



# Complete Agenda

Democratic Services  
Swyddfa'r Cyngor  
CAERNARFON  
Gwynedd  
LL55 1SH

Meeting

## **AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Date and Time

**10.00 am, THURSDAY, 17TH JUNE, 2021**

Location

**Virtual Meeting**

Contact Point

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(DISTRIBUTED 09/06/21)

# **AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

## **MEMBERSHIP (19)**

### **Plaid Cymru (10)**

#### Councillors

Aled Ll. Evans  
Berwyn Parry Jones  
Paul John Rowlinson  
Vacant Seat

Aled Wyn Jones  
Peredur Jenkins  
Gethin Glyn Williams

Huw Gruffydd Wyn Jones  
W. Gareth Roberts  
E. Selwyn Griffiths

### **Independent (5)**

#### Councillors

John Brynmor Hughes  
John Pughe Roberts  
Richard Medwyn Hughes

Dewi Wyn Roberts  
Angela Russell

### **Llais Gwynedd (1)**

#### Councillor

Alwyn Gruffydd

### **Gwynedd United Independents (1)**

Vacant Seat

### **Individual Member (1)**

#### Councillor

Sion W. Jones

### **Lay Member**

Mrs Sharon Warnes

### **Ex-officio Members**

Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council

# **A G E N D A**

**1. APOLOGIES**

To receive apologies for absence.

**2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

To receive any declaration of personal interest.

**3. URGENT ITEMS**

To note any items which are urgent business in the opinion of the Chairman so they may be considered.

**4. CORPORATE WEBSITE SELF-SERVICE PROJECT**

4 - 9

To report on the project's developments since it started in 2016

**5. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2020/21**

10 - 98

To receive the Statutory Statement of Accounts (pre-audit draft) for information

**6. TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2020/21**

99 - 107

To receive the report for information

**7. COUNTER FRAUD, ANTI-CORRUPTION AND ANTI-BRIBERY ARRANGEMENTS**

108 - 112

To update the Committee on the Council's anti-fraud and anti-corruption work, and progress on the three-year work programme

# Agenda Item 4

<b>MEETING</b>	Audit and Governance Committee
<b>DATE</b>	17 June 2021
<b>TITLE</b>	Corporate Website Self-service Project
<b>PURPOSE OF THE REPORT</b>	Report on the project's developments since it started in 2016
<b>AUTHOR</b>	Councillor Nia Wyn Jeffreys
<b>ACTION</b>	To accept the report

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report is submitted to the Committee in response to a discussion held at the Scrutiny Working Group held on 10 May. The report outlines the efforts made since 2016 to increase the interactive provision on the website and to make it easier to contact the Council about a number of matters 24 hours a day.

Comments from Members on the project developments thus far are welcome, as are any desires for future development.

## 2. SELF-SERVICE PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Self-service Project was established for the corporate website in 2016, with the purpose of enabling the public to self-serve on the Gwynedd Council website 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and offer a more cost-effective way of contacting the Council for a service.
- 2.2 Customers have been able to create a self-service account on the Gwynedd Council corporate website since 2011, and submit some requests for services e.g. Planning enquiries, using that account. Developing self-service on the website was part of the day-to-day work of the Website Team at the time and, therefore, the developments were slow, with comparatively low numbers of customers using it, as there were insufficient resources and time to develop and promote it fully.
- 2.3 The ambition of the current project is to give more choices to customers in terms of how and when to contact the Council and increase the number of customers that submit requests for services on-line, in order to realise savings for the Council.
- 2.4 Several systems that could be bought from external companies were researched, in order to introduce more self-service on the corporate website, and analyse the Council's future needs. It was decided not to purchase an external system, but rather develop an in-house system which would allow us to receive and manage requests for service on-line, over the phone and face-to-face. This system would replace the system that Galw Gwynedd used to record phone contact with customers. The name of this in-house system is FFOS.

- 2.5 In March 2017, the costs of contacting the Council in order to order a Garden Waste Collection were analysed. The analysis showed that the contact costs were as follows:

Type of contact	Cost per request
Face-to-face at a Siop Gwynedd	£8.00
By phoning Galw Gwynedd	£3.90
Self-service on the Gwynedd Council website	£0.25

This confirmed that providing as many services as possible on-line, and encouraging customers to use those services, would result in much lower costs for the Council.

- 2.6 One of the main principles of the Self-service Project was that **a customer only needs one on-line account** to contact Gwynedd Council about any matter. Therefore, if one of the Council's Services was using a system other than FFOS to provide self-service, that system needed to be technically linked to FFOS. This ensures that the customer only needs to log-in once in order to access all Gwynedd Council's on-line services.

### 3. MAIN SUCCESSES

- 3.1 The first on-line service was introduced following the establishment of the Self-service Project, in October 2016, namely **Ordering and paying for garden waste collection**.

In 2016-17, 33% of customers ordered and paid for the service on-line. By 2020-21, 59% of customers ordered and paid for the service on-line.

- 3.2 By March 2017, the Gwynedd Council My Account was adjusted in order to allow businesses, as well as individuals, to create an account. This was developed in order to allow skip and scaffolding companies to submit **Requests for a licence to install a skip** or **Requests for a licence to erect scaffolding** and pay for them on-line. Almost 100% of the companies in the County use the on-line system by now.

There is significant potential to develop the account for businesses on-line, in order to facilitate transactions between the County's businesses and the Council, and reduce internal administration to process requests and payments.

- 3.3 The Gwynedd Council My Account was officially launched in November 2017. The main services that were available at the time were promoted, and customers were encouraged to submit on-line requests rather than the more traditional means of contacting. Galw Gwynedd also had a campaign to encourage customers that were phoning them to submit requests via self-service the next time they needed to get in touch.

The main services that were available on-line by then were:

- i. Paying for school meals
- ii. Paying for a school breakfast club
- iii. Paying for other school services (swimming and instrument lessons etc.)
- iv. Ordering waste/recycling equipment
- v. Ordering and paying for garden waste collection
- vi. Reporting missed waste / recycling collections
- vii. Ordering and paying for bulky waste collections
- viii. Submitting a waste/recycling enquiry/complaint

3.4 By July 2018, apGwynedd, the Gwynedd Council app, had been developed and was available to be downloaded from the “App Store” and “Google Play”.

The app allows customers to submit requests for on-line services and find information about a specific address e.g. waste collection day.

Since August 2019, the app also allows customers to buy and pay for a seasonal/annual 16+ Travel Pass (which is a bus/train travel pass for children aged 16+ who are studying at one of the County's schools / colleges). It is possible to opt to buy an e-ticket rather than a plastic ticket, and the e-ticket is available within apGwynedd on the pupil's phone, to be shown when going on the bus. By now, approximately 33% of the tickets bought are e-tickets.

3.5 In December 2018, a texting service for customers was introduced. This means that customers who have a self-service account can register to receive a text (as well as an e-mail), about new on-line services being introduced, changes to the Council's services (e.g. waste/recycling collections over Christmas) and receive a reminder when it is time to make a request for some services (e.g. Garden Waste Collection, Annual Parking Permit).

3.6 During 2019, the Self-service Project assisted Galw Gwynedd to establish a webchat service which was initially available for the Garden Waste Collection service on the Council's website. By now, the webchat is available for the 16+ Travel Pass and Ordering a Recycling Centre Slot also, and is another useful way for customers to be assisted with some services without having to pick up the phone.

3.7 By April 2020, the FFOS system had been developed sufficiently to allow us to dispose of the old system that Galw Gwynedd used to record requests for services. This resulted in a saving of £23,300 per annum for Galw Gwynedd.

3.8 Throughout the period since starting the Self-service Project, a range of new on-line services have been introduced regularly. By now, 40 services have been introduced as part of the project. During 2020-21, there has been a substantial increase in the use of on-line services because of the pandemic, and by now, over 50% of the requests in half of those services are submitted via self-service.

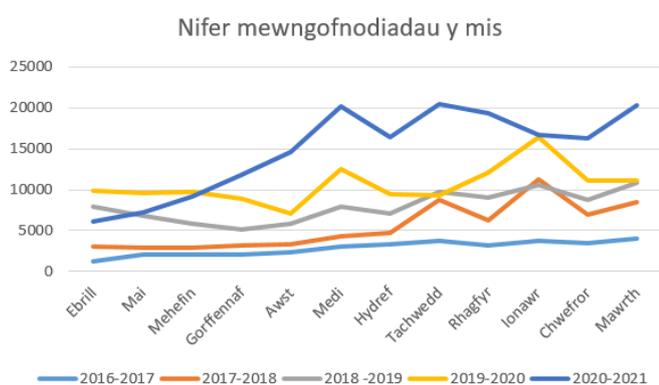
Some new on-line services needed to be introduced as a result of the pandemic. One of the most prominent and successful, was Ordering a Recycling Centre Slot, which was introduced in May 2020. Between May 2020 and March 2021, 149,473

requests for a slot were received, almost 90% of which were submitted on-line.

See **Appendix A** for a full list of the services which have been introduced as part of the project, and the percentage of requests that are submitted on-line for every service.

3.9 Since the start of the project, there has been a consistent increase in the number of customers creating a self-service account. By the end of March 2021, 57,463 self-service accounts existed.

3.10 Since the start of the project, there has been a consistent increase in the number of monthly log-ins to self-service accounts. A substantial increase was seen during 2020, as the following graph shows:



## 4. SUMMARY

4.1 Though the Self-service Project itself cannot claim any direct savings, it has assisted in making savings in other services e.g. assisting Galw Gwynedd to save £23,300 per annum by developing an internal system to replace the one they were using previously.

4.2 The Self-service Project has assisted the Council to avoid substantial extra costs which would have been incurred from having to introduce new arrangements e.g.

### Ordering a Recycling Centre Slot

Total number of requests submitted between May 2020 and March 2021 = 149,473

Number submitted on-line between May 2020 and March 2021 = 133,897

If the on-line service were not available, 133,897 would have to have phoned the Council at a cost of £3.90 per call, a total of £522,128.

4.3 There has been a substantial increase in the number of requests submitted on-line during 2020-21, and we will need to ensure that this increase continues by introducing more on-line services that customers want and will use.

4.4 One of the project's challenges is to ensure that the customer care received by customers after submitting an on-line request is of a high standard, and is provided quickly. It is the on-line service that is criticised usually if the response is inadequate and, therefore, it is important that we continue to work with the various services in order to improve customer service.

- 4.5 The pandemic has led to the introduction of on-line services in fields where there were previously none, and has led to an increase in requests for on-line services generally. This has raised staff awareness of how self-service could be beneficial to their services. Consequently, many staff have been in contact with requests to develop new on-line services. This is very much welcome, and poses another challenge to prioritise all the requests in a way that brings benefits to our customers and the services in question.

## APPENDIX A

### A list of the on-line services which have been introduced as part of the Self-service Project, 2016-2021

They are listed according to the percentage of requests submitted on-line, with the highest first.

No	On-line Service	Total requests in 2020-21	Percentage of requests submitted on-line %
1	Storiol Appointment	57	100.0
2	Self-isolation support payment	255	100.0
3	Street Works Licence	487	99.8
4	Ordering a Recycling Centre Slot	149473	89.6
5	Lloyd George Museum Appointment	10	80.0
6	Graffiti/posters problem	43	79.1
7	Renewing a Gwynedd Parking Permit	245	76.7
8	Recycling Centre van licence	2749	75.6
9	Dog Fouling	505	69.1
10	16+ Travel Pass	792	66.3
11	Request for street cleaning	1228	63.5
12	Gwynedd Parking Permit	863	62.8
13	Fly-tipping	1134	62.2
14	Ordering Waste and Recycling equipment	19446	59.2
15	Garden Waste Collection	17123	59.0
16	Nappy Collection	1376	57.2
17	Change to a Gwynedd Parking Permit	11	54.5
18	Trip hazard	245	53.5
19	Local Parking Permit	217	52.5
20	Bulky Waste Collection	1985	50.1
21	Broken Street Lighting	525	48.8
22	Cemetery / crematorium enquiry	185	47.6
23	Problem with parks/open spaces	172	47.1
24	Problems with public toilets	118	45.8
25	Problems with road signage or markings	289	45.0
26	Pothole	1326	43.6
27	Fallen Tree	999	36.4
28	Missed Waste and Recycling Collection	9416	36.1
29	Flooding or blocked gully	1401	35.2
30	Residential Parking Permit - Visitors	69	34.8
31	Waste and Recycling Enquiry	6375	34.4
32	16+ Travel Pass enquiry/complaint	297	34.3
33	Faulty Traffic Lights	73	32.9
34	Problems with walls, bridges, fences	306	31.3
35	Snow and ice	183	30.6
36	Problems with gully covers	179	28.0
37	Parking enquiry/complaint	1070	24.6
38	Residential Parking Permit	146	24.0
39	Waste and Recycling Complaint	1271	23.1
40	Appointment to visit Siop Gwynedd	132	17.4

\* Several grant application forms for businesses were created over the past year also. These were grants that were available for a short period of time. 100% of the applications for grants were submitted on-line.

# Agenda Item 5

MEETING:	<b>AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE</b>
DATE:	<b>17 JUNE 2021</b>
TITLE:	<b>STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2020/21</b>
PURPOSE / RECOMMENDATION:	<b>TO RECEIVE THE STATUTORY STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS (PRE-AUDIT DRAFT) FOR INFORMATION</b>
AUTHOR:	<b>DAFYDD L EDWARDS, HEAD OF FINANCE</b>
CABINET MEMBER:	<b>COUNCILLOR IOAN THOMAS</b>

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report introduces the statutory Statement of Accounts for the 2020/21 financial year, which provides details of the Council's financial activities during the year which ended on 31 March 2021.
- 1.2 The following document is the draft Statement of Accounts in its statutory format, 87 pages long in each language. A link to the Statement was sent to all elected members and chief officers of the Council on 28 May 2021.
- 1.3 The draft accounts presented here are currently subject to audit, so it is possible that some changes will be necessary before a final version is submitted for approval at the 14 October 2021 meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee.
- 1.4 The basic form and content of these Statements is prescribed under the Accounts and Audit (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018, as well as other national regulations and standards. Several requirements of the IFRS (International Financial Reporting Standards) are based on Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting and apply to the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2020/21. As the regulations require statements in a standard format, comparisons with other bodies' accounts is facilitated, but the statements have now become technically complex and difficult to understand.
- 1.5 A simple summary "outturn" report relating to the 2020/21 accounts was presented to the Cabinet meeting on 18 May 2021 and to the Audit and Governance Committee on 27 May 2021. That report was more useful for internal / management purposes, while the Statement of Accounts is more suited for external / governance purposes.

## **2. ACTION REQUIRED**

- 2.1 The Audit and Governance Committee are “those charged with governance” on behalf of the Council, and approved the draft (subject to audit) statement of accounts prior to 2009/10. However, revisions in 2010 to the Accounts and Audit Regulations gave the Statutory Finance Officer (the Head of Finance in Gwynedd Council) responsibility for approving and certifying the draft accounts before the statutory deadline (31 May for the 2020/21 accounts).
- 2.2 There is no longer any requirement for elected members to approve the draft version of the Council’s Statement of Accounts, but this is presented to the Audit and Governance Committee FOR INFORMATION as good practice.
- 2.3 Doubtless, the committee’s members will wish to consider and understand the content now, in preparation for approving the final version on 14 October, and to equip themselves with information to consider relevant risks and other matters being audited in their context.

## **3. SUBSEQUENT STEPS**

- 3.1 Further to certification by the Head of Finance and consideration by the Audit and Governance Committee, the 2020/21 Statement of Accounts, with all other relevant statements are the subject of the annual audit process by Audit Wales, Gwynedd Council’s external auditors, who were appointed by the Auditor General for Wales.
- 3.2 In accordance with the Accounts and Audit (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018, the Council has notified the public, on the Council’s website, that the accounts will be available for inspection for a 20 working day period, commencing on 19 July 2021. As part of the audit process, local government electors also have the opportunity to question the external auditor about the Council’s accounts.
- 3.3 As noted in paragraph 1.3 (above), the final (audited) version of the Council’s 2020/21 Statement of Accounts will be submitted to the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee on 14 October 2021 FOR APPROVAL, along with a report on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales.
- 3.4 Subsequently, it is the Finance Department’s intention to provide a link to the final Statement to all elected members and all chief officers of the Council, as well as other interested parties, as we did on 28 May with the draft Statement of Accounts.

## **4. RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 The Audit and Governance Committee is asked to receive and note the Council’s Statement of Accounts (subject to audit) for 2020/21.

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# **NARRATIVE REPORT**

## **Introduction**

Gwynedd Council's accounts for the year 2020/21 are presented here on pages 9 to 87.

The Statement of Accounts consist of:

- **Expenditure and Funding Analysis** – Whilst this is not a statutory statement, it 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.
- **Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement** - This is the Council's main revenue account. 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.
- **Movement in Reserves Statement** - This statement shows the movement in year on the different reserves held by the Authority, analysed into 'usable reserves' and 'unusable reserves'. The taxation position is reflected in the Movement in Reserves Statement.
- **Balance Sheet** - Sets out the financial position of the Council on 31 March 2021.
- **Cash Flow Statement** - This statement summarises the flow of cash to and from the Council during 2020/21 for revenue and capital purposes.
- **The Welsh Church Fund and FMG Morgan Trust Fund Accounts.**

These accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis and are supported by this Narrative Report, the Accounting Policies and various notes to the accounts.

## **Gwynedd Council's Vision and Priorities**

Gwynedd Council's vision and priorities are included in the Gwynedd Council Plan that was reviewed in March 2021. The Plan supports the Council's vision, namely, for every community in Gwynedd to prosper, and for us as people to:

- Enjoy happy, healthy and safe lives,
- Receive education of the highest quality which will enable us to do what we want to do,
- Earn a sufficient salary to be able to support ourselves and our families,
- Live in quality homes within our communities,
- Live in a natural Welsh society,
- Live with dignity and independently for as long as possible,
- Take advantage of the beauty of the County's natural environment.

In accordance with the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Council has adopted the above as its Well-being Objectives.

There are two main elements to the Council Plan; the Improvements Priorities which outlines the main areas we will focus our attention during the year and our seven Well-being Aims and the Departmental Plans which describes all the Council's day-to-day work. It is clear that the main impact on Gwynedd Council's work during 2020/21, like all other local authorities, was the Covid-19 pandemic. Details of the Council Plan and our response to the pandemic during 2020/21 is available at: <https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/Strategies-and-policies/Corporate-plans-and-strategies/Gwynedd-Council-Plan-2018-23.aspx>

The Covid-19 crisis emerged at the end of March 2020 that continues to have far-reaching effects on our lives. For Gwynedd Council, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Council concentrated its efforts during the 2020/21 financial year to maintain the activities that:

- Support children and vulnerable adults,
- Play our part in supporting businesses including providing grants,
- Continuation of normal services for Gwynedd residents,
- Any other activities that protects or saves lives.

## **Financial Strategy**

The Council's Financial Strategy and 2020/21 Budget adopted by the Council at its meeting on 5 March 2020 sets out the foundation for us to achieve the improvement priorities, whilst also trying to meet the continuous increase in demand for our services. The Financial Strategy is unavoidably dependent upon these priorities. The strategy is available at:

<https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/Strategies-and-policies/Finance/Financial-strategy.aspx>

2020/21 saw an increase in Gwynedd Council's grant from the Welsh Government which was sufficient to meet inflation but not sufficient to meet demand for services. Nevertheless, we have been quite successful in minimizing the impact of the savings on the residents of Gwynedd. Therefore, the financial situation will continue to pose a significant challenge to us in planning our services for the future. We will therefore continue with the task of ensuring that we achieve those efficiency savings already approved and ensure that we plan for the future to minimize any cuts to services.

The changes in response to the Covid-19 pandemic has affected the financial position of the Council. Similarly to other local authorities, Gwynedd has worked closely with the Welsh Government to cope with the situation. Additional funding was received in 2020/21 from the Welsh Government in order to meet additional costs arising from the impact of Covid-19 and to compensate the Council for loss of income during the crisis. In addition, other substantial grants were received at the end of the financial year due to the impact of Covid-19. Some grants will continue in 2021/22.

It is not anticipated that the pandemic will have a significant effect on the value of the Council's assets and liabilities. This assumption is to be revisited regularly.

## **Performance Measuring**

The Council's Performance Management Framework is a cycle which supports the planning, management and reporting on the performance of our services to ensure the best for the people of Gwynedd today and tomorrow. The Gwynedd Council Annual Performance Report describes our success in achieving our improvement priorities and also provides information on the performance of Council departments and how they assist the people of Gwynedd. Our response to the Covid-19 crisis is also included in it. The report is available at:

<https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/Performance-and-spending/Council-performance/Performance-Measuring.aspx>

## **Financial Performance 2020/21**

- Despite the Covid-19 crisis and the sustained need to achieve challenging savings, the final financial position of the Council's departments for 2020/21 confirms that there was effective financial management. The financial out-turn position for 2020/21 was reported to Cabinet at its meeting on 18 May 2021. Members of the Cabinet approved the net services underspend of £825k for the year.
- The financial impact of Covid-19 has been significant for the Council. With over £20 million claimed from the Hardship fund and Furlough by the end of the year, which is a combination of additional costs of £11.6 million, income losses of £7.3 million and £1.5 million Furlough.
- Due to the receipt of a number of significant Covid-19 and other grants late in the financial year, this means that the 2020/21 financial position has been transformed by the end of the year, with the grants including grants to school budgets, for digital transformation, unrealised savings and Council Tax backlog.

- At the end of the 2020/21 financial year, significant pressures remain in the Children's field, but most departments and a number of corporate headings have operated within available resources.
- The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on page 10 shows that the Council's gross revenue expenditure on 'Cost of Services' level was £433m during 2020/21, with the net position as £267m.
- The 2020/21 financial position was taken into consideration in the process of establishing the 2021/22 budget.

### TABLE I – Budget and Actual Comparison Summary (Net)

The Council's net budget is mainly financed through council tax, general government grants and national non-domestic rates and totals £279m for 2020/21.

Table I provides a budgetary performance comparison at a summary level, and which is detailed further in Table 2.

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Net Expenditure on Operations	280,298	278,476	(1,822)
Departmental Carry Forward at year-end	0	825	825
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	280,298	279,301	(997)
Financed by -			
Council Tax Income	(92,719)	(92,351)	368
Revenue Grants and Contributions	0	(1,211)	(1,211)
Share of National Non-Domestic Rate	(43,341)	(39,526)	3,815
General Government Grants	(144,238)	(148,053)	(3,815)
Contribution to the General Fund Balance	0	1,840	1,840
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	0	0	0

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the Movement in Reserves Statement on pages 10 and 11 detail the movements for the year.

**TABLE 2 – Transposition movement between ‘Budget and Actual Comparison Summary (Net)’ (Table 1) to the Income and Expenditure format reflecting Departmental Management Structure.**

Department	Performance Report (Outturn)	Transposition Adjustment	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis	Income & Expenditure Statement
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Education	91,421	(7,191)	84,230	29,275	113,505
Corporate Support	7,142	(2)	7,140	1,675	8,815
Finance	5,766	(28)	5,738	1,393	7,131
Economy and Community	3,720	(480)	3,240	3,062	6,302
Adults, Health and Well-being	53,882	(40)	53,842	4,036	57,878
Children and Family Support	18,590	14	18,604	1,142	19,746
Highways and Municipal (including Trunk Roads)	23,708	(2,678)	21,030	7,023	28,053
Environment	3,288	(149)	3,139	4,081	7,220
Housing and Property	3,272	(315)	2,957	1,995	4,952
Corporate Management Team and Legal	1,575	(60)	1,515	119	1,634
Gwynedd Consultancy	(298)	0	(298)	911	613
Corporate	27,748	(15,700)	12,048	(494)	11,554
<b>Cost of Services</b>	<b>239,814</b>	<b>(26,629)</b>	<b>213,185</b>	<b>54,218</b>	<b>267,403</b>
Other (Contains Centralised and Corporate Adjustment)	39,487	26,629	66,116	(54,218)	11,898
<b>Total</b>	<b>279,301</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>279,301</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>279,301</b>

*Transposition Adjustment - Adjustments in the transposition column relate to the net contribution to and from reserves.*

- **Material Items of Income and Expenditure**

Related items include:

- £101m on pensions, being the annual remeasurement of the net pension defined benefit liability relating to pensions, in line with Gwynedd Pension Fund’s Actuary’s assessment (Note 23).
- Following a revaluation of part of the Council’s land and buildings portfolio (which is now carried out on a rolling programme basis), a net surplus of £52m on the revaluation of property, plant and equipment assets (Note 15 & 23).
- Receipt of specific grants, additional expenditure and loss of income relating to Covid-19 which has been compensated by the Welsh Government to the value of £24.7m for Gwynedd in 2020/21 (Note 32).

- **Other Issues**

- There are financial risks with the global economy and the Authority has taken the circumstances into account in its financial plans, while maintaining a prudent level of reserves.
- Continued economic uncertainty following the termination of the UK's membership of the European Union and this may affect some factors and financial decisions by the Authority.

- The current Covid-19 crisis remains a financial challenge for the Council in the short and medium term.

### Capital Expenditure in 2020/21

Capital expenditure for 2020/21 amounted to £27.7m. The following table gives an analysis of this expenditure and the way it was financed.

**TABLE 3 - SUMMARY OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND FINANCING**

2019/20 £'000		2020/21 £'000
8,757	Education	7,464
1,926	Environment	3,468
0	Corporate Support	161
926	Finance	749
1,037	Economy and Community	1,175
5,328	Housing and Property	4,689
1,926	Adults, Health and Wellbeing	1,914
303	Children and Family Support	744
8,229	Highways and Municipal	4,798
637	Gwynedd Consultancy	2,505
<b>29,069</b>		<b>27,667</b>
	<b>FINANCED BY -</b>	
5,979	Borrowing	4,128
20,083	Grants and Contributions	22,264
423	Capital Receipts	43
2,584	Revenue and Other Funds	1,232
<b>29,069</b>		<b>27,667</b>

- Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute of £5.1m is included in the above table. This has been charged to the Income and Expenditure Statement in the year. Total expenditure on Non-current Assets and Assets Held for Sale was £25m as shown in Notes 15 and 20.
- The Council's Loan Debt at 31 March 2021 was £110.2m – a decrease of £15.3m (from £125.5m) during the year. Repayments of £20.6m were made in accordance with the terms of individual loans.

### Provisions and Reserves

In addition to the unearmarked element of General Balances of £9.4m, the Council had other provisions of £8.1m, earmarked reserves of £79.4m and school balances of £10.8m. In total, these amounted to £107.7m. These are detailed in the Balance Sheet, Movement in Reserves Statement and in Note 10 and 22.

The adequacy of the Council's specific reserves and provisions was reviewed by the Head of Finance in closing the accounts this year, in accordance with the approved policy. This review was successful in harvesting £170k of resources, which Cabinet (at its meeting on 18 May 2021) approved its use to help fund the Children and Families Department's overspend.

Cabinet approved the use of £600k from the Council's general balances, the transfer of £4m to the Council's Transformation fund to support transformational and one-off work, and to allocate £2.5m to the Covid-19 recovery fund.

## **Covid-19 and Government Grants**

The impact of Covid-19 has seen a large number of new grants and financial support available from Government. As noted previously, between compensating the Council for additional expenditure, Furlough and loss of income, the Council received over £20 million in Government support during 2020/21. Refer to analysis in revenue outturn report to Cabinet 18 May 2021.

<https://democracy.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/documents/s30121/Item%2011%20-%20Appendix%203%20-%20Covid-19.pdf>

Other grants have enabled us to meet the additional costs associated with the pandemic for commissioned services including the Care Sector. We were also asked to administer a number of grants or financial support on behalf of the Welsh Government, including the distribution of grants to county businesses during the lockdown periods, payments to care workers, and arts freelance grants (Note 28).

## **Pension Fund**

The Council (as an employer) has a net liability from its share of the assets and liabilities of the Gwynedd Pension Fund, which has been calculated in accordance with International Accounting Standard 19. The Balance Sheet contains an assessment by the Fund's Actuary, Hymans Robertson, of the Council's share of the Pension Fund liability. This net liability has increased by £119m to £364m in 2020/21. Refer to Note 38 for further information.

The net pension liability is a position at one point in time. Market prices can move substantially up or down in the short term and it is therefore not possible to quantify the long-term effect such movements in market prices will have on the Pension Fund. The last valuation was at 31 March 2019, with the next taking place at 31 March 2022.

## **Governance**

Gwynedd Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, which includes arrangements for the management of risk. Further information is included within the Annual Governance Statement.

## **Accounting Policies**

The Council's existing accounting policies are amended only insofar as to reflect the guidance in the 2020/21 CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom.

## **Changes in Accounting Policies and to the Accounts**

The Council's existing accounting policies have been amended to reflect only the changes required in accordance with proper accounting practices, following adjustments for the 2020/21 financial year to the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom.

## **Further Information**

The Statement of Accounts is available on Gwynedd Council's website [www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru](http://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru).

Further information relating to the accounts is available from:

Ffion Madog Evans	or	Sian Pugh
Senior Finance Manager		Group Accountant – Corporate and Projects
01286 679133		01286 679134

Finance Department  
Gwynedd Council  
Council Offices  
Caernarfon  
Gwynedd  
LL55 1SH

This is part of the Council's policy of providing full information relating to the Council's affairs. In addition, interested members of the public have a statutory right to inspect the accounts before the audit is completed. The availability of the accounts for inspection is advertised on the Council's website at the appropriate time.

# **GWYNEDD COUNCIL**

## **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

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

#### **THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

Gwynedd Council is required to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In Gwynedd Council, that "Section 151 Officer" is the Head of Finance. It is also the Council's responsibility to manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of its resources, to safeguard its assets, and to approve the Statement of Accounts.

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#### **THE HEAD OF FINANCE'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

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

In preparing the Statement of Accounts, the Head of Finance has selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently; has made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent and complied with the Code.

The Head of Finance has also kept proper accounting records which were up to date, and has taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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#### **RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER'S CERTIFICATE**

I certify that the Statement of Accounts has been prepared in accordance with the arrangements set out above, and presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Gwynedd Council at 31 March 2021 and the Council's income and expenditure for the year then ended.



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**Dafydd L. Edwards B.A., C.P.F.A., I.R.R.V.**  
**Head of Finance, Gwynedd Council**

**28 May 2021**

## 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. It also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the Council's departments. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

<b>EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS</b>						
<b>2019/20</b>				<b>2020/21</b>		
Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund	Adjustments between the Accounting Basis and Funding Basis (see Note 9)	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund	Adjustments between the Accounting Basis and Funding Basis (see Note 9)	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
85,311	10,703	96,014	Education	84,230	29,275	113,505
7,488	2,072	9,560	Corporate Support	7,140	1,675	8,815
6,110	1,644	7,754	Finance	5,738	1,393	7,131
4,081	3,370	7,451	Economy and Community	3,240	3,062	6,302
51,508	5,997	57,505	Adults, Health and Well-being	53,842	4,036	57,878
17,968	1,848	19,816	Children and Family Support	18,604	1,142	19,746
24,492	10,631	35,123	Highways and Municipal (including Trunk Roads*)	21,030	7,023	28,053
3,695	4,336	8,031	Environment	3,139	4,081	7,220
3,205	3,906	7,111	Housing and Property	2,957	1,995	4,952
1,652	257	1,909	Corporate Management Team and Legal	1,515	119	1,634
65	1,309	1,374	Gwynedd Consultancy	(298)	911	613
14,482	2,728	17,210	Corporate	12,048	(494)	11,554
<b>220,057</b>	<b>48,801</b>	<b>268,858</b>	<b>Cost of Services</b>	<b>213,185</b>	<b>54,218</b>	<b>267,403</b>
24,083	(171)	23,912	Other Operating Expenditure	25,037	(152)	24,885
15,571	(2,440)	13,131	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	14,450	(2,608)	11,842
(265,916)	(18,252)	(284,168)	Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income	(281,141)	(21,577)	(302,718)
<b>(6,205)</b>	<b>27,938</b>	<b>21,733</b>	<b>(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services</b>	<b>(28,469)</b>	<b>29,881</b>	<b>1,412</b>
(64,885)			Opening General Fund Balance	(71,090)		
(6,205)			(Surplus)/Deficit on General Fund in year	(28,469)		
<b>(71,090)</b>			Closing General Fund Balance	<b>(99,559)</b>		

\* Trunk Roads - Adjustments relating to the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency

## 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 both the Expenditure and Funding Analysis and in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

2019/20			Note	2020/21		
Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure		Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
119,901	(23,887)	96,014	Education	140,490	(26,985)	113,505
11,035	(1,475)	9,560	Corporate Support	10,983	(2,168)	8,815
10,288	(2,534)	7,754	Finance	11,120	(3,989)	7,131
13,017	(5,566)	7,451	Economy and Community	13,765	(7,463)	6,302
85,377	(27,872)	57,505	Adults, Health and Well-being	88,223	(30,345)	57,878
32,763	(12,947)	19,816	Children and Family Support	33,312	(13,566)	19,746
52,031	(16,908)	35,123	Highways and Municipal (including Trunk Roads*)	49,250	(21,197)	28,053
16,100	(8,069)	8,031	Environment	18,459	(11,239)	7,220
10,865	(3,754)	7,111	Housing and Property	14,744	(9,792)	4,952
2,796	(887)	1,909	Corporate Management Team and Legal	2,083	(449)	1,634
6,776	(5,402)	1,374	Gwynedd Consultancy	6,190	(5,577)	613
45,501	(28,291)	17,210	Corporate	43,992	(32,438)	11,554
<b>406,450</b>	<b>(137,592)</b>	<b>268,858</b>	<b>Cost of Services</b>	<b>432,611</b>	<b>(165,208)</b>	<b>267,403</b>
24,083	(171)	23,912	Other Operating Expenditure	25,037	(152)	24,885
13,677	(546)	13,131	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	12,270	(428)	11,842
0	(284,168)	(284,168)	Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income	0	(302,718)	(302,718)
<b>444,210</b>	<b>(422,477)</b>	<b>21,733</b>	<b>(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services</b>	<b>469,918</b>	<b>(468,506)</b>	<b>1,412</b>
		(6,070)	(Surplus)/Deficit on revaluation of Fixed Assets	23.1		(52,103)
		1,293	(Surplus)/Deficit on revaluation of Financial Instruments	23.3		(655)
		(171)	(Surplus) / Deficit on revaluation of available for sale financial assets	23.3		0
		(84,580)	Remeasurements of the net pension defined benefit liability/(asset)	23.5		100,979
		<b>(89,528)</b>	<b>Other Comprehensive (Income) and Expenditure</b>			<b>48,221</b>
		<b>(67,795)</b>	<b>Total Comprehensive (Income) and Expenditure</b>			<b>49,633</b>

\* Trunk Roads - Adjustments relating to the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency

## MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

The Movement in Reserves Statement shows the movement from the start of the year to the end 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 other 'unusable reserves'. The Statement shows how the movements in the year of the Authority's reserves are broken down between gains and losses incurred in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices and the statutory adjustments required to return to the amounts chargeable to council tax for the year. The Net Increase/Decrease line shows the statutory General Fund Balance movements in the year following those adjustments.

	Additional Information			Statement of Movement in Reserves						
	Note	Unearmarked General Fund Balance	Earmarked General Fund Reserves	Total Reserves held by Schools	General Fund Balance	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Balance 31 March 2019 carried forward</b>		(7,070)	(53,815)	(4,000)	(64,885)	(2,140)	(6,020)	(73,045)	27,844	(45,201)
<b>Transition to IFRS 9 and IFRS 15</b>	17	4	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	4
<u>Movement in reserves during 2019/20</u>										
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		21,729	0	0	21,729	0	0	21,729	(89,528)	(67,799)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	9	(27,938)	0	0	(27,938)	(71)	1,295	(26,714)	26,714	0
<b>(Increase)/Decrease in 2019/20</b>		(6,205)	0	0	(6,205)	(71)	1,295	(4,981)	(62,814)	(67,795)
Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves	10	5,703	(5,370)	(333)	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>(Increase)/Decrease in 2019/20 (showing transfers to Earmarked Reserves)</i>		(502)	(5,370)	(333)	(6,205)	(71)	1,295	(4,981)	(62,814)	(67,795)
<b>Balance 31 March 2020 carried forward</b>		(7,572)	(59,185)	(4,333)	(71,090)	(2,211)	(4,725)	(78,026)	(34,970)	(112,996)
<u>Movement in reserves during 2020/21</u>										
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		1,412	0	0	1,412	0	0	1,412	48,220	49,632
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	9	(29,881)	0	0	(29,881)	(162)	(1,261)	(31,304)	31,304	0
<b>(Increase)/Decrease in 2020/21</b>		(28,469)	0	0	(28,469)	(162)	(1,261)	(29,892)	79,524	49,632
Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves	10	26,629	(20,209)	(6,420)	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>(Increase)/Decrease in 2020/21 (showing transfers to Earmarked Reserves)</i>		(1,840)	(20,209)	(6,420)	(28,469)	(162)	(1,261)	(29,892)	79,524	49,632
<b>Balance 31 March 2021 carried forward</b>		(9,412)	(79,394)	(10,753)	(99,559)	(2,373)	(5,986)	(107,918)	44,554	(63,364)

## 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 is 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 is 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; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line 'Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'.

<b>31 March 2020</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>31 March 2021</b>
<b>£'000</b>		<b>£'000</b>
461,009	Property, Plant and Equipment 15	496,716
60	Heritage Assets	60
165	Investment Property 16	165
1,960	Surplus Assets 15	2,183
17	Long-Term Investments 17	17
3,948	Long-Term Debtors 17	4,371
<b>467,159</b>	<b>Long-Term Assets</b>	<b>503,512</b>
11,259	Short-Term Investments 17	34,918 *
73	Assets Held for Sale 20	73
1,367	Inventories	1,948
76,415	Short-Term Debtors 18	84,232
14,900	Cash and Cash Equivalents 19	28,618 *
<b>104,014</b>	<b>Current Assets</b>	<b>149,789</b>
(22,338)	Bank Overdraft 19	(24,180)
(21,112)	Short-Term Borrowing 17	(7,090)
(53,149)	Short-Term Creditors 21	(74,059)
(304)	Short-Term Provisions 22	(315)
(1,443)	Capital and Revenue Grants Receipts in Advance 32	(6,585)
<b>(98,346)</b>	<b>Current Liabilities</b>	<b>(112,229)</b>
(7,850)	Long-Term Provisions 22	(7,752)
(104,346)	Long-Term Borrowing 17	(103,110)
(244,644)	Pension Liability 38	(363,852)
(1,540)	Finance Leases Liability 35	(1,370)
(1,451)	Capital and Revenue Grants Receipts in Advance 32	(1,624)
<b>(359,831)</b>	<b>Long-Term Liabilities</b>	<b>(477,708)</b>
<b>112,996</b>	<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>63,364</b>
(78,026)	Usable Reserves	(107,918)
(34,970)	Unusable Reserves 23	44,554
<b>(112,996)</b>	<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>(63,364)</b>

\* The £16.2m that is relevant to the North Wales Economic Ambition Board has been included in the cash and short-term investments figures above.

## 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.

<b>2019/20</b>		<i>Nodyn</i>	<b>2020/21</b>
<b>£'000</b>			<b>£'000</b>
21,733	Net (Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services		1,412
(36,412)	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	24a	(81,082)
548	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	24b	222
(14,131)	Net cash flows from Operating Activities		(79,448)
22,295	Investing Activities	25	52,154
(16,613)	Financing Activities	26a	15,418
(8,449)	Net (increase)/decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(11,876)
15,887	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	19	7,438
<b>7,438</b>	<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>	<i>19</i>	<b>(4,438)</b>

# **NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

## **NOTE I – ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

### **1.1 General Principles**

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Authority's transactions for the 2020/21 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2021. The Authority is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018, in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21* 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 accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

In relation to a policy regarding capitalisation of expenditure, our practice is to operate on the basis of the nature of expenditure rather than a prescribed level of expenditure.

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

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

- Revenue from contracts with service recipients, whether for services or the provision of goods, is recognised when (or as) the goods or services are transferred to the service recipient in accordance with the performance obligations in the contract.
- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed – where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption, they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.
- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.
- Interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.
- Where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue in financing and investment income and expenditure for the income that might not be collected.

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

Where the Authority has short-term investments readily convertible into known amounts of cash and subject to insignificant risk of changes in value, these are classified as cash equivalents and included in Cash and Cash Equivalents on the Balance Sheet. The investments included in this definition are short-term deposits with financial institutions which are immediately available at the Balance Sheet date.

### **1.4 Contingent Assets / Contingent Liabilities**

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.

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 assets and liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet, but disclosed in the Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets notes in the accounts.

## **NOTE I – ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

### **1.5 Corporate**

The Corporate heading includes items relating to corporate policy-making and member activities, and costs that relate to the general running of the Authority.

### **1.6 Employee Benefits**

#### **1.6.1 Benefits Payable During Employment**

Short-term employee benefits are those due to be settled within 12 months of the year-end. They include such benefits as wages and salaries, paid annual leave and paid sick leave for current employees and are recognised as an expense for services in the year in which employees render service to the Authority. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements (or any form of leave, e.g. time off in lieu) earned by employees but not taken before the year-end that employees can carry forward into the next financial year. The accrual is charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, but then reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement to the accumulated absences account so that holiday benefits are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs.

#### **1.6.2 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 redundancy voluntarily and are charged on an accruals basis to the appropriate service or, where applicable, to the Corporate Services line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement at the earlier of when the Authority can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when the Authority recognises costs for a restructuring.

Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the Council Fund balance 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.

#### **1.6.3 Post-Employment Benefits**

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

- The Teachers' Pension Scheme, administered by the Capita Teachers' Pensions on behalf of the Westminster Government's Department for Education
- The Local Government Pension Scheme, administered by the Gwynedd Pension Fund at Gwynedd Council.

Both schemes provide defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees when they worked for the Authority.

However, the arrangements for the teachers' scheme mean that liabilities for these benefits cannot be identified to the Authority. The scheme is therefore accounted for as if it were a defined contributions scheme and no liability for future payment of benefits is recognised in the Balance Sheet. The Education and Children and Family Support line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is charged with the employer's contributions payable to the Teachers' Pension Scheme in the year.

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

All other staff, subject to certain qualifying criteria, are entitled to become members of the Local Government Pension Scheme. The pension costs charged to the Authority's accounts in respect of this group of employees are determined by the fund administrators and represent a fixed proportion of employees' contributions to this funded pension scheme.

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

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

## NOTE I – ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate of 2.0% calculated as a weighted average of 'spot yields' on AA rated corporate bonds.

The assets of the Gwynedd Pension Fund attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value as determined by the Fund's Actuary.

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

Service cost comprising:

- Current service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year – allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the services for which the employees worked.
- Past service cost – the increase in liabilities arising from current year decisions whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years – debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Corporate costs.
- Net interest on the net pension defined benefit liability/(asset), i.e. the net interest expense for the Authority – the change during the period in the net pension defined benefit liability/(asset) that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – this is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net pension defined benefit liability/(asset) at the beginning of the period – taking into account any changes in the net pension defined benefit liability/(asset) during the period as a result of contributions and benefit payments.

Remeasurements comprising:

- The return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the net pension defined benefit liability/(asset) – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
- Actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
- Contributions paid to the Gwynedd Pension Fund – cash paid as employer's contributions to the Pension Fund in settlement of liabilities not accounted for as an expense.

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

International Accounting Standard (IAS) 19 governs how the long-term liabilities which exist in relation to pension costs should be reported. Local councils in England and Wales are required to produce their financial statements in accordance with IAS19.

## **NOTE I – ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

### **1.6.5 Discretionary Benefits**

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

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

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

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

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

### **1.8 Prior Period Adjustments, Changes in Accounting Policies, 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.

### **1.9 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 and are initially measured at fair value and are carried at their amortised cost. Annual charges to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) for interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments over the life of the instrument to the amount at which it was originally recognised.

For most of the borrowings that the 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 CIES is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement

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

#### **Financial Assets**

Financial assets are classified based on a classification and measurement approach that reflects the business model for holding the financial assets and their cash flow characteristics. The Authority holds financial assets measured at:

- amortised cost, and

## **NOTE I – ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

- fair value through profit or loss (FVPL), and
- fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI). A separate accounting policy is required where an Authority holds financial instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income.

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

### **Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost**

Financial assets measured at amortised cost 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 (CIES) for interest receivable are based on the carrying amount of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. For most of the financial assets held by the Authority, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal receivable (plus accrued interest) and interest credited to the CIES is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement.

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

### **Expected Credit Loss Model**

The Authority recognises expected credit losses on all of its financial assets held at amortised costs, either on a 12 month or lifetime basis. The expected credit loss model also applies to lease receivables and contract assets. Only lifetime losses are recognised for trade receivables held by the Authority. Impairment losses are calculated to reflect the expectation that the future cash flows might not take place because the borrower could default on their obligations.

### **Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value Through Other Comprehensive Income**

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

### **Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Profit and Loss**

Financial assets that are measured at FVPL are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Authority becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured and carried at fair value. Fair value gains and losses are recognised as they arrive in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services.

### **Fair Value Measurements of Financial Assets**

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

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

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

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

## **NOTE I – ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

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

The measurement of our assets held at FVOCI is unit bid price at the measurement date.

### **1.10 Government Grants and Other Contributions**

Grants and contributions relating to capital and revenue expenditure are accounted for on an accruals basis, and recognised immediately in the relevant service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as income, except to the extent that the grant or contribution has a condition that the Authority has not satisfied.

Grants and contributions funding capital expenditure that have been credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are not proper income charges due to the capital control regime requirements to finance capital expenditure as part of the Capital Financing Requirement. Therefore, the Authority accounts for these amounts as follows:

- Where a capital grant or contribution has been received, and conditions remain outstanding at the Balance Sheet date, the grant is recognised as a Capital Grant Receipt in Advance on the Balance Sheet. Once the condition has been met, the grant or contribution is transferred to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
- Where a capital grant or contribution has been recognised as income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, and the expenditure to be financed from that grant or contribution has been incurred at the Balance Sheet date, the grant or contribution is transferred from the General Fund to the Capital Adjustment Account, reflecting the application of capital resources to finance expenditure. This transfer is reported in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

### **1.11 Heritage Assets**

Heritage assets are tangible assets with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that are held by the Authority principally for their contribution to knowledge or culture. The Council has identified the following categories of heritage assets:

- Pictures and Paintings
- Civic Regalia
- Library Collections/Archives
- Museums and Art Gallery Collections
- Historic Buildings and Scheduled Monuments
- Parks and Local Nature Reserves

The Council used an external valuer (Bonhams) to provide estimated valuations of its civic regalia and paintings and pictures. For consistency, the Council has applied the same deminimis levels for valuation purposes to Heritage Assets as its other long-term assets – see policy 1.17.

The Council considers that Heritage Assets held by the Council will have indeterminate life and high residual value; hence, the Council does not consider it appropriate to charge depreciation for the assets. Heritage Assets recognised in the accounts will be assessed annually for any impairment – see policy 1.17.

### **1.12 Inventories and Long-Term Contracts**

Stocks and work in progress should be shown in the Balance Sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value, in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Practice. Due to the practicalities of the Council's main stock systems, the majority of stock is shown in the accounts at average cost. The difference from the basis of valuation is not material.

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

### **1.13 Investment Property**

Investment properties are those that are used solely to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation. The definition is not met if the property is used in any way to facilitate the delivery of services or production of goods or is held for sale. These properties are valued on a fair value basis. Values are based on specific techniques, and the inputs to

## **NOTE I – ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

these measurement techniques are categorised in accordance with three levels. All the Authority's inputs are level 3 (unobservable inputs for the asset). This is due to the level of adjustment required to all evidence due to the uniqueness of the assets, and the dearth of relevant market transactions.

### **1.14 Leases**

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

#### **The Authority as Lessee:**

Amounts held under finance leases are initially recognised, at the commencement of the lease, at fair value (or, if lower, the present value of the minimum lease payments), with a matching liability for the lease obligation to the lessor. Lease payments are apportioned between a finance charge (charged directly to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement) and a charge is applied to write down the lease liability. The related asset is treated in accordance with the policies applied generally to such assets and is subject to depreciation charges as appropriate.

Operating lease payments are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as an expense of the relevant service on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

#### **The Authority as Lessor:**

Where the Authority grants a finance lease over a property, the relevant asset is written out of the Balance Sheet as a disposal, to be included in the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The written-off value of disposals is not a charge against council tax, as the cost of non-current assets is fully provided for under separate arrangements for capital financing. Amounts are therefore appropriated to the Capital Adjustment Account from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Rental income from property granted under an operating lease is recognised on a straight-line basis in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, and the asset is retained in the Balance Sheet.

### **1.15 Surplus Assets**

The Authority classifies Surplus Assets separately on the Balance Sheet. These assets are shown at their fair value based on market value. Values are based on specific techniques, and the inputs to these measurement techniques are categorised in accordance with three levels. All the Authority's inputs are level 3 (unobservable inputs for the asset). This is due to the level of adjustment required to all evidence due to the uniqueness of the assets, and the dearth of relevant market transactions.

### **1.16 Overheads and Support Services**

Some overheads and support services costs are apportioned to the appropriate services in accordance with the Council's arrangements for accountability and financial performance.

### **1.17 Long-Term Assets**

The Council's assets as recorded on the Property Services database are revalued at least every five years. Since the 2015/16 financial year, the Authority has established a rolling programme for re-valuing different categories of these assets annually, with valuation usually effective on 31 March each year. This is in accordance with the Code and the Statements of Asset Valuation Principles and Guidance Notes issued by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

Land and Buildings are shown at fair value or Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC) for specialised properties.

Investment Properties are shown at fair value.

Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment are shown at depreciated historical cost.

Infrastructure and community assets are shown at depreciated historical cost.

Assets in the course of construction are included at historical cost until such time as they are completed, when they are valued in accordance with the accounting policies and transferred to the appropriate category of asset.

## **NOTE I – ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

A de minimis limit for valuation purposes of £20,000 is used for the Council's operational Land and Buildings and £5,000 for single items of Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment.

Expenditure in year on new and existing assets is added annually, and then consideration is given as to whether this expenditure has increased the value of the asset. If there has been an increase, this is reflected through the Revaluation Reserve; if there is no increase it follows that there has been an impairment to the value of the asset (see below for the method for accounting for impairment). Specifically for assets categorised as Land and Buildings, and Community Assets where expenditure in year of over £100,000 has been incurred on a single asset, the Council's Senior Estates Surveyor (M.R.I.C.S.) reviews the assets and revalues any one as appropriate.

There is high level of uncertainty about the medium term implications of the current effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union. The assumption has been made that this will not significantly impair the value of the Council's assets. The assumption made will need to be reviewed regularly.

### **Impairment and Depreciation**

#### **Impairment**

An impairment is the consumption of economic benefit that is specific to an asset. In line with International Accounting Standard 36 the Council reviews its assets each year in order to recognise any impairment or reduction in value due to the consumption of economic benefits. In addition, the residual values and useful lives of assets are reviewed annually and adjusted where appropriate.

Where impairment losses are identified, they are accounted for 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 that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains).
- Where there is no balance in the Revaluation Reserve for an asset or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

#### **Depreciation**

The main element of IAS 16 is that buildings must be depreciated if they are not valued each year. In addition, each part of an item of Property, Plant and Equipment with a cost that is significant in relation to the total cost of the item shall be depreciated separately. A de minimis threshold, below which assets are disregarded for componentisation purposes, needs to be established, which is based on potential material impacts on the financial statements. For the 2020/21 financial year this has been set at 1% of the total value of the buildings at the beginning of the year. The apportionment to be considered for the non-land element of assets above the de minimis threshold is:

- a) plant and equipment and engineering services, and
- b) structure

The majority of the Council's buildings (over 75%) are valued using the DRC (Depreciated Replacement Cost) method, which is developed on a component approach, and the identification of the components is reflected in the details of the calculations. However, identified within the above are buildings which include material items of plant and equipment which are deemed to have shorter useful lives, e.g. boilers and heating equipment within swimming pools and leisure centres. These components are recognised by adjusting the useful life of the building to take account of the shorter life components.

For the remaining buildings, based on a review of the nature and type of buildings which the Council owns, these are deemed to have no significant items of plant and equipment or engineering services that need to be componentised separately.

Depreciation is generally charged on the Balance Sheet value of assets to write them off as follows:

- (i) Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment are depreciated over their estimated useful life (3–15 years, or more with supporting evidence)
- (ii) Infrastructure is depreciated over 40 years
- (iii) Revenue Expenditure funded from Capital under Statute is written down in the period in which it arises
- (iv) Land is not depreciated

## NOTE 1 – ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

- (v) Buildings are depreciated over their estimated remaining useful life (5–80 years)
- (vi) Investment Properties, Assets under Construction and Assets Held for Sale are not depreciated

Depreciation is not charged in the year of acquisition.

### Minimum Revenue Provision

The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 places a duty on local authorities to make a prudent provision for debt redemption. Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision has been issued by the Welsh Ministers and local authorities are required to “have regard” to such Guidance under section 21(1B) of the Local Government Act 2003.

The four MRP options available are:

- Option 1: Regulatory Method
- Option 2: Capital Financing Requirement Method
- Option 3: Asset Life Method
- Option 4: Depreciation Method

*NB This does not preclude other prudent methods.*

MRP in 2020/21: Options 1 and 2 may be used only for supported (i.e. financing costs deemed to be supported through Revenue Support Grant from Central Government) Non-HRA capital expenditure funded from borrowing. Methods of making prudent provision for unsupported Non-HRA capital expenditure include Options 3 and 4 (which may also be used for supported Non-HRA capital expenditure if the Council chooses).

The MRP Statement was submitted to Council before the start of the 2020/21 financial year. If it is ever proposed to vary the terms of the original MRP Statement during the year, a revised statement should be put to Council at that time.

The Council applied Option 1 in respect of supported capital expenditure funded from borrowing, and Option 3 in respect of unsupported capital expenditure funded from borrowing.

MRP in respect of leases and Private Finance Initiative schemes brought on Balance Sheet under the IFRS-based Accounting Code of Practice matches the annual principal repayment for the associated deferred liability.

The Authority will be reviewing this policy annually in light of the Asset Management Plan.

In accordance with the Code of Practice, revenue financing of capital expenditure on Council Fund Services is appropriated to the Capital Adjustment Account.

### 1.18 Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates

Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates income for the year is treated as accrued income, and is included within the Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Gwynedd Council is a Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates billing Authority. It collects Council Tax on behalf of itself and other authorities, and collects Non-Domestic Rates as an agent on behalf of the Welsh Government.

### 1.19 Provisions

The Council sets aside provisions for specific obligations which are likely or certain to be incurred but the amount of which cannot yet be determined accurately. Provisions are also made for doubtful debts. Known uncollectable debts are written off against the relevant service. The Council classifies these provisions as long-term or short-term liabilities as appropriate according to the nature of each provision.

### 1.20 Reserves (and Balances)

In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1992, the Council maintains a –

- General Fund which represents the general reserves (“balances”) of the Authority, namely a working balance to help cushion the impact of uneven cash flows and as a contingency to cushion the impact of unexpected events or emergencies.

## **NOTE I – ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

- Number of capital and revenue Specific Reserves earmarked for specific purposes, namely, money accumulated to meet anticipated commitments. The Council undertakes a continuous review of the adequacy and use of specific reserves.
- The Council takes a risk-based approach to maintaining an adequate level of balances and reserves to meet future spending needs. When considering the annual budget and medium-term financial strategy, the Council will set out its intention regarding the level of general balances and reserves, in the context of all relevant risks. Refer to the approval of the full policy in respect of reserves by the Council Cabinet on 23 June 2015.
- Certain reserves, namely “unusable reserves”, are kept for the technical purpose of managing the accounting processes for non-current assets, financial instruments and employee benefits. These do not represent the usable resources of the Authority.

### **1.21 Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute**

Legislation allows some expenditure to be classified as capital for funding purposes when it does not result in the expenditure being carried on the Balance Sheet as an asset. The purpose of this is to enable it to be funded from capital resources rather than be charged to the General Fund and impact on that year’s Council Tax. This type of expenditure is valued at historical cost and written down over a year.

### **1.22 Value Added Tax**

Only in a situation when VAT is irrecoverable will VAT be included or charged as ‘irrecoverable VAT’ in capital and revenue expenditure.

### **1.23 Debtors and Creditors**

The Council's accounts are maintained on an accruals basis in accordance with the Code of Accounting Practice. The accounts reflect actual expenditure and income relating to the year in question irrespective of whether the payments or receipts have actually been paid or received in the year.

An exception to this principle relates to electricity and similar quarterly payments which are charged at the date of meter reading rather than being apportioned between financial years, and certain annual payments such as insurance. This policy is consistently applied each year and therefore does not have a material effect on the year's accounts.

### **1.24 Allocation of Interest Received**

The Authority invests surplus funds for periods varying from overnight to 13 months (with the exception of investments in property) and the interest is credited to the General Fund, Gwynedd Pension Fund, Welsh Church Fund and other trust funds and joint committees based on the level of their daily balances and the rate of interest earned.

### **1.25 Borrowing Costs**

The Authority does not capitalise borrowing costs attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of a qualifying asset as permitted by the Code.

Interest payable on external loans is included in the accounts in the period to which it relates on a basis which reflects the overall economic effect of the borrowings.

### **1.26 Interest in Companies and Other Entities**

In the Authority’s accounts, the interests in companies and other entities are recorded as financial assets at cost, less any provision for losses.

### **1.27 Current Assets Held for Sale**

In order for an asset to be recognised as Held for Sale, the asset must be available for immediate sale in its present condition, the sale must be highly probable, the asset must be actively marketed and the sale completed within one year from the date of classification. The asset is recognised at fair value (market value) less costs to sell on reclassification. Values are based on specific techniques, and the inputs to these measurement techniques are categorised in accordance with three levels. All the Authority’s inputs are level 3 (unobservable inputs for the asset). This is due to the level of adjustment required to all evidence due to the uniqueness of the assets, and the dearth of relevant market transactions.

## **NOTE I – ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

### **1.28 Disposal of Assets**

When an asset is disposed of, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals (if any) are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal). Any revaluation gains accumulated for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

### **1.29 Capital Receipts**

When the Authority sells an asset, legislation prescribes the use of the proceeds received.

All capital receipts that belong to the Council's Fund are 100% usable and it is no longer necessary to set aside a percentage of the receipt. The receipts are held in the Usable Capital Receipts Reserve until such time as they are used to finance capital expenditure.

### **1.30 Service Concession Arrangements**

Service Concession Arrangements, otherwise known as Private Finance Initiative (PFI) schemes, 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 for the duration of the contract but where the assets transfer to the Authority at the end of the period without any additional cost. The Authority controls the service that is provided and is able to control who else is able to use the facility. The cost of using the facility is agreed with the Company before setting the agreement through a competitive dialogue process.

### **1.31 Joint Operations**

Joint operations are arrangements where the parties that have joint control of the arrangement have rights to the assets and obligations for the liabilities relating to the arrangements. The activities undertaken by the Authority in conjunction with other joint operators involve the use of the assets and resources of those joint operators. In relation to its interest in a joint operation, the Authority as a joint operator recognises its share of assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses.

### **1.32 Schools**

The *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom* confirms that the balance of control for local Authority maintained schools (i.e. those categories of school identified in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, as amended) lies with the local Authority. The Code also stipulates that those schools' assets, liabilities, reserves and cash flows are recognised in the local Authority accounts (and not the Group Accounts). Therefore schools' transactions, cash flows and balances are recognised in each of the financial statements of the Authority as if they were the transactions, cash flows and balances of the Authority.

### **1.33 Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets**

The Authority's accounting policy for fair value measurement of financial asset is set out in note 1.9. The Authority also measures some of its non-financial assets such as surplus assets and investment properties and some of its financial instruments at fair value at each reporting date. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurement assumes that the transaction to sell the asset takes place either:

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

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

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

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

## **NOTE 1 – ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

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

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

### **1.34 Other Policies**

Gwynedd Council has policies in respect of the following, but they are not considered material for the 2020/21 financial year:

- Intangible Assets
- Foreign Currency Conversion.

## **NOTE 2 – CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING POLICY**

The Council's existing accounting policies are amended only insofar as to reflect the guidance in the 2020/21 CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom.

## **NOTE 3 – PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENTS**

There are no prior period adjustment during 2020/21.

## **NOTE 4 – ACCOUNTING STANDARDS THAT HAVE BEEN ISSUED BUT HAVE NOT YET BEEN ADOPTED**

The CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom requires the expected impact of any accounting standards that have been issued but not yet adopted to be disclosed. This applies to the following new or amended standards within the 2021/22 Code:

Definition of a Business: Amendments to IFRS 3 Business Combinations

Interest Rate Benchmark Reform: Amendments to IFRS 9, IAS 39 and IFRS 7

Interest Rate Benchmark Reform – Phase 2: Amendments to IFRS 9, IAS 39, IFRS 7, IFRS 4 and IFRS 16.

The Code requires implementation from 1 April 2021 and therefore there is no impact on the 2020/21 Statement of Accounts, and none of the new or amended standards within the 2021/22 Code are expected to have a material impact on the information provided in the financial statements.

## **NOTE 5 – CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 1, the Authority has had to make judgements, estimates and assumptions relating to complex transactions, those involving uncertainty about future events and also the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources.

The judgements, estimates and associated assumptions applied are based on current proper practices, historical experience, and other factors that include historical and current assumptions and projections, and actual future projections, professional assessments, current trends, and local factors that are considered to be relevant.

In recent years there has been some uncertainty about future levels of funding from Welsh Government relating to revenue and capital grants. This issue forms an important part of the Council's continually revised financial strategy, and where all known and forecasted factors are given due consideration. Continued economic uncertainty following Britain leaving the European Union remains. Whilst the effects of the Covid-19 crisis remains a financial challenge for the Council in the short and medium term. However, the Council has determined that this uncertainty is not yet sufficient to provide an indication that the assets of the Council might be impaired.

All available and related information is sourced and applied in assessing and determining the position, which is particularly critical when considering such matters as the revaluation, depreciation and impairment of assets, actuarial valuation of pension fund assets and liabilities, earmarked reserves, provisions and contingent liability. However, because these issues cannot be determined with certainty, actual results may subsequently differ from those estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are continually reviewed.

## **NOTE 6 – ASSUMPTIONS MADE ABOUT 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, because certain balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be different from the assumptions and estimates.

The following items in the Authority's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2021 may be considered to be a significant risk (in terms of certainty in estimation of value), with the possibility of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year:

- **Property, Plant and Equipment** – Assets are depreciated over their useful life in accordance with standard accounting and associated practices. Any difference between the depreciation applied and actual deterioration to assets will be naturally reflected in future spending patterns. The current economic climate brings with it uncertainties for councils in their ability to sustain the necessary spending on repair and maintenance. This obviously would have implications on asset life. Land and buildings are revalued at least every five years, and since 2015/16 a rolling programme of revaluation has been introduced. A number of judgements are required to be made as part of the revaluation and impairment assessment process. This brings with it uncertainties, and assumptions have to be made and responded to accordingly. Where necessary, any resultant long-term implications would be incorporated into our financial strategy.

In respect of all property sectors, as at the valuation date we continue to be faced with an unprecedented set of circumstances caused by Covid-19 and an absence of relevant/sufficient market evidence on which to base a judgements. The valuations are therefore reported on the basis of 'material valuation uncertainty' as per VPS 3 and VPGA 10 of the RICS Valuation – Global Standards. Consequently, less certainty and a higher degree of caution should be attached to the valuation than would normally be the case. In recognition of the potential for market conditions to move rapidly in response to changes in the control or future spread of Covid-19, it is recommended that the valuation of these properties are kept under frequent review. Information relating to Property, Plant and Equipment is contained in Note 15.

- **Provisions** – There are provisions contained within these accounts, the basis of which have been individually assessed from the latest information available, as detailed in Note 22, and include provisions for Waste Sites. We are unable to confirm the accuracy of the provisions until such matters are concluded.
- **Pension Liability** – The Pension Liability position as contained within the accounts is based on a number of complex assessments and judgements and varying profiles such as discount rate used, projected salary levels, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on Pension Fund assets, as provided by Actuaries engaged by the Pension Fund. Further details are contained in Note 37 and 38.
- **Doubtful Debts Impairment** – A specific impairment level policy in respect of doubtful debts is contained within the accounts. The impairment level is reviewed regularly in order to respond to any changes in the economic climate such as the current Covid-19 crisis, and necessary action taken as appropriate within the accounts to respond accordingly. Doubtful Debts impairments are contained within the figures for Short-Term Debtors contained in Note 18a.

The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted global financial and property markets. As a result of the volatility in market conditions, year-end valuation reports provided to the Gwynedd Pension Fund on 31st March 2020 included a statement that there was material valuation uncertainty related to the UK property funds managed on behalf of the Fund. However, no material uncertainties in property valuations are being reported as at 31 March 2021.

## **NOTE 7 – MATERIAL ITEMS OF INCOME AND EXPENSE**

Related items include:

- £101m on pensions, being the annual remeasurement of the net pension defined benefit liability relating to pensions, in line with Gwynedd Pension Fund's Actuary's assessment (Note 23).
- Following a revaluation of part of the Council's land and buildings portfolio (which is now carried out on a rolling programme basis), a net surplus of £52m on the revaluation of property, plant and equipment assets (Note 15 & 23).
- Receipt of specific grants, additional expenditure and loss of income relating to Covid-19 which has been compensated by the Welsh Government to the value of £24.7m for Gwynedd in 2020/21 (Note 32).

## NOTE 8 – NOTE TO THE EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS

<u>2020/21</u>	<u>ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN FUNDING AND ACCOUNTING BASIS</u>					
	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (i)	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments (ii)	Other Differences (iii)	Total Statutory Adjustments	Other (Non-statutory) Adjustments (iv)	Total Adjustments
Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Education	27,083	2,192	0	29,275	0	29,275
Corporate Support	937	738	0	1,675	0	1,675
Finance	675	718	0	1,393	0	1,393
Economy and Community	2,621	441	0	3,062	0	3,062
Adults, Health and Well-being	1,157	3,058	0	4,215	(179)	4,036
Children and Family Support	57	1,085	0	1,142	0	1,142
Highways and Municipal (including Trunk Roads*)	4,533	2,490	0	7,023	0	7,023
Environment	3,460	621	0	4,081	0	4,081
Housing and Property	1,560	435	0	1,995	0	1,995
Corporate Management Team and Legal	1	118	0	119	0	119
Gwynedd Consultancy	391	520	0	911	0	911
Corporate	31	41	(207)	(135)	(359)	(494)
<b>Cost of Services</b>	<b>42,506</b>	<b>12,457</b>	<b>(207)</b>	<b>54,756</b>	<b>(538)</b>	<b>54,218</b>
Other Operating Expenditure	(152)	0	0	(152)	0	(152)
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	(8,831)	5,771	(86)	(3,146)	538	(2,608)
Taxation and non-specific grant income	(21,577)	0	0	(21,577)	0	(21,577)
<b>(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services</b>	<b>11,946</b>	<b>18,228</b>	<b>(293)</b>	<b>29,881</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29,881</b>

\* Trunk Roads - Adjustments relating to the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency

**NOTE 8 – NOTE TO THE EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS (continued)**

<u>2019/20</u>	<u>ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN FUNDING AND ACCOUNTING BASIS</u>					
	<u>Adjustments for Capital Purposes (i)</u>	<u>Net change for the Pensions Adjustments (ii)</u>	<u>Other Differences (iii)</u>	<u>Total Statutory Adjustments</u>	<u>Other (Non-statutory) Adjustments (iv)</u>	<u>Total Adjustments</u>
Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Education	6,663	4,040	0	10,703	0	10,703
Corporate Support	806	1,266	0	2,072	0	2,072
Finance	419	1,225	0	1,644	0	1,644
Economy and Community	2,604	766	0	3,370	0	3,370
Adults, Health and Well-being	972	5,090	0	6,062	(65)	5,997
Children and Family Support	1	1,847	0	1,848	0	1,848
Highways and Municipal (including Trunk Roads*)	6,214	4,417	0	10,631	0	10,631
Environment	3,429	907	0	4,336	0	4,336
Housing and Property	3,192	714	0	3,906	0	3,906
Corporate Management Team and Legal	1	256	0	257	0	257
Gwynedd Consultancy	377	932	0	1,309	0	1,309
Corporate	375	1,809	700	2,884	(156)	2,728
<b>Cost of Services</b>	<b>25,053</b>	<b>23,269</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>49,022</b>	<b>(221)</b>	<b>48,801</b>
Other Operating Expenditure	(171)	0	0	(171)	0	(171)
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	(10,005)	7,441	(97)	(2,661)	221	(2,440)
Taxation and non-specific grant income	(18,252)	0	0	(18,252)	0	(18,252)
<b>(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services</b>	<b>(3,375)</b>	<b>30,710</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>27,938</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27,938</b>

\* Trunk Roads - Adjustments relating to the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency

**(i) Adjustments for Capital Purposes**

- For **services**, this column adds in depreciation, impairment and revaluation gains and losses.
- **Other operating expenditure** – adjusts for capital disposals with a transfer of income on disposal of assets and the amounts written off for those assets.
- **Financing and investment income and expenditure** – the statutory charges for capital financing, i.e. revenue provision for the financing of capital investment and other revenue contributions are deducted from other income and expenditure as these are not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices.
- **Taxation and non-specific grant income** – capital grants are adjusted for income not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices. Revenue grants are adjusted from those receivable in the year to those receivable without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied throughout the year. The Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income line is credited with capital grants receivable in the year without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied in the year.

## NOTE 8 – NOTE TO THE EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS (continued)

### (ii) Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments

Net change for the removal of pension contributions and the addition of IAS 19 *Employee Benefits* for pension-related expenditure and income:

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

### (iii) Other Differences

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

- For **Services**, this represents an adjustment for accumulated absences earned but not taken during the year.
- For **Financing and investment income and expenditure**, the other differences column recognises adjustments to the General Fund for the timing differences for premiums and discounts.

### (iv) Other (Non-statutory) Adjustments

- **Services** - the impairment loss allowance on Trade Debtors is deducted and transferred to financing and investment income and expenditure.
- **Financing and investment income and expenditure** – adjusted to include the transfer of the impairment loss allowance on Trade Debtors from services.

## NOTE 9 – ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATIONS

This note details the adjustments that are made to the total comprehensive income and expenditure recognised by the 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.

2020/21	Usable Reserves			
	General Fund Balance £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Capital Grants Unapplied £'000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £'000
<b>ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATIONS</b>				
<b>Adjustments to the Revenue Resources</b>				
<i>Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements</i>				
Pensions costs (transferred to (or from) the Pensions Reserve)	(18,228)	0	0	18,228
Financial instruments (transferred to the Financial Instruments Adjustments Account)	85	0	0	(85)
Holiday pay (transferred to (or from) the Accumulated Absences Reserve)	224	0	0	(224)
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure (these items are charged to the Capital Adjustment Account)	(20,777)	0	0	20,777
<b>Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources</b>	<b>(38,696)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>38,696</b>
<b>Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources</b>				
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(16)	(205)	0	221
Revenue provision for the financing of supported capital investment	5,426	0	0	(5,426)
Revenue provision for the financing of unsupported capital investment	2,173	0	0	(2,173)
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)	1,232	0	0	(1,232)
<b>Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources</b>	<b>8,815</b>	<b>(205)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(8,610)</b>
<b>Adjustments to Capital Resources</b>				
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure	0	43	0	(43)
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	0	0	(1,261)	1,261
Cash payments in relation to deferred capital receipts	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Adjustments to Capital Resources</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>(1,261)</b>	<b>1,218</b>
<b>TOTAL ADJUSTMENTS</b>	<b>(29,881)</b>	<b>(162)</b>	<b>(1,261)</b>	<b>31,304</b>

**NOTE 9 – ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATIONS (continued)**

2019/20	Usable Reserves			
	General Fund Balance £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Capital Grants Unapplied £'000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £'000
<b>ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATIONS</b>				
<b>Adjustments to the Revenue Resources</b>				
<i>Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements</i>				
Pensions costs (transferred to (or from) the Pensions Reserve)	(30,710)	0	0	30,710
Financial instruments (transferred to the Financial Instruments Adjustments Account)	50	0	0	(50)
Holiday pay (transferred to (or from) the Accumulated Absences Reserve)	(599)	0	0	599
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure (these items are charged to the Capital Adjustment Account)	(6,629)	0	0	6,629
<b>Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources</b>	<b>(37,888)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>37,888</b>
<b>Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources</b>				
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(54)	(494)	0	548
Revenue provision for the financing of supported capital investment	5,465	0	0	(5,465)
Revenue provision for the financing of unsupported capital investment	1,954	0	0	(1,954)
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)	2,585	0	0	(2,585)
<b>Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources</b>	<b>9,950</b>	<b>(494)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(9,456)</b>
<b>Adjustments to Capital Resources</b>				
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure	0	423	0	(423)
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	0	0	1,295	(1,295)
Cash payments in relation to deferred capital receipts	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Adjustments to Capital Resources</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>1,295</b>	<b>(1,718)</b>
<b>TOTAL ADJUSTMENTS</b>	<b>(27,938)</b>	<b>(71)</b>	<b>1,295</b>	<b>26,714</b>

## NOTE 10 – TRANSFERS TO/FROM EARMARKED RESERVES

### School Balances

This sum is represented by the element of balances released under the delegation of budgets directly to schools which remained unspent at the end of the financial year, and is a net increase of £6.4m as compared to the balance on 31 March 2020:

2020/21	Balance	Transfers			Balance
	31 March 2020 £'000	between reserves £'000	in £'000	out £'000	31 March 2021 £'000
School Balances	4,333	0	6,551	(131)	10,753
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,333</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,551</b>	<b>(131)</b>	<b>10,753</b>

## NOTE 10 – TRANSFERS TO/FROM EARMARKED RESERVES (continued)

### Earmarked Reserves

The note below sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund in earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans, and the amounts posted back from earmarked reserves to meet General Fund expenditure in 2020/21, with a net increase of £20.2m since the position at 31 March 2020.

Note	2020/21	Balance		Transfers		Balance
		31 March 2020	between reserves	in	out	31 March 2021
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
10.1	Renewals Reserves	7,817	0	3,086	(200)	10,703
10.2	Capital Reserves	11,997	(213)	3,904	(56)	15,632
10.3	Insurance Reserves	2,387	0	624	(513)	2,498
10.4	Services Fund	3,373	(281)	1,813	(316)	4,589
10.5	Convergence Programme Fund	1,132	0	0	(122)	1,010
10.6	Redundancy Costs to Realise Savings Reserve	3,236	0	0	(122)	3,114
10.7	Central Training	220	237	1,100	(89)	1,468
10.8	Education Services Reserves	920	0	794	(24)	1,690
10.9	Economy and Community Reserves	171	0	71	0	242
10.10	Highways and Municipal Reserves	376	0	1,216	0	1,592
10.11	Gwynedd Consultancy Reserves	185	0	0	0	185
10.12	Environment Reserves	1,514	0	154	(3)	1,665
10.13	Housing and Property Reserves	1,924	0	1,190	(26)	3,088
10.14	Care Reserves	1,028	0	267	(70)	1,225
10.15	Ffordd Gwynedd Fund	450	0	0	0	450
10.16	Invest to Save Fund - Carbon Reduction Plan	629	0	0	(33)	596
10.17	Transformation / Council Plan	9,049	0	4,225	(811)	12,463
10.18	Committed Revenue Grants Fund	810	0	94	(35)	869
10.19	Housing Water and Sewerage Services Fund	328	0	0	(86)	242
10.20	Housing Environmental Warranty	480	0	0	0	480
10.21	Information Technology Reserve	620	(140)	75	0	555
10.22	Supporting the Financial Strategy Reserve	2,656	0	0	(312)	2,344
10.23	Welfare Fund	100	0	0	0	100
10.24	Partnering Arrangements	306	0	0	0	306
10.25	North Wales Economic Ambition Board	497	0	241	(646)	92
10.26	Liabilities Related to the Pension Fund	1,028	0	0	0	1,028
10.27	Council Tax Property Transfers Reserve	490	0	0	0	490
10.28	Council Tax Premium Reserve	5,004	0	2,851	(703)	7,152
10.29	Covid-19 Recovery Arrangements Reserve	0	0	2,519	0	2,519
10.30	Various Other Reserves	458	397	261	(109)	1,007
<b>Total</b>		<b>59,185</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24,485</b>	<b>(4,276)</b>	<b>79,394</b>

The earmarked reserves closing balance as at 31 March 2021 does not reflect the level of commitments against them. Details are given below of the Council's main specific reserves.

## **NOTE 10 – TRANSFERS TO/FROM EARMARKED RESERVES (continued)**

- 10.1 The Renewals Reserves are used by the various departments of the Council to replace vehicles and equipment.
- 10.2 The Capital Reserves represents resources already committed to assist in financing the Council's Capital Programme and other requirements.
- 10.3 Gwynedd Council does not insure all risks with external insurers but instead it has established an internal reserve to meet those uninsured risks. The balance on the Insurance Reserve also includes an element relating to the relevant insurance requirements of the former Gwynedd County Council (pre 1996) and which is administered by Gwynedd Council.
- 10.4 The Services Fund represents the element of slippages and underspend that service departments have the right to carry forward for use in the subsequent financial year, other relevant specific budgets and one-off budgets that extend over more than one year.
- 10.5 Convergence Programme Fund – fund was created for additional capital or revenue costs which arise from the requirements to develop plans under the convergence programme.
- 10.6 Redundancy Costs to Realise Savings Reserve – provision for financing redundancy costs to realise budgetary savings.
- 10.7 Central Training – relates to the Council's staff training programme, including a contribution towards the cost of funding the Apprenticeship scheme and the 'Cynllun Yfory' Management Scheme.
- 10.8 Education Service Reserves – includes sums set aside to respond to related financial problems with 'Integration' requirements, changeable demands in 'Out of County – Special Educational Needs', 'Supporting Schools' and the 'Schools Loans Scheme'.
- 10.9 The Economy and Community Reserves include a number of balances relating to schemes operating on a partnership basis mainly, where the scheme balances must be accounted for separately.
- 10.10 The Highways and Municipal Reserves include mostly sums set aside to protect situations of uneven income and expenditure (equalisation accounts) together with likely requirements from contracts.
- 10.11 Gwynedd Consultancy Reserves – includes amounts set aside to protect against situations of uneven expenditure on some work fields and possible additional employment requirements resulting from changes in the Consultancy Service's work programme.
- 10.12 Environment Reserves – include a number of balances relating to Transport, schemes operating mainly on a partnership basis, and where the scheme balances must be accounted for separately, together with specific requirements relating to the Unitary Development Plan, and amounts for uneven expenditure situation.
- 10.13 Housing and Property Reserves – includes amounts set aside to protect against possible situations of uneven expenditure together with various other reserves for the Council's housing and property needs.
- 10.14 Care Reserves – includes amounts set aside to protect against possible situations of uneven expenditure due to contract requirements.
- 10.15 Ffordd Gwynedd Fund – to aid the business transformation process, realise savings and assist the Council to achieve "Ffordd Gwynedd" aims and objectives.
- 10.16 Invest to Save Fund – Carbon Reduction Plan – partly funding the Carbon Reduction Plan programme of works to reduce carbon emissions whilst generating monetary revenue savings for the Council.
- 10.17 Transformation / Council Plan – for the Council's priorities and to transform internal procedures to be more effective and efficient, and to invest in various schemes to realise permanent financial savings.

## **NOTE 10 – TRANSFERS TO/FROM EARMARKED RESERVES (continued)**

- 10.18 Committed Revenue Grants Fund – includes revenue grants received and committed for future use.
- 10.19 Housing Water and Sewerage Services Fund – amounts reserved for requirements relating to sewerage procedures, water piping and sewage treatment work on old council housing estates, which were not adopted by Welsh Water.
- 10.20 Housing Environmental Warranty – reserved for possible implications as a result of giving environmental warranties to Adra, in connection with specific and special circumstances that relate to environmental plans on the land of old council housing estates.
- 10.21 Information Technology Reserve – for responding to the demands in the information technology field, including a renewals fund and to respond to uneven patterns of expenditure.
- 10.22 Supporting the Financial Strategy Reserve – a fund established to assist and support the Council’s financial strategy.
- 10.23 Welfare Fund - provision to respond to uneven patterns in the related requirements.
- 10.24 Partnering Arrangements – includes amounts allocated in relation to various requirements of partnerships and joint working.
- 10.25 North Wales Economic Ambition Board – for the requirements and commitments of the economic promotion plan relevant to the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (Gwynedd Council’s share only).
- 10.26 Liabilities Related to the Pension Fund – for various future requirements and commitments related to the Pension Fund.
- 10.27 Council Tax Property Transfer Reserve – provision relating to the implications of properties transferring from Council Tax to National Domestic Rates.
- 10.28 Council Tax Premium Reserve – provision from the Council Tax Premium for achieving the Council’s priorities which includes the Housing Strategy.
- 10.29 Covid-19 Recovery Arrangements Reserve- provision for the recovery of services following the pandemic.
- 10.30 Various Other Reserves – includes amounts set aside to meet a variety of other commitments.

## NOTE 11 – OTHER OPERATING EXPENDITURE

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
2,344	<b>Community Council's Precepts</b>	2,504
	<b>Levies</b>	
14,441	North Wales Police & Crime Commissioner	15,088
6,227	North Wales Fire Authority	6,364
962	Snowdonia National Park Authority	962
109	Local Drainage Boards	119
21,739		22,533
(171)	(Gains)/losses on the disposal and de-recognition of non-current assets	(152)
<b>23,912</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>24,885</b>

## NOTE 12 – FINANCING AND INVESTMENT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
6,009	Interest payable and similar charges	5,961
7,441	Net interest on the net pension defined benefit liability (asset)	5,771
(546)	Interest receivable and similar income	(422)
227	Adjustments to provisions and the fair value of financial instruments	532
<b>13,131</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>11,842</b>

## NOTE 13 – TAXATION AND NON-SPECIFIC GRANT INCOME

2019/20		Note	2020/21
£'000			£'000
(89,364)	Council Tax Income	13a	(92,351)
(40,502)	Non-Domestic Rates	13b	(39,526)
(136,049)	Non-ring-fenced Government Grants	32	(148,053)
0	Revenue Grants and Contributions	32	(1,211)
(18,253)	Capital Grants and Contributions	32	(21,577)
<b>(284,168)</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>(302,718)</b>

## NOTE 13a - COUNCIL TAX

The Council determines its expenditure requirement for the year and converts it to a Band D Council Tax by dividing this sum by a calculation of the number of properties in each Council Tax band converted into the equivalent number of properties in Band D (The Council Tax Base). The North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner's requirement is then added to this amount to establish the County's Council Tax.

The Council Tax Base for 2020/21 was calculated as follows:

<b>CALCULATION OF THE COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR 2020/21</b>			
<b>Valuation Bands</b>	<b>Number of Properties following discounts</b>	<b>Statutory Multiplier</b>	<b>Equivalent Band D properties</b>
A*	5	5/9	2.78
A	7,512	6/9	5,008.01
B	13,626	7/9	10,597.88
C	10,929	8/9	9,714.93
D	9,566	1	9,565.79
E	7,718	11/9	9,433.23
F	3,848	13/9	5,557.86
G	1,204	15/9	2,006.02
H	203	18/9	406.50
I	64	21/9	149.33
<b>Total</b>			<b>52,442.33</b>
<b>Council Tax base after allowing for losses on collection</b>			<b>51,917.91</b>

An analysis of the net income accruing to the Council is given below:

<b>2019/20</b>		<b>2020/21</b>
<b>£'000</b>		<b>£'000</b>
(89,964)	Council Tax raised	(93,434)
600	<b>Less</b> Increase in the impairment allowance for non-collection	1,083
<b>(89,364)</b>		<b>(92,351)</b>

## NOTE 13b - NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES

National Non-Domestic Rates (“Business Rates”) are managed by the Government but local authorities are responsible for their collection and for paying them to a central pool run by the Welsh Government. They subsequently allocate amounts from the pool to local authorities, on a population basis.

The Government sets the National Non-Domestic rate for the year (53.5p in 2020/21) which is then multiplied by the rateable value of the property. Subject to the effects of transitional arrangements and some other reductions, this is the amount payable by the ratepayer.

At the end of the 2020/21 financial year there were 9,157 properties on the local valuation list in Gwynedd, representing a rateable value of £114,392,123.

An analysis of the net income accruing to the Council from National Non-Domestic Rates is as follows:

<b>2019/20</b>		<b>2020/21</b>
<b>£'000</b>		<b>£'000</b>
(41,974)	National Non-domestic Rate raised	(43,167)
424	Cost of Collection allowance	438
680	Provision for Bad Debts	553
40,870	Sum paid to the National Pool	42,176
0		0
(40,502)	Receipts from the National Pool	(39,526)
<b>(40,502)</b>	<b>Net Income from Non-Domestic Rates</b>	<b>(39,526)</b>

## NOTE 14 – BUILDING CONTROL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

This account shows the expenditure and income which relate to the building regulations checking and supervision function, including consideration of any enforcement action but not the service of notices under the provisions of the Building Act 1984.

The account is expected to break-even over a three-year rolling period, and this requirement is reviewed annually. There was a loss in 2020/21, despite receiving loss of income Covid 19 Grant of £127k, therefore an accumulated loss over a period of three years is reported.

<b>2020/21</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Total charges income received (excluding VAT)	(435)
Total charges expenditure incurred	445
(Surplus)/Deficit for 2020/21	10
(Surplus)/Deficit for 2019/20	22
(Surplus)/Deficit for 2018/19	25
<b>(Surplus)/Deficit for the last three years</b>	<b>57</b>

## NOTE 15 – PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

### Movements on Property, Plant and Equipment Balances

Movements in 2020/21:

	Land and Buildings £'000	Infrastructure £'000	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment £'000	Community Assets £'000	Surplus Assets £'000	Assets under Construction £'000	Total Property, Plant and Equipment £'000
<b>Value</b>							
Balance at 1.04.20	307,919	215,543	49,305	687	1,989	3,927	579,370
Additions	11,375	8,289	5,281	0	9	0	24,954
Sales	(63)	0	(1,388)	0	0	0	(1,451)
Transfers	3,436	0	0	0	472	(3,908)	0
Revaluation - to Revaluation Reserve	36,987	0	0	0	(136)	0	36,851
Revaluation - to Services	(19,136)	0	0	0	(116)	0	(19,252)
<b>Balance at 31.03.21</b>	<b>340,518</b>	<b>223,832</b>	<b>53,198</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>2,218</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>620,472</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>							
Balance at 1.04.20	6,975	55,568	30,246	4	3	0	92,796
Depreciation in year	6,054	5,764	4,568	2	23	0	16,411
Sales	0	0	(1,318)	0	0	0	(1,318)
Transfers	(35)	0	0	0	35	0	0
Revaluation	(9,062)	0	0	0	(47)	0	(9,109)
<b>Balance at 31.03.21</b>	<b>3,932</b>	<b>61,332</b>	<b>33,496</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>98,780</b>
<b>Impairment</b>							
Balance at 1.04.20	23,351	63	68	97	26	0	23,605
Impairment in year - to Revaluation Reserve	4,828	0	0	0	4	0	4,832
Impairment in year - to Services	5,389	0	0	0	5	0	5,394
Sales	(63)	0	0	0	0	0	(63)
Transfers	(22)	0	0	0	22	0	0
Revaluation	(10,939)	0	0	0	(36)	0	(10,975)
<b>Balance at 31.03.21</b>	<b>22,544</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22,793</b>
<b>Net Book Value</b>	<b>314,042</b>	<b>162,437</b>	<b>19,634</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>2,183</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>498,899</b>
<b>31 March 2021</b>							
<b>Net Book Value</b>	<b>277,593</b>	<b>159,912</b>	<b>18,991</b>	<b>586</b>	<b>1,960</b>	<b>3,927</b>	<b>462,969</b>
<b>31 March 2020</b>							

## NOTE 15 – PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (continued)

Comparative Movements in 2019/20:

	Land and Buildings £'000	Infrastructure £'000	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment £'000	Community Assets £'000	Surplus Assets £'000	Assets under Construction £'000	Total Property, Plant and Equipment £'000
<b>Value</b>							
Balance at 1.04.19	306,537	208,377	44,231	1,144	2,263	9,615	572,167
Additions	7,417	7,166	6,622	4	24	4,940	26,173
Sales	(6)	0	(1,548)	0	(330)	0	(1,884)
Transfers	10,893	0	0	0	275	(10,628)	540
Revaluation - to Revaluation Reserve	(14,290)	0	0	(132)	(175)	0	(14,597)
Revaluation - to Services	(2,632)	0	0	(329)	(68)	0	(3,029)
<b>Balance at 31.03.20</b>	<b>307,919</b>	<b>215,543</b>	<b>49,305</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>1,989</b>	<b>3,927</b>	<b>579,370</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>							
Balance at 1.04.19	7,205	49,983	27,500	2	(1)	0	84,689
Depreciation in year	5,901	5,585	4,223	2	9	0	15,720
Sales	0	0	(1,477)	0	0	0	(1,477)
Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revaluation	(6,131)	0	0	0	(5)	0	(6,136)
<b>Balance at 31.03.20</b>	<b>6,975</b>	<b>55,568</b>	<b>30,246</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>92,796</b>
<b>Impairment</b>							
Balance at 1.04.19	34,306	63	68	229	39	0	34,705
Impairment in year - to Revaluation Reserve	3,352	0	0	0	0	0	3,352
Impairment in year - to Services	3,438	0	0	0	24	0	3,462
Sales	0	0	0	0	(30)	0	(30)
Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revaluation	(17,745)	0	0	(132)	(7)	0	(17,884)
<b>Balance at 31.03.20</b>	<b>23,351</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23,605</b>
<b>Net Book Value</b>	<b>277,593</b>	<b>159,912</b>	<b>18,991</b>	<b>586</b>	<b>1,960</b>	<b>3,927</b>	<b>462,969</b>
<b>31 March 2020</b>							
<b>Net Book Value</b>	<b>265,026</b>	<b>158,331</b>	<b>16,663</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>2,225</b>	<b>9,615</b>	<b>452,773</b>
<b>31 March 2019</b>							

## NOTE 15 – PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (continued)

The Council's operational Land and Buildings were revalued by the Council's Senior Estates Surveyor (M.R.I.C.S) in accordance with the policies noted in section 1.17 of Note 1 of the Accounting Policies and non-operational assets (Surplus) in accordance with 1.15. Note that there is high level of uncertainty about the medium term implications of the current effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union. The assumption has been made that this will not significantly impair the value of the Council's assets. The assumption made will need to be reviewed regularly. Note also that the Authority has established a rolling programme for revaluing different categories of these assets annually.

Refer to note 1.17 also for the basis of depreciation on various categories of assets.

11 schools under church governance are used by the Education Department, with 10 of the buildings not included in the table above because they are not owned by the Council. The Council is responsible for their repair and maintenance, but the amounts are not significant. Ysgol Cae Top in Bangor is currently regarded as a Council-owned asset in our accounts, and not a church school. The legal status of this asset is subject to a legal review which may affect its treatment in future accounts.

The sources of finance for the assets acquired during the year are shown with the information on capital expenditure in the narrative report.

### Capital Commitments

Significant commitments under capital contracts at 31 March 2021 were as follows:

	<b>Sum</b>	<b>Payments to date</b>	<b>Balance</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Ysgol Y Garnedd - extension and refurbishment	8,104	7,759	345
All Weather Pitch- Plas Silyn	579	263	316

## NOTE 16 – INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

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

	2019/20	2020/21
	£'000	£'000
Rental income from investment property	7	7
Net gain/(loss)	7	7

There are no restrictions on the Authority's ability to realise the value inherent in its investment property or on the Authority's right to the remittance of income and the proceeds of disposal. The Authority has no contractual obligations to purchase, construct or develop investment property nor for its repair, maintenance or enhancement.

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

	2019/20	2020/21
	£'000	£'000
<b>Balance 1 April</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>165</b>
Disposals	0	0
Net gains/(losses) from fair value adjustments	0	0
<u>Transfers:</u>		
(to)/from Property, Plant and Equipment	(540)	0
<b>Balance 31 March</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>165</b>

## **NOTE 17a – FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

### **(i) Financial Instruments - Classifications**

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

#### **Financial Liabilities**

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

The Council's financial liabilities held during the year are measured at amortised cost and comprised:

- long-term loans from the Public Works Loan Board and commercial lenders
- Service Concession Arrangements (Private Finance Initiative (PFI)) contracts detailed in Note 41
- overdraft with Barclays Bank plc
- short-term loans from other local authorities and housing associations
- finance leases detailed in Note 35
- trade payables for goods and services received

#### **Financial Assets**

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

Amortised cost (where cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest and the Council's business model is to collect those cash flows) comprising:

- cash
- bank and deposit accounts
- fixed term deposits with banks and building societies
- loans to other local authorities
- loans to small companies
- trade receivables for goods and services delivered

Fair value through other comprehensive income (where cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest and the Council's business model is to both collect those cash flows and sell the instrument; and equity investments that the Council has elected into this category) comprising:

- pooled bond, equity and property funds held as strategic investments

Fair value through profit and loss (all other financial assets) comprising:

- money market funds

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

## NOTE 17a – FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

### (ii) Financial Instruments - Balances

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

Financial Liabilities	Long-Term		Short-Term	
	31 March 2020	31 March 2021	31 March 2020	31 March 2021
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<i>Loans at amortised cost:</i>				
Principal sum borrowed	104,346	103,110	20,578	6,579
Accrued interest	0	0	534	511
<b>Total Borrowing *</b>	<b>104,346</b>	<b>103,110</b>	<b>21,112</b>	<b>7,090</b>
<i>Loans at amortised cost:</i>				
Bank overdraft	0	0	22,338	24,180
<b>Total Cash Overdrawn</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22,338</b>	<b>24,180</b>
<i>Liabilities at amortised cost:</i>				
Finance leases	1,540	1,370	0	0
<b>Total Other Long-Term Liabilities</b>	<b>1,540</b>	<b>1,370</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<i>Liabilities at amortised cost:</i>				
Trade payables	0	0	33,972	41,492
Finance leases	0	0	160	170
<b>Included in Creditors **</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>34,132</b>	<b>41,662</b>
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>	<b>105,886</b>	<b>104,480</b>	<b>77,582</b>	<b>72,932</b>

\* The total short-term borrowing includes £1,819,000 (2020: £1,848,000) representing accrued interest and principal repayments due within 12 months on long-term borrowing.

\*\* The short-term creditors line on the Balance Sheet includes £32,397,000 (2020: £19,017,000) creditors (Note 21) that do not meet the definition of a financial liability.

## NOTE 17a – FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

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

Financial Assets	Long-Term		Short-Term	
	31 March	31 March	31 March	31 March
	2020	2021	2020	2021
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<i>At amortised cost:</i>				
Principal	17	17	3,000	26,000
Accrued interest	0	0	3	5
Loss allowance	0	0	(4)	(3)
<i>At fair value through other comprehensive income:</i>				
Equity investments elected FVOCI	0	0	8,260	8,916
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11,259</b>	<b>34,918</b>
<i>At amortised cost:</i>				
Principal	0	0	5,770	2,619
Accrued interest	0	0	1	0
Loss allowance	0	0	(6)	(1)
<i>At fair value through profit and loss:</i>				
Fair value	0	0	9,135	26,000
<b>Total Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14,900</b>	<b>28,618</b>
<i>At amortised cost:</i>				
Trade receivables	3,948	4,371	16,723	14,599
<b>Included in Debtors*</b>	<b>3,948</b>	<b>4,371</b>	<b>16,723</b>	<b>14,599</b>
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	<b>3,965</b>	<b>4,388</b>	<b>42,882</b>	<b>78,315</b>

\* The short-term debtors line on the Balance Sheet includes £69,633,000 (£59,692,000 on 31 March 2020) debtors (Note 18) that do not meet the definition of a financial asset.

### Material Soft Loans

Local Authorities are allowed to make loans for policy reasons rather than as financial instruments and these loans may be interest-free or at rates below prevailing market rates. Where loans are advanced at below market rates, they are classed as “Soft Loans”.

The fair values of such a soft loan are less than the amount of the cash lent. The fair value of a loan at nil interest rate or below the prevailing market rate is estimated as the present value of all future cash receipts discounted using the prevailing market rate of interest for a similar instrument. The sum by which the amount lent exceeds the fair value of the loan is charged to the Income and Expenditure Statement. The 2020/21 Code of Practice sets out specific accounting and disclosure requirements for soft loans. During 2020/21 Gwynedd Council identified the following “soft loans”:

- Deferred Payments on charges due from people under care (amount outstanding at 31.03.21 £2,331,787)
- Car and Bike Loans to employees (amount outstanding at 31.03.21 £954,765)

It has been determined that the few “soft loans” that the Council has require no separate disclosure, as they are de minimis.

## NOTE 17a – FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

### Equity instruments elected to fair value through other comprehensive income

The Council has elected to account for the following investments in equity instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income because they are long-term strategic holdings and changes in their fair value are not considered to be part of the Council's annual financial performances.

	Fair Value		Dividends	
	31 March	31 March	2019/20	2020/21
	2020	2021	2019/20	2020/21
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
CCLA LAMIT Property Fund	4,438	4,407	199	196
Ninety One Diversified Income Fund	1,130	1,242	51	47
Schroder Income Maximiser Fund	1,633	2,008	62	124
Aegon Diversified Monthly Income Fund	1,059	1,259	187	53
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,260</b>	<b>8,916</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>420</b>

### Offsetting Financial Assets and Liabilities

Financial assets and liabilities are set off against each other where the Council has a legally enforceable right to set off and it intends to settle on a net basis, or to realise the assets and settle the liabilities simultaneously. The table below shows those instruments that have been offset on the Balance Sheet. The Council had no other financial assets or liabilities subject to an enforceable master netting arrangement or similar agreement.

	31 March 2020			31 March 2021		
	Gross assets (liabilities)	(Liabilities) assets set off	Net position on Balance Sheet	Gross assets (liabilities)	(Liabilities) assets set off	Net position on Balance Sheet
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Bank accounts in credit	23,115	(23,115)	0	23,529	(23,529)	0
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	<b>23,115</b>	<b>(23,115)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23,529</b>	<b>(23,529)</b>	<b>0</b>
Bank overdraft	(45,453)	23,115	(22,338)	(47,709)	23,529	(24,180)
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>	<b>(45,453)</b>	<b>23,115</b>	<b>(22,338)</b>	<b>(47,709)</b>	<b>23,529</b>	<b>(24,180)</b>

**NOTE 17a – FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)**

**(iii) Financial Instruments - Gains and Losses**

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

	Financial Liabilities	Financial Assets			2020/21 Total	2019/20 Total
	Amortised Cost	Amortised Cost	Elected to Fair Value through OCI	Fair Value through Profit & Loss		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		
Interest expense	5,961	0	0	0	5,961	6,010
<b>Interest payable and similar charges</b>	<b>5,961</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,961</b>	<b>6,010</b>
Interest income	0	(92)	0	0	(92)	(123)
Dividend income	0	0	(301)	(29)	(330)	(423)
<b>Interest and investment income</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(92)</b>	<b>(301)</b>	<b>(29)</b>	<b>(422)</b>	<b>(546)</b>
Loss allowance	0	532	0	0	532	227
<b>Adjustments to provisions and the fair value of financial instruments</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>227</b>
<b>Net impact on surplus/deficit on provision of services</b>	<b>5,961</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>(301)</b>	<b>(29)</b>	<b>6,071</b>	<b>5,691</b>
Gains on revaluation	0	0	(687)	0	(687)	0
Losses on revaluation	0	0	32	0	32	1,292
<b>Impact on other comprehensive income</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(655)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(655)</b>	<b>1,292</b>
<b>Net (gain)/loss for the year</b>	<b>5,961</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>(956)</b>	<b>(29)</b>	<b>5,416</b>	<b>6,983</b>

2019/20 figures have been restated to include loss allowances relating to trade receivables and to correct the signage of losses on revaluation.

## NOTE 17a – FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

### (iv) Financial Instruments - Fair Values

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

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

Financial instruments classified at amortised cost are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost. Their fair values have been estimated by calculating the net present value of the remaining contractual cash flows at 31 March 2021, using the following methods and assumptions:

- Loans borrowed by the Council have been valued by discounting the contractual cash flows over the whole life of the instrument at the appropriate market rate for local authority loans.
- The fair values of other long-term loans and investments have been discounted at the market rates for similar instruments with similar remaining terms to maturity on 31 March.
- The fair values of financial guarantees have been estimated based on the likelihood of the guarantees being called and the likely payments to be made.
- The fair values of finance lease assets and liabilities and of PFI scheme liabilities have been calculated by discounting the contractual cash flows (excluding service charge elements) at the appropriate AA-rated corporate bond yield.
- No early repayment or impairment is recognised for any financial instrument.
- The fair value of short-term instruments, including trade payables and receivables, is assumed to approximate to the carrying amount given the low and stable interest rate environment.

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

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

**NOTE 17a – FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)**

	<b>Fair Value Level</b>	<b>Balance Sheet 31 March 2020</b>	<b>Fair Value 31 March 2020</b>	<b>Balance Sheet 31 March 2021</b>	<b>Fair Value 31 March 2021</b>
		<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
<i>Financial liabilities held at amortised cost:</i>					
Long-term loans from PWLB	2	(88,652)	(141,125)	(87,311)	(139,255)
Other long-term loans	2	(17,806)	(29,462)	(17,883)	(29,980)
Lease payables	2	(1,700)	(1,700)	(1,540)	(1,540)
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>(108,158)</b>	<b>(172,287)</b>	<b>(106,734)</b>	<b>(170,775)</b>
Liabilities for which fair value is not disclosed *		(75,310)		(70,678)	
<b>TOTAL FINANCIAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>(183,468)</b>		<b>(177,412)</b>	
<i>Recorded on Balance Sheet as:</i>					
Short-term creditors		(33,972)		(41,492)	
Short-term borrowing		(21,112)		(7,090)	
Short-term cash overdrawn		(22,338)		(24,180)	
Short-term finance lease liability		(160)		(170)	
Long-term borrowing		(104,346)		(103,110)	
Long-term finance lease liability		(1,540)		(1,370)	
<b>TOTAL FINANCIAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>(183,468)</b>		<b>(177,412)</b>	

\* The fair value of short-term financial liabilities held at amortised cost, including trade payables, is assumed to approximate to the carrying amount. The 2019/20 figure has been restated to include short-term cash overdrawn and short-term borrowing.

The fair value of long-term liabilities is higher than its Balance Sheet carrying amount because the Authority's portfolio of loans includes a number of loans where the interest rate payable is higher than the current rates available for similar loans as at the Balance Sheet date.

**NOTE 17a – FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)**

	<b>Fair Value Level</b>	<b>Balance Sheet 31 March 2020</b>	<b>Fair Value 31 March 2020</b>	<b>Balance Sheet 31 March 2021</b>	<b>Fair Value 31 March 2021</b>
		<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
<i>Financial assets held at fair value:</i>					
Money market funds	I	9,135	9,135	26,000	26,000
Bond, equity and property funds	I	8,260	8,260	8,916	8,916
<i>Financial assets held at amortised cost:</i>					
Treasury Stock	I	17	17	17	17
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>17,412</b>	<b>17,412</b>	<b>34,933</b>	<b>34,933</b>
Assets for which fair values are not disclosed *		29,435		47,590	
<b>TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>		<b>46,847</b>		<b>82,523</b>	
<i>Recorded on Balance Sheet as:</i>					
Long-term debtors		3,948		4,371	
Long-term investments		17		17	
Short-term debtors		16,723		14,599	
Short-term investments		11,259		34,918	
Cash and cash equivalents		14,900		28,618	
<b>TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>		<b>46,847</b>		<b>82,523</b>	

\* The fair value of short-term financial assets held at amortised cost, including trade receivables, is assumed to approximate to the carrying amount. The 2019/20 figure has been restated to include bank deposits.

Property funds totalling £8.92m have been moved from level 2 to level 1 of the hierarchy for 2020/21 reflecting the resumption of an active market in these instruments.

## NOTE 17b – NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Council complies with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management and Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, both revised in December 2017.

In line with the Treasury Management Code, the Council approves a Treasury Management Strategy before the commencement of each financial year. The Strategy sets out the parameters for the management of risks associated with Financial Instruments. The Council also produces Treasury Management Practices specifying the practical arrangements to be followed to manage these risks.

The Treasury Management Strategy includes an Annual Investment Strategy in compliance with the Welsh Government's Investment Guidance for local authorities. This Guidance emphasises that priority is to be given to security and liquidity, rather than yield. The Council's Treasury Strategy, together with its Treasury Management Practices, is based on seeking the highest rate of return consistent with the proper levels of security and liquidity.

The main risks covered are:

- *Credit Risk*: The possibility that one party to a financial instrument will fail to meet its contractual obligations, causing a loss to the Council.
- *Liquidity Risk*: The possibility that the Council might not have the cash available to make contracted payments on time.
- *Market Risk*: The possibility that an unplanned financial loss will materialise because of changes in market variables such as interest rates or equity prices.

### **Credit Risk: Investments**

The Council manages credit risk by ensuring that investments are only placed with organisations of high credit quality as set out in the Treasury Management Strategy. These include commercial entities with a minimum long-term credit rating of A-, the UK Government, and other local authorities without credit ratings upon which the Council has received independent investment advice. Recognising that credit ratings are imperfect predictors of default, the Council has regard to other measures including credit default swap and equity prices when selecting commercial organisations for investment.

During 2020/21 a limit of 5% of the total portfolio was placed on the amount that can be invested with a single counterparty (other than UK government and secured investments). For money market funds, a limit of 10% was applied. The Council also sets a total group investment limit of 5% for institutions that are part of the same banking group. No more than £20m in total can be invested for a period longer than one year.

During 2008/09 the Council made a deposit of £4m with Heritable Bank which was a UK registered bank under Scottish Law. The company was placed in administration on 7 October 2008. The Council has received a return of £3,976,718, equating to 99.4% from the administrators up to 31 March 2021. The final dividend was received in July 2020 and the administration has now been completed.

The Council does not hold collateral security against any investments.

**NOTE 17b – NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS  
(continued)**

The table below summarises the credit risk exposures of the Council’s investment portfolio by credit rating:

<b>Short-Term</b>		
<b>Credit Rating</b>	<b>31 March</b>	<b>31 March</b>
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
AAA	0	0
AA+	0	0
AA	0	0
AA-	0	0
A+	0	3,001
A	2,999	3,000
A-	0	0
Unrated building societies	0	0
Unrated local authorities	0	20,001
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,999</b>	<b>26,002</b>
Pooled funds*	8,260	8,916
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>11,259</b>	<b>34,918</b>

\* Credit risk is not applicable to shareholdings and pooled funds where the Council has no contractual right to receive any sum of money.

Loss allowances on treasury investments and cash and cash equivalents have been calculated by reference to historic default data published by credit rating agencies, multiplied by 131% (2020: 365%) to adjust for current and forecast economic conditions. A two-year delay in cash flows is assumed to arise in the event of default. Investments are determined to have suffered a significant increase in credit risk where they have been downgraded by three or more credit rating notches or equivalent since initial recognition, unless they retain an investment grade credit rating. They are determined to be credit-impaired when awarded a “D” credit rating or equivalent. At 31 March 2021, £3,901 (2020: £9,764) of loss allowances related to treasury investments.

**Credit Risk: Trade Receivables**

The age profile of the trade balance in our debtor system at 31 March can be analysed as follows:-

<b>31 March</b>		<b>31 March</b>
<b>2020</b>		<b>2021</b>
£'000		£'000
5,592	Less than a year	6,001
2,176	Over a year	2,471
<b>7,768</b>		<b>8,472</b>

Historical experience of default and current and forecast economic conditions including the impact of Covid-19 are considered in calculating our impairment loss allowance.

**NOTE 17b – NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS  
(continued)**

**Credit Risk: Loans, Financial Guarantees and Loan Commitments**

The Council manages the credit risk inherent in its loans for service purposes, financial guarantees and loan commitments in line with its published Investment Strategy.

**Liquidity Risk**

The Council has ready access to borrowing at favourable rates from the Public Works Loan Board and other local authorities, and at higher rates from banks and building societies. There is no perceived risk that the Council will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments. It is, however, exposed to the risk that it will need to refinance a significant proportion of its borrowing at a time of unfavourable interest rates. This risk is managed by maintaining a spread of fixed rate loans and ensuring that no more than 25% of the Council's borrowing matures in any one financial year.

The maturity analysis of the financial liabilities is as follows, as shown both as discounted (principal plus accrued interest to date) and undiscounted (principal plus future interest payment figures):

Time to maturity (years)	Discounted (principal)	Undiscounted (principal plus interest)	Discounted (principal)	Undiscounted (principal plus interest)
	31 March 2021 £'000	31 March 2021 £'000	31 March 2020 £'000	31 March 2020 £'000
Less than 1 year	6,579	12,278	20,577	26,460
Over 1 but not over 2	1,573	7,154	1,561	7,252
Over 2 but not over 5	11,899	27,635	9,415	25,750
Over 5 but not over 10	7,056	29,831	10,788	34,124
Over 10 but not over 20	36,821	70,967	35,055	70,862
Over 20 but not over 40	29,561	74,338	31,328	78,155
Over 40	16,200	28,163	16,200	28,848
<b>Total</b>	<b>109,689</b>	<b>250,366</b>	<b>124,924</b>	<b>271,451</b>

**Market Risk: Interest Rate Risk**

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

- Borrowings at variable rates – the interest expense will rise.
- Borrowings at fixed rates – the fair value of the liabilities borrowings will fall.
- Investments at variable rates – the interest income credited will rise.
- Investments at fixed rates – the fair value of the assets will fall.

Investments measured at amortised cost and loans borrowed are not carried at fair value, so changes in their fair value will have no impact on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. However, changes in interest payable and receivable on variable rate borrowings and investments will be posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services. Movements in the fair value of fixed rate investments measured at fair value will be reflected in Other Comprehensive Income or the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services as appropriate.

**NOTE 17b – NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS  
(continued)**

The Treasury Management Strategy aims to mitigate these risks by setting an upper limit of the 12 month-revenue impact of a 1% fall and rise in interest rates.

If all interest rates had been 1% higher (with all other variables held constant) the financial effect would be:

	<b>31 March 2020 £'000</b>	<b>31 March 2021 £'000</b>
Increase in interest receivable on variable rate investments	(44)	(461)
Decrease in fair value of investments held at FVPL	10	37
<b>Impact on Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>	<b>(34)</b>	<b>(424)</b>
Decrease in fair value of investments held at FVOCI	22	34
<b>Impact on Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>34</b>
Decrease in fair value of loans and investments at amortised cost *	15	35
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate borrowing *	(24,483)	(24,032)

\*No impact on the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, or Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure

The approximate impact of a 1% fall in interest rates would be £5,096 for interest receivable on variable rate investments due to exceptionally low interest rates. The approximate impact of a 1% fall in interest rates would be as above for changes in fair value but with the movements being reversed.

**Market Risk: Price Risk**

The market prices of the Council's fixed rate bond investments and its units in collective investment schemes are governed by prevailing interest rates, and the market risk associated with these instruments is managed alongside interest rate risk as described above.

The Council's investment in a pooled property fund is subject to the risk of falling commercial property prices. This risk is limited by the Council's maximum exposure to pooled investments of £20m. A 5% fall in commercial property prices at 31 March 2021 would result in a £0.22m (2020: £0.22m) charge to Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

The Council's investment in pooled equity funds is subject to the risk of falling share prices. This risk is limited by the Council's maximum exposure to pooled investments of £20m. A 5% fall in share prices at 31 March 2021 would result in a £0.13m (2020: £0.11m) charge to Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

**Market Risk: Foreign Exchange Risk**

The Council has no financial assets or liabilities denominated in a foreign currency. It therefore has no exposure to loss arising as a result of adverse movements in exchange rates.

## NOTE 18a – SHORT-TERM DEBTORS

<b>31 March 2020</b>		<b>31 March 2021</b>
<b>£'000</b>		<b>£'000</b>
15,689	Trade receivables	13,251
1,308	Prepayments	2,954
59,418	Other receivable amounts	68,027
<b>76,415</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>84,232</b>

## NOTE 18b - COUNCIL TAX DEBTORS

The past due date but not impaired amount for Council Tax can be analysed by age as follows:

<b>31 March 2020</b>		<b>31 March 2021</b>
<b>£'000</b>		<b>£'000</b>
1,907	Less than one year	2,971
500	More than one year	850
<b>2,407</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,821</b>

The analysis above only shows those balances where assessment has indicated that, by exception, no impairment is required.

## NOTE 19 – CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	<b>31 March 2020</b>	<b>31 March 2021</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Cash in Hand	17	18
Bank Current Accounts	36	36
Call Accounts	14,847	28,564
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>14,900</b>	<b>28,618</b>
Bank Overdraft	(22,338)	(24,180)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(7,438)</b>	<b>4,438</b>

In order to maximise the returns from Short-term Investments and Cash Deposits, the Council invests any surplus funds in its bank accounts along with any surplus funds in the Gwynedd Pension Fund bank accounts. An appropriate share of the interest earned is paid to the Pension Fund and any losses on investment are shared with the Pension Fund in the same proportion. Due to the nature of the banking arrangements any surplus cash in the Pension Fund bank accounts is not transferred to the Council's bank accounts and therefore a proportion of the above Short-term Investments (Note 17) and the Call Accounts and Money Market Funds above represent money invested on behalf of the Pension Fund at the Balance Sheet date. As the Short-term Investments are made in the name of Gwynedd Council, they are shown in full on the Balance Sheet. The Pension Fund element of the Short-term Investments and Cash Deposits was £12.5m (£8.2m at 31 March 2020).

## NOTE 20 – ASSETS HELD FOR SALE

	2019/20	2020/21
	£'000	£'000
<b>Balance 1 April</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>73</b>
<u>Assets newly classified as held for sale:</u>		
Property, Plant and Equipment	0	0
Expenditure in year	0	0
Revaluation Losses	0	0
Impairment Losses	0	0
<u>Assets declassified as held for sale:</u>		
Property, Plant and Equipment	0	0
Assets sold	0	0
<b>Balance 31 March</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>73</b>

## NOTE 21 – SHORT-TERM CREDITORS

	31 March 2020	31 March 2021
	£'000	£'000
Trade payables	34,132	41,662
Other payables	19,017	32,397
<b>Total</b>	<b>53,149</b>	<b>74,059</b>

## NOTE 22 – PROVISIONS

The Council sets aside provisions for specific obligations, the amount or timing of which cannot be determined accurately. It is not permitted, under accounting conventions, to make provisions for uneven patterns of expenditure. However, earmarked reserves may be established and these are disclosed in Note 10.

The details below are analysed into short-term provisions (within 12 months) and long-term provisions (over 12 months). However, the provision level on all related items is reviewed periodically.

	Balance at 31 March 2020 £'000	(Addition) / Reduction / Transfer £'000	Used during the year £'000	Balance at 31 March 2021 £'000
<b><u>Short-term Provisions</u></b>				
Waste Sites Provision	(304)	(326)	315	(315)
	<b>(304)</b>	<b>(326)</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>(315)</b>
<b><u>Long-term Provisions</u></b>				
Waste Sites Provision	(7,850)	98	0	(7,752)
	<b>(7,850)</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(7,752)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>(8,154)</b>	<b>(228)</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>(8,067)</b>

**Waste Sites Provision** – relates to the capping and aftercare requirements of all of the Council's waste disposal sites.

## NOTE 23 – UNUSABLE RESERVES

31 March 2020		31 March 2021
£'000		£'000
88,843	Revaluation Reserve	139,216
197,617	Capital Adjustment Account	185,962
(1,740)	Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve	(1,085)
(637)	Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	(551)
(244,644)	Pensions Reserve	(363,852)
(4,469)	Accumulated Absences Account	(4,244)
<b>34,970</b>	<b>Total Unusable Reserves</b>	<b>(44,554)</b>

### 23.1 Revaluation Reserve

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

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

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

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
<b>84,835</b>	<b>Balance 1 April</b>	<b>88,843</b>
10,505	Upward revaluation of assets	65,141
(4,435)	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses	(13,038)
<b>6,070</b>	<b>Surplus/(deficit) on revaluation of assets</b>	<b>52,103</b>
(1,838)	Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	(1,730)
(224)	Accumulated gains on assets sold	0
<b>(2,062)</b>	<b>Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account</b>	<b>(1,730)</b>
<b>88,843</b>	<b>Balance 31 March</b>	<b>139,216</b>

### 23.2 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 contains accumulated gains and losses on Investment Properties and gains recognised on donated assets that have yet to be consumed by the Authority.

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

## NOTE 23 – UNUSABLE RESERVES (continued)

Note 9 provides details of the source of all the transactions posted to the Account, apart from those involving the Revaluation Reserve.

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
191,010	<b>Balance 1 April</b>	197,617
	<u>Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:</u>	
(22,211)	Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(41,057)
(4,880)	Revenue Expenditure funded from Capital under Statute	(5,069)
(153)	Adjustment to non-current balance on the sale of assets	(70)
1,838	Transfer from Capital Revaluation Reserve	1,730
	<u>Capital financing applied in the year:</u>	
423	Capital Receipts	43
21,585	Grants and contributions credited to Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital financing	23,937
5,465	Revenue provision for the financing of supported capital investment	5,426
2,585	Capital expenditure charged in year against the General Fund	1,232
1,955	Capital receipts set aside / Revenue provision for the financing of unsupported capital investment	2,173
<b>197,617</b>	<b>Balance 31 March</b>	<b>185,962</b>

### 23.3 Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve

The Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the Council arising from increases in the value of its investments that are measured at fair value through other comprehensive income. The balance is reduced when investments with accumulated gains are:

- Revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost.
- Disposed of and the gains are realised.

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
(618)	<b>Balance 1 April</b>	(1,740)
(1,293)	Fair Value Adjustment	655
171	Downward revaluation of investments not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	0
<b>(1,740)</b>	<b>Balance 31 March</b>	<b>(1,085)</b>

### 23.4 Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

The Financial Instruments Adjustment Account at the end of the financial year represents the amount that should have been charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in accordance with proper accounting practices under the Code of Practice, but which Statutory Provisions allow or require them to be deferred over future years.

There is a requirement for all premiums and discounts arising from loan extinguishments to be charged to Income and Expenditure in full. Where transactions meet the definition of a modification any premiums or discounts are added to the carrying value of the loan and are then amortised to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement over the life of the new loan. A modification exists where the terms of the new debt are not “substantially different” from those of the old debt.

## NOTE 23 – UNUSABLE RESERVES (continued)

Premiums amortised under statutory provisions can be charged to the General Fund over either the remaining life of the original loan or the life of the replacement loan, whichever is the greater period. Discounts must be credited to the General Fund over 10 years or the life of the original loan, whichever is the shorter period.

The transactions reflected in the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account are as follows:

<b>2019/20</b>		<b>2020/21</b>
<b>£'000</b>		<b>£'000</b>
<b>(687)</b>	<b>Balance 1 April</b>	<b>(637)</b>
61	Proportion of premiums incurred in previous years charged to General Fund in accordance with statute	61
(11)	Deferred credit for receipt of charges due from people under care	25
<b>(637)</b>	<b>Balance 31 March</b>	<b>(551)</b>

### 23.5 Pensions Reserve

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

<b>2019/20</b>		<b>2020/21</b>
<b>£'000</b>		<b>£'000</b>
<b>(298,514)</b>	<b>Balance 1 April</b>	<b>(244,644)</b>
84,580	Re-measurements of the net pension defined benefit (liabilities) / assets	(100,979)
(54,752)	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	(41,362)
24,042	Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	23,133
<b>(244,644)</b>	<b>Balance 31 March</b>	<b>(363,852)</b>

**NOTE 23 – UNUSABLE RESERVES (continued)****23.6 Accumulated Absences Account**

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

<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
<b>(3,870) Balance 1 April</b>	<b>(4,469)</b>
(599) 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	225
<b>(4,469) Balance 31 March</b>	<b>(4,244)</b>

**NOTE 24a – CASH FLOW STATEMENT: ADJUSTMENTS TO NET SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON THE PROVISION OF SERVICES FOR NON-CASH MOVEMENTS**

<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
(15,720) Depreciation	(16,411)
(6,491) Impairment and downward valuations	(24,646)
1,472 (Increase)/Decrease in Creditors	(26,174)
20,565 Increase/(Decrease) in Debtors	7,819
116 Increase/(Decrease) in Stock	581
(30,710) Pension Liability	(18,228)
(377) Carrying amount of non-current assets sold or de-recognised	(70)
(5,267) Other non-cash items charged to net surplus/deficit on the provision of services	(3,953)
<b>(36,412)</b>	<b>(81,082)</b>

**NOTE 24b – CASH FLOW STATEMENT – ADJUST FOR ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE NET SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON THE PROVISION OF SERVICES THAT ARE INVESTING AND FINANCING ACTIVITIES**

<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
548 Proceeds from sale of property, plant, equipment, investment property and intangible assets	222
<b>548</b>	<b>222</b>

## NOTE 24c – CASH FLOW STATEMENT – OPERATING ACTIVITIES

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
(549)	Interest received	(417)
5,212	Interest paid	5,990

## NOTE 25 – CASH FLOW STATEMENT – INVESTING ACTIVITIES

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
25,100	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	23,861
45,555	Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	580,534
4,689	Other payments for investing activities	5,498
(494)	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(205)
(52,555)	Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments	(557,534)
<b>22,295</b>	<b>Net cash flows from investing activities</b>	<b>52,154</b>

## NOTE 26a – CASH FLOW STATEMENT – FINANCING ACTIVITIES

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
151	Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liability relating to a finance lease	160
(16,764)	Repayments of short-term and long-term borrowing	15,258
<b>(16,613)</b>	<b>Net cash flows from financing activities</b>	<b>15,418</b>

## NOTE 26b – CASH FLOW STATEMENT – RECONCILIATION OF LIABILITIES ARISING FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES

	31 March 2020	Financing cash flows	Non-cash changes	31 March 2021
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Long-term borrowings	(104,346)	1,236	0	(103,110)
Short-term borrowings	(21,112)	14,022	0	(7,090)
On balance sheet PFI liabilities	(1,700)	160	0	(1,540)
<b>Total liabilities from financing activities</b>	<b>(127,158)</b>	<b>15,418</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(111,740)</b>

## NOTE 27 – EXPENDITURE AND INCOME ANALYSED BY NATURE

The Council's expenditure and income is analysed as follows:

2019/20		2020/21
£'000	<u>Expenditure / Income</u>	£'000
	<b>Expenditure</b>	
183,719	Employee benefits expenses	188,147
192,323	Other Services expenses	197,632
3,287	Support Services recharges	678
27,121	Depreciation, amortisation, impairment	46,154
13,677	Interest Payments	12,270
24,083	Precepts and Levies	25,037
0	Loss on the disposal of assets	0
<b>444,210</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>469,918</b>
	<b>Income</b>	
(56,102)	Fees, charges and other service income	(52,207)
(546)	Interest and investment income	(428)
(129,866)	Income from council tax and non-domestic rates	(133,088)
(235,792)	Government grants and contributions	(282,631)
(171)	(Gain) on the disposal of assets	(152)
<b>(422,477)</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(468,506)</b>
<b>21,733</b>	<b>(Surplus) / Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>	<b>1,412</b>

## NOTE 28 – AGENCY SERVICES

Gwynedd Council acts as an agent for various schemes on behalf of the Welsh Government:

- Houses into Homes – closing balance £300k (£240k in 2019/20)
- Houses into Homes2 – closing balance £465k (£450k in 2019/20)
- Home Improvement Loans – closing balance £315k (£315k in 2019/20)
- Supporting Town Centre Regeneration in Caernarfon – closing balance £227k (£94k in 2019/20)
- Caernarfon and Bangor Town Centre Scheme – closing balance £789k (£765k in 2019/20)
- Bangor and Bethesda Town Centre Scheme – closing balance £488k (£482k in 2019/20).

The Council also administers the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency on behalf of the Welsh Government. The principal area of work is managing and maintaining the trunk road network in the North and Mid Wales Councils' Partnership region that extends to 1,100 kilometres. The income transactions recovered during 2020/21 were £91.4m (£74.4m in 2019/20).

Due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been a number of grants and areas of financial support that local authorities have been asked to administer on the behalf of Welsh Government this year, therefore Gwynedd Council have acted as an agent on behalf of Welsh Government, including:

- Business Grants (including childcare providers) - £110m of payments made by the Council; £2.4m due from Welsh Government.
- National Non-Domestic Rates Relief Grant - £19.5m of payments made by the Council; (£2.8m) due to Welsh Government.
- Social care £500 bonus scheme - £1.7m of payments made by the Council.
- Freelancer cultural grants - £978k of payments made by the Council.

## NOTE 28 – AGENCY SERVICES (continued)

- Self isolation payment - £105k of payments made by the Council; £38k due from Welsh Government.
- Statutory Sick Pay Enhancement- £46k of payments made by the Council.
- Flooding - £15k of payments made by the Council.

## NOTE 29 – MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

The Authority paid the following allowances and expenses to members of the Council during the year:

2019/20		2020/21	
£'000		£'000	
1,309	Allowances	1,332	
50	Expenses	0	
<b>1,359</b>		<b>1,332</b>	

## NOTE 30 – OFFICERS' REMUNERATION

**30a.** The Accounts and Audit (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 require the Council to disclose the following information relating to employees appointed as Senior Officers, and whose salary is between £60,000 and £150,000. In compliance with the defined requirements, the pensionable pay, employer's pension contributions and other employer costs are included below (including termination benefits), but the employer's national insurance contributions are excluded.

2019/20			Chief Officers	2020/21		
Employer's				Employer's		
Salary	Pension Contributions	Total		Salary	Pension Contributions	Total
£	£	£		£	£	£
114,466	25,640	140,106	Chief Executive <sup>1</sup>	118,063	24,085	142,148
95,939	21,490	117,429	Corporate Director	98,954	20,187	119,141
85,277	19,102	104,379	Head of Education	87,957	17,943	105,900
81,434	18,241	99,675	Head of Finance	83,993	17,135	101,128
75,171	16,804	91,975	Head of Highways and Municipal	78,981	16,112	95,093
75,775	16,974	92,749	Head of Adults, Health and Wellbeing	82,966	15,944	98,910
75,775	16,974	92,749	Head of Economy and Community	78,156	15,944	94,100
75,775	15,880	91,655	Head of Children and Family Support	78,156	14,979	93,135
75,775	16,974	92,749	Head of Environment	78,156	15,944	94,100
75,775	16,974	92,749	Head of Corporate Support	78,156	15,944	94,100
39,783	8,911	48,694	Head of Housing and Property <sup>2</sup>	72,295	14,748	87,043
64,010	14,338	78,348	Head of Gwynedd Consultancy	66,021	13,468	79,489

1. The figure does not include any remuneration for the Chief Executive in his role as Returning Office. The amount paid in 2020/21 was £826, which is based on rates defined by the respective election bodies.
2. The department was established in September 2019.

## NOTE 30 – OFFICERS’ REMUNERATION (continued)

**30b.** The Accounts and Audit (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 require the Council to include a ratio of remuneration. The ratio of the Chief Executive’s remuneration to the median remuneration of all the Authority’s employees for 2020/21 is 6.11:1 (6.11:1 in 2019/20).

**30c.** Other Authority employees receiving more than £60,000 remuneration for the year (excluding employer’s pension and national insurance contributions) were paid the following amounts but which include termination benefits paid in two cases in 2020/21 and two cases in 2019/20. These posts would not appear below except for the termination benefits paid in the individual year.

Number of other employees who received more than £60,000 and includes remuneration and termination benefits:						
Number in 2019/20				Number in 2020/21		
Schools	Other	Total		Schools	Other	Total
11	5	16	£60,000 - 64,999	21	10	31
10	0	10	£65,000 - 69,999	12	0	12
5	0	5	£70,000 - 74,999	1	0	1
4	0	4	£75,000 - 79,999	4	0	4
0	0	0	£80,000 - 84,999	3	0	3
0	0	0	£85,000 - 89,999	1	0	1
0	0	0	£90,000 - 94,999	0	0	0
0	0	0	£95,000 - 99,999	0	0	0
1	0	1	£100,000 - 104,999	1	0	1

## NOTE 31 – EXTERNAL AUDIT COSTS

The Authority has incurred the following costs relating to external audit:

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
183	Fees payable to auditors appointed by the Auditor General for Wales with regard to external audit services	182
99	Fees payable to auditors appointed by the Auditor General for Wales in respect of statutory inspections	99
47	Fees payable to auditors appointed by the Auditor General for Wales for the certification of grant claims and returns for the year	38
<b>329</b>		<b>319</b>
(3)	<b>Less:</b> Fees payable to auditors appointed by the Auditor General for Wales in respect of Joint Committees and Harbour Accounts	(2)
0	Previous years’ adjustment for audit fees	(10)
<b>326</b>	<b>Gwynedd Council Net Fees</b>	<b>307</b>

## NOTE 32 – GRANT INCOME

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

	Note	2019/20 £'000	2020/21 £'000
<b>Credited to Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income</b>			
Revenue Support Grant (Non-ring-fenced Government Grants)	13	136,049	148,053
Government Revenue Grants and Contributions - Other		1,543	1,211
Government Capital Grants and Contributions -			
21st Century Schools		7,122	4,565
General Capital Grant		3,887	4,063
Local Transport Fund		1,003	2,014
Assets from Welsh Government –			
HwB IT Equipment for Schools		1,357	1,527
Road Rejuvenation Capital Grant		1,325	1,323
Flood Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant		0	1,535
Economic Stimulus Support Grant		0	925
Other*		2,476	4,484
	13	17,170	20,436
Other Capital Grants and Contributions	13	1,083	1,141
<b>Total</b>		<b>155,845</b>	<b>170,841</b>
<b>Grants and Contributions Credited to Services</b>			
Welsh Government -			
Improvement and Deprivation Grants (Education)		7,302	7,365
Childcare Offer Grant		6,530	6,179
Housing Support Grant		5,041	5,420
Capital Grants		2,039	3,621
Post-16 Grant (Education)		3,422	3,598
Children and Communities Grant		3,555	3,567
Social Care Workforce and Sustainability Pressures Grant		1,176	1,562
Concessionary Fares Grant		1,290	1,403
Sustainable Waste Management Grant		1,270	1,398
Covid-19 Hardship Fund		0	24,703
Other*		7,266	9,664
		38,891	68,480
Other Government Grants and Contributions -			
Department for Work and Pensions		27,451	25,451
Other		16,231	20,211
		43,682	45,662
Other Grants and Contributions		4,273	3,773
<b>Total</b>		<b>86,846</b>	<b>117,915</b>

\* 2019/20 figures has been restated from the Other heading to ensure comparison with 2020/21.

## NOTE 32 – GRANT INCOME (continued)

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

	<b>31 March 2020 £'000</b>	<b>31 March 2021 £'000</b>
<b>Grants Received in Advance</b>		
<b><u>Long-term</u></b>		
<b>Revenue Grants and Contributions</b>	0	0
<b>Capital Grants and Contributions</b>		
Highways and Municipal Capital Contributions	1,081	935
Environment (Planning, Transport and Public Protection) Grants	370	689
	1,451	1,624
<b>Total Long-term</b>	<b>1,451</b>	<b>1,624</b>
<b><u>Short-term</u></b>		
<b>Revenue Grants and Contributions</b>		
Economy and Community Grants	181	830
Environment (Planning, Transport and Public Protection) Grants	0	72
Adults, Health and Well-being Grants	782	766
Education Grants	0	1,296
Finance Grants	0	304
Consultancy Grants	0	453
Other Grants	48	0
	1,011	3,721
<b>Capital Grants and Contributions</b>		
North Wales Growth Deal	0	2,000
Other	432	864
	432	2,864
<b>Total Short-term</b>	<b>1,443</b>	<b>6,585</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,894</b>	<b>8,209</b>

## NOTE 33 – RELATED PARTIES

The Council is required to disclose material transactions with related parties – bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence the Council or to be controlled or influenced by the Council. Disclosure of these transactions allows readers to assess the extent to which the Council might have been constrained in its ability to operate independently or might have secured the ability to limit another party's ability to bargain freely with the Authority. To conform to the requirements, this is done by Members and Senior Officers completing a personal declaration, as defined in the CIPFA Code of Practice.

### Welsh and Central Government

Welsh Government has effective control over the general operations of the Council. It is responsible for providing the statutory framework; it provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties (e.g. council tax bills, housing benefits). Grants received from the Welsh Government and other Government departments are set out in the subjective analysis in Note 27 which analyses expenditure and income by nature. The position as at 31 March is detailed in Note 32.

### Members

Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. The total of members' allowances paid in 2020/21 is shown in Note 29.

The Council appoints members to some external charitable or voluntary bodies or the members have disclosed a link to organisations, public bodies and authorities. A breakdown of the payments made to these bodies under this heading during 2020/21 and balances at 31 March 2021 is as follows:

<b>Payments made</b>	<b>Amounts owed by the Authority</b>	<b>Amounts owed to the Authority</b>
<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
15,447	1,226	(3,637)

Members have declared an interest or relationship (as defined) in companies or businesses which may have dealings with the Council. A breakdown of the payments made to these companies under this heading during 2020/21 and balances at 31 March 2021 is as follows:

<b>Payments made</b>	<b>Amounts owed by the Council</b>	<b>Amounts owed to the Council</b>
<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
3,207	108	(176)

### Officers

Senior Officers (as defined) have declared as required and where appropriate an interest or relationship (as defined) in companies, voluntary, charitable, or public bodies which receive payments from the Council. A breakdown of the payments made to these bodies under this heading during 2020/21 and balances at 31 March 2021 is as follows:

<b>Payments made</b>	<b>Amounts owed by the Authority</b>	<b>Amounts owed to the Authority</b>
<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
1,862	58	(117)

### Other Public Bodies

The Council is the administering authority for the Pension Fund. Details of transactions with the Pension Fund are shown in Note 38.

The Authority has a pooled budget arrangement with all local authorities in North Wales and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, hosted by Denbighshire County Council for the function of care home accommodation for older people. The relevant transactions and balances are detailed in Note 42 of the accounts.

## NOTE 33 – RELATED PARTIES (continued)

### Welsh Joint Education Committee (WJEC)

Payments made	Amounts owed by the Authority	Amounts owed to the Authority
£'000	£'000	£'000
443	4	0

### Entities Controlled or Significantly Influenced by the Authority

Cwmni Cynnal Cyf. was established in 1996 to provide education support services under contract to maintained schools and the local education authorities as well as school inspection services to Estyn. The company is limited by guarantee and the Council's liability is limited to £1. The income of the company can only be applied towards promotion of its objectives. Copies of the financial statements are available from Cwmni Cynnal, Penrallt, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 1BN. Payments to Cwmni Cynnal during 2020/21 for services to schools and balances at 31 March 2021 are as follows:

Payments made	Amounts owed by the Authority	Amounts owed to the Authority
£'000	£'000	£'000
926	9	0

### Subsidiary

Byw'n Iach Ltd was established on 27 June 2018 to provide a leisure service for the residents of Gwynedd. The company is limited by guarantee and the Council's liability is limited to £1, with Gwynedd Council being the sole proprietor. Management responsibilities were transferred to the Leisure Company on 1 April 2019 with a service contract in place which sets out the actual services and outcomes that the company is required to deliver for its fee. The Board of Directors is made up of 7 elected members of Gwynedd Council. Copies of the audited financial statements for the financial year 2020/21 can be obtained from Byw'n Iach website. The payments to Byw'n Iach Ltd for Leisure Services during 2020/21 and the balances at 31 March 2021 are as follows:

Payments made	Amounts owed by the Authority	Amounts owed to the Authority
£'000	£'000	£'000
2,472	146	(116)

## NOTE 34 – CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND CAPITAL FINANCING

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

31 March		31 March
2020		2021
£'000		£'000
463,267	Non-current Assets and Assets Held for Sale	499,197
(88,843)	Revaluation Reserve	(139,216)
(197,617)	Capital Adjustment Account	(185,962)
<b>176,807</b>	<b>Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>174,019</b>

## NOTE 34 – CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND CAPITAL FINANCING (continued)

The movement in the year is explained as follows:

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
<b>177,766</b>	<b>Capital Financing Requirement 1 April</b>	<b>176,807</b>
7,417	Land and Buildings	11,375
7,166	Infrastructure	8,289
6,622	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	5,281
4	Community Assets	0
24	Surplus Assets	9
4,940	Assets under construction	0
4,881	Funded from capital under statute	5,069
(423)	Capital Receipts used	(43)
(21,585)	Government Grants and other contributions	(23,937)
(2,585)	Capital expenditure charged to revenue	(1,232)
(5,465)	Revenue provision for the financing of supported capital investment	(5,426)
	Additional voluntary sums set aside:	
(1,955)	Capital receipts set aside / Revenue provision for the financing of unsupported capital investment	(2,173)
<b>176,807</b>	<b>Capital Financing Requirement 31 March</b>	<b>174,019</b>

## NOTE 35 – LEASES

### Authority as Lessee

#### Finance Leases

The Council has property under finance leases which are carried as Property, Plant and Equipment in the Balance Sheet. Included here is the GwyrAD Service Concession Arrangement (Note 41) at the following net amount:

31 March		31 March
2020		2021
£'000		£'000
3,240	Property, Plant and Equipment	2,664
<b>3,240</b>		<b>2,664</b>

## NOTE 35 – LEASES (continued)

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

<b>31 March</b>		<b>31 March</b>
<b>2020</b>		<b>2021</b>
<b>£'000</b>		<b>£'000</b>
<b>Finance Lease Liabilities</b>		
(net present value of minimum lease payments):		
160	current	170
1,540	non-current	1,370
<b>1,700</b>	<b>Minimum lease payments</b>	<b>1,540</b>

The remaining asset shown above has been funded by a deferred credit (refer to Note 41).

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

	<b>Minimum Lease Payments</b>		<b>Finance Lease Liabilities</b>	
	<b>31 March</b>	<b>31 March</b>	<b>31 March</b>	<b>31 March</b>
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
No later than one year	160	170	160	170
Later than one year and not later than five years	746	792	746	792
More than five years	794	578	794	578
	<b>1,700</b>	<b>1,540</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>1,540</b>

In 2020/21, minimum lease payments were made by the Authority of £160,282 (£150,973 in 2019/20) in respect of those assets held as a finance lease.

### Operating Leases

	<b>31 March</b>	<b>31 March</b>
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
No later than one year	507	475
Later than one year and not later than five years	404	242
Later than five years	249	212
	<b>1,160</b>	<b>929</b>

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

	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Minimum lease payments	564	556
	<b>564</b>	<b>556</b>

## NOTE 35 – LEASES (continued)

### Authority as Lessor

#### Finance Leases

The Council has leased out property on a finance lease, including:

- The Sailing Academy in Pwllheli,
- Rhyd Ddu Outdoor Centre

These leases are on a peppercorn rent basis and for a term that equates to the economic life of the assets. No premium has been received for these leases.

#### Operating Leases

The Council leases out property under operating leases for the following purposes:

- for the provision of community services, such as sports facilities, tourism services and community centres
- for economic development purposes to provide suitable affordable accommodation for local businesses.

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

	<b>31 March</b>	<b>31 March</b>
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
No later than one year	419	390
Later than one year and not later than five years	909	843
Later than five years	3,419	3,223
	<b>4,747</b>	<b>4,456</b>

The minimum lease payments receivable do not include rents that are contingent on events taking place after the lease was entered into, such as adjustments following rent reviews. In 2020/21 £1,198,984 minimum lease payments were receivable by the Council (£1,517,857 in 2019/20).

## NOTE 36 – EXIT PACKAGES

The number of exit packages with total cost per band, and total cost of the compulsory and other redundancies are set out in the table below. The cost in the table below reflects the related package cost to the employer, rather than the actual value of the payments to the individuals. In accordance with the requirements the related commitments as known to the Council as at 31 March 2021 are included. Included below are the related gross costs but not the financial savings to the Council, where appropriate.

Exit package cost band (including special payments)	Number of compulsory redundancies		Number of other departures agreed		Total number of exit packages by cost band		Total cost of exit packages in each band	
	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20 £'000	2020/21 £'000
£								
0 - 20,000	43	31	36	18	79	49	521	259
20,001 - 40,000	2	2	13	3	15	5	442	139
40,001 - 60,000	0	0	1	1	1	1	40	42
60,001 - 80,000	1	1	1	2	2	3	129	201
80,001 - 100,000	1	0	3	0	4	0	386	0
Adjustment to previous year's estimate							19	(2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>1,537</b>	<b>639</b>

## NOTE 37 – PENSION SCHEMES ACCOUNTED FOR AS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION SCHEMES

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

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

In 2020/21 the Council paid £9.94m (£8.54m in 2019/20) in respect of teachers' pension costs, which represented 22.92% (19.99% in 2019/20) of teachers' pensionable pay. In addition the Council is responsible for the costs of any additional benefits awarded upon early retirement outside of the terms for the teachers' scheme. In 2020/21 these amounted to £1.05m (£1.41m in 2019/20) representing 2.41% (3.29% in 2019/20) of teachers' pensionable pay. These costs are accounted for on a defined benefits basis and are included in Note 38.

## NOTE 38 – PENSION COSTS

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

Gwynedd Council participates in two post-employment benefit schemes:

- a) **The Local Government Pension Scheme** administered locally by Gwynedd Council. This is a funded defined benefit scheme based on final salary for service up to 31 March 2014, and based on a career average salary from 1 April 2014. The Authority and the employees pay contributions into the fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension liabilities with investment assets. Gwynedd Council's proportion of the total contributions to the Gwynedd Pension Fund in 2020/21 was 35% (36% in 2019/20).
- b) **Arrangements for the award of discretionary post-retirement benefits upon early retirement.** This is an unfunded defined benefit arrangement, under which liabilities are recognised when awards are made. However, there are no investment assets built up to meet these pension liabilities, and cash has to be generated to meet actual pensions payments as they eventually fall due.

The Gwynedd Pension Fund is operated under the regulatory framework for the Local Government Pension Scheme and the governance of the scheme is the responsibility of the Pensions Committee of Gwynedd Council. Policy is determined in accordance with the Local Government Pensions Scheme Regulations. In the past the investment managers of the fund have been appointed by the Gwynedd Pension Fund Committee. As the investments are transferred to the Wales Pension Partnership (WPP) the managers will be appointed by the partnership.

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

### Transactions Relating to Post-employment Benefits

The Authority recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the reported cost of services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge it is required to make against council tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of post-employment/retirement benefits is reversed out of the General Fund via the Movement in Reserves Statement. The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the General Fund Balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement during the year:

**NOTE 38 – PENSION COSTS (continued)**

Change in the Fair Value of Plan Assets, Defined Benefit Obligation and Net Liability	Period ended 31 March 2020			Period ended 31 March 2021		
	Assets	Liabilities	Net (liability) /asset	Assets	Liabilities	Net (liability) /asset
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fair Value of Plan Assets	741,995	0	741,995	685,179	0	685,179
Present Value of Funded Liabilities	0	(1,012,703)	(1,012,703)	0	(905,466)	(905,466)
Present Value of Unfunded Liabilities	0	(27,806)	(27,806)	0	(24,357)	(24,357)
<b>Opening Position at 1 April</b>	<b>741,995</b>	<b>(1,040,509)</b>	<b>(298,514)</b>	<b>685,179</b>	<b>(929,823)</b>	<b>(244,644)</b>
Service Cost						
Current Service Cost*	0	(44,814)	(44,814)	0	(35,577)	(35,577)
Past Service Costs (including curtailments)	0	(2,497)	(2,497)	0	(14)	(14)
<b>Total Service Cost</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(47,311)</b>	<b>(47,311)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(35,591)</b>	<b>(35,591)</b>
Net interest						
Interest Income on Plan Assets	17,940	0	17,940	15,839	0	15,839
Interest Cost on Defined Benefit Obligation	0	(25,381)	(25,381)	0	(21,610)	(21,610)
<b>Total Net Interest</b>	<b>17,940</b>	<b>(25,381)</b>	<b>(7,441)</b>	<b>15,839</b>	<b>(21,610)</b>	<b>(5,771)</b>
<b>Total Defined Benefit Cost Recognised in Profit/(Loss)</b>	<b>17,940</b>	<b>(72,692)</b>	<b>(54,752)</b>	<b>15,839</b>	<b>(57,201)</b>	<b>(41,362)</b>
Cash flows						
Participants' contributions	6,092	(6,092)	0	6,365	(6,365)	0
Employer contributions	21,363	0	21,363	20,943	0	20,943
Estimated contributions in respect of unfunded benefits	1,722	0	1,722	1,675	0	1,675
Estimated benefits paid	(19,507)	19,507	0	(19,366)	19,366	0
Estimated unfunded benefits paid	(1,722)	1,722	0	(1,675)	1,675	0
<b>Expected Closing Position</b>	<b>767,883</b>	<b>(1,098,064)</b>	<b>(330,181)</b>	<b>708,960</b>	<b>(972,348)</b>	<b>(263,388)</b>
Remeasurements						
Change in demographic assumptions	0	36,166	36,166	0	(15,348)	(15,348)
Change in financial assumptions	0	88,827	88,827	0	(279,335)	(279,335)
Other experience	0	43,248	43,248	0	8,914	8,914
Return on Assets excluding amounts included in net interest	(82,704)	0	(82,704)	185,305	0	185,305
<b>Total remeasurements recognised in Other Comprehensive Income (OCI)</b>	<b>(82,704)</b>	<b>168,241</b>	<b>85,537</b>	<b>185,305</b>	<b>(285,769)</b>	<b>(100,464)</b>
Fair Value of Plan Assets	685,179	0	685,179	894,265	0	894,265
Present Value of Funded Liabilities	0	(905,466)	(905,466)	0	(1,233,160)	(1,233,160)
Present Value of Unfunded Liabilities**	0	(24,357)	(24,357)	0	(24,957)	(24,957)
<b>Closing Position at 31 March</b>	<b>685,179</b>	<b>(929,823)</b>	<b>(244,644)</b>	<b>894,265</b>	<b>(1,258,117)</b>	<b>(363,852)</b>

\* The current service cost includes an allowance for administration expenses of 0.5% of payroll

\*\* This liability comprises approximately £9,718,000 in respect of LGPS unfunded pensions and £15,239,000 in respect of Teachers' unfunded pensions.

## NOTE 38 – PENSION COSTS (continued)

### The Major Categories of Plan Assets as a Percentage of Total Plan Assets

The actuary has provided a detailed breakdown of Fund assets in accordance with the requirements of IAS19. This analysis distinguishes between the nature and risk of those assets, and to further break them down between those with a quoted price in an active market, and those that are not quoted. The asset split for Gwynedd Council is assumed to be in the same proportion to the Fund's asset allocation as at 31 December 2020. The split is shown in the table below. The actuary estimates the bid value of the Fund's assets as at 31 March 2021 to be £2,510m based on information provided by the Administering Authority and allowing for index returns where necessary.

### Fair Value of Employer Assets

The asset values below are at bid value as required under IAS19.

Asset Category	At 31 March 2020				At 31 March 2021			
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets	Prices not quoted in Active Markets	Total	%	Quoted Prices in Active Markets	Prices not quoted in Active Markets	Total	%
	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	
<b>Equity Securities</b>								
Consumer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manufacturing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Energy and Utilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Financial Institutions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health and Care	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Information Technology	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Private Equity</b>								
All	0	39,829	39,829	6	0	55,604	55,604	6
<b>Debt Securities</b>								
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Real Estate</b>								
UK Property	0	67,534	67,534	10	0	70,927	70,927	8
Overseas Property	0	80	80	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Investment Funds and Unit Trusts</b>								
Equities	0	459,499	459,499	67	0	572,959	572,959	64
Bonds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Infrastructure	0	15,757	15,757	2	0	15,764	15,764	2
Other	0	99,086	99,086	14	0	173,850	173,850	19
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>								
All	3,394	0	3,394	1	5,161	0	5,161	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,394</b>	<b>681,785</b>	<b>685,179</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5,161</b>	<b>889,104</b>	<b>894,265</b>	<b>100</b>

### Basis for estimating assets and liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, life expectancy and salary levels. Life expectancy is based on fund-specific projections called VitaCurves with long-term improvement assumed to have already peaked and converging to 1.5% per annum.

Both the Gwynedd Pension Scheme and Discretionary Benefits liabilities have been estimated by Hymans Robertson, an independent firm of actuaries. Estimates for the Gwynedd Pension Fund were based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2020. The significant assumptions used by the actuary in the following table have had a significant impact on the values of the assets and liabilities as follows:

**NOTE 38 – PENSION COSTS (continued)**

	<b>31 March 2020</b>	<b>31 March 2021</b>
<b>Financial Assumptions</b>	<b>% p.a.</b>	<b>% p.a.</b>
Pensions Increase Rate	1.9	2.85
Salary Increase Rate	2.2	3.15
Inflation Rate	1.9	2.85
Discount Rate	2.3	2.0
Long-term expected rate of return on all categories of assets	2.3	2.0
<b>Take-up option to convert annual pension into retirement lump sum</b>		
for pre-April 2008 service	50	50
for post-April 2008 service	75	75
<b>Mortality assumptions</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Years</b>
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners		
Men	21.3	21.5
Women	23.4	23.9
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners		
Men	22.2	22.7
Women	25.1	25.9

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. In order to quantify the impact of a change in the financial assumptions used, the actuary has calculated and compared the value of the scheme liabilities as at 31 March 2021 on varying bases. The approach taken is consistent with that adopted to derive the IAS19 figures provided in this note.

To quantify the uncertainty around life expectancy, the actuary has calculated the difference in cost to the Council of a one-year increase in life expectancy. For sensitivity purposes this is assumed to be an increase in the cost of benefits of broadly 3-5%. In practice the actual cost of a one-year increase in life expectancy will depend on the structure of the revised assumption (i.e. if improvements to survival rates predominantly apply at younger or older ages). The figures in the table below have been derived based on the membership profile of the Council as at 31 March 2020, the date of the most recent actuarial valuation. The approach taken in preparing the sensitivity analysis shown is consistent with that adopted in the previous year.

<b>Impact on the Defined Benefit Obligation in the Scheme</b>		
<b>Change in assumption</b>	<b>Approximate increase to Defined Benefit Obligation 31 March 2021</b>	<b>Approximate monetary amount 31 March 2021</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>£'000</b>
0.5% decrease in real discount rate	11	138,768
0.5% increase in the salary increase rate	1	16,409
0.5% increase in the pension increase rate	9	119,254

The principal demographic assumption is the longevity assumption (i.e. member life expectancy). For sensitivity purposes, we estimate that a one-year increase in life expectancy would approximately increase the Employer's Defined Benefit Obligation by around 3-5%. In practice the actual cost of a one-year increase in life expectancy will depend on the structure of the revised assumption (i.e. if improvements to survival rates predominantly apply at younger or older ages).

## NOTE 38 – PENSION COSTS (continued)

### Impact on the Council's Cash Flows

One of the objectives of the scheme is that employer contributions should be kept at as constant a rate as possible. Gwynedd Council has agreed a strategy with the fund's actuary to achieve a funding level of 100% over the next 17 years. Funding levels are monitored on an annual basis.

The contributions paid by the Council are set by the Fund Actuary at each triennial valuation (the most recent being as at 31 March 2019), or at any other time as instructed to do so by the Administering Authority. The contributions payable over the period to 31 March 2021 are set out in the Rates and Adjustments certificate. For further details on the approach adopted to set contribution rates for the Council, please refer to the 2019 actuarial report dated 31 March 2020.

### Information about the Defined Benefit Obligation

	Liability Split	
	31 March 2021	
	£'000	%
Active Members	708,874	57.5
Deferred Members	210,866	17.1
Pensioner Members	313,420	25.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,233,160</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The above figures are for the funded obligations only and do not include any unfunded pensioner liabilities. The durations are effective at the previous formal valuation as at 31 March 2019.

### Impact in Future Years

The total contributions expected to be made to the Local Government Pensions Scheme by the Council in the year to 31 March 2022 are £20.895m.

As the Actuary's report is based on estimates and due to timing issues, an adjustment of £515,736 has been made in 2020/21 (£956,982 in 2019/20) to bring the deficit in the Scheme based on the Actuarial figures in line with the liability related to the defined benefit pension schemes in the Balance Sheet. This variance has been treated as Actuarial Gains and Losses on Pension Assets and Liabilities and therefore has been included in the Liability related to the defined benefit pension schemes in the Balance Sheet.

## **NOTE 39 – 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.

The position below relates to circumstances involving two specific contingent liabilities:

- The capping and aftercare requirements for the Authority's landfill sites – the provision contained in the accounts is based on existing and known circumstances, in addition to relevant forecasts. However, the actual final cost may differ from the current estimated future cost.
- This Authority is exposed to a potential insurance liability relating to the insurance arrangements of its predecessor authorities, being Gwynedd County Council, Arfon Borough Council, Dwyfor District Council, and Meirionnydd District Council, and the closure of the Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI) Fund on 30 September 1992.

MMI made a scheme of arrangement with its creditors, by which, if MMI had insufficient funds to meet future claims, a claw-back clause would be triggered (i.e. Scheme of Arrangements) which could affect claims paid since 1992/93. On 13 November 2012, the directors of the Company concluded that the terms of the Scheme of Arrangement should be triggered and served notice on the Scheme Administrator and the Company to that effect. The decision is irrevocable. An initial levy of 15% of the payments made since 30 September 1992 was paid during 2013/14, and a further 10% was paid in 2016/17.

However, in accordance with the scheme, a further levy may be raised should the original levy be insufficient to meet MMI's liabilities in the longer term. Gwynedd Council is of the opinion that it would be prudent to hold a fund in the expectation that the original levy will be inadequate. The current related estimated maximum potential liability to this Authority is in the order of up to almost £850,000.

## **NOTE 40 – TRUSTS**

The Council acts as sole trustee for 172 bequests such as school prize funds, and comforts and improvements funds for numerous Council Establishments. The largest fund, the Welsh Church Fund, has a completely separate accounting ledger, whereas, the Council holds the property for 171 of these bequests but makes no decision on the use of these funds. In every case, the funds do not represent the assets of the Council and therefore they have not been included in the Balance Sheet.

The total balance of the 171 bequests derecognised from the Council's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2021 was £1,128,101 (£1,097,086 on 31 March 2020). The funds are fully invested to generate income.

The largest bequests, the Welsh Church Fund and FMG Morgan Trust Fund, are detailed in appendices A and B of these accounts.

## NOTE 41 – SERVICE CONCESSION ARRANGEMENTS

GwyrAD is a Service Concession Arrangement, otherwise known as a ‘Private Finance Initiative’ (PFI) scheme. The construction commenced in 2012/13 and the plant became operational in September 2013. It is a treatment plant for source-segregated food waste from Gwynedd residents and businesses (mainly) using Anaerobic Digestion (AD) technology. The enterprise is assisting the Council to meet its recycling targets, and to work within its allowances for landfilling of Biodegradable Municipal Waste for a period of 15 years.

The assets used to provide the service are recognised on the Council’s Balance Sheet. The value of the related assets was £2.7m as at 31 March 2021 (£3.2m as at 31 March 2020). The Council makes an agreed payment (gate fee) each year based on a minimum amount of tonnage which is increased each year by inflation and can be reduced if the contractor fails to meet availability and performance standards in any year. The Council has the right to increase the amount of tonnages over the agreed 7,500 tons to a maximum of 11,000 tons, and will pay a reduced gate fee for anything over 7,500 tons.

	<b>Payment for Services</b>	<b>Reimbursement of Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£’000</b>	<b>£’000</b>	<b>£’000</b>	<b>£’000</b>
Paid in 2020/21	498	160	105	763
Payable in 2021/22	498	170	95	763
Payable within 2 to 5 years	1,991	792	268	3,051
Payable within 6 to 10 years	1,202	578	63	1,843
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,189</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>6,420</b>

Although the payments made to the contractor are described as unitary payments, they have been calculated to compensate the contractor for the fair value of the services they provide, the capital expenditure incurred and interest payable.

The contractor receives income from energy that is generated from the waste which has enabled it to keep the unitary payment low for the Council. If the income is higher than that which is in the contract, there is an arrangement for it to be shared between the contractor and Gwynedd Council.

The liability outstanding to be paid to the contractor for capital expenditure incurred is as follows:

	<b>2020/21</b>	
	<b>Lease Liability</b>	<b>Deferred Income</b>
	<b>£’000</b>	<b>£’000</b>
Balance outstanding at 1 April 2020	(1,700)	(1,227)
Repayment of principal during the year	160	0
Release of deferred income	0	146
<b>Balance outstanding at 31 March 2021</b>	<b>(1,540)</b>	<b>(1,081)</b>

Either party can terminate the agreement at any time should there be deficiencies, subject to giving notice in accordance with the terms of the agreement. Equally, the Council can unilaterally terminate the agreement in accordance with the terms therein. There would be compensation payments linked to any termination arrangement. At the expiry of the agreement, the Council has the right to re-tender for a contractor to provide the service.

## NOTE 42 – POOLED BUDGET

Under regulation 19(1) of the Partnership Arrangements (Wales) Regulations 2015, a pooled budget arrangement has been agreed between North Wales local authorities and the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board in relation to the provision of care home accommodation for older people. The arrangement came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019. Denbighshire County Council is acting as host authority during the initial term of the agreement (2019/20 to 2021/22).

Members will contribute funds according to their actual spend on care home accommodation for older people.

The same proportions are used to meet any deficit or share any surplus arising on the pooled budget at the end of each financial year.

<b>Care Homes for the Elderly</b>		
<b>2019/20</b>		<b>2020/21</b>
<b>£'000</b>		<b>£'000</b>
	<b>Expenditure</b>	
93,903	Care Home costs	93,035
<b>93,903</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>93,035</b>
	<b>Funding</b>	
(9,041)	Denbighshire County Council	(8,626)
(13,417)	Conwy County Borough Council	(13,106)
(8,916)	Flintshire County Council	(9,397)
(11,059)	Wrexham County Borough Council	(12,203)
(7,839)	Gwynedd Council	(8,641)
(5,075)	Isle of Anglesey County Council	(5,049)
(38,556)	Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board	(36,013)
<b>(93,903)</b>	<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>(93,035)</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>(Surplus) / Deficit transferred to Reserve</b>	<b>0</b>

## NOTE 43 – JOINT OPERATIONS AND JOINT COMMITTEES

The Council currently participates in a number of joint operations with neighbouring North Wales authorities.

During the year 2020/21, Gwynedd Council participated in four joint committee and three joint operation, collaborating in particular areas between local authorities. Separate accounts are required for joint committees. The four joint committee relating to Gwynedd in 2020/21 are:

- Joint Planning Policy Committee
- GwE
- North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project (NWRWTP)
- North Wales Economic Ambition Board

The three joint operation relating to Gwynedd in 2020/21, which are a result of the Covid-19 crisis, are:

- Test, Trace and Protect Programme
- Temporary Mortuary at Mochdre
- Bus Emergency Scheme

The Joint Committee accounts follow the same timetable in terms of the statutory dates for the completion of the accounts. In the circumstances, Gwynedd Council's accounts reflect the related actual net liability, although the subjective analysis position varies subject to the circumstances, and the reporting arrangements, of the various joint committees. The figures and the share relating to Gwynedd have been included in the table below:

Joint Operation / Joint Committee	Host Authority for Finance	Councils and Organisations participating in the Joint Committee / Joint Operation	Gwynedd Council's Share %	Value of Gwynedd's Share (Income and Expenditure Account) £'000
<b>Joint Committee</b> Joint Planning Policy Committee	Gwynedd Council	Gwynedd Council Isle of Anglesey County Council	50.00	215
GwE	Gwynedd Council	Conwy County Borough Council Denbighshire County Council Flintshire County Council Gwynedd Council Isle Anglesey County Council Wrexham County Borough Council	17.63	734
North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project	Flintshire County Council	Conwy County Borough Council Denbighshire County Council Flintshire County Council Gwynedd Council Isle of Anglesey County Council	23.10	0
North Wales Economic Ambition Board	Gwynedd Council	Isle of Anglesey County Council Gwynedd Council Conwy County Borough Council Denbighshire County Council Flintshire County Council Wrexham County Borough Council Council Bangor University Grŵp Llandrillo Menai Wrexham Glyndŵr University Coleg Cambria	12.50	60

<b>Joint Operation</b>				
Test, Trace and Protect Programme	Flintshire County Council	Conwy County Borough Council Denbighshire County Council Flintshire County Council Gwynedd Council Isle of Anglesey County Council Wrexham County Borough Council	16.28	528
Temporary Mortuary at Mochdre	Flintshire County Council /Conwy County Borough Council	Conwy County Borough Council Denbighshire County Council Flintshire County Council Gwynedd Council Isle of Anglesey County Council Wrexham County Borough Council	17.71	196*
Bus Emergency Scheme	Flintshire County Council	Conwy County Borough Council Denbighshire County Council Flintshire County Council Gwynedd Council Isle of Anglesey County Council Wrexham County Borough Council	23.42	1,897

\* Includes Council's own costs towards the regional mortuary located in Mochdre where Conwy County Borough Council (CCBC) is the Lead Authority (£73k) and the Council's share of amount claimed by Flintshire County Council (FCC) in respect of a temporary mortuary in North Wales (£123k).

The individual joint committees' accounts are available on the website of the councils which are host authorities for finance.

#### **NOTE 44 – EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD**

The Statement of Accounts was authorised by the Head of Finance on 28 May 2021. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or related notes. Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31 March 2021, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect its impact.

<b>THE WELSH CHURCH FUND</b>
------------------------------

2019/20		2020/21	
£'000		£'000	£'000
930	<b>Amount of Fund at 1 April</b>		936
	<b>Add - Income during the year</b>		
18	Interest on Investments		41
	<b>Less - Expenditure during the year</b>		
(13)	Grants and expenses	(19)	
1	Transferring Gwynedd's (Under) / Overspend	0	(19)
<b>936</b>	<b>Amount of Fund at 31 March</b>		<b>958</b>
	<b>Represented by the following Assets</b>		
13	Debtors		1
900	Investments		900
26	Cash in Hand		62
939			963
(3)	<b>Less - Creditors</b>		(5)
<b>936</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>958</b>

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

1. The Scheme for the administration of the Fund provides that the income be applied for charitable purposes - educational, recreational and social, at the discretion of the Council.
2. The Charities Act 1993 requires that an independent examination of the statement of accounts of the Welsh Church Fund be carried out annually.
3. The investments are shown in the accounts at cost. The market value of the investments at 31 March 2021 was £859,725.

<b>FMG MORGAN TRUST FUND</b>
------------------------------

2019/20 £'000		2020/21 £'000
189	<b>Amount of Fund at 1 April</b>	194
	<b>Add - Income during the year</b>	
12	Interest on assets	13
	<b>Less - Expenditure during the year</b>	
(7)	Grants	(19)
<b>194</b>	<b>Amount of Fund at 31 March</b>	<b>188</b>
	<b>Assets</b>	
145	Investments	144
49	Cash in Hand	44
<b>194</b>		<b>188</b>

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

1. This Fund was set up from the residuary estate of the late Mrs. Florence Merthyr Guest Morgan. The income from the Fund was to be applied to aid residents of certain areas of Llŷn for specified purposes.
2. The investments are shown in the accounts at cost. The market value of the investments at 31 March 2021 was £362,553 (£307,883 at 31 March 2020).
3. The FMG Morgan Fund is outside the provision of the Charities Act 1993. No independent examination or audit is therefore required in respect of this Trust Fund.

## Glossary

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

**Amortisation** – The gradual elimination of a liability, such as a loan, with regular payments over a specified period of time. Such payments must be sufficient to cover both principal and interest.

**Asset** – Items of worth that are measurable in terms of value.

- A current asset will be consumed or will cease to have material value within the next financial year.
- A non-current asset provides benefit to the Council and to the services it provides for a period of more than one year.

**Balances (or Reserves)** – These represent accumulated funds available to the Council. Some balances (reserve) may be earmarked for specific purposes for funding future defined initiatives or meeting identified risks or liabilities.

**Capital Adjustment Account** – A reserve set aside from revenue resources or capital receipts to fund capital expenditure or the repayment of external loans and certain other capital financing transactions.

**Capital Expenditure** – Expenditure on the procurement of a non-current asset, which will be used in providing services beyond the current accounting period or expenditure that adds to, and not merely maintains, value of an existing non-current asset.

**Capital Financing** – Funds obtained to pay for capital expenditure. There are various methods of financing capital expenditure including borrowing, leasing, direct revenue financing, usable capital receipts, capital grants, capital contributions, revenue reserves and earmarked reserves.

**Capital Receipt** – Income received from the sale of land or other capital assets.

**CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accounting)** – The professional institute for accountants working in the public sector.

**Community Assets** – These are non-current assets that the Council intends to hold in perpetuity which have no determinable finite useful life and, in addition, may have restrictions on their disposal. Examples are parks and historical buildings.

**Creditors** – Amounts owed by the Council for work done, goods received or services rendered, for which payments have not been made by the end of that accounting period.

**Current Service Cost** – The increase in the present value of a defined benefit pension scheme's liabilities expected to arise from employee service in the current period.

**Debtors** – Amount owed to the Council for work done, goods received or service rendered within the accounting period, but for which payment has not been received by the end of that accounting period.

**Defined Benefit Scheme** – A pension or other retirement benefit scheme other than a defined contribution scheme.

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

**Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC)** – A method of valuation that provides a proxy for the market value of specialist assets.

**Depreciation** – A measure of the cost of the economic benefits of the tangible fixed assets consumed during the period.

**Fair Value** – The price that would be received to sell an asset, or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

**Finance Lease** – A lease that transfers substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of a non-current asset to the lessee.

**Financial Instruments** – Any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another. The term covers both financial assets and financial liabilities, from straightforward trade receivables (invoices owing) and trade payables (invoices owed) to complex derivatives and embedded derivatives.

**General Fund** – This is the main revenue fund of the Council and it includes the net cost of all services financed by local taxpayers and Government grants.

**Heritage Assets** – An asset with Historical, Artistic, Scientific, Technological, Geophysical or Environmental qualities that is held and maintained principally for its contributions to knowledge and culture.

**Impairment** – A reduction in the carrying value of a fixed asset below its carrying value (due to obsolescence, damage or an adverse change in the statutory environment).

**Intangible Asset** – An intangible asset is an identifiable non-monetary asset without physical substance. An example includes computer software.

**International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)** – A suite of accounting standards used across the world. They must be applied by all reporting entities to all financial statements in order to provide a true and fair view of the entity's financial position, and a standardised method of comparison with financial statements of the other entities.

**Inventories** – Amounts of unused or unconsumed stocks held in expectation of future use. They are categorised as goods or other assets purchased for resale, consumable stores, raw materials and Components, Products and Services in intermediate stages of completion and finished goods.

**Investment Property** – Property that is held solely to earn rentals or for capital appreciation, or both.

**Liability** – Amounts due to individuals or organisations which will have to be paid at some time in the future.

**Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)** – This is the minimum amount which must be charged to an Authority's revenue account each year and set aside as provision for credit liabilities.

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

**Operating Lease** – A type of lease, usually on computer equipment, office equipment, furniture etc. where the balance of risks and rewards of holding the asset remains with the lessor. The asset remains the property of the lessor and the lease costs are revenue expenditure to the Council.

**Precepts** – The levy made by precepting authorities on billing authorities, requiring the latter to collect income from Council taxpayers on their behalf.

**Private Finance Initiative (PFI)** – A central government initiative which aims to increase the level of funding available for public services by attracting private sources of finance.

**Provision** – A liability that is of uncertain timing or amount which is to be settled by transfer of economic benefits.

**Related Parties** – Parties are considered to be related if one party has the ability to control the other party or exercise significant influence over the other party in making financial or operating decisions.

**Trust Funds** – Funds administered by the Council for such purposes as prizes, charities, specific projects and on behalf of minors.

MEETING:	<b>AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE</b>
DATE:	<b>17 JUNE 2021</b>
TITLE:	<b>TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2020/21</b>
PURPOSE:	<b>CIPFA's Code of Practice requires that a report on the results of the Council's actual treasury management is produced.</b>
RECOMMENDATION:	<b>RECEIVE THE REPORT FOR INFORMATION</b>
AUTHOR:	<b>DELYTH JONES-THOMAS, INVESTMENT MANAGER</b>

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## **Executive Summary**

During the 2020/21 financial year the Council's borrowing remained within the limits originally set and total interest received on deposits was £422,000 which was above the budgeted level of £400,000. There were no defaults by institutions in which the Council had deposited money with.

### **1. Introduction**

The Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2020/21 was approved at Full Council on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

The Council has borrowed and invested substantial sums of money and is therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of risk are therefore central to the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.

This report compares the actual performance against the strategy for the financial year 2020/21 and fulfils the Council's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to both the CIPFA Code and the Welsh Government's Investment Guidance.

## 2. Year End Position

### Balance Sheet Summary

At 31 March 2021 the Council had net borrowing of £48m arising from its revenue and capital activities. The underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), while usable reserves and working capital are the underlying resources available for investment. The movements are summarised in the following table:

	31.3.20 Actual £m	2020/21 Movement £m	31.3.21 Actual £m
CFR	177	(3)	174
Less: Other debt liabilities	(2)	0	(2)
<b>Borrowing CFR</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>172</b>
Less: Usable reserves	(78)	(30)	(108)
Less: Working capital	3	(19)	(16)
<b>Net borrowing</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>(52)</b>	<b>48</b>

The Council pursued its strategy of keeping borrowing and investments below their underlying levels, sometimes known as internal borrowing, in order to reduce risk and keep interest costs low.

### Treasury Management Summary

	31.3.20 Balance £m	Movement £m	31.3.21 Balance £m	31.3.21 Rate %
Long- term borrowing	(104,346)	1,236	(103,110)	5.5
Short-term borrowing	(20,578)	13,999	(6,579)	1.2
PFI	(1,700)	160	(1,540)	n/a
<b>Total borrowing</b>	<b>(126,624)</b>	<b>15,395</b>	<b>(111,229)</b>	
Long-term investments	17	0	17	4.0
Short-term investments	11,259	23,659	34,918	1.5
Cash and cash equivalents	14,900	13,718	28,618	0.02
<b>Total investments</b>	<b>26,176</b>	<b>37,377</b>	<b>63,553</b>	
<b>Net borrowing</b>	<b>100,448</b>	<b>(52,772)</b>	<b>47,676</b>	

### 3. Borrowing Activity

At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, the Council held £109.7m of loans, a decrease of £15.2m on the previous year.

The debt interest paid in 2020/21 was £5.9 million on an average debt portfolio of £110.7 million at an average interest rate of 5.3%.

The year-end borrowing position and the year-on-year change is summarised in the following table:

	<b>31.3.20 Balance £m</b>	<b>2020/21 Movement £m</b>	<b>31.3.21 Balance £m</b>	<b>31.3.21 Rate %</b>	<b>31.3.21 WAM* years</b>
PWLB	88.2	(1.3)	86.9	5.79	18.9
Bank (Fixed term)	16.2	0.0	16.2	4.22	57.4
Local Authorities (Short term)	19.0	(14.0)	5.0	1.20	0.1
Other	1.5	0.1	1.6	0.00	3.5
<b>Total borrowing</b>	<b>124.9</b>	<b>(15.2)</b>	<b>109.7</b>		

\*Weighted average maturity

The Council's main objective when borrowing has been to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which funds are required, with a secondary objective of flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Council's long-term plans change.

Further to these objectives, no new long-term borrowing was undertaken in 2020/21, with existing loans maturing without replacement. This strategy enabled the Council to reduce net borrowing costs (despite foregoing investment income) and reduce overall treasury risk.

The short-term loans taken this year was to ensure sufficient cash was available during the period from January to April 2021 rather than taking on long-term borrowing.

#### Borrowing Update

In November 2020 the PWLB published its response to the consultation on 'Future Lending Terms'. From 26<sup>th</sup> November the margin on PWLB loans above gilt yields was reduced from 1.8% to 0.8% providing that the borrowing council can confirm that it is not planning to purchase 'investment assets primarily for yield' in the current or next two financial years. Authorities that are purchasing or intending to purchase investment assets primarily for yield will not be able to access the PWLB except to refinance existing loans or externalise internal borrowing. As part of the borrowing process authorities will now be required to submit more detailed capital expenditure plans with confirmation of the purpose of capital expenditure from the Section 151 Officer. The PWLB can now also restrict local authorities from borrowing in unusual or large amounts.

Acceptable use of PWLB borrowing includes service delivery, housing, regeneration, preventative action, refinancing and treasury management. Misuse of PWLB borrowing could result in the PWLB requesting that the Council unwinds problematic transactions, suspending access to the PWLB and repayment of loans with penalties.

The Council is not planning to purchase any investment assets primarily for yield within the next three years and so is able to take advantage of the reduction in the PWLB borrowing rate.

#### 4. Treasury Investment Activity

During the year, the Council received funding to support small and medium businesses during the coronavirus pandemic through grant schemes. £107,259,960 was received, temporarily invested in short- dated, liquid instruments such as call accounts and Money Market Funds. £106,732,000 was disbursed by the end of March.

The Council has held significant invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held. During 2020/21 the Council's investment balances have ranged between £57.0 million and £110.4 million.

#### Treasury Investment Position

	<b>31.3.20 Balance £m</b>	<b>2020/21 Movement £m</b>	<b>31.3.21 Balance £m</b>	<b>31.3.21 Rate %</b>	<b>31.3.21 WAM* days</b>
Banks & building societies (unsecured)	8.7	(0.1)	8.6	0.12	22.4
Local Authorities	0.0	20.0	20.0	0.10	56.0
Money Market Funds	9.1	16.9	26.0	0.02	1.0
Pooled Funds	8.3	0.6	8.9	5.13	365+
<b>Total investments</b>	<b>26.1</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>63.5</b>		

\*Weighted average maturity

Both the CIPFA Code and government guidance require the Council to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield. The Council's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income. Consequently, the duration of investments and number of institutions available to deposit money with has been reduced based on the advice received from Arlingclose following the impact of the pandemic.

Continued downward pressure on short- dated cash rate brought net returns on sterling low volatility Money Market Funds close to zero even after some managers have temporarily lowered their fees. At this stage net negative returns are not the

central case of most MMF managers over the short- term, and fee waivers should maintain positive net yields, but the possibility cannot be ruled out.

Deposit rates with the Debt Management Account Deposit Facility (DMADF) have continued to fall and are now largely around zero.

£8.9m of the Council's investments are held in externally managed strategic pooled equity and property funds where short term liquidity are lesser considerations, and the objectives instead are regular revenue income and long- term price stability. These funds generated an income return of 5.1% and an unrealised capital gain of £0.66m in this financial year.

The Council is invested in equity and property funds. During the initial phase of the pandemic in March 2020, the sharp falls in corporate bond and equity markets had a negative impact on the value of the Council's pooled fund holdings and was reflected in the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 fund valuations with every fund registering negative capital returns over a 12 month period. Since March 2020 there has been improvement in market sentiment which is reflected in an increase in capital values of these funds in the Council's portfolio. The recovery in UK equities has lagged those of US and European markets.

Because these funds have no defined maturity date, but are available for withdrawal after a notice period, their performance and continued stability in meeting the Council's medium to long term investment objectives are regularly reviewed. Strategic fund investments are made in the knowledge that capital values will move both up and down on months, quarters and even years but with the confidence that over a three-to five year period total returns will exceed cash interest.

### Investment Benchmarking

	<b>Credit Score</b>	<b>Credit Rating</b>	<b>Bail-in Exposure</b>	<b>WAM* (days)</b>	<b>Income Rate of Return</b>
31.03.2020	4.99	A+	100%	31	1.97%
<b>31.03.2021</b>	<b>4.73</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0.77%</b>
<b>Similar LAs</b>	<b>4.42</b>	<b>AA-</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>0.22%</b>
<b>All LAs</b>	<b>4.63</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0.90%</b>

\*Weighted average maturity

## 5. Compliance Report

Compliance with specific investment limits is demonstrated in the following tables:

### Debt Limits

	2020/21 Maximum	31.3.21 Actual	2020/21 Operational Boundary	2020/21 Authorised Limit	Complied
Borrowing	£123.4m	£108m	£190m	£200m	✓

Since the operational boundary is a management tool for in-year monitoring it is not significant if the operational boundary is breached on occasions due to variations in cash flow, and this is not counted as a compliance failure.

### Investment Limits

	2020/21 Maximum	31.3.21 Actual	2020/21 Limit	Complied
Any single organisation, except the UK Government	£7m	£7m	£8m each	✓
Any group of organisations under the same ownership	£0m	£0m	£8m per group	✓
Any group of pooled funds under the same management	£5m	£5m	£20m per group	✓
Negotiable instruments held in a broker's nominee account	£0m	£0m	£40m per broker	✓
Foreign countries	£5m	£0m	£8m per country	✓
Registered providers and registered social landlords	£0m	£0m	£20m in total	✓
Unsecured investments with Building Societies	£0m	£0m	£8m in total	✓
Loans to unrated companies	£0m	£0m	£8m in total	✓
Money Market Funds	£40m	£26m	£40m in total	✓
Real Estate Investment Trusts	£0m	£0m	£20m in total	✓

## 6. Treasury Management Indicators

The Council measures and manages its exposures to treasury management risks using the following indicators:

**Security:** The Council has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to credit risk by monitoring the time-weighted average credit score of its investment portfolio. This is calculated by applying a score to each investment and taking the arithmetic average, weighted by the length of each investment. Unrated investments are assigned a score based on their perceived risk.

	31.3.21 Actual	2020/21 Target	Complied
Portfolio average credit score	4.73	a score of 6 or lower	✓

**Liquidity:** The Council has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to liquidity risk by monitoring the amount of cash available to meet unexpected payments within a rolling three month period, without additional borrowing.

	31.3.21 Actual	2020/21 Target	Complied
Total cash available within 3 months	£54.6m	£10m	✓

**Interest Rate Exposures:** This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to interest rate risk. The upper limits on interest rate exposures expressed as the proportion of net principal borrowed was:

	31.3.21 Actual	2020/21 Limit	Complied
Upper limit on one year revenue impact of a 1% rise in interest rates	£460,757	£324,000	×
Upper limit on one year revenue impact of a 1% fall in interest rates	£5,096	£23,000	✓

As was reported to the Audit Committee in the Mid Year Review on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020, since setting this indicator the economic outlook for interest rates has changed completely with the onset of the global pandemic. The average interest rate received on short term balances was 0.07% during the six month period to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020, with more recent investment being made as low as 0.01%. This indication was set when the base rate was 0.75% and therefore it is reasonable that there is such an impact of a 1% rise, and demonstrates the severe impact that the pandemic has had on investment returns.

**Maturity Structure of Borrowing:** This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to refinancing risk. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing were:

	<b>31.3.21 Actual</b>	<b>Upper Limit</b>	<b>Lower Limit</b>	<b>Complied</b>
Under 12 months	6.00%	25%	0%	✓
12 months and within 24 months	1.43%	25%	0%	✓
24 months and within 5 years	10.85%	50%	0%	✓
5 years and within 10 years	6.43%	75%	0%	✓
10 years and above	75.29%	100%	0%	✓

Time periods start on the first day of each financial year. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment.

**Principal Sums Invested for Periods Longer than 364 days:** The purpose of this indicator is to control the Council's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments. The limits on the long-term principal sum invested to final maturities beyond the period end were:

	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
Actual principal invested beyond year end	£10m	£0	£0
Limit on principal invested beyond year end	£20m	£20m	£20m
<b>Complied</b>	✓	✓	✓

## Other

**CIPFA consultations:** In February 2021 CIPFA launched two consultations on changes to its Prudential Code and Treasury Management Code of Practice. These follow the Public Accounts Committee's recommendation that the prudential framework should be further tightened following continued borrowing by some authorities for investment purposes. These are principles-based consultations and will be followed by more specific proposals later in the year.

In the Prudential Code the key area being addressed is the statement that "local authorities must not borrow more than or in advance of their needs purely in order to profit from the investment of the extra sums borrowed". Other proposed changes include the sustainability of capital expenditure in accordance with a council's corporate objectives, i.e. recognising climate, diversity and innovation, commercial investment being proportionate to budgets, expanding the capital strategy section on commercial activities, replacing the "gross debt and the CFR" with the liability benchmark as a graphical prudential indicator.

Proposed changes to the Treasury Management Code include requiring job specifications and "knowledge and skills" schedules for treasury management roles

to be included in the Treasury Management Practices (TMP) document and formally reviewed, a specific treasury management committee for MiFID II professional clients and a new TMP 13 on Environmental, Social and Governance Risk Management.

**IFRS 16:** The implementation of the new IFRS 16 Leases accounting standard has been delayed for a further year until 2022/23.

# Agenda Item 7

COMMITTEE

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

DATE

17 JUNE 2021

TITLE

COUNTER FRAUD, ANTI-CORRUPTION AND ANTI-BRIBERY ARRANGEMENTS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

TO UPDATE THE COMMITTEE ON THE COUNCIL'S ANTI-FRAUD AND ANTI-CORRUPTION WORK, AND PROGRESS ON THE THREE-YEAR WORK PROGRAMME

AUTHOR

DEWI MORGAN, ASSISTANT HEAD OF FINANCE (REVENUES AND RISK)

ACTION

CONSIDER AND CHALLENGE THE CONTENTS OF THE REPORT

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## INTRODUCTION

- 1 The “**Risk of Fraud, Bribery and/or Corruption**” has been identified as one of the Council’s corporate risks. Currently, this is still considered to be of a **low risk** (score of 4) within the context of the Council’s governance framework because of:
  - An **Impact score of 2** (A **significant** effect on the life or well-being of several residents (e.g. an effect on life or well-being, but falling within the expected range of day-to-day life) or a **visible** effect on many residents), and
  - A **Likelihood score of 2** (the likelihood of it happening is low – but is still there). It is believed that the likelihood is low because internal controls are generally robust; this is confirmed by the work of Internal Audit.
- 2 The purpose of this report is to:
  - Present information to the Committee on the Council’s fraud investigations.
  - Update the Audit and Governance Committee on progress on the programme of work of Gwynedd Council's Anti-Fraud, Anti-Corruption and Anti-Bribery Strategy for 2019-2022 adopted by the Audit and Governance Committee on 14 February 2019

## FRAUD INVESTIGATIONS

- 3 The Council's officers are not currently investigating allegations of fraud against it.

## **PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE ANTI-FRAUD, ANTI-CORRUPTION AND ANTI-BRIBERY STRATEGY**

- 4 Gwynedd Council's Anti-Fraud, Anti-Corruption and Anti-Bribery Strategy for 2019-2022 was adopted by the Audit and Governance Committee on 14 February 2019. The strategy includes eight actions which should be delivered over the three years to strengthen the Council's anti-fraud arrangements within available resources.

### **IDENTIFYING EMERGING RISKS**

**Action: Hold regular workshops of relevant officers to discuss matters arising, emerging risks and share good practice**

- 5 No specific workshops have been held in the last 6 months to identify new risks, but the Audit Manager has met with all Heads of Department in the early months of 2021 to discuss aspects of risk that need to be included in the 2021/22 Internal Audit Plan.
- 6 As reported to the Audit and Governance Committee on 27 May, the plan for the new year will be flexible to specifically address issues as they arise.

### **COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION FRAUD**

**Action: Collaboration with the Department for Work and Pensions to develop the work of investigating Council Tax Reduction fraud**

- 7 It was previously reported to the Committee that 3 Benefits officers and 3 Tax officers have qualified as CIPFA Accredited Counter Fraud Technicians (ACFTech). This is a significant investment in our fraud prevention arrangements.
- 8 When this Anti-fraud Strategy was established in 2019 it was expected that the Benefit Service fraud investigators would be able to work more closely with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Fraud Investigators to specifically search for fraud against the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.
- 9 The cases that would have been the subject of the work of those investigations were the claims that do not have an element of state benefit, and therefore are not being investigated by the Department for Work and Pensions Fraud Investigators. One of the main expected outputs of the training was to enable officers to conduct fraud interviews, and to move on to offer administrative penalties, or to prosecute in the most serious cases. However, despite planning further action, this year's circumstances have not allowed further action to be taken as expected.
- 10 The ongoing pandemic situation has meant that it has not been possible to conduct interviews with claimants under the Council Tax Reduction Scheme which means that the service has not been able to move forward to implement the skills that have been acquired.
- 11 When the Strategy was presented to the Committee in February 2019, members were keen to ensure that Council Tax Fraud was also addressed. Since they qualified as fraud investigators, those officers have also been looking for Tax accounts that display the characteristics which have an element of fraud.

## CIPFA COUNTER FRAUD CENTRE

**Action: Continue to subscribe to the CIPFA Counter Fraud Centre and make use of the facility, including the source for identifying fraud risks, to ensure access to good practice**

- 12 We are committed to membership for the current financial year, and we expect that we will continue thereafter. Further, we aim to be proactive, and have contributed to the service's annual "Fraud Tracker" exercise again this year.

## COMMITTEE REPORT

**Action: Include an item on counter fraud work on the Audit and Governance Committee agenda twice a year**

- 13 Apart from failing to report in May 2020 as the Audit and Governance Committee meeting has been cancelled, this has continued.

## USE OF DATA

**Action: Assess the possibility of using data better in order to identify and investigate fraud**

### ***Review of Council Tax Discounts***

- 14 We can confirm that Gwynedd Council continues to work with Datatank to provide ongoing work to review the single person discount given to Council Tax accounts. False claims for this discount are among the most common frauds nationally, and studies have shown that the public sees this as among the most "acceptable" fraud.
- 15 Currently, around 18,000 Gwynedd homes receive a 25% Council Tax single person discount which is awarded when only one adult lives in a property.
- 16 When incorrect claims are discovered, the Council ends the claims, writes to the taxpayers and tries to recover the reduction.
- 17 We will also commission Datatank to assist the Taxation Service this year again in looking for second homes and empty dwellings that should be subject to the Premium but where the taxpayer has not informed us of this.

### ***National Fraud Initiative***

- 18 The National Fraud Initiative (NFI) is a biennial data-matching exercise that helps detect and prevent fraud and overpayments from the public purse across the UK.
- 19 The NFI matches data across organisations and systems to help public bodies identify fraud and overpayments. A full NFI exercise will be undertaken soon, and work is ongoing to prepare data so that it can be passed to Audit Wales by the deadline of 5pm on 1<sup>st</sup> December.
- 20 These are the data sets that local authorities must provide:
- Payroll
  - Pensions
  - Trade creditors' payment history and trade creditors' standing data
  - Housing benefits (supplied by DWP)
  - Housing – Tenants, waiting list, Right to Buy

- Council tax (annual submission)
  - Council tax reduction scheme
  - Electoral register (annual submission)
  - Students eligible for a loan (to be supplied by SLC)
  - Private supported care home residents (date of collection to be confirmed)<sup>1</sup>
  - Transport: residents parking and blue badges (blue badge data to be supplied by the Blue Badge Digital Service) and concessionary travel passes and permits
  - Licences – taxi driver (market trader-operator and personal alcohol licence data may be submitted on a voluntary basis)
  - Personal budgets (date of collection to be confirmed)
  - COVID-19 business support grants data
- 21 The Council has started to receive the results of the data matching work from January 2021, with work underway to check the reports that have been produced to identify any cases of fraud. This is a significant task, and the Audit and Governance Committee will receive an update on the work and any cases that emerge as the work continues.

### NEW DEVELOPMENTS

#### **Action: The Council will be alert to the risk of fraud with new developments within the Council**

- 22 It was reported to the Council in November 2020 that the new development that presented the greatest risk of fraud was Covid-19 business support grants. It is emphasised that this was Welsh Government funding, administered by local authorities, but nevertheless protecting funds is a responsibility for all those who administer public money.
- 23 The Taxation Service, supported by staff from other Department services, was charged with administering Welsh Government Covid-19 grants to Gwynedd businesses. As a result of the various lockdown periods of the crisis, there were 5 grant schemes during 2020/21 and over £106m of grant funding was distributed to support the county's businesses, processing almost 20,000 payments.
- 24 As noted above, the National Fraud Initiative will help to review these charges to identify any fraudulent applications, but early indications suggest that fraudulent applications have not yet emerged by using this procedure.
- 25 This appears to confirm that robust arrangements are in place within the Taxation Service to administer the grants and check the validity of the applications. As reported previously, while this has attracted complaints from those who saw delays in receiving their payments, indications suggest that an appropriate balance has been struck between quick payment and correct payment.

### RAISING AWARENESS

#### **Action: Establish a team Task and Finish Group to identify ways of raising awareness of fraud across the Council**

- 26 This has not yet happened and has slipped due to the exceptional circumstances this year.

## TRAINING EVENTS

**Action: Being proactive by attending training events provided by professional bodies, and/or provide training jointly with other authorities in order to maximise effectiveness**

- 27 A number of officers from the Finance Department have attended online webcasts on Fraud and Corruption issues since the start of the lockdown period and since last reporting to the Committee, including some that have been provided by CIPFA, the IRRV and others. This complements what has previously been reported, that online events have made it easier and cheaper for many officers to attend and learn remotely.
- 28 As previously reported, in addition to Benefit and Taxation officers, two of the internal auditors have also qualified as CIPFA Accredited Counter Fraud Technician (ACFTech). One of these auditors is currently on secondment with another public body while working specifically in the fraud investigation field while the permanent holder of the post is on maternity leave. The expectation is that the officer will learn from this valuable experience and use it with us at Gwynedd Council in the near future when they return to their usual post in October 2021.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- 29 The Audit and Governance Committee is asked to accept this report as an update on the Council's anti-fraud and anti-corruption work.