated robust financial management through the level of reserves it holds. This underpins its Going Concern status;
- throughout the process for the Medium Term Financial Plan, no risks were identified which would indicate that the Authority cannot continue as a Going Concern.

Based on the assessment undertaken and reported to those charged with governance of the Authority:

- the Authority has a history of financial stability and ready access to financial resources in the future;
- there are no significant financial, operating or other risks that would threaten the continuing operation of the Authority.

On this basis, the Authority is a Going Concern and it is appropriate for the Statement of Accounts to be prepared on that basis.

### **8. Statement of Accounts**

The Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2016/17 is prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK (the Code) 2016/17.

The Code is based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), and has been developed by the CIPFA/ LASAAC Code Board which is overseen by the Financial Reporting Advisory Board.

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The Code is based on approved accounting standards issued by the International Accounting Standards Board and interpretations of the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee, except where these are inconsistent with specific statutory requirements. The Code also draws on approved accounting standards issued by the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board and the UK Accounting Standards Board where these provide additional guidance. The Code has been prepared on the basis of accounting standards and interpretations in effect for accounting periods commencing on or before 1 January 2016.

This edition of the Code applies for accounting periods commencing on or after 1 April 2016. It supersedes the edition published in April 2015 (the 2015/16 Code).

The overriding requirement of the Code remains that the Statement of Accounts gives a 'true and fair' view of the financial position and transactions of the Authority.

The Authority's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017 include the following:

- **Independent Auditor's Report**  
The report of the independent, external auditor on the Fire Authority's Statement of Accounts
- **Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts**  
This sets out the responsibilities of the Authority and the Treasurer and includes the Treasurer's certificate.
- **Movement in Reserves Statement**  
This statement shows the movement in the year on the various reserves held by the Authority. This is analysed into "usable reserves" (those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and "unusable reserves". The Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services line shows the true economic cost of providing services; more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. This is different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund for the purposes of council tax setting. The Net Increase / Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves line shows the statutory General Fund balance before any discretionary transfers to or from Earmarked Reserves are made.
- **Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement**  
This discloses the income receivable and expenditure incurred in operating the Authority for the year. This is the accounting cost of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. Authorities raise taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations, which may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is reflected in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

- **Balance Sheet**

This shows the financial position of the Authority at the year end. The net assets of the Authority (assets less liabilities) are matched by the Reserves held. Reserves are reported under two categories:

*Usable Reserves* - those reserves which may be used to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use (for example, the Capital Receipts Reserve may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt).

*Unusable Reserves* – those reserves which cannot be used to provide services. This category of reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets were sold. It also includes reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line “Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations”.

- **Cash Flow Statement**

This summarises the inflows and outflows of cash arising from the transactions with other parties for revenue and capital purposes. It shows how the Authority generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities. The amount of net cash flows arising from operating activities is a key indicator of the extent to which the operations of the Authority are funded from taxation and grant income or from the receipts from services provided. Investing activities represent the extent to which cash outflows have been made for resources which are intended to contribute to the future service delivery of the Authority. Cash flows arising from financing activities are useful in predicting claims on the future cash flows by providers of capital (i.e. borrowing) to the Authority.

- **Notes to the Accounts**

The notes to the accounts are fundamentally important in the presentation of a true and fair view. They aim to assist understanding and have three significant roles:

- *presenting information about the basis of preparation of the financial statements and the specific accounting policies used;*
- *disclosing information required by the Code that is not presented elsewhere in the financial statements;*
- *providing information that is not provided elsewhere in the financial statements, but is relevant to the understanding of them. This applies to information that is material in a qualitative rather than quantitative sense (for example transactions with Related Parties).*

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- **Pension Fund Account**

This sets out the financial position of the Fire Pension Fund at the year end and the expenditure and income throughout the financial year. Notes providing additional information follow the accounts.

- **Glossary of Terms**

A glossary of financial terms is provided to assist the reader's understanding.

**If you require this information summarised in other languages or formats, such as Braille, large print or talking tapes, contact: 0191 375 5554**

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## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF COUNTY DURHAM AND DARLINGTON FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

### **Opinion on the Authority's financial statements**

We have audited the financial statements of the Authority for the year ended 31 March 2017 under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The financial statements comprise for the Authority: Movement in Reserves Statement, Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement, the Firefighters' Pension Fund Account and Net Assets Statement, and the related notes. 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 2016/17.

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 as set out in paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Members of the Authority as a body, for our audit work, for this report or for the opinions we have formed.

### **Respective responsibilities of the Treasurer and auditor**

As explained more fully in the 'Statement of Treasurer's Responsibilities', the Treasurer 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 2016/17, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

### **Scope of the audit of the financial statements**

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Authority's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Treasurer and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Narrative Statement to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

### **Opinion on financial statements**

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority as at 31 March 2017 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended; and
- have been prepared properly in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17.

# **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

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## **Opinion on other matters**

In our opinion, the information given in the Narrative Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, is consistent with the financial statements.

## **Matters on which we report by exception**

We report to you if:

- in our opinion the Annual Governance Statement does not comply with Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016);
- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- we make a recommendation under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we exercise any other special powers of the auditor under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

## **Conclusion on the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources**

### ***Respective responsibilities of the Authority and the auditor***

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

We are required under section 20 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

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

We are required to conclude whether the Authority has put in place arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people.

We have planned and undertaken our work in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice as issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General, and had regard to relevant guidance. Based on our risk assessment, we undertook such work as we considered necessary to form a view on whether, in all significant respects, the Authority had put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

### ***Conclusion***

On the basis of our work, having regard to the guidance on the specified criterion issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General, we are satisfied that in all significant respects, the Authority has put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2017.

# ***INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT***

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## ***Certificate***

We certify that we have completed the audit of the Authority in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

Mark Kirkham, Partner  
For and on behalf of Mazars LLP

Mazars LLP, Appointed Auditor  
Salvus House  
Aykley Heads  
Durham,  
DH1 5TS

28 September 2017

# **STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

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## **STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

### **The Authority's 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. For the Fire and Rescue Authority that officer is the Treasurer;
- manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets;
- approve the Statement of Accounts.

### **The Treasurer's Responsibilities**

The Treasurer is responsible for the preparation of the Authority's Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/ LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in UK 2016/17.

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Treasurer has:

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

The Treasurer has also:

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

### **Treasurer's Certificate**

I certify that these accounts present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority as at 31 March 2017 and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2017.

**Anthony Hope CPFA** **Date 28/09/2017**  
**Treasurer to County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority**

### **Chairman's Certificate**

I confirm that these accounts were approved by the Authority at a meeting on 28 September 2017.

**Chairman of the meeting approving the accounts** **Date 28/09/2017**

## MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

### MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Authority, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and 'unusable reserves'.

The Surplus/ Deficit (-) on the Provision of Services line shows the true economic cost of providing the Authority's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance for Council Tax setting.

The Net Increase/ Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves line shows the statutory General Fund balance before discretionary transfers to or from Earmarked Reserves are undertaken by the Authority.

Movement in Reserves Statement 2016/17							
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
	General Fund Balance	Earmarked Reserves	Capital Grants Unapplied	Capital Receipts Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Balance at 31 March 2016</b>	2,824	7,099	-	-	9,923	-281,874	-271,951
Surplus/Deficit (-) on provision of services	-15,221	-	-	-	-15,221	-	-15,221
Other Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	-	-	-	-	-	-55,593	-55,593
<b>Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income</b>	<b>-15,221</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-15,221</b>	<b>-55,593</b>	<b>-70,814</b>
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding under regulations (Note 6.1)	11,987	-	-	-	11,987	-11,987	-
<b>Net Increase/Decrease (-) before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves</b>	<b>-3,234</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-3,234</b>	<b>-67,580</b>	<b>-70,814</b>
Transfers to (-) / from Earmarked Reserves (Note 8.19)	3,234	-3,234	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Increase/Decrease (-) in year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-3,234</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-3,234</b>	<b>-67,580</b>	<b>-70,814</b>
<b>Balance at 31 March 2017</b>	<b>2,824</b>	<b>3,865</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,689</b>	<b>-349,454</b>	<b>-342,765</b>

## **MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT**

Comparatives for 2015/16 are as follows:

<b>Movement in Reserves Statement 2015/16</b>							
	<b>(a)</b>	<b>(b)</b>	<b>(c)</b>	<b>(d)</b>	<b>(e)</b>	<b>(f)</b>	<b>(g)</b>
	<b>General Fund Balance</b>	<b>Earmarked Reserves</b>	<b>Capital Grants Unapplied</b>	<b>Capital Receipts Unapplied</b>	<b>Total Usable Reserves</b>	<b>Unusable Reserves</b>	<b>Total Authority Reserves</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b>Balance at 31 March 2015</b>	<b>2,824</b>	<b>8,998</b>	-	-	<b>11,822</b>	<b>-319,024</b>	<b>-307,202</b>
Surplus/Deficit (-) on provision of services	-15,995	-	-	-	-15,995	-	-15,995
Other Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	-	-	-	-	-	51,246	51,246
<b>Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income</b>	<b>-15,995</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-15,995</b>	<b>51,246</b>	<b>35,251</b>
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding under regulations (Note 6.1)	14,096	-	-	-	14,096	-14,096	-
<b>Net Increase/Decrease (-) before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves</b>	<b>-1,899</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-1,899</b>	<b>37,150</b>	<b>35,251</b>
Transfers to (-) / from Earmarked Reserves (Note 8.19)	1,899	-1,899	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Increase/Decrease (-) in year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-1,899</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-1,899</b>	<b>37,150</b>	<b>35,251</b>
<b>Balance at 31 March 2016</b>	<b>2,824</b>	<b>7,099</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,923</b>	<b>-281,874</b>	<b>-271,951</b>

# **COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT**

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## **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. Authorities raise taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The 2016/17 Code includes a change in the presentation basis for the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. This is based upon the organisational structure that reflects the way the business is managed and operated. For the Authority, this means that income and expenditure included in the net cost of services has been analysed across subjective headings. The comparative figures for 2015/16 have been restated to reflect the change in headings. This had an impact on the presentation of the figures in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but has not changed the overall figures.

# COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

2015/16 Gross Expenditure	2015/16 Income	2015/16 Net Expenditure	Gross Expenditure, Gross Income and Net Expenditure on continuing operations	2016/17 Gross Expenditure	2016/17 Income	2016/17 Net Expenditure
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
25,184	-	25,184	Employees	23,708	-	23,708
2,566	-	2,566	Premises	2,440	-	2,440
699	-25	674	Transport	600	-11	589
3,661	-	3,661	Supplies & Services	3,708	-	3,708
-	-6	-6	Provisions	-	-	-
5,995	-	5,995	Capital Financing	4,218	-	4,218
-	-2,276	-2,276	Income	-	-2,790	-2,790
<b>38,105</b>	<b>-2,307</b>	<b>35,798</b>	<b>Net Cost of Service</b>	<b>34,674</b>	<b>-2,801</b>	<b>31,873</b>
			<b>Other Operating Income &amp; Expenditure</b>			
427	-	427	Gain (-) / Loss on disposal of non- current assets: Property, Plant & Equipment (Note 7.2)	-	-3	-3
<b>427</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>427</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>-3</b>
			<b>Financing and Investment Income &amp; Expenditure</b>			
46	-	46	Interest payable on debt	38	-	38
850	-	850	Interest payable on PFI	831	-	831
73	-	73	Contingent Rents – PFI	79	-	79
11,438	-	11,438	Net interest on the defined benefit liability	11,114	-	11,114
-	-48	-48	Investment interest income	-	-34	-34
<b>12,407</b>	<b>-48</b>	<b>12,359</b>		<b>12,062</b>	<b>-34</b>	<b>12,028</b>
			<b>Taxation &amp; Non-specific Grants Income</b>			
		-3,635	Recognised capital grants and contributions			-63
		-15,612	Precepts (Note 7.12)			-16,093
		-6,346	NNDR			-6,541
		-178	Non Ring-fenced Government Grants			-167
		-6,818	RSG			-5,813
		<b>-32,589</b>				<b>-28,677</b>
		<b>15,995</b>	<b>Surplus (-) / Deficit on Provision of Services</b>			<b>15,221</b>
		-48,914	Re-measurements of the net defined benefit liability (Note 8.21)			57,609
		-2,332	Deficit(-)/Surplus on revaluation of Property, Plant & Equipment			-2,016
		<b>-51,246</b>	<b>Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>			<b>55,593</b>
		<b>-35,251</b>	<b>Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>			<b>70,814</b>

## BALANCE SHEET

### BALANCE SHEET

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Authority. The net assets of the Authority (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Authority. Reserves are reported in two categories.

The first category of reserves are usable reserves, i.e. those reserves that the Authority may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use (for example the Capital Receipts Reserve that may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt).

The second category of reserves are those that the Authority is not able to use to provide services. This category of reserves includes:

- reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold;
- reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line 'Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'.

As at 31 March 2016			As at 31 March 2017	
£000	£000		£000	£000
427		Intangible Assets (Note 8.1)	345	
		<b>Property, Plant &amp; Equipment</b>		
32,977		Land & Buildings (Note 8.2)	37,138	
8,255		Vehicle, Plant, Furniture & Equipment (Note 8.2)	8,697	
23		Surplus Assets (Note 8.2)	23	
1,288		Assets Under Construction (Note 8.3)	40	
15		Long-term Investments (Note 8.13)	15	
1		Long-term Debtors (Note 8.10)	1	
	<b>42,986</b>	<b>Total Long-term Assets</b>		<b>46,259</b>
-		Assets Held for Sale (Note 8.8)	-	
525		Inventories (Note 8.9)	486	
3,769		Short-term Debtors (Note 8.10)	4,045	
9,097		Cash & Cash Equivalents (Note 8.11)	5,894	
	<b>13,391</b>	<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>10,425</b>
-46		Short-term Borrowing (Note 8.12)	-48	
-2,680		Short-term Creditors (Note 8.12)	-3,555	
	<b>-2,726</b>	<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>-3,603</b>
	<b>53,651</b>	<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>		<b>53,081</b>
-212		Provisions (Note 8.14)	-215	
-771		Long-term Borrowing (Note 8.15)	-728	
-7,572		Deferred Liability – PFI (Note 8.15)	-7,381	
-1,403		Other Deferred Liabilities (Note 8.15)	-1,331	
-315,644		Pension Liability (IAS19) (Note 8.17)	-386,191	
	<b>-325,602</b>	<b>Total Long-term Liabilities</b>		<b>-395,846</b>
	<b>-271,951</b>	<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>-342,765</b>
9,923		<b>Usable Reserves</b> (Note 8.18)	6,689	
-281,874		<b>Unusable Reserves</b> (Note 8.18)	-349,454	
	<b>-271,951</b>	<b>Total Reserves</b>		<b>-342,765</b>

## **CASH FLOW STATEMENT**

### **CASH FLOW STATEMENT**

The Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Authority during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Authority generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities. The amount of net cash flows arising from operating activities is a key indicator of the extent to which the operations of the Authority are funded by way of taxation and grant income or from the recipients of services provided by the Authority.

Investing activities represent the extent to which cash outflows have been made for resources which are intended to contribute to the Authority's future service delivery. Cash flows arising from financing activities are useful in predicting claims on future cash flows by providers of capital (i.e. borrowing) to the Authority.

#### **Indirect Method**

<b>2015/16</b>	<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>2016/17</b>
<b>£000</b> 15,995	Net surplus (-) or deficit on the provision of services	<b>£000</b> 15,221
-25,742	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements (Note 9.1)	-17,765
8,271	Adjust for items received in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	124
<b>-1,476</b>	<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>	<b>-2,420</b>
-5,054	Investing Activities (Note 9.3)	5,409
560	Financing Activities (Note 9.4)	214
<b>-5,970</b>	<b>Net increase (-) or decrease in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>3,203</b>
3,127	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	9,097
<b>9,097</b>	<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period (Note 8.11)</b>	<b>5,894</b>

# NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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## 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### 1.1 General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Authority's transactions for the 2016/17 financial year and its position at the year end of 31 March 2017. The Authority is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, which require accounts to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

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

The Statements reflect the requirements of general accounting principles and concepts of:

- **Relevance** - the financial statements provide information about the Authority's performance and position that is useful to the users of the accounts to assess the stewardship of public funds and for making economic decisions.
- **Reliability** - the financial information faithfully represents the substance of the transactions, the activities underlying them and other events that have taken place are free from deliberate or systematic bias and material error and have been prudently prepared.
- **Comparability** - the information has been prepared consistently and with adequate disclosures so that it can be compared with prior years and other Fire Authorities.
- **Understandability** – the statements have been prepared to ensure they are as easy to understand as possible.
- **Materiality** - the statements disclose items of a certain size and nature such that they provide a fair presentation of the financial position and transactions of the Authority.
- **Accruals** - other than the cash flow statement, the financial statements report transactions that have been recorded in the accounting period for which the goods and services were received or supplied rather than in which the cash was received or paid.
- **Going Concern** - the financial statements have been prepared on the assumption that the Authority will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.
- **Legality** - where the accounting principles and specific legislation requirements are in conflict, the financial statements have been prepared to reflect legislative requirements.

## ***NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS***

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The accounting policies are the principles, bases, conventions, rules and practices that specify how the effects of transactions and other events are reflected in the financial statements of the Authority. Consistent accounting policies have been applied both within the year and between years. Where accounting policies are changed, this has been disclosed separately.

### **1.2 Accruals of Income and Expenditure**

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

- revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the Authority transfers the significant risks and rewards of ownership to the purchaser and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Authority;
- revenue from the provision of services is recognised when the Authority can 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 Authority;
- supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed – where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption, they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet;
- expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made;
- interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract;
- where 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;
- a de minimus level of £1,000 is set for the recognition of accruals;
- there is no accrual made for petty cash at the year end. This is because the value of petty cash transactions remain consistent and of low value month on month. The Authority ensures that 12 accounting periods are included within each financial year.

## **NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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### **1.3 Cash and Cash Equivalents**

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

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

### **1.4 Prior Period Adjustments, Changes in Accounting Policies and Estimates and Errors**

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

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

### **1.5 Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets**

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is debited with the following amounts to record the cost of holding property, plant and equipment during the year:

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

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

## ***NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS***

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### **1.6 Employee Benefits**

#### **Benefits Payable during Employment**

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 current employees. They are recognised as an expense in the year in which the employee renders service to the Authority. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements (or any form of leave) earned by an employee but not taken before the year end. The accrual is charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, but then reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement so that benefits are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs.

#### **Termination Benefits**

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Authority to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy. They are charged on an accruals basis to the Net Cost of Service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when the Authority is demonstrably committed to the termination of the employment of an officer or making an offer to encourage voluntary redundancy.

When termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the General Fund to be charged with the amount payable by the Authority to the pension fund or pensioner in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, appropriations are required to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for pension enhancement termination benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year end.

#### **Post Employment Benefits**

Employees of the Authority are members of four separate pension schemes:

- the 1992 Fire Pension Scheme for Firefighters which is unfunded;
- the 2006 Fire Pension Scheme for Firefighters (including the Retained Modified Scheme) which is unfunded;
- the 2015 Fire Pension Scheme for Firefighters which is unfunded;
- the Local Government Pension Scheme, administered by Durham County Council.

All four schemes provide defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees working for the Authority.

## **NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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### **Discretionary Benefits (Local Government Pension Scheme)**

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

### **The Fire Pension Scheme for Firefighters**

The Firefighter's Pension Scheme for fire officers is an unfunded defined benefit scheme administered by County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority, meaning that there are no investment assets built up to meet the pensions liabilities, and cash has to be generated to meet actual pensions payments as they eventually fall due.

Under the Firefighter's Pension Scheme Order 2006, if the amounts receivable by the pension fund for the year are less than amounts payable, the Fire Authority must annually transfer an amount to meet the deficit to the pension fund. This cost is then met by Central Government. If, however, the pension fund is in surplus for the year, the surplus is required to be transferred from the pension fund to the Fire Authority. This surplus is then repaid to Central Government.

### **The Local Government Pension Scheme**

The Local Government Pension Scheme for support staff, administered by Durham County Council, is a funded defined benefit career average scheme, with any benefits earned up to 31 March 2014 continuing to be calculated on a final salary basis. This means that the Authority and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension liabilities with investment assets.

The Authority recognises the costs of retirement benefits in the Net Cost of Services section of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge required to be made against Council Tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of retirement benefits is reversed out in the Movement in Reserves Statement. The negative balance that arises on the Pensions Reserve measures the beneficial impact to the General Fund of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

### **1.7 Events after the Balance Sheet Date**

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

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

## ***NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS***

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of events would have a material effect, disclosure is made in the notes showing 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.

### **1.8 Financial Instruments**

#### **Financial Liabilities**

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

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

#### **Financial Assets**

The financial assets of the Authority are classified as loans and receivables (assets that have fixed or determinable payments but are not quoted in an active market). They are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Authority becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value. They are subsequently measured at their amortised cost. Annual credits to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest receivable are based on the carrying amount of the asset, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. For most of the loans that the Authority has made, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal receivable (plus accrued interest) and interest credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement.

Debtor balances are included within loans and receivables. The Authority recognises that debts are not always paid and makes provision for impairment of bad debts where appropriate.

### **1.9 Government Grants and Contributions**

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

- the Authority will comply with the conditions attached to the payments; and

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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- the grants or contributions will be received.

Amounts recognised as due to the Authority are not credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement until conditions attached to the grant or contribution have been satisfied. Conditions are stipulations that specify that the future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the asset acquired using the grant or contribution are required to be consumed by the recipient as specified, or future economic benefits or service potential must be returned to the transferor.

Monies advanced as grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried in the Balance Sheet as creditors. When conditions are satisfied, the grant or contribution is credited to the relevant service line (attributable revenue grants and contributions) or Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income (non-ring fenced revenue grants and all capital grants) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

### 1.10 Property, Plant and Equipment

Assets that have physical substance and are held for use in 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 assets is capitalised on an accruals basis, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Authority and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. Expenditure that maintains but does not add to an asset's potential to deliver future economic benefits or service potential (i.e. repairs and maintenance) is charged as an expense when it is incurred. A de minimis level of £5,000 is in place for the recognition of Property, Plant and Equipment.

#### Measurement

Assets are initially measured at historic cost, comprising all expenditure that is directly attributable to bringing the asset into working condition for its intended use.

Property, plant and equipment are valued on the basis recommended by CIPFA and in accordance with the Statements of Asset Valuation Principles and Guidance Notes issued by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). Property, Plant and Equipment are classified into the following groupings:

- Operational Assets
  - Land and buildings
  - Vehicles, plant and equipment



## **NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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Where impairment losses are identified, the accounting entries are as follows:

- 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 the balance (up to the amount of the accumulated balance);
- 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 in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

### **Disposals**

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

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

Assets that are to be abandoned or scrapped are not reclassified as Assets Held for Sale.

When an asset is disposed of or decommissioned, the value of the asset in the Balance Sheet is written off to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal, so netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal. The written-off value of the disposal is appropriated to the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement so as not to impact on Council Tax. Any revaluation gains in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Receipts from disposal of assets are categorised as Capital Receipts and credited to the Usable Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital investment.

## **NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Depreciation**

Depreciation is provided for on all Property, Plant and Equipment with a determinable finite life by allocating the value of the asset in the Balance Sheet over the periods expected to benefit from their use. Freehold land, assets with an estimated life in excess of 50 years and assets under construction are not depreciated.

Annual depreciation is calculated on a straight line basis as valuation less residual value, divided by the estimated useful life of the asset. The useful lives of properties vary from 15 to 100 years; and that of vehicles, plant and equipment between 3 and 15 years. In rare cases, certain specialised equipment may be attributed a longer useful economic life.

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

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

#### **1.11 Donated Assets**

Donated assets received by the Authority are recognised immediately on receipt at fair value as Property, Plant and Equipment. The opposite entry to this transaction (i.e. the gain to the Authority on receipt of the asset) is recognised as income in the relevant service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The Code notes that the exception to this is to the extent that the Authority might not meet the conditions attached to the donated asset. In such circumstances, the income relating to the assets will need to be recognised in the Donated Asset Account. The income will subsequently be recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when the Authority has satisfied the conditions of donation.

#### **1.12 Intangible Assets**

Expenditure on assets that do not have physical substance but are identifiable and controlled by the Authority (e.g. software licences) is capitalised when it will bring benefits to the Authority for more than one financial year.

Intangible assets are measured initially at cost. The depreciable amount of an intangible asset is amortised over its useful life to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

#### **1.13 Basis of Valuation of Inventories**

Inventories are included in the Balance Sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value and include uniforms, operational equipment, catering stock, smoke alarms, furniture stock, stationery, oil, diesel and vehicle spares.

The cost of inventories is assigned using the weighted average costing formula.

## **NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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### **1.14 Accounting for Leases – Authority as Lessee**

#### **Operating Leases**

Leases that do not meet the definition of finance leases are accounted for as operating leases. Rentals payable are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as an expense of the services benefiting from use of the leased assets. Charges are made on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease. Where the operating lease includes a rent free period, the benefit is carried forward as a deferred liability to be released evenly over the life of the lease.

### **1.15 Overheads and Support Services**

The costs of overheads and support services are charged to those that benefit from the supply or service, in accordance with the Authority's arrangements for accountability and financial performance.

### **1.16 Private Finance Initiative (PFI)**

PFI and similar contracts are agreements to receive services, where the responsibility for making available the Property, Plant and Equipment needed to provide the services passes to the PFI contractor. As the Authority is deemed to control the services that are provided under its PFI schemes, and as ownership of the Property, Plant and Equipment will pass to the Authority at the end of the contracts for no additional charge, the Authority 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 annual amounts payable to the PFI operators are analysed into five elements:

- fair value of the services received during the year – debited to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;
- finance cost – an interest charge of 10.74% on the outstanding Balance Sheet liability, debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;
- contingent rent – increases in the amount to be paid for the property arising during the contract, debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;
- payment towards liability – applied to write down the Balance Sheet liability towards the PFI operator (the profile of write downs is calculated using the same principles as for a finance lease);
- lifecycle replacement costs – proportion of the amounts payable is posted to the Balance Sheet as a prepayment and then recognised as additions to Property, Plant and Equipment when the relevant works are eventually carried out.

## **NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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### **1.17 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets**

#### **Provisions**

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Authority 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, potential legal liabilities arising from claims.

Provisions are charged as an expense to the appropriate service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year that the Authority becomes aware of the obligation, and are measured at the best estimate at the Balance Sheet date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

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

#### **Contingent Liabilities**

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

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

### **1.18 Reserves**

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

The Authority's policy for reserves is that the Authority will:

- set aside sufficient sums in Earmarked Reserves as it considers prudent to do so;
- aim to maintain, broadly, General Reserves of between 7.5% and 10% of the Net Expenditure, currently between £2.15m and £2.86m respectively, with a maximum General Reserve of 15% of the Net Expenditure for the short to medium term.

## **NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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Earmarked reserves relating to Pensions, Modernisation, New Dimensions, Community Safety, Civil Resilience, Insurance, Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme, New Risks and Replacement Mobilisation System were held as at 31 March 2017 together with a General Revenue Reserve.

### **1.19 Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute (REFCUS)**

Where the Authority has received capital grants which have been applied to REFCUS, they have been accounted for as revenue grants in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, even if described as capital grants by the giver of the grant. Income is posted to the line(s) that the qualifying expenditure is charged to, in the Net Cost of Service.

Transactions are transparent in the note detailing the components of the Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations line in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

### **1.20 VAT**

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

### **1.21 Group Accounts**

The Authority does not have any undertakings that are subject to the preparation of group accounts, as the aggregate turnover of the Community Interest Company and Vital Fire Solutions Limited have been assessed as not being material.

### **1.22 Council Tax Income**

The Code requires that the Council Tax income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the 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.

The Balance Sheet includes a Collection Fund Adjustment Account to reflect the Collection Fund relationship between the Authority and Billing Authorities. The offset to this account is included in debtors/creditors. Debtor and creditor accounts are also included in the Balance Sheet to reflect the amounts due from Council Tax payers.

## **NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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### **2 ACCOUNTING STANDARDS THAT HAVE BEEN ISSUED BUT HAVE NOT YET BEEN ADOPTED**

The Authority is required to disclose the impact of an accounting change that will be required by a new standard that has been issued but not yet adopted in the CIPFA Accountancy Code of Practice for the relevant financial year.

In 2016/17, the relevant accounting standards are:

#### **Amendments to Pension Fund disclosures**

The 2017/18 Code includes requirements for the reporting of pension fund scheme transaction costs and the reporting of investment concentration. This is to allow for a greater level of security of investment management. The amendments are to improve clarity and are not therefore anticipated to have a material impact upon the Authority's financial statements.

#### **Other minor amendments**

In 2017/18, the Code will provide some clarification in respect of the reporting for Going Concern, Narrative Reporting and Accounting Policies, as well as some other minor amendments. As these are mainly for clarification purposes, it is not anticipated that these changes will have a material impact upon the information provided in the financial statements.

### **3 CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 1 the Authority has had to make certain judgements about uncertainty of future events.

There is a high degree of uncertainty about future levels of funding for fire authorities. However, it has been determined that this uncertainty is not yet sufficient to provide an indication that the assets of the Authority might be impaired as a result of the need to reduce levels of service provision.

### **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 Authority about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, as balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates.

The items in the Authority's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2017 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 4.1 Property, Plant and Equipment

#### Uncertainty

Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about the level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual assets. The current economic climate makes it uncertain that the Authority will be able to sustain its current spending on repairs and maintenance, bringing into doubt the useful lives assigned to assets.

#### Effect if actual results differ from assumptions

If the useful life of assets is reduced, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the asset falls.

It is estimated that the annual depreciation charge for buildings would increase by approximately £0.042m for every year that useful lives had to be reduced.

### 4.2 Pension Liability

#### Uncertainty

Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. Actuaries are engaged to provide the Authority with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.

#### Effect if actual results differ from assumptions

The effects of changes in individual assumptions on the total pension liability can be measured. Examples of how changes in assumptions would impact upon the Firefighters' pension liability are shown in the table below:

Change in assumption *	Increase in Liability	
	%	£m
<b>Rate of return :</b>		
in excess of earnings - reduction of 0.5% per annum	1.1	4.1
in excess of pensions – reduction of 0.5% per annum	8.7	32.7
<b>Pensioner mortality</b>		
pensioners living (on average) 1 year longer	2.7	10.2

\* Opposite changes in assumptions would produce equal and opposite changes in the liability.

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 5 EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS

#### 5.1 Expenditure and Funding Analysis

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

2015/16				2016/17		
Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund	Adjustments Between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund	Adjustments Between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
21,736	3,448	25,184	Employees	21,883	1,825	23,708
2,566	-	2,566	Premises	2,440	-	2,440
674	-	674	Transport	589	-	589
3,661	-	3,661	Supplies & Services	3,708	-	3,708
-6	-	-6	Provisions	-	-	-
3,303	2,692	5,995	Capital Financing	5,169	-951	4,218
-2,276	-	-2,276	Income	-2,790	-	-2,790
<b>29,658</b>	<b>6,140</b>	<b>35,798</b>	<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>30,999</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>31,873</b>
-	427	427	Other Operating Income & Expenditure	-	-3	-3
921	11,438	12,359	Financing and Investment Income & expenditure	914	11,114	12,028
-28,680	-3,909	-32,589	Taxation & Non Specific Grants Income	-28,679	2	-28,677
<b>1,899</b>	<b>14,096</b>	<b>15,995</b>	<b>Surplus (-) or Deficit on Provisions of Services</b>	<b>3,234</b>	<b>11,987</b>	<b>15,221</b>
<b>2,824</b>			<b>Opening General Fund Balance</b>	<b>2,824</b>		
-1,899			Transfers to / from (-) earmarked reserves	-3,234		
<b>2,824</b>			<b>Closing General Fund Balance</b>	<b>2,824</b>		

## **NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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### **5.2 Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis**

This note provides a reconciliation of the main adjustments to the Net Expenditure chargeable to the General Fund to arrive at the amounts in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The relevant transfers between reserves are explained in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

- **Adjustments for Capital Purposes**

This column adjusts for depreciation, impairment and revaluation gains / losses in the Net Cost of Services line, along with the statutory charges for capital financing (minimum revenue provision and revenue contributions) as these are not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices.

Capital disposals with a transfer of income on disposal of assets and the amounts written off for those assets are adjusted within other operating expenditure.

The Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income and Expenditure line is credited with capital grants receivable in the year without conditions, or for which conditions were satisfied in the year.

- **Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments**

This column includes the net change for the removal of pension contributions and the addition of IAS19 Employee Benefits pension related expenditure and income.

Within Net Cost of Services, this represents the removal of the employer pension contributions made by the Authority as allowed by statute and the replacement with current service costs and past service costs.

Within Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure, the net interest in the defined benefit liability is charged to the CIES.

- **Other Differences**

Other differences between amounts debited / credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and amounts payable / receivable to be recognised under statute are included in this column.

The Net Cost of Services line includes adjustments in respect of the accrual for compensated absences earned but not taken in the year, such as annual leave entitlement carried forward at the year end.

The charge under Taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure represents the difference between what is chargeable under statutory regulations for council tax and non-domestic rates that was anticipated to be received at the start of the year, and the income recognised under generally accepted accounting practices in the Code. This is a timing difference as any difference will be brought forward in future Surpluses or Deficits on the Collection Fund.

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2016/17				
Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments	Other Differences	Total Adjustments
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Employees	-	1,824	1	1,825
Premises	-	-	-	-
Transport	-	-	-	-
Supplies & Services	-	-	-	-
Provisions	-	-	-	-
Capital Financing Income	-951	-	-	-951
	-	-	-	-
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>-951</b>	<b>1,824</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>874</b>
Other Operating Income & Expenditure	-3	-	-	-3
Financing and Investment Income & Expenditure	-	11,114	-	11,114
Taxation & Non Specific Grants Income	-63	-	65	2
<b>Difference between General Fund Surplus or Deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>	<b>-1,017</b>	<b>12,938</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>11,987</b>

The comparatives for 2015/16 are shown in the table below:

2015/16				
Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments	Other Differences	Total Adjustments
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Employees	-	3,453	-5	3,448
Premises	-	-	-	-
Transport	-	-	-	-
Supplies & Services	-	-	-	-
Provisions	-	-	-	-
Capital Financing Income	2,692	-	-	2,692
	-	-	-	-
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>2,692</b>	<b>3,453</b>	<b>-5</b>	<b>6,140</b>
Other Operating Income & Expenditure	427	-	-	427
Financing and Investment Income & Expenditure	-	11,438	-	11,438
Taxation & Non Specific Grants Income	-3,635	-	-274	-3,909
<b>Difference between General Fund Surplus or Deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>	<b>-516</b>	<b>14,891</b>	<b>-279</b>	<b>14,096</b>

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 6 MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

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

2016/17	USABLE RESERVES			Movement in Unusable Reserves
	General Fund Balance	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Charges for depreciation, impairment and downward revaluations of non-current assets	-4,136			4,136
Amortisation of Intangible Assets	-82			82
Capital Grants and Contributions	63			-63
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	-58			58
Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital	61	-61		
Transfer of cash proceeds credited as part of the gain on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		61		-61
Statutory provision for the financing of Capital Investment	230			-230
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund	4,939			-4,939
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	-16,130			16,130
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	3,192			-3,192
Adjustments by which Council Tax income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from Council Tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	-65			65
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	-1			1
<b>Total Adjustments</b>	<b>-11,987</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,987</b>

## **NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Comparatives for 2015/16 are as follows:

2015/16	USABLE RESERVES			Movement in Unusable Reserves
	General Fund Balance	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Charges for depreciation, impairment and downward revaluations of non-current assets	-5,910			5,910
Amortisation of Intangible Assets	-85			85
Capital Grants and Contributions	3,635			-3,635
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	-5,063			5,063
Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital	4,636	-4,636		
Transfer of cash proceeds credited as part of the gain on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		4,636		-4,636
Statutory provision for the financing of Capital Investment	396			-396
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund	2,907			-2,907
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	-18,199			18,199
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	3,308			-3,308
Adjustments by which Council Tax income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from Council Tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	274			-274
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	5			-5
<b>Total Adjustments</b>	<b>-14,096</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,096</b>

## **7 COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

### **7.1 Non Distributed Costs**

Pension costs relating to past service are treated as non distributed costs.

There are no exceptional items in 2016/17.

### **7.2 Gain / Loss on the Disposal of Property, Plant and Equipment**

In accordance with the Code, any gain or loss on disposal of an asset is to be included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The gain or loss is shown as a

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

reconciling item in the Movement in Reserves Statement. The gain shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account for 2016/17 amounts to £0.003m.

### 7.3 Members' Allowances

Members' allowances are paid under a scheme introduced by the Fire and Rescue Authority in December 2003. Expenses for conference and other non-routine meetings are also paid by the Fire and Rescue Authority.

The total amounts for allowances and expenses paid in relation to Members are as follows:

	2015/16	2016/17
	£000	£000
Allowances	56	56
Expenses	9	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>64</b>

### 7.4 Employee Remuneration

In accordance with the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2012, disclosure is required for employees whose remuneration, excluding pension contributions, during the period exceeded £50,000.

Individual remuneration details are required for senior employees; and in accordance with the Regulations, senior employees are included by job title.

2016/17						
	Salary (including fees & allowances)	Expense Allowances	Benefits in Kind (e.g. Car Allowances)	Total Remuneration excluding pension contributions	Pension contributions	Total Remuneration including pension contributions
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Chief Fire Officer – S. Errington	138,963	120	-	139,083	19,611	158,694
Deputy Chief Fire Officer	109,741	-	-	109,741	23,670	133,411
Head of Corporate Resources and Treasurer	92,982	-	-	92,982	12,181	105,163
	<b>341,686</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>341,806</b>	<b>55,462</b>	<b>397,268</b>

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Comparative figures for 2015/16 are as follows:

	2015/16					
	Salary (including fees & allowances)	Expense Allowances	Benefits in Kind (e.g. Car Allowances)	Total Remuneration excluding pension contributions	Pension contributions	Total Remuneration including pension contributions
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Chief Fire Officer – S. Errington	124,523	157	3,277	127,957	15,500	143,457
Chief Executive – S. Johnson	48,297	979	1,344	50,620	6,304	56,924
Deputy Chief Fire Officer	107,108	841	3,208	111,157	21,907	133,064
Head of Corporate Resources and Treasurer	76,520	-	-	76,520	9,930	86,450
	<b>356,448</b>	<b>1,977</b>	<b>7,829</b>	<b>366,254</b>	<b>53,641</b>	<b>419,895</b>

During 2015/2016, the Chief Executive left the organisation. The Deputy Chief Fire Officer (S. Errington) was appointed Chief Fire Officer and the Assistant Chief Fire Officer was appointed to the role of Deputy Chief Fire Officer. Following a restructure, there is no longer an Assistant Chief Fire Officer role within the organisation.

Other employees, whose remuneration is in excess of £50,000, are included within the bandings of £5,000.

Remuneration Band	Number of Employees	
	2015/16	2016/17
£50,000-£54,999	12	9
£55,000-£59,999	1	3
£60,000-£64,999	4	6
£65,000-£69,999	-	2
£70,000-£74,999	4	-
£75,000-£79,999	-	5
£80,000-£84,999	-	-
£85,000-£89,999	-	-

**Note:** Payments within the 2016/17 salary bands include any redundancy payments made in 2016/17. No redundancy payments were made during the 2015/16 financial year.

### 7.5 Exit Packages

The numbers and total cost of exit packages agreed in 2015/16 and 2016/17 are set out below:

Exit Package cost band	Number of compulsory redundancies		Number of other departures agreed		Total number of exit packages agreed		Total cost of exit packages agreed	
	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17
£0-£20,000	-	-	-	6	-	6	-	95,653
£20,001-£40,000	-	-	-	7	-	7	-	223,882
£40,001-£60,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£60,001-£80,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£80,001-£100,000	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	81,488
£100,001-£150,000	-	-	1	3	1	3	122,426	337,445
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>122,426</b>	<b>738,468</b>

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The exit packages disclosed in the table above relates to redundancy payments, early release costs paid to the pension fund and compensation payments made as part of an overall restructure of the organisation.

### 7.6 Termination Benefits

The Authority terminated the contracts of a number of employees, by mutual agreement, in 2016/17 as part of a restructure of the organisation. The 'Employee' line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement includes costs of £699,718 (2015/16: £122,426) relating to redundancy payments, early release costs paid to the pension fund and compensation payments.

### 7.7 External Audit Fees

The accounts of the Authority are audited by Mazars LLP. In accordance with the Code, authorities are required to disclose payment of fees. The fees payable to Mazars LLP for 2016/17 and 2015/16 are set out below:

	2015/16	2016/17
	£000	£000
Fees payable to auditors with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor	29	29
Fees payable to auditors for certification of grant claims	-	-
Fees payable to auditors in respect of other services provided by the appointed auditor	-	-
	<b>29</b>	<b>29</b>

### 7.8 Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

The Local Authorities Capital Finance and Accounting (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 requires the Authority to provide for an amount of MRP which it considers to be prudent. MRP has been prepared on the basis of 4% of the capital finance requirement at the end of the preceding year, relating to assets held prior to 2008 and 2% of the capital financing requirement at the end of the preceding year for all other assets.

The MRP relating to the Private Finance Initiative scheme has been calculated as a sum equivalent to the principal repayment of the outstanding liability.

The amount of MRP charged to the accounts is disclosed in Note 8.5.

### 7.9 Operating Leases

The Authority has a fleet of cars on operating leases with typical lives of 3 years. The Service has changed its procedure, and now purchases vehicles, rather than leasing them. This has resulted in the reduction in the future minimum lease payments disclosed in the table below.

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

During 2012/13, the Authority took over the lease of the former Regional Control Centre in Belmont, Durham, to use as its Headquarters. The Authority entered into this lease for 15 years.

During 2013/14, the Authority entered into a lease for its new Technical Services Centre at Bowburn, Durham. The Authority has entered into this lease for 15 years.

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

	31 March 2016		31 March 2017	
	Vehicles £000	Property £000	Vehicles £000	Property £000
Within one year	8	399	1	399
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	1,774	-	1,833
Later than 5 years	-	3,178	-	2,720
	<b>8</b>	<b>5,351</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4,952</b>

The expenditure charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the year in relation to these leases was £13,026 (2015/16: £138,904) for vehicles and £399,356 (2015/16: £399,356) for property.

### 7.10 Amounts Reported for Resource Allocation Decisions

The analysis of income and expenditure on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement reflects the internal financial management reporting, as required by the Code.

The Code recommends that, where appropriate, "segmental" reporting information is detailed. Reporting segments are those used by resource decision makers when determining budgets and financial control. With regard to County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority, as the costs relate to one major type of service expenditure, segmental reporting is not identified.

### 7.11 Grant Income

The Authority credited the following grants and contributions to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2016/17:

	2015/16 £000	2016/17 £000
Private Finance Initiative	1,130	1,130
Central Government	717	997
<b>Credited to Services</b>	<b>1,847</b>	<b>2,127</b>
Revenue Support Grant	6,818	5,813
National Non-Domestic Rates	6,346	6,541
Small Business Rates Relief Grant	179	167
Capital Grants	3,635	62
Capital Contributions	-	1
<b>Credited to Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income</b>	<b>16,978</b>	<b>12,584</b>
<b>Total Grant Income</b>	<b>18,825</b>	<b>14,711</b>

## **NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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### **7.12 Related Parties**

The Authority is required to disclose material transactions with related parties i.e. bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence or be controlled/ influenced by the Authority. Disclosure of these transactions allows readers to assess the extent to which the Authority may have been constrained in its ability to operate independently or might have secured the ability to limit another party's ability to bargain freely with the Authority. Transactions should be disclosed where material to either the organisation or individual with whom the transaction has been incurred.

#### **Central Government**

Central Government has effective control over the general operations of the Authority. It is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Authority operates, provides funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Authority has with other parties. Grants received from Government Departments are included within the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement. An analysis of Government grants is shown above in Note 7.11.

#### **Members**

Members of the Authority have direct control over the Authority's financial and operating policies. Details of transactions relating to members' interests are recorded in the Register of Members' Interest which is accessible on the Authority's website. Following a review of the register and the Related Party Transactions Declarations, it was established that there were no material related party transactions involving members, bar those relating to the Community Interest Company and Vital Fire Solutions Limited, which is disclosed further below.

The total of members' allowances paid in 2016/17 is shown in Note 7.3.

A number of Members of the Authority are also Members of Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council. It is not considered that there have been any material transactions that could have been affected by this relationship.

#### **Officers**

Colette Longbottom was Clerk to the Authority and also Head of Legal and Democratic Services for Durham County Council until 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017. Since this date, both roles have been undertaken by Clare Pattinson.

There were no related party transactions involving senior employees except those relating to the Community Interest Company and Vital Fire Solutions Limited which are disclosed further below.

#### **Other Public Bodies**

Durham County Council administers the Durham County Council Pension Fund of which the Authority is a member.

## **NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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Formal agreements are in place between the Authority and Durham County Council for the provision of legal services, financial services and technical services. The agreements are signed by both parties and regularly reviewed by the Authority's Head of Corporate Resources. The value of these agreements is £0.211m (2015/16: £0.185m).

The Authority obtains part of its income from precepts levied on the collection authorities in its area. During the year, transactions with related parties, excluding those disclosed elsewhere in the accounts, were as follows:

	<b>Receipts</b>	
	<b>Precepts 2015/16</b>	<b>Precepts 2016/17</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Durham County Council	12,261	13,238
Darlington Borough Council	2,977	3,039
	<b>15,238</b>	<b>16,277</b>
Adjustment for share of Collection Fund	374	-184
	<b>15,612</b>	<b>16,093</b>

At 31 March 2017, the Authority owes Durham County Council £0.058m relating to amounts due from Council Tax Payers and £0.188m in respect of amounts due from Non-Domestic Rates Payers. Durham County Council owes the Authority £0.327m in respect of the Collection Fund.

In addition, £0.458m is due to the Authority from Durham County Council relating to VAT claimed on the Authority's behalf.

At 31 March 2017, the Authority owes Darlington Borough Council £0.311m in respect of amounts due from Council Tax Payers and £0.020m in respect of amounts due from Non-Domestic Rates Payers.

### **County Durham and Darlington Community Interest Company**

In 2013/14, County Durham and Darlington Community Interest Company was incorporated and commenced trading during 2014/15. The Community Interest Company is a 100% owned subsidiary of the Authority. The Directors of the company are also senior managers and members of the Authority.

As at 31 March 2017, £12,619 was due to the Fire Authority from the company in respect of management and administration recharges.

A summary of the company's accounts are shown in Note 7.13.

### **Vital Fire Solutions Limited**

In 2015/16, Vital Fire Solutions Limited was incorporated, and the Authority purchased £15,000 of share capital. The company is a 100% owned subsidiary of the Authority. The Directors of the company are also senior managers and members of the Authority.

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31 March 2017, £51,707 was due to the Fire Authority from the company in respect of management and administration recharges.

A summary of the company's accounts are shown in Note 7.14.

### 7.13 Community Interest Company

The Fire Authority has set up a Community Interest Company for trading purposes. The company is registered as County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Community Interest Company. The company is wholly owned by the Fire Authority.

The accounts of the company, which are summarised below, are exempt from the requirement to have an audit.

The Authority has not produced group accounts for 2016/17 as the aggregate turnover of the company was not material. Additionally, whilst the Fire Authority is the sole member, it is unable to exercise a significant influence over the entity without the support of the Directors. Any decisions regarding the operating and financial policies of the company require the consent of the Directors, but not the Authority.

	2015/16 £000	2016/17 £000
Turnover	285	105
Cost of Sales	-180	-46
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>59</b>
Administrative Expenses	-99	-39
<b>Profit/(Loss) for the year before taxation</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>20</b>
Tax on profit	-	-1
<b>Profit/(Loss) for the financial year</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>19</b>

### 7.14 Vital Fire Solutions Limited

The Fire Authority has created Vital Fire Solutions Limited for trading purposes. This is registered as a Limited Company and wholly owned by the Fire Authority, who purchased £15,000 of share capital.

The accounts of the company, which are summarised below, are exempt from the requirement to have an audit.

The Authority has not produced group accounts for 2016/17 as the aggregate turnover of the company was not material. Additionally, whilst the Fire Authority is the sole member, any decisions regarding the operating and financial policies of the company require the consent of the Directors, and the Authority is unable to exercise a significant influence over the entity without the support of the Directors. Any decisions regarding the operating and financial policies of the company require the consent of the Directors, but not the Authority.

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2015/16 £000	2016/17 £000
Turnover	8	273
Cost of Sales	-5	-103
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>170</b>
Administrative Expenses	-10	-170
<b>Profit/(Loss) for the year before taxation</b>	<b>-7</b>	<b>-</b>
Tax on profit	-	-
<b>Profit/(Loss) for the financial year</b>	<b>-7</b>	<b>-</b>

### 8 BALANCE SHEET

#### 8.1 Intangible Assets

Intangible assets are assets that continue to provide an economic benefit to the Authority but which do not have physical form.

The following shows the movement on intangible assets during the year:

	£000
<b>Original Cost</b>	706
Amortisations to 31 March 2016	-279
<b>Balance at 1 April 2016</b>	<b>427</b>
Expenditure in year	-
Disposals	-96
Amortisation during year	-82
Amortisation on disposals	96
<b>Balance at 31 March 2017</b>	<b>345</b>

Comparatives for 2015/16 are as follows:

	£000
<b>Original Cost</b>	715
Amortisations to 31 March 2015	-203
<b>Balance at 1 April 2015</b>	<b>512</b>
Expenditure in year	-
Disposals	-9
Amortisation during year	-85
Amortisation on disposals	9
<b>Balance at 31 March 2016</b>	<b>427</b>

#### 8.2 Operational Assets

All valuations of buildings are undertaken by or under the supervision of a fully qualified Chartered Surveyor, who is an employee of a related party, Durham County Council. Full fixed asset revaluations are undertaken once every five years, unless the changes in the BCIS index during the year would have a material impact on the asset portfolio. The most recent valuation of Land and Buildings is effective from 1 April 2016. These values have been used to determine the 31 March 2017 valuations. A full valuation as part of the agreed 5 year rolling programme was last undertaken in 2013/14. However, due to the

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

impact of changes in the BCIS index, a further revaluation of all assets valued on the basis of Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC) was undertaken in 2014/15 and again in 2016/17.

	Property, Plant & Equipment			
	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Land & Buildings	Surplus Assets	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Cost or Valuation</b>				
At 1 April 2016	15,272	33,734	24	49,030
Additions	1,413	309	-	1,722
Derecognition - Disposals / Demolitions	-527	-	-	-527
Reclassifications	425	4,634	-	5,059
Assets reclassified as held for sale	-	-	-	-
Accumulated depreciation and impairment written off to GCA	-	-1,000	-	-1,000
Revaluation increases recognised in the Surplus on the Provision of Services	-	754	-	754
Revaluation decreases recognised in the Surplus on the Provision of Services	-	-2,287	-	-2,287
Revaluation increases recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	-	2,115	-	2,115
Revaluation decreases recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	-	-11	-	-11
At 31 March 2017	<b>16,583</b>	<b>38,248</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>54,855</b>
<b>Depreciation and Impairments</b>				
At 1 April 2016	-7,017	-757	-1	-7,775
Charge for 2016/17	-1,337	-1,044	-	-2,381
Derecognition - Disposals / Demolitions	468	-	-	468
Depreciation written off to GCA	-	749	-	749
Impairment written off to GCA	-	251	-	251
Impairment losses recognised in the Surplus on the Provision of Services	-	-222	-	-222
Impairment losses recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	-	-87	-	-87
At 31 March 2017	<b>-7,886</b>	<b>-1,110</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-8,997</b>
<b>Balance Sheet amount at 31 March 2017</b>	<b>8,697</b>	<b>37,138</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>45,858</b>
<b>Balance Sheet amount at 01 April 2016</b>	<b>8,255</b>	<b>32,977</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>41,255</b>

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Comparatives for 2015/16 are as follows:

	Property, Plant & Equipment			
	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Land & Buildings	Surplus Assets	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Cost or Valuation</b>				
At 1 April 2015	14,708	28,882	23	43,613
Additions	1,073	236	1	1,310
Derecognition - Disposals / Demolitions	-509	-327	-	-836
Reclassifications	-	6,292	-	6,292
Assets reclassified as held for sale	-	-	-	-
Accumulated depreciation and impairment written off to GCA	-	-1,004	-	-1,004
Revaluation increases recognised in the Surplus on the Provision of Services	-	479	-	479
Revaluation decreases recognised in the Surplus on the Provision of Services	-	-3,412	-	-3,412
Revaluation increases recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	-	2,622	-	2,622
Revaluation decreases recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	-	-34	-	-34
At 31 March 2016	<b>15,272</b>	<b>33,734</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>49,030</b>
<b>Depreciation and Impairments</b>				
At 1 April 2015	-6,000	-556	-	-6,556
Charge for 2015/16	-1,474	-987	-	-2,461
Derecognition - Disposals / Demolitions	457	327	-	784
Depreciation written off to GCA	-	679	-	679
Impairment written off to GCA	-	325	-	325
Impairment losses recognised in the Surplus on the Provision of Services	-	-289	-	-289
Impairment losses recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	-	-256	-1	-257
At 31 March 2016	<b>-7,017</b>	<b>-757</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-7,775</b>
<b>Balance Sheet amount at 31 March 2016</b>	<b>8,255</b>	<b>32,977</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>41,255</b>
<b>Balance Sheet amount at 01 April 2015</b>	<b>8,708</b>	<b>28,326</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>37,057</b>

The carrying value of operational assets is analysed according to the year in which they were valued as follows:

	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Land & Buildings	Surplus Assets	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Carried at historical cost	16,583	9,480	24	26,087
Valued at fair value as at:				
31 March 2016	-	67	-	67
31 March 2017	-	28,701	-	28,701
<b>Total Cost or Valuation</b>	<b>16,583</b>	<b>38,248</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>54,855</b>

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 8.3 Non-Operational Assets

	<b>Non-Operational Assets</b>	
	<b>Assets Under Construction 2015/16</b>	<b>Assets Under Construction 2016/17</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b>Cost or valuation</b>		
At 1 April	5,915	1,288
Additions	1,665	3,811
Disposals	-	-
Reclassifications	-6,292	-5,059
<b>At 31 March</b>	<b>1,288</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Depreciation and impairments</b>		
At 1 April	-	-
Charge for year	-	-
Disposals	-	-
Reclassifications	-	-
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	-	-
<b>At 31 March</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Balance Sheet amount at 31 March</b>	<b>1,288</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Balance Sheet amount at 01 April</b>	<b>5,915</b>	<b>1,288</b>

### 8.4 Sources of Funds to Meet Capital Expenditure and Other Plans

Resources and borrowing estimated to arise in future years will be used to finance the Authority's approved capital programme which is subject to a rolling review.

### 8.5 Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

The total amount of capital expenditure incurred in the year is shown in the table below together with the resources that have been used to finance it.

The capital financing requirement represents that part of the value of Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible Assets that is to be met from external borrowing and capital cash overdrawn.

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The requirement has increased by £0.240m from £9.179m to £9.419m as follows:

	2015/16	2016/17
	£000	£000
<b>Opening Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>17,537</b>	<b>9,179</b>
<b>Capital Investment</b>		
Property, Plant & Equipment	1,310	1,721
Non-Operational Assets	1,665	3,811
Intangible Assets	-	-
Assets Held for Sale	226	-
Investment in share capital	15	-
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute	-	-
Donated Assets	-	1
<b>Sources of Finance</b>		
Capital Receipts	-4,636	-61
Government Grants and Contributions	-3,635	-63
Minimum Revenue Provision	-226	-58
Minimum Revenue Provision – PFI	-170	-172
Direct Revenue Provision	-2,907	-4,939
<b>Closing Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>9,179</b>	<b>9,419</b>
<b>Explanation of movements in the year</b>		
Reduction in underlying need to borrow (supported by Government financial assistant)	-8,358	-230
Increase in underlying need to borrow (unsupported by Government financial assistance)	-	470
<b>Increase/decrease (-) in Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>-8,358</b>	<b>240</b>

### 8.6 Capital Commitments

The Authority is completed a significant programme of capital building projects in 2016/17. There were no other major capital commitments at 31 March 2017.

	2015/16 £m	2016/17 £m
Barnard Castle Quad Station	3.574	-

### 8.7 Information on Assets Held

Details concerning assets held by the Fire and Rescue Authority are shown below:

Asset Type	Number as at 31 March 2016	Number as at 31 March 2017
Fire Stations	15	15
Standby Accommodation Blocks	2	2
Training Centre	1	1
Vehicles	145	136

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 8.8 Assets Held for Sale

	Non Current	
	2015/16	2016/17
	£000	£000
<b>Balance outstanding at start of year</b>	5,010	-
Assets newly classified as held for sale:		
Property, Plant and Equipment	226	-
Revaluation Gains/losses	-226	-
Assets declassified as held for sale:		
Property, Plant and Equipment		
Assets sold	-5,010	-
<b>Balance outstanding at end of year</b>	-	-

### 8.9 Inventories

	2015/16	2016/17
	£000	£000
Balance outstanding at 1 April	455	525
Purchases	509	355
Recognised as an expenses in the year	-439	-394
<b>Balance outstanding at 31 March</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>486</b>
Provision for obsolete stock	-	-
<b>Balance outstanding at 31 March after provision</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>486</b>

### 8.10 Debtors

These are sums of money due to the Authority but unpaid as at 31 March 2017. The Authority seeks to recover sums due to it as soon as possible and actively pursues outstanding accounts rendered upon debtors.

Debtors have been reviewed for impairment and the provision for doubtful debts reflects any uncertainty about amounts receivable.

	31 March 2016	31 March 2017
	£000	£000
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
<b>Debtors</b>		
Government Departments	405	22
Other Local Authorities	946	1,261
Other Debtors	1,892	2,751
<b>Payments in Advance</b>	528	13
<b>Impairment for Doubtful Debts</b>	-2	-2
	<b>3,769</b>	<b>4,045</b>
<b>Amounts falling due after one year:</b>	1	1
	<b>3,770</b>	<b>4,046</b>

## **NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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### **8.11 Cash and Cash Equivalents**

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

	<b>31 March 2016</b>	<b>31 March 2017</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Cash held by the Authority	13	15
Bank current accounts	-327	-212
Short term deposits with banks and building societies	9,411	6,091
<b>Total Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>9,097</b>	<b>5,894</b>

During the year information is provided to the Authority regarding short term deposits. In accordance with the Authority's adopted Treasury Policy Statement, the Authority is informed of transactions made with UK clearing banks and major building societies.

The accrued interest relating to short term deposits included in the figure above amounts to £1,086 as at 31 March 2017 (£6,824 as at 31 March 2016).

### **8.12 Creditors**

These are amounts owed by the Authority for works done, goods received or services rendered which have not been paid for as at 31 March 2017.

	<b>31 March 2016</b>	<b>31 March 2017</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b>Creditors</b>		
Government Departments	468	529
Other Local Authorities	585	612
Other Creditors	1,317	1,660
<b>Receipts in Advance</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>754</b>
	<b>2,680</b>	<b>3,555</b>
<b>Short-term Borrowing</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>48</b>
	<b>2,726</b>	<b>3,603</b>

The accrued interest relating to short-term borrowing, included above, is £4,949 as at 31 March 2017 (£5,202 as at 31 March 2016).

### **8.13 Financial Instruments**

A financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another.

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Financial Instruments Balances

The carrying amount of financial instruments is shown below:

	31 March 2016		31 March 2017	
	Long-term £000	Current £000	Long-term £000	Current £000
<b>Financial Liabilities at amortised cost</b>				
PWLB Borrowing	771	46	728	48
Bank Overdraft	-	327	-	212
Trade Creditors	-	113	-	188
Other Creditors	-	1,096	-	1,481
Private Finance Initiative	7,572	173	7,381	191
<b>Total Borrowing</b>	<b>8,343</b>	<b>1,755</b>	<b>8,109</b>	<b>2,120</b>
<b>Loans and Receivables at amortised cost</b>				
Short-term Deposits	-	9,411	-	6,091
Bank Deposits	-	13	-	15
Long-term Debtors	1	-	1	-
Trade Debtors	-	489	-	1,207
Other Debtors	-	899	-	961
Long-term Investments	15	-	15	-
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10,812</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8,274</b>

### Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities carried at Amortised Cost.

	31 March 2016		31 March 2017	
	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000
<b>Financial Assets</b>				
Short-term Deposits	9,411	9,411	6,091	6,091
Bank Deposits	13	13	15	15
Long-term Debtors	1	1	1	1
Trade Debtors	489	489	1,207	1,207
Other Debtors	899	899	961	961
Long-term Investments	15	15	15	15
	<b>10,828</b>	<b>10,828</b>	<b>8,290</b>	<b>8,290</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities (current &amp; long-term)</b>				
PWLB Borrowing	817	1,000	776	953
Bank Overdraft	327	327	212	212
Trade Creditors	113	113	188	188
Other Creditors	1,096	1,096	1,481	1,481
Private Finance Initiative	7,745	7,745	7,572	7,572
	<b>10,098</b>	<b>10,281</b>	<b>10,229</b>	<b>10,406</b>

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

## **NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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- for loans from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB), premature repayment rates from the PWLB have been applied to provide the fair value under PWLB debt redemption procedures;
- where an instrument has a maturity of less than 12 months or is a trade or other receivable, the fair value is taken to be the actual principal outstanding or the invoiced or billed amount;
- the fair value of trade and other payables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.

### **Financial Instruments Gains and Losses**

The gains and losses recognised in the 2016/17 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in relation to financial instruments are made up as follows:

<b>2016/17</b>	<b>Financial Liabilities measured at Amortised Cost</b>	<b>Financial Assets Loans and Receivables</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Interest expense	948	-
Interest income	-	-34
Net gain(-)/loss for the year		<b>914</b>

Comparative figures as at 31 March 2016 are as follows:

<b>2015/16</b>	<b>Financial Liabilities measured at Amortised Cost</b>	<b>Financial Assets Loans and Receivables</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Interest expense	969	-
Interest income	-	-48
Net gain(-)/loss for the year		<b>921</b>

### **Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments**

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

- Credit risk – the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the Authority;
- Liquidity risk – the possibility that the Authority might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments;
- Market risk – the possibility that financial loss might arise for the Authority as a result of changes in such measures as interest rates.

The Authority's overall risk management procedures focus on the unpredictability of financial markets, and implementing restrictions to minimise these risks. The procedures for risk management are set out through a legal framework set out in the Local Government Act 2003 and the associated regulations. These require the Authority to comply with the CIPFA Prudential Code, the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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Services Code of Practice and Investment Guidance issued through the Act. Overall these procedures require the Authority to manage risk in the following ways:

- by formally adopting the requirements of the Code of Practice;
- by approving annually in advance prudential indicators for the following three years limiting:
  - the Authority's overall borrowing;
  - its maximum and minimum exposures to fixed and variable rates;
  - its maximum and minimum exposures the maturity structure of its debt;
  - its maximum annual exposures to investments maturing beyond a year;
- by approving an investment strategy for the forthcoming year setting out its criteria for both investing and selecting investment counterparties in compliance with the Government Guidance.

These are required to be reported and approved at or before the Authority's annual Council Tax setting budget. The items are reported within the annual Treasury Management Strategy that outlines the detailed approach to managing risk in relation to the Authority's financial instrument exposure. Actual performance is also reported annually to Members.

The Treasurer is responsible for implementing the policies outlined above. The Authority maintains written principles for overall risk management, as well as written policies covering specific areas, such as interest rate risk, credit risk, and the investment of surplus cash through Treasury Management Practices (TMPs). These TMPs are a requirement of the Code of Practice and are reviewed regularly.

### **(a) Credit Risk**

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions as well as credit exposures to the Authority's customers. Deposits are not made to banks and financial institutions unless they meet the minimum requirements of the investment criteria outlined above. The Authority has a policy of not lending more than £4m to any one institution. Customers are assessed on their financial position, past experience and other factors.

### **(b) Liquidity Risk**

The Authority has a comprehensive cash flow management system which ensures cash is available as needed. As the Authority has ready access to borrowings from the PWLB, there is no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments. The table in note 8.15 analyses the scheduled repayments of long-term borrowings over time.

### **(c) Market Risk**

The Authority has a number of strategies for managing interest rate risk. The Authority's policy is to aim to keep a maximum of 50% of its borrowing in variable rate loans. During periods of falling interest rates, fixed rate loans could be repaid

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

early to limit exposure to losses. Any further reduction in interest rates would have a negligible impact on the interest earned on the Authority's investments.

### 8.14 Provisions

#### Insurance Provision

An insurance provision has been established to meet the identified potential cost to the Authority of insurance policy excesses for claims of negligence from employees for personal injury sustained during the course of their employment, and from third parties for personal injury or damage to their property. This provision is based on the Insurance Company's estimates of outstanding claims and settlement of the claims is likely to be spread over a number of years.

#### Provision for Non-Domestic Rates Appeals

A provision for Non-Domestic Rates appeals has been established to meet the identified potential costs to the Authority of appeals in relation to the valuations used in the calculation of Business Rates. The provision is based on the best estimate of the expenditure that will be required to settle successful appeals, and the settlement of these appeals may be spread over a number of years.

#### Movement in Provisions

	<b>Insurance Provision</b>	<b>Non-Domestic Rates Appeals Provision</b>	<b>Total Provisions</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Balance at 1 April 2016	22	190	212
Additional provisions made in 2016/17	-	78	78
Amounts used in 2016/17	-	-75	-75
Balance at 31 March 2017	<b>22</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>215</b>

Comparatives for 2015/16 are as follows:

	<b>Insurance Provision</b>	<b>Non-Domestic Rates Appeals Provision</b>	<b>Total Provisions</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Balance at 1 April 2015	28	83	111
Additional provisions made in 2015/16	22	107	129
Amounts used in 2015/16	-28	-	-28
Balance at 31 March 2016	<b>22</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>212</b>

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 8.15 Deferred Liabilities

The carrying amount of deferred liabilities is shown below:

	31 March 2016	31 March 2017
	£000	£000
Debt	771	728
Private Finance Initiative (PFI)	7,572	7,381
Other lease arrangements	840	791
Deferred income – training centre	563	540
	<b>9,746</b>	<b>9,440</b>

Deferred liabilities disclosed within other lease arrangements relate to lease incentives for the Technical Services Centre and Headquarters buildings. These are accounted for as a deferred liability and released over the life of the lease.

Deferred income relates to the income received from Durham Police towards the Training Centre. This enables them to use the building for training purposes over a period of 26 years from 2015/16, and as such the income is treated as deferred and released to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement over the term of the agreement.

#### Deferred Liability – Debt

The balance relates to long-term borrowings from the PWLB, further analysed as follows:

	31 March 2016	31 March 2017
	£000	£000
Long-term Borrowings		
Repayable within 1 – 2 years	43	-
Repayable within 2 – 5 years	-	405
Repayable within 5 – 10 years	728	323
Repayable over 10 years	-	-
	<b>771</b>	<b>728</b>

### 8.16 Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Scheme

The Authority has two community fire stations, which are financed by a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Scheme. The stations at Bishop Auckland and Spennymoor became operational during 2010/11.

The PFI contract is for the design, construction and finance of the stations and their maintenance for 25 years after commencement of operations. At the end of this period the contractor is required to transfer the buildings to the Authority in a good state of repair and at nil cost.

In return for providing the buildings the contractor receives monthly payments from the Authority and the Government provides a specific grant over the life of the scheme.

The Authority's Balance Sheet includes both assets and liabilities arising from the contract.

## **NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

### **The value of PFI assets at 31 March 2017**

The Fire Stations were initially valued on the basis of the capital expenditure provided for by the contractor in pricing the contract. Subsequently the stations were revalued on the basis of depreciated replacement cost as an estimate of fair value, and these values are included in the Authority's Balance Sheet. The new valuations are being depreciated on a straight line basis over 50 years.

Movements in the values in 2016/17 are summarised below:

	<b>Bishop Auckland</b>	<b>Spennymoor</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Initial value of assets financed by contractor	4,638	4,133	8,771
Less: Impairment upon revaluation	-13	465	452
Add: Revaluations in 2016/17	309	307	616
<b>Gross Book Value after impairment</b>	<b>4,934</b>	<b>4,905</b>	<b>9,839</b>
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	-114	-115	-229
Less: 2016/17 Depreciation	-38	-39	-77
<b>Net Book Value at 31 March 2017</b>	<b>4,782</b>	<b>4,751</b>	<b>9,533</b>

Comparatives for 2015/16 are as follows:

	<b>Bishop Auckland</b>	<b>Spennymoor</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Initial value of assets financed by contractor	4,638	4,133	8,771
Less: Impairment upon revaluation	-330	261	-69
Add: Revaluations in 2015/16	317	204	521
<b>Gross Book Value after impairment</b>	<b>4,625</b>	<b>4,598</b>	<b>9,223</b>
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	-76	-76	-152
Less: 2015/16 Depreciation	-38	-39	-77
<b>Net Book Value at 31 March 2016</b>	<b>4,511</b>	<b>4,483</b>	<b>8,994</b>

### **The value of liabilities at 31 March 2017**

The assets included in the Balance Sheet are offset by a liability equal to the initial value of the assets (the capital expenditure provided for by the contractor in pricing the contract). This liability is written down over the life of the contract by charging part of the annual payments to the contractor against the liability.

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Movements in the values in 2016/17 are summarised below:

	2015/16	2016/17
	£000	£000
Liability outstanding at 1 April	7,915	7,745
Less: Value of liability written down	-170	-173
<b>Liability outstanding at 31 March</b>	<b>7,745</b>	<b>7,572</b>

**Estimates of future payments due:**

Period	Repayment Liability	Interest	Service Charges	Lifecycle Replacement
	£000	£000	£000	£000
2017/18	191	813	304	52
2018/19 to 2021/22	883	3,033	1,218	307
2022/23 to 2026/27	1,566	3,183	1,521	530
2027/28 to 2031/32	2,514	2,158	1,521	607
2032/33 to 2035/36	2,418	564	936	332
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,572</b>	<b>9,751</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>1,828</b>

The estimates do not include any allowance for inflation.

### 8.17 International Accounting Standard 19 (IAS19) Defined Benefit Pension Schemes

#### Participation in Pension Schemes

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its officers and other employees, the Authority offers retirement benefits. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the Authority has a commitment to make the payments, that needs to be disclosed at the time that employees earn their future entitlement.

The Authority participates in the following pension schemes:

- the Local Government Pension Scheme for corporate employees, administered by Durham County Council - this is a funded defined benefit scheme, meaning that the Authority and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pensions liabilities with investment assets.
- the Firefighter's Pension Scheme for fire officers - this is an unfunded defined benefit scheme administered by County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority, meaning that there are no investment assets built up to meet the pensions liabilities, and cash has to be generated to meet actual pensions payments as they eventually fall due. Under the Firefighter's Pension Scheme Order 2006, if the amounts receivable by the pensions fund for the year are less than amounts payable, the Fire Authority must annually transfer an amount to meet the deficit to the pension fund. This cost is then met by Central Government. If, however, the pension fund is in surplus for the year, the surplus is

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

required to be transferred from the pension fund to the Fire Authority which then must repay the amount to Central Government.

### Transactions Relating to Post-employment Benefits

The Authority recognises the costs of retirement benefits in the Net Cost of Services section of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge required to be made against Council Tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of retirement benefits is reversed out of the General Fund via the Movement in Reserves Statement. The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the General Fund via the Movement in Reserves Statement during the year:

2016/17	Local Government Pension Scheme	Fire Fighter's Pension Scheme	Total
	£000	£000	£000
<b>Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</b>			
Cost of Services:			
Current service cost	605	4,201	4,806
Past service costs	-	210	210
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure:			
Net interest expense	234	10,880	11,114
<b>Total Post Employment Benefits charged to the Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>15,291</b>	<b>16,130</b>
Other Post Employment Benefits:			
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability comprising:			
Return on plan assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense)	-3,352	-	-3,352
Actuarial gains / losses (-) arising on changes in demographic assumptions	-130	-5,460	-5,590
Actuarial gains / losses (-) arising on changes in financial assumptions	6,457	68,140	74,597
Other	-872	-7,174	-8,046
<b>Total Other Post Employment Benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</b>	<b>2,103</b>	<b>55,506</b>	<b>57,609</b>
<b>Total Post Employment Benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</b>	<b>2,942</b>	<b>70,797</b>	<b>73,739</b>
<b>Movement in Reserves Statement</b>			
Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus/ Deficit for the Provision of Services for post-employment benefits in accordance with IAS19	-839	-15,291	-16,130
Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year:			
Employer's contributions payable to the scheme	453	2,255	2,708
Retirement benefits payable to pensioners	4	480	484

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The comparative figures for 2015/16 are:

2015/16	Local Government Pension Scheme	Fire Fighter's Pension Scheme	Total
	£000	£000	£000
<b>Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</b>			
Cost of Services:			
Current service cost	647	5,990	6,637
Past service costs	124	-	124
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure:	238	11,200	11,438
Net interest expense			
<b>Total Post Employment Benefits charged to the Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>	<b>1,009</b>	<b>17,190</b>	<b>18,199</b>
Other Post Employment Benefits:			
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability comprising:			
Return on plan assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense)	667	-	667
Actuarial gains / losses (-) arising on changes in demographic assumptions	-	-4,760	-4,760
Actuarial gains / losses (-) arising on changes in financial assumptions	-1,568	-29,380	-30,948
Other	-97	-13,776	-13,873
<b>Total Other Post Employment Benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</b>	<b>-998</b>	<b>-47,916</b>	<b>-48,914</b>
<b>Total Post Employment Benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-30,726</b>	<b>-30,715</b>
<b>Movement in Reserves Statement</b>			
Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus/ Deficit for the Provision of Services for post-employment benefits in accordance with IAS19	-1,009	-17,190	-18,199
Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year:			
Employer's contributions payable to the scheme	583	2,261	2,844
Retirement benefits payable to pensioners	4	460	464

The cumulative amount of actuarial losses to 31 March 2017 is £121.95m (2015/16 £63.12m), made up as follows:

- Local Government Pension Scheme £4.20m (2015/16 £2.09m)
- Firefighter's Pension Scheme £117.75m (2015/16 £61.03m)

## **NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities in relation to Post-employment Benefits**

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method; an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels, etc. Both the Firefighter's Scheme and the County Council Fund liabilities have been assessed by independent actuaries; estimates for the County Council Fund being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2016.

The pension increase assumption as at 31 March 2017 is based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) expectation of inflation. This is a consequence of the Government's announcement that CPI is to be used for the indexation of public service pensions from April 2011.

Under IAS19, any obligation arising from long-term employee benefits that depend upon length of service need to be recognised when service is rendered. As injury awards under the Firefighter's schemes are dependent on service, the liability expected to arise due to injury awards has been valued in respect of service prior to the valuation date. The liability arising from injury awards has been restated for previous years.

The principal assumptions used by the actuary have been:

	Local Government Funded Pension Scheme		Local Government Unfunded Pension Scheme		Firefighter's Pension Scheme	
	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17
<b>Mortality assumptions:</b>						
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners:						
• Men	22.7	23.2	22.7	23.2	22.3	22.4
• Women	25.2	24.9	25.2	24.9	22.3	22.4
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners:						
• Men	24.9	25.4	n/a	n/a	24.6	24.7
• Women	27.5	27.2	n/a	n/a	24.6	24.7
Rate of Inflation:						
• RPI	2.9	3.1	2.9	3.1	3.35	3.50
• CPI	1.8	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.35
Rate of increase in salaries	3.3	3.5	n/a	n/a	4.2	4.35
Rate of increase to pensions in payment	1.8	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.35
Rate of increase to deferred pensions	1.8	2.0	n/a	n/a	2.2	2.35
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	3.5	2.6	3.5	2.6	3.55	2.65
Take-up of option to convert annual pension into retirement lump sum:						
• Including any accrued lump sum from pre 2008 service	80	80	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

The Firefighter's Pension Scheme has no assets to cover its liabilities. The Authority employs a building block approach in determining the rate of return on the Local Government Pension Scheme's assets. Historical markets are studied and assets with high volatility are assumed to generate higher returns consistent with widely accepted capital market principles.

The weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation is 20 years for Firefighter Pension Scheme and 21.2 years for the Local Government Pension Scheme.

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### (i) Firefighter's Pension Scheme

#### Past Service Liabilities

The past service liabilities for 2016/17 are:

	1992 Scheme	Injury Awards	2006 Scheme	2015 Scheme	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Estimated liabilities in scheme					
Active members (past service)	127.04	1.61	25.76	7.94	162.35
Deferred pensions	7.43	-	1.37	-	8.80
Pensions in Payment (injury awards)	-	11.25	-	-	11.25
Pensions in Payment (excluding injury)	193.38	-	0.26	-	193.64
Retained Settlement	-	-	0.75	-	0.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>327.85</b>	<b>12.86</b>	<b>28.14</b>	<b>7.94</b>	<b>376.79</b>
Net pensions deficit	327.85	12.86	28.14	7.94	376.79

The comparative figures for 2015/16 are:

	1992 Scheme	Injury Awards	2006 Scheme	2015 Scheme	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Estimated liabilities in scheme					
Active members (past service)	103.58	1.96	18.13	2.72	126.39
Deferred pensions	6.00	-	0.99	-	6.99
Pensions in Payment (injury awards)	-	9.33	-	-	9.33
Pensions in Payment (excluding injury)	165.30	-	0.16	-	165.46
Retained Settlement	-	-	0.56	-	0.56
<b>Total</b>	<b>274.88</b>	<b>11.29</b>	<b>19.84</b>	<b>2.72</b>	<b>308.73</b>
Net pensions deficit	274.88	11.29	19.84	2.72	308.73

The comparative figures for 2014/15 are:

	1992 Scheme	Injury Awards	2006 Scheme	2015 Scheme	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Estimated liabilities in scheme					
Active members (past service)	128.22	1.42	14.73	-	144.37
Deferred pensions	3.84	-	0.18	-	4.02
Pensions in Payment (injury awards)	-	9.57	-	-	9.57
Pensions in Payment (excluding injury)	180.18	-	-	-	180.18
Retained Settlement	-	-	4.04	-	4.04
<b>Total</b>	<b>312.24</b>	<b>10.99</b>	<b>18.95</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>342.18</b>
Net pensions deficit	312.24	10.99	18.95	-	342.18

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Analysis of Movement in Gross Scheme Liabilities

	Firefighters' Pension Fund				
	1992 Scheme	Injury Awards	2006 Scheme	2015 Scheme	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
<b>Net deficit at the start of current year</b>	<b>274.88</b>	<b>11.29</b>	<b>19.84</b>	<b>2.72</b>	<b>308.73</b>
<b>Movement in the year:</b>					
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	1.93	0.11	0.10	2.06	4.20
Cost covered by employee contributions	0.60	-	0.03	0.91	1.54
Past service cost	0.20	0.01	-	-	0.21
Pension Transfers	-	-	-	0.01	0.01
Interest on pension liabilities	9.63	0.39	0.71	0.15	10.88
Total benefits paid	-9.96	-0.58	-0.08	-0.06	-10.68
Curtailement and settlements	-	-	-	-	-
Actuarial gain (-)/loss – demographic assumptions	-4.85	-0.67	0.06	-	-5.46
Actuarial gain (-)/loss – financial assumptions	56.27	2.04	7.40	2.43	68.14
Actuarial gain (-)/loss – other	-0.85	0.27	0.08	-0.28	-0.78
<b>Net deficit at the end of year</b>	<b>327.85</b>	<b>12.86</b>	<b>28.14</b>	<b>7.94</b>	<b>376.79</b>

The comparative figures for 2015/16 are:

	Firefighters' Pension Fund				
	1992 Scheme	Injury Awards	2006 Scheme	2015 Scheme	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
<b>Net deficit at the start of current year</b>	<b>312.24</b>	<b>10.99</b>	<b>18.95</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>342.18</b>
<b>Movement in the year:</b>					
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	3.00	0.46	0.11	2.42	5.99
Cost covered by employee contributions	0.76	-	0.04	0.82	1.62
Past service cost	-	-	-	-	-
Interest on pension liabilities	10.17	0.36	0.62	0.05	11.20
Total benefits paid	-9.85	-0.54	-0.21	-	-10.60
Curtailement and settlements	-	-	-	-	-
Actuarial gain (-)/loss – demographic assumptions	-4.33	-0.11	-0.28	-0.04	-4.76
Actuarial gain (-)/loss – financial assumptions	-25.04	-0.77	-3.33	-0.24	-29.38
Actuarial gain (-)/loss – other	-12.07	0.90	3.94	-0.29	-7.52
<b>Net deficit at the end of year</b>	<b>274.88</b>	<b>11.29</b>	<b>19.84</b>	<b>2.72</b>	<b>308.73</b>

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Analysis of Movement in Scheme Assets

	1992 Scheme	Injury Awards	2006 Scheme	2015 Scheme	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
<b>Opening fair value of asset</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Movement in the year:</b>	-	-	-	-	-
Interest income					
The return on plan assets, excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-8.35	-	-	1.95	-6.40
Contributions by employer	-1.01	-0.58	-0.05	-1.11	-2.75
Contributions by participants	-0.60	-	-0.03	-0.90	-1.53
Net benefits paid out	9.96	0.58	0.08	0.06	10.68
<b>Closing fair value of assets</b>	-	-	-	-	-

The comparative figures for 2015/16 are:

	1992 Scheme	Injury Awards	2006 Scheme	2015 Scheme	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
<b>Opening fair value of asset</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Movement in the year:</b>	-	-	-	-	-
Interest income	-	-	-	-	-
The return on plan assets, excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-7.94	-	-0.10	1.78	-6.26
Contributions by employer	-1.15	-0.54	-0.07	-0.96	-2.72
Contributions by participants	-0.76	-	-0.04	-0.82	-1.62
Net benefits paid out	9.85	0.54	0.21	-	10.60
<b>Closing fair value of assets</b>	-	-	-	-	-

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Analysis of Movement in Net Obligations

	1992 Scheme	Injury Awards	2006 Scheme	2015 Scheme	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
<b>Net deficit at the start of current year</b>	<b>274.88</b>	<b>11.29</b>	<b>19.84</b>	<b>2.72</b>	<b>308.73</b>
<b>Movement in the year:</b>					
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	1.93	0.11	0.10	2.06	4.20
Contributions by employer	-1.01	-0.58	-0.05	-1.11	-2.75
Contributions by participants	-	-	-	0.01	0.01
Past service cost	0.20	0.01	-	-	0.21
Pension transfers	-	-	-	0.01	0.01
Interest on net defined benefit liability	9.63	0.39	0.71	0.15	10.88
Return on plan assets in excess of/ below that recognised in net interest	-	-	-	-	-
Actuarial gain (-)/loss – change in financial assumptions	56.27	2.04	7.40	2.43	68.14
Actuarial gain (-)/loss – change in demographic assumptions	-4.85	-0.67	0.06	-	-5.46
Actuarial gain (-)/ loss - other	-9.20	0.27	0.08	1.67	-7.18
Net benefits paid	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net deficit at the end of year</b>	<b>327.85</b>	<b>12.86</b>	<b>28.14</b>	<b>7.94</b>	<b>376.79</b>

The comparative figures for 2015/16 are:

	1992 Scheme	Injury Awards	2006 Scheme	2015 Scheme	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
<b>Net deficit at the start of current year</b>	<b>312.24</b>	<b>10.99</b>	<b>18.95</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>342.18</b>
<b>Movement in the year:</b>					
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	3.00	0.46	0.11	2.42	5.99
Contributions by employer	-1.15	-0.54	-0.07	-0.96	-2.72
Contributions by participants	-	-	-	-	-
Past service cost	-	-	-	-	-
Pension transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Interest on net defined benefit liability	10.17	0.36	0.62	0.05	11.20
Return on plan assets in excess of/ below that recognised in net interest	-	-	-	-	-
Actuarial gain (-)/loss – change in financial assumptions	-25.04	-0.77	-3.33	-0.24	-29.38
Actuarial gain (-)/loss – change in demographic assumptions	-4.33	-0.11	-0.28	-0.04	-4.76
Actuarial gain (-)/ loss - other	-20.01	0.90	3.84	1.49	-13.78
Net benefits paid	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net deficit at the end of year</b>	<b>274.88</b>	<b>11.29</b>	<b>19.84</b>	<b>2.72</b>	<b>308.73</b>

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### (ii) Durham County Council Pension Fund

#### Analysis of Movement in Gross Scheme Liabilities

	Funded	Unfunded	Total
	£m	£m	£m
<b>Opening Present Value of Liabilities</b>	<b>23.60</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>23.64</b>
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	0.61	-	0.61
Interest cost	0.82	-	0.82
Contributions from scheme participants	0.19	-	0.19
Remeasurement gains (-)/ losses:			
• Actuarial gains/ losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	-0.13	-	-0.13
• Actuarial gains/ losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	6.46	-	6.46
• Other	-0.87	-	-0.87
Past service costs	-	-	-
Benefits paid	-0.59	-	-0.59
<b>Closing present value of liabilities</b>	<b>30.09</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>30.13</b>

The comparative figures for 2015/16 are:

	Funded	Unfunded	Total
	£m	£m	£m
<b>Opening Present Value of Liabilities</b>	<b>24.27</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>24.31</b>
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	0.65	-	0.65
Interest cost	0.79	-	0.79
Contributions from scheme participants	0.19	-	0.19
Remeasurement gains (-)/ losses:			
• Actuarial gains/ losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	-	-	-
• Actuarial gains/ losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	-1.57	-	-1.57
• Other	-0.19	-	-0.19
Past service costs	0.12	-	0.12
Benefits paid	-0.66	-	-0.66
<b>Closing present value of liabilities</b>	<b>23.60</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>23.64</b>

## **NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Analysis of Movement in Scheme Assets**

Reconciliation of fair value of the scheme assets:

	<b>Local Government Pension Scheme</b>		
	<b>Funded</b>	<b>Unfunded</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
<b>Opening fair value</b>	<b>16.73</b>	-	<b>16.73</b>
Interest income	0.59	-	0.59
Remeasurement gain/loss:			
• The return on plan assets (excluding the amount included in net interest expense)	3.35	-	3.35
• Other	-	-	-
Contributions from employer	0.46	-	0.46
Contributions by employees into the scheme	0.19	-	0.19
Benefits paid	-0.59	-	-0.59
<b>Closing fair value</b>	<b>20.73</b>	-	<b>20.73</b>

The comparative figures for 2015/16 are:

	<b>Local Government Pension Scheme</b>		
	<b>Funded</b>	<b>Unfunded</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
<b>Opening fair value</b>	<b>16.82</b>	-	<b>16.82</b>
Interest income	0.56	-	0.56
Remeasurement gain/loss:			
• The return on plan assets (excluding the amount included in net interest expense)	-0.67	-	-0.67
• Other	-	-	-
Contributions from employer	0.49	-	0.49
Contributions by employees into the scheme	0.19	-	0.19
Benefits paid	-0.66	-	-0.66
<b>Closing fair value</b>	<b>16.73</b>	-	<b>16.73</b>

The actual return on scheme assets in the year was a gain of £3.939m (2015/16: £0.11m loss)

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The expected return on scheme assets is determined by considering the expected returns available on the assets underlying the current investment policy. Expected yields on fixed interest investments are based on gross redemption yields as at the Balance Sheet date.

Expected returns on equity investments reflect long-term real rates of return experienced in the respective markets.

### Fair Value of Scheme Assets

The Local Government Pension Scheme assets are comprised of the following categories:

	2016/17			2015/16		
	Quoted £m	Unquoted £m	Total £m	Quoted £m	Unquoted £m	Total £m
Equity Investments	9.78	-	<b>9.78</b>	6.83	0.00	<b>6.83</b>
Property	0.25	1.31	<b>1.56</b>	0.22	1.12	<b>1.34</b>
Government Bonds	5.62	1.12	<b>6.74</b>	4.35	1.00	<b>5.35</b>
Corporate Bonds	-	1.70	<b>1.70</b>	0.00	1.51	<b>1.51</b>
Cash	0.95	-	<b>0.95</b>	1.71	0.00	<b>1.71</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>16.60</b>	<b>4.13</b>	<b>20.73</b>	<b>13.11</b>	<b>3.63</b>	<b>16.74</b>

### Analysis of Movement in Net Obligations

	Funded £m	Unfunded £m	Total £m
<b>Net deficit at the beginning of year</b>	<b>6.87</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>6.91</b>
Current service cost	0.61	-	0.61
Contributions towards funded liabilities	-0.46	-	-0.46
Past service cost	-	-	-
Interest on net defined benefit liability	0.23	-	0.23
Return on plan assets in excess of/ below that recognised in net interest	-3.35	-	-3.35
Actuarial gains/ losses due to changes in financial assumptions	6.46	-	6.46
Actuarial gains/ losses due to changes in demographic assumptions	-0.13	-	-0.13
Actuarial gains/ losses due to other changes	-0.87	-	-0.87
<b>Net deficit at the end of year</b>	<b>9.36</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>9.40</b>

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The comparative figures for 2015/16 are:

	Funded	Unfunded	Total
	£m	£m	£m
<b>Net deficit at the beginning of year</b>	<b>7.45</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>7.49</b>
Current service cost	0.65	-	0.65
Contributions towards funded liabilities	-0.49	-	-0.49
Past service cost	0.12	-	0.12
Interest on net defined benefit liability	0.23	-	0.23
Return on plan assets in excess of/ below that recognised in net interest	0.67	-	0.67
Actuarial gains/ losses due to changes in financial assumptions	-1.57	-	-1.57
Actuarial gains/ losses due to changes in demographic assumptions	-	-	-
Actuarial gains/ losses due to other changes	-0.19	-	-0.19
<b>Net deficit at the end of year</b>	<b>6.87</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>6.91</b>

### Scheme History for the Firefighter Pension Schemes and the Local Government Pension Scheme

	2012/13 Restated	2013/14 Restated	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
<b>Present value of liabilities:</b>					
Local Government Pension Scheme	22.90	20.35	24.31	23.64	30.13
Firefighter's Pension Scheme	319.86	314.89	342.18	308.73	376.79
<b>Total Present Value of Liabilities</b>	<b>342.76</b>	<b>335.24</b>	<b>366.49</b>	<b>332.37</b>	<b>406.92</b>
<b>Fair value of assets</b>					
Local Government Pension Scheme	14.78	15.05	16.82	16.73	20.73
Firefighter's Pension Scheme	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Fair Value of Assets</b>	<b>14.78</b>	<b>15.05</b>	<b>16.82</b>	<b>16.73</b>	<b>20.73</b>
<b>Surplus/ deficit (-) in the scheme:</b>					
Local Government Pension Scheme	-8.12	-5.30	-7.49	-6.91	-9.40
Firefighter's Pension Scheme	-319.86	-314.89	-342.18	-308.73	-376.79
<b>Total Deficit</b>	<b>-327.98</b>	<b>-320.19</b>	<b>-349.67</b>	<b>-315.64</b>	<b>-386.19</b>

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the Authority has in the long run to pay retirement benefits. The total liability of £386.19m has a substantial impact on the net worth of the Authority as recorded in the Balance Sheet, resulting in a negative overall balance of £342.765m. However, statutory arrangements for funding the deficit mean that the financial position of the Authority remains unaffected:

- the deficit on the local government scheme will be made good by increased contributions over the remaining working life of employees, as assessed by the scheme actuary;
- finance is only required to be raised to cover fire pensions when the pensions are actually paid.

The figures shown as restated in the table above were revised in 2014/15 as a result of a ruling by the Pension Ombudsman, relating to the frequency of commutation factor reviews between 1998 and 2006, which would have resulted in a higher cash sum on retirement or a higher residual pension for the same amount of lump sum. All compensation payments relating to the ruling were made during 2015/16, with the costs of the liability being met by the Government, via additional Top-Up Grant.

During 2015/16, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) agreed to settle a case brought by the Fire Brigade Union (FBU) to provide a contributions holiday. The case is relevant to regular firefighters who joined the 1992 Firefighters' Pension Scheme before the age of 20, and who served for over 30 years before reaching the minimum retirement age of 50. The decision was applied retrospectively to 1 December 2006. This was included in the 2015/16 financial statements as a contingent liability rather than a provision, as the regulations had not been drafted, and therefore there was insufficient certainty about how to calculate any redress payments. The regulations were issued during 2016/17, and all payments to affected individuals were made during the financial year. The liability for the backdated payments was met by the Government via additional Top-Up Grant.

### **Employer Contributions**

The total contributions expected to be made to the Local Government Pension Scheme by the Authority in the year to 31 March 2018 are £0.47m. Expected contributions to the Firefighter's Pension Scheme in the year to 31 March 2018 are £1.85m.

### **8.18 Reserves**

The Authority keeps a number of reserves on the Balance Sheet. Some are required to be held for statutory reasons, some are needed to comply with proper accounting practices, and others have been set up voluntarily to earmark resources for future spending plans.

## **NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The movement in reserves is set out in the following table:

Reserve	Balance 1 April 2016	Net Movement in Year	Balance 31 March 2017	Purpose of Reserve	Further details of Movement
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>		
<b>Usable Reserves</b>					
General Fund	2,824	-	2,824	Resources available to meet future running costs	Movement in Reserves Statement
Earmarked Reserves	7,099	-3,234	3,865	Detailed below	Note 8.20 to the accounts
Capital Grants Unapplied	-	-	-	Grants to be used to finance capital expenditure in future years	Movement in Reserves Statement
Capital Receipts Unapplied	-	-	-	Receipts from the sale of capital assets to be used to finance capital expenditure in future years	Movement in Reserves Statement
<b>Total Usable Reserves</b>	<b>9,923</b>	<b>-3,234</b>	<b>6,689</b>		
<b>Unusable Reserves</b>					
Revaluation Reserve	9,621	1,654	11,275	Gains on revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment not yet realised through sales	Note 8.21 (i) to the accounts
Capital Adjustment Account	23,810	1,379	25,189	Capital resources set aside to meet capital expenditure	Note 8.21 (ii) to the accounts
Collection Fund Adjustment Account	354	-65	289	Share of Collection Fund Balance outstanding	Note 8.21 (iii) to the accounts
Pensions Reserve (IAS19)	-315,644	-70,547	-386,191	Balancing account to allow inclusion of Pensions Liability in the Balance Sheet	Note 8.21 (iv) to the accounts
Short-term Accumulating Absences	-15	-1	-16	Balancing account to allow inclusion of employees liability in the Balance Sheet	Note 8.21 (v) to the accounts
<b>Total Unusable Reserves</b>	<b>-281,874</b>	<b>-67,580</b>	<b>-349,454</b>		
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>-271,951</b>	<b>-70,814</b>	<b>342,765</b>		

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Comparatives for 2015/16 are as follows:

Reserve	Balance 1 April 2015	Net Movement in Year	Balance 31 March 2016	Purpose of Reserve	Further details of Movement
	£000	£000	£000		
<b>Usable Reserves</b>					
General Fund	2,824	-	2,824	Resources available to meet future running costs	Movement in Reserves Statement
Earmarked Reserves	8,998	-1,899	7,099	Detailed below	Note 8.20 to the accounts
Capital Grants Unapplied	-	-	-	Grants to be used to finance capital expenditure in future years	Movement in Reserves Statement
Capital Receipts Unapplied	-	-	-	Receipts from the sale of capital assets to be used to finance capital expenditure in future years	Movement in Reserves Statement
<b>Total Usable Reserves</b>	<b>11,822</b>	<b>-1,899</b>	<b>9,923</b>		
<b>Unusable Reserves</b>					
Revaluation Reserve	9,951	-330	9,621	Gains on revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment not yet realised through sales	Note 8.21 (i) to the accounts
Capital Adjustment Account	20,632	3,178	23,810	Capital resources set aside to meet capital expenditure	Note 8.21 (ii) to the accounts
Collection Fund Adjustment Account	80	274	354	Share of Collection Fund Balance outstanding	Note 8.21 (iii) to the accounts
Pensions Reserve (IAS19)	-349,667	34,023	-315,644	Balancing account to allow inclusion of Pensions Liability in the Balance Sheet	Note 8.21 (iv) to the accounts
Short-term Accumulating Absences	-20	5	-15	Balancing account to allow inclusion of employees liability in the Balance Sheet	Note 8.21 (v) to the accounts
<b>Total Unusable Reserves</b>	<b>-319,024</b>	<b>37,150</b>	<b>-281,874</b>		
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>-307,202</b>	<b>35,251</b>	<b>-271,951</b>		

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 8.19 Movement in Earmarked Reserves

The following contributions have been made to / from (-) the earmarked reserves:

	01 April 2016	Increase / decrease (-) in year	31 March 2017
	£000	£000	£000
Pensions	500	-	500
Community Safety	272	-36	236
Insurance	200	50	250
Civil Resilience (New Dimensions)	108	33	141
Replacement Mobilisation System	363	-	363
Resilience	100	-	100
Modernisation	2,500	-679	1,821
Capital Modernisation	3,056	-3,056	-
ESMCP	-	334	334
New Risks	-	120	120
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,099</b>	<b>-3,234</b>	<b>3,865</b>

Comparatives for 2015/16 are as follows:

	01 April 2015	Increase / decrease (-) in year	31 March 2016
	£000	£000	£000
Pensions	500	-	500
Community Safety	432	-160	272
Insurance	150	50	200
Civil Resilience (New Dimensions)	67	41	108
Replacement Mobilisation System	363	-	363
Resilience	100	-	100
Modernisation	7,386	-4,886	2,500
Capital Modernisation	-	3,056	3,056
ESMCP	-	-	-
New Risks	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,998</b>	<b>-1,899</b>	<b>7,099</b>

### 8.20 Earmarked Reserves

Earmarked reserves at 31 March 2017 were as follows:

#### **Pensions Reserve**

To meet any unforeseen pension costs which may arise as a result of changes to pension schemes.

#### **Modernisation Reserve**

To meet any one-off costs associated with service transformation.

#### **Capital Modernisation Reserve**

To fund capital expenditure in respect of the Estates Improvement Programme, avoiding the need to borrow in future years.

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Community Safety Reserve

To enable specific community safety improvements to be undertaken.

### Insurance

To meet any unexpected increase in the level of excesses paid on insurance claims.

### Civil Resilience (New Dimensions)

The balance of unspent grant, earmarked for Civil Resilience expenditure.

### Replacement Mobilisation System Reserve

The balance of unspent grant, earmarked to fund the replacement mobilisation system.

### Resilience Reserve

To fund continuity of service provision, following an unforeseen event.

### Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP)

The balance of unspent grant, earmarked to fund the replacement mobile communications systems.

### New Risks

The balance of unspent grant, earmarked to fund the response to emerging new risks.

## 8.21 Unusable Reserves

### (i) Revaluation Reserve

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

- revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost;
- used in the provision of services and the gains are consumed through depreciation, or
- disposed of and the gains are realised.

The Reserve contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 1 April 2007, the date that the Reserve was created. Accumulated gains arising before that date are consolidated into the balance on the Capital Adjustment Account

	2015/16	2016/17
	£000	£000
Opening Balance at 1 April	9,951	9,621
Revaluation gains/losses	2,332	2,016
Excess of current cost depreciation	-296	-362
Balance written off on disposal of asset	-2,366	-
Closing Balance at 31 March	9,621	11,275

## ***NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS***

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### **(ii) 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 as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert fair value figures to a historical cost basis). The Account is credited with the amounts set aside by the Authority 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.

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2015/16		2016/17	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Opening Balance at 1 April</b>		<b>20,632</b>		<b>23,810</b>
Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement				
Charges for depreciation, impairment and downward revaluations of non-current assets	-5,910		-4,136	
Amortisation of intangible assets	-85		-82	
Revenue Expenditure funded from Capital under Statute	-		-	
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	-5,063		-58	
		-11,058		-4,276
Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve		2,662		362
Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year		-8,396		-3,914
Capital financing applied in the year				
Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	4,636		61	
Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	3,635		63	
Capital Grants and Contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	-		-	
Statutory provision for the financing for capital investment charged against the General Fund	396		230	
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund	2,907		4,939	
		11,574		5,293
<b>Closing Balance at 31 March</b>		<b>23,810</b>		<b>25,189</b>

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### (iii) Collection Fund Adjustment

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

	2015/16	2016/17
	£000	£000
<b>Opening Balance at 1 April</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>354</b>
Amount by which council tax and non-domestic rates income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from the council tax and non-domestic rates income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	274	-65
<b>Closing Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>289</b>

### (iv) Pensions Reserve (IAS 19)

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 Authority 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 Authority makes employer's contributions to pension funds or eventually pay any pensions for which it is directly responsible. The statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time benefits come to be paid.

	2015/16	2016/17
	£000	£000
<b>Opening Balance at 1 April</b>	<b>-349,667</b>	<b>-315,644</b>
Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability/ asset (-)	48,914	-57,609
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	-18,199	-16,130
Employers pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	3,308	3,192
<b>Closing Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>-315,644</b>	<b>-386,191</b>

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### (v) Short-term Accumulating Absences

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.

	2015/16	2016/17
	£000	£000
<b>Opening Balance at 1 April</b>	<b>-20</b>	<b>-15</b>
Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the year end of the preceding year	20	15
Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	-15	-16
<b>Closing Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>-15</b>	<b>-16</b>

### 8.22 General Reserve

The net accumulated unapplied General Fund Revenue balance is £2.824m as at 31 March 2017 which equates to 9.87% of the 2016/17 Net Expenditure Budget. This is in line with the Authority's policy on reserves which is to maintain broadly general reserves of between 7.5% and 10%, with a maximum general reserve of 15% of the Net Expenditure Budget for the short to medium term.

### 8.23 Contingent Assets and Contingent Liabilities

In October 2015, HMRC guidance was issued to clarify that injury pensions awarded to Fire Service personnel were not taxable. Subsequent clarification has been received that where a retained firefighter did not join, or was not eligible to join, the pension scheme, and is awarded an injury and ill health pension under the compensation scheme rules, the ill health pension payable is not subject to income tax as it is exempt under section 644 ITEPA 2003. Individuals need to reclaim overpaid tax from HMRC in the first instance, but the Service has been advised that HMRC may only refund to an as yet undetermined point in time, and any refund due prior to this date would be payable by the Service.

The possible liability is being disclosed in the accounts as a contingent liability rather than a provision. This is due to the uncertainty about whether individuals will make a claim, and what claim period will be covered by HMRC. No regulations have been issued to date, so there is insufficient certainty about how refunds would be calculated to make a provision. In addition, it is not clear whether the Service would be liable for any backdated payments it makes or whether they could reclaim this from the Government.

It is estimated that 15 people are affected by this, and based on an assumption that they all make a claim, with HMRC refunding the previous 6 years, the liability to the Service could be in the region of £117,000. This would not have a material impact on the Authority's financial statements.

There are no contingent assets for 2016/17.

## **NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

### **8.24 Authorisation of Accounts for Issue/Post Balance Sheet Events**

The Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Treasurer, Anthony Hope, on 28 September 2017. This is the date up to which events after the Balance Sheet date have been considered. No such events have been identified for 2016/17.

## **9 CASH FLOW STATEMENT**

### **9.1 Adjustments to Net Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services for Non-Cash Movements**

<b>2015/16</b>		<b>2016/17</b>
<b>£000</b>		<b>£000</b>
5,910	Depreciation, impairment and downward revaluations	4,136
85	Amortisation	82
-3	Increase/Decrease(-) Interest Creditors	-
-1,812	Increase/Decrease(-) in Creditors	857
1,063	Increase(-)/Decrease in Debtors	-276
-	Increase(-)/Decrease in Impairment of Debtors	-
-70	Increase(-)/Decrease in Inventories	39
514	Increase/Decrease(-) in Deferred Liabilities	-72
14,891	Movement in Pension Liability	12,938
101	Contributions to/from (-) Provisions	3
5,063	Carrying amount of non-current assets held for sale, sold or derecognised	58
<b>25,742</b>		<b>17,765</b>

### **9.2 Operating Activities**

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:

<b>2015/16</b>		<b>2016/17</b>
<b>£000</b>		<b>£000</b>
21,732	Employee Costs	21,884
-15,612	Council Tax Receipts	-16,093
-6,818	Revenue Support Grant	-5,813
-6,347	Redistributed NNDR	-6,541
-48	Interest receivable	-34
46	Interest payable in respect of borrowing	38
850	Interest payable in respect of PFI	831

## NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 9.3 Investing Activities

2015/16		2016/17
£000		£000
3,217	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	5,533
-4,636	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	-61
-3,635	Other receipts from investing activities	-63
-5,054		5,409

### 9.4 Financing Activities

2015/16		2016/17
£000		£000
170	Cash payments for the reductions of outstanding liabilities relating to on-balance sheet PFI contract	173
390	Repayment of short and long term borrowing	41
560		214

### 9.5 Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents

Under IFRS, cash and cash equivalents include the Authority's cash in hand, bank overdrafts and short-term investments. The movement in cash and cash equivalents was as follows:

	2015/16	2016/17	Increase/ Decrease in year
	£000	£000	£000
Cash	-314	-197	117
Cash Equivalents	9,411	6,091	-3,320
	<b>9,097</b>	<b>5,894</b>	<b>-3,203</b>

## **PENSION FUND ACCOUNT**

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### **FIRE PENSION FUND ACCOUNT**

The Firefighter's Pension Scheme for fire officers is an unfunded defined benefit scheme administered by County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority, meaning that there are no investment assets built up to meet the pensions liabilities, and cash has to be generated to meet actual pensions payments as they eventually fall due.

Under the Firefighter's Pension Scheme (Amendment) (England) Order 2006, if the amounts receivable by the pensions fund for the year are less than amounts payable, the Fire Authority must annually transfer an amount to meet the deficit to the pension fund. This cost is then met by Central Government. If, however, the pension fund is in surplus for the year, the surplus is required to be transferred from the pension fund to the Fire Authority which then must repay the amount to Central Government.

There are no investment assets relating to the Fire Pension Fund.

The transactions of the Fire Pension Fund, together with a Net Assets Statement, are as follows:

#### **Fire Pension Fund Account**

#### **Dealings with members, employers and others directly involved in the scheme**

	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b>Contributions receivable</b>		
Fire Authority contributions in relation to pensionable pay		
Normal	-2,147	-2,004
Early retirement	-	-
Firefighter's contributions	-1,900	-1,595
<b>Transfers in from other schemes</b>	-	-5
<b>Ill health capital contributions</b>	-46	-180
<b>Benefits payable</b>		
Pensions	7,946	8,273
Commutation and lump sum retirement benefits	2,144	1,714
Lump sum death benefits	-	-
Refund of contributions	-	204
<b>Transfers out to other schemes</b>	-	-
<b>Net amount payable for the year</b>	5,997	6,407
Top-up grant payable by the Government	-5,997	-6,407
<b>Year end balance</b>	-	-

## PENSION FUND ACCOUNT

### Net Assets Statement

	At 31 March 2016	At 31 March 2017
	£000	£000
<b>Net current assets and liabilities</b>		
Amount due to (-) / from the Authority's General Fund	-1,096	-1,087
Amount due to (-) / from Central Government	1,096	1,087
<b>Total</b>	-	-

#### 1. Basis of Preparation

The pension fund accounts have been prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17 (there were no material changes to the Pension Fund Account as a result of the IFRS transition).

The financial statements do not take account of liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits which fall due after the end of the financial year.

#### 2. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies are as follows:

##### Contributions

Contributions represent the total amount receivable from the Authority and pensionable employees. The contributions are made at rates determined by the Government Actuary's Department. The employer's contributions are set at a nationally applied rate of 21.7% of pensionable pay for the 1992 Firefighter's Pension Scheme, 11.9% for the 2006 Firefighter's Pension Scheme and 14.3% for the 2015 Firefighter's Pension Scheme. The employee's contributions are set on a sliding scale of 11.0% to 17.0%, 8.5% to 12.5% and 10.0% to 14.5% respectively.

The Authority is also required to make payments into the Pension Fund in respect of ill-health retirements when they are granted.

##### Benefits

Benefits are accounted for in the year in which they become due for payment.

##### Transfer Values

Transfer values are those sums payable by or receivable from, other pension schemes and relate to periods of previous pensionable employment.

Transfers are accounted for on a receipts and payments basis.

## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

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### **Accruals**

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

### **Actuarial Gains and Losses**

For a defined benefit scheme, the changes in actuarial deficits or surpluses that arise because events have not coincided with the actuarial assumptions made for the last valuation (experience gains or losses) or the actuarial assumptions have changed.

### **Actuarial Valuation**

A valuation by an actuary on behalf of a pension fund of assets held, estimate of the present value of benefits to be paid and estimate of required future contributions.

### **Amortisation**

The measure of the wearing out, consumption, or other reduction in the useful economic life of an intangible asset, whether arising from use, effluxion of time or obsolescence through technical or other changes.

### **Budget**

The Authority's plans and policies expressed in financial terms.

### **Capital Adjustment Account**

A capital reserve that reflects the difference between the cost of property, plant and equipment consumed and the capital financing set aside to pay for them.

### **Capital Charge**

A charge to the revenue account to reflect the cost of property, plant and equipment used.

### **Capital Expenditure**

Expenditure on the acquisition of property, plant and equipment or expenditure which adds to and not merely maintains the value of existing property, plant and equipment.

### **Capital Grant**

Grant from Central Government used to finance capital schemes.

### **Capital Receipts**

Proceeds from the sale of capital assets.

### **Cash**

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

### **Cash Equivalents**

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

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

The principal accountancy body dealing with local authority finance.

### **Collection Fund**

A fund administered by Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council in which individuals' Council Tax payments are paid. The Authority raises precepts on the funds to finance part of net revenue expenditure.

### **Collection Fund Adjustment Account**

The account through which to implement the accruals basis for recording the precept without affecting the bottom line for taxpayers.

### **Component Accounting**

Component accounting requires that where an asset has several components, which can be physically separated from the principal asset and which have significantly different useful lives, these should be recognised separately and should be depreciated based on their respective useful lives. Component accounting aims to improve depreciation accounting and improve the measurement of operating results.

### **Contingency**

The sum of money set aside to meet unforeseen expenditure or liability.

### **Contingent Liabilities**

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

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

### **Council Tax**

The local tax levied on householders, based on the relative market values of property, which helps to fund local services.

### **Creditors**

Persons or bodies to whom sums are owed by the Authority.

### **Current Assets**

Items that can be readily converted into cash.

### **Current Liabilities**

Items that are due immediately or in the short-term.

### **Debtors**

Persons or bodies who owe sums to the Authority.

## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

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### **Deferred Liabilities**

Liabilities which by arrangement are payable beyond the next year at some point in the future or paid off by an annual sum over a period of time.

### **Depreciation**

The measure of the wearing out, consumption or other reduction in the useful economic life of a property, plant or equipment, whether arising from use, effluxion of time or obsolescence through technical or other changes.

### **Earmarked Reserves**

These represent monies set aside that can only be used for a specific purpose.

### **Employee Benefits**

Short-term employee benefits are those due to be settled within 12 months of the year end. They include salary, paid annual leave, paid sick leave, bonuses and non-monetary benefits for current employees and are recognised as an expense in the year in which the employee renders service to the Authority. An accrual is made for the cost of the benefit earned by an employee but not taken before the year end. The accrual is charged to the surplus or deficit on the provision of Services, but then reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement.

### **Financial Instruments**

Any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another.

### **Financial Regulations**

A written code of procedures approved by the Authority intended to provide a framework for proper financial management.

### **GAD - The Government Actuaries Department**

They provide estimates of the liabilities of the Firefighter's Pension Scheme.

### **Government Grants**

Assistance by Government in the form of cash in return for past or future compliance with certain conditions relating to the activities of the Authority.

### **Impairment**

A reduction in the value of an asset from the Balance Sheet value occurring as a result of a change in the condition and consumption of the asset or as a result of market conditions.

### **Interest Income**

The money earned from the investment of surplus cash.

### **International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)**

The Authority's financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the following statutory accounting standards adopted by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB):

- International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)
- International Accounting Standards (IAS)

- Interpretations of the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee (IFRIC)
- Interpretations of the Standing Interpretations Committee (SIC)

### **Leasing**

A method of financing capital expenditure where a rental charge for an asset is paid for a specific period. There are two main types of lease: 'finance leases' which transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to the lessee, and other leases, which are known as 'operating leases'. With finance leases, assets acquired are included within the property, plant and equipment in the Balance Sheet at the market value of the asset involved; monies owing to the lessor are included within deferred liabilities on the Balance Sheet. With an operating lease an annual rent is charged to the relevant service revenue account.

### **Minimum Revenue Provision**

The minimum amount which must be charged in year for the repayment of debt.

### **National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR)**

The business rate in the pound is the same for all non-domestic ratepayers and is set annually by the government. Income from business rates goes into a Central Government pool that is then distributed to authorities according to resident population.

### **Net Book Value**

The amount at which fixed assets are included in the Balance Sheet, i.e. their historical cost or current value less the cumulative amounts provided for depreciation.

### **Net Current Replacement Cost**

The cost of replacing or recreating the particular asset in its existing condition and in its existing use; i.e. the cost of replacement or of the nearest equivalent asset adjusted to reflect the current condition of the existing asset.

### **Non-Operational Assets**

Property, plant and equipment not directly occupied, used or consumed in the delivery of services. These are assets under construction and surplus assets held for disposal.

### **Operational Assets**

Property, plant and equipment held and occupied, used or consumed by the Authority in the direct delivery of those services for which it has either a statutory or discretionary responsibility.

### **Outturn**

The actual amount spent in the financial year.

### **Payments in Advance**

These represent payments prior to 31st March for supplies and services received after 1st April.

### **Precept Income**

The Authority obtains part of its income from precepts levied on its billing authorities (Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council). Precepts, based on the

## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

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Council Tax base of each council, are levied on a collection fund, administered separately by each council.

### **Private Finance Initiative (PFI)**

PFI contracts are agreements to receive services where the responsibility for making available the assets needed to provide the services passes to the PFI contractor. Where the Authority controls the services that are provided under a PFI scheme, and ownership of the assets will pass to the Authority at the end of the contract, for no additional charge, the Authority carries the assets used under the contract on its Balance Sheet as part of Property, Plant and Equipment. The original recognition of these assets at fair value is balanced by the recognition of a liability for amounts due to the scheme operator to pay for the capital investment.

### **Property, Plant and Equipment**

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

### **Provisions**

Sums set aside to meet any liabilities or losses which are likely or certain to be incurred, but uncertain as to the amounts or dates on which they will arise.

### **Receipts in Advance**

These represent income received prior to 31st March for supplies and services provided after 1st April.

### **Reserves**

Sums set aside for purposes falling outside the definition of a 'provision'. There are two categories of reserves - see 'Usable Reserves' and 'Unusable Reserves' for further definition.

### **Retirement Benefits**

All forms of consideration given by an employer in exchange for services rendered by employees that are payable after the completion of employment.

### **Revaluation Reserve**

Capital reserve to hold unrealised revaluation gains arising (since 1 April 2007) from holding property, plant and equipment.

### **Revenue Contributions to Capital**

Contribution from revenue to finance capital expenditure, thus reducing the requirement to borrow.

### **Revenue Expenditure and Income**

Expenditure and income arising from the day to day operation of the Authority's service.

### **Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute (REFCUS)**

Any grants receivable, including capital, that are applied to REFCUS will be accounted for as revenue grants in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Income is posted to the line that the qualifying expenditure is charged to.

### **Revenue Support Grant (RSG)**

General government grant to assist in financing the overall net cost of services.

### **Running Expenses**

All expenses other than those relating to employees and the financing costs of capital expenditure (capital financing costs and revenue contributions). Running expenses include expenditure on maintenance of buildings, consumable supplies, transport etc.

### **Termination Benefits**

Amounts payable as a result of a decision to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy. They are charged on an accruals basis to the Net Cost of Service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

### **UK GAAP – Generally Accepted Accounting Standards**

As IFRS is primarily drafted for the commercial sector and therefore does not address all accounting issues relevant to local government in the UK, the Code prescribes a hierarchy of alternative standards on which the accounting treatment and disclosures should be based where appropriate. The hierarchy comprises:

- Financial Reporting Standards (FRS)
- Statements of Standard Accounting Practice (SSAP)
- Pronouncements of the Urgent Issues Task Force (UITF)

### **Unusable reserves**

Reserves the Authority is not able to use to provide services e.g. reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses, e.g. the Revaluation Reserve, where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold.

### **Usable reserves**

Reserves that may be used to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use, e.g. Capital Modernisation Reserve.