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To: All Members of the Council

6 September 2018

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Flintshire County Council which will be held at 2.00 pm on Wednesday, 12th September, 2018 in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Mold CH7 6NA to consider the following items

A G E N D A

1 PRESENTATIONS

Purpose: **Connah's Quay Nomads**
In recognition of third successive qualification for the Europa League and Welsh Cup winners 2018

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Purpose: To receive any apologies.

3 MINUTES (Pages 3 - 14)

Purpose: To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2018.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Purpose: To receive any Declarations and advise Members accordingly.

5 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

Purpose: To receive the communications as circulated.

6 PETITIONS

Purpose: To receive any Petitions.

7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Purpose: To receive any Public Questions.

8 QUESTIONS

Purpose: To note the answers to any questions submitted in accordance with County Council Standing Order No. 9.4(A).

9 NOTICES OF MOTION (Pages 15 - 16)

Purpose: To consider any Notices of Motion.

10 RECOGNITION OF IAN BANCROFT

Purpose: To recognise the contribution made to the Council by Ian Bancroft, Chief Officer (Strategic Programmes), who left the Authority in August to join Wrexham County Borough Council.

**11 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2017/18 AND SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION TO STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2017/18
(Pages 17 - 164)**

Report of Corporate Finance Manager -

Purpose: To present to members for approval the final version of the Statement of Accounts for 2017/18 and to note the Supplementary financial information.

12 NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY: 2019-20 FINANCIAL UPDATE AND CONSULTATION

Purpose: To receive a presentation from the Chief Fire Officer to inform the Council about North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority's 2019-20 budget.

Yours sincerely



Robert Robins
Democratic Services Manager

WEBCASTING NOTICE

This meeting will be filmed for live broadcast on the Council's website. The whole of the meeting will be filmed, except where there are confidential or exempt items.

Generally the public seating areas are not filmed. However, by entering the Chamber you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and / or training purposes.

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact a member of the Democratic Services Team on 01352 702345.

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
19 JUNE 2018

Minutes of the meeting of Flintshire County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Mold on Tuesday, 19 June 2018

PRESENT: Councillor Paul Cunningham (Chairman)

Councillors: Mike Allport, Bernie Attridge, Janet Axworthy, Glyn Banks, Haydn Bateman, Marion Bateman, Sean Bibby, Chris Bithell, Sian Braun, Helen Brown, Derek Butler, Clive Carver, Geoff Collett, Bob Connah, David Cox, Jean Davies, Rob Davies, Ron Davies, Adele Davies-Cooke, Chris Dolphin, Rosetta Dolphin, Ian Dunbar, Andy Dunbobbin, Mared Eastwood, David Evans, Veronica Gay, David Healey, Gladys Healey, Patrick Heesom, Cindy Hinds, Dave Hughes, Kevin Hughes, Ray Hughes, Dennis Hutchinson, Joe Johnson, Paul Johnson, Rita Johnson, Christine Jones, Richard Jones, Tudor Jones, Colin Legg, Brian Lloyd, Richard Lloyd, Dave Mackie, Billy Mullin, Ted Palmer, Mike Peers, Michelle Perfect, Vicky Perfect, Neville Phillips, Mike Reece, Ian Roberts, Tony Sharps, Aaron Shotton, Paul Shotton, Ralph Small, Ian Smith, Carolyn Thomas, Owen Thomas, Andy Williams, David Williams, David Wisinger and Arnold Woolley

APOLOGIES:

Councillors: Carol Ellis, George Hardcastle, Andrew Holgate, Hilary McGuill, Mike Lowe and Martin White

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive; Chief Officer (Governance); Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy); Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation); Chief Officer (Social Services); Chief Officer (Housing & Assets); Interim Chief Officer (Education & Youth); Senior Manager, Human Resources & Organisational Development; Corporate Business & Communications Executive Officer; Revenues Manager; Democratic Services Manager; Team Leader - Democratic Services; Democratic Services Officer; and Reverend David Poulton for prayers

14. PRESENTATIONS

(i) Flintshire Primary Schools Football Squad

The Chairman and Chief Executive welcomed Andrew Jones (Manager and Headteacher of Ysgol Derwenfa in Leeswood) and Ian Price, Jamie Davies and Reagen Nicholas (Coach/Teacher and two team captains) of Ewloe Green Primary School. They were congratulated on their fantastic achievement in winning three competitions in one year: the Tom Yeoman Northern Section (North Wales champions), Tom Yeoman Shield National Finals (Champions of Wales) and the Phil Staley Shield. It was noted that Deeside/Flintshire Primary Schools currently held the record for the most victories in the Tom Yeoman Shield National Finals, having won 16 times since entering the competition.

As Cabinet Member for Education, Councillor Roberts paid tribute to Flintshire Primary Schools and the contributions of teachers and parents in helping the young people to achieve their success.

On behalf of all in the Football Association, Mr. Jones said that it was an honour to be asked to attend in recognition of the hard work put in by all involved.

(ii) Gareth Thomas, Manager of Conwy Borough Football Club

Flintshire County Council officers Gareth Thomas (Logistics Manager, Streetscene) and Alun Winstanley (Youth Justice Service) - Manager and Assistant Manager of Conwy Borough Football Club - were welcomed in recognition of the club's success as winners of the Welsh Alliance League Championship (gaining promotion to the Cymru Alliance), FA Welsh Trophy and the Cookson Cup. In addition, Gareth had won three 'Manager of the Month' awards as well as being awarded 'Manager of the Season' by Y Clwb Pel Droed magazine and the League.

Congratulations were given by Councillor Roberts on the club's achievements during the season.

In wishing the club well for the new season, Councillor Attridge said it had given him great pleasure to nominate Gareth and Alun because of their dedication and commitment to the club. Similar tributes were paid by Councillor Owen Thomas and Councillor Hutchinson.

In response, Gareth expressed his gratitude for the invitation to attend the meeting.

15. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 14 April and 1 May 2018 were received.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

On the advice of the Chief Officer (Governance), the following declared a personal interest on the Approval of Clwyd Pension Fund Statement of Accounts (Agenda Item 14) as members of the Clwyd Pension Fund:

Councillors: Haydn Bateman, Marion Bateman, Sian Braun, Helen Brown, Rob Davies, Adele Davies-Cooke, Mared Eastwood, Gladys Healey, Dave Hughes, Joe Johnson, Paul Johnson, Ian Roberts and Ian Smith.

The Chief Officer advised that a personal interest would be recorded on behalf of all Members present in respect of Agenda Item 15 'Schedule of Remuneration for 2018/19'.

17. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

A copy of the Chairman's Communications had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman gave particular mention to the raising of the Royal Air Force Ensign at County Hall to celebrate its centenary year, which had been well attended.

18. PETITIONS

None were received.

19. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None were received.

20. QUESTIONS

None were received.

21. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS ON COMMITTEE MINUTES

None were received.

22. NOTICE OF MOTION

Two Notice of Motion had been received from Councillor Hinds:

(i) Parking Bays outside Pensioners' Bungalows

'All parking bays that are outside pensioners bungalows across Flintshire should be for them and emergency vehicles only. This should be enforceable.'

In support of her Motion, Councillor Hinds spoke about the importance of such parking bays being available for residents, their carers and most importantly, the emergency services who may require urgent access. She had received many objections about others using the parking bays and parents blocking access during school times.

As Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Attridge understood the need for some form of control but spoke about wider issues not just restricted to pensioners bungalows. He referred to the programme of environment works across the County which included creating new parking provision and suggested that this could incorporate a review of current parking restrictions in those areas and identify where residents' parking permits could be introduced, if supported. He acknowledged that this may not address Councillor Hinds' immediate concerns but suggested that officers could identify priority locations where parking was being abused and develop a residents' permit parking policy, including effective consultation with affected users. This approach would be subject to consultation with Councillor Carolyn Thomas, the Cabinet Member for Streetscene & Countryside.

Councillor Hinds indicated that she was satisfied with the amendment, which was seconded by Councillor Heesom.

The Chief Executive clarified that if supported, officers would endeavour to prioritise the types of accommodation highlighted by Councillor Hinds within the review.

Councillor Carolyn Thomas spoke in support of the amendment including the prioritised areas, subject to the necessary resources and funding being available.

Also speaking in favour of the amendment were Councillors Heesom, David Williams and Owen Thomas.

Councillor Carver asked whether the review would apply to Council owned bungalows only and he pointed out that accommodation was sometimes allocated to residents below pensionable age.

Councillor Peers asked for assurance that the review would include schemes previously identified across the County.

Councillor Gladys Healey said that the review should take into account the different needs of residents using this type of accommodation and number of vehicles per household.

Councillor Attridge clarified that the review would apply to Council owned sheltered accommodation and was separate to the Streetscene review. Councillor Hinds indicated her agreement.

In response to the comments raised, the Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation) explained that a policy for resident parking schemes had been introduced, involving a detailed process and extensive consultation. In response to comments from Councillor Chris Dolphin, he said that whilst a list of areas was prioritised, a scheme had not yet been implemented as this required support from a requisite number of residents.

On being put the vote, the amendment was carried.

(ii) Welsh Government Technical Advice Note (TAN) 1: Joint Housing Land Availability Studies (2015)

'TAN1 is the most unfair planning process and can punish some communities more than others leaving that community to be overdeveloped and cannot cope with the infrastructure that is already there. Also not taking into account the wellbeing and social cohesion of that community e.g. far more four bedroomed houses leaving those who are ill, disabled, young, without cars and lower income families without public transport, etc because all these residents will have private vehicles. No room in schools, drainage not good enough, hospitals and doctors not coping, highways etc. We are separating communities not keeping them together.

It breaks up a community because we have it now where we never hardly see a resident from one of the new estates that has mainly 4 bedroomed houses. The other

estate is a better mix of houses, and residents are making a contribution to the community.

This needs to be sent to the Welsh Government (WG) so fairness, social cohesion, wellbeing and common sense are the priority and not wealth of developers and estates with the correct housing built that are not planned like little boxes, not enough room between them and a good drive for at least two cars. Don't we learn?

The most important part of planning is what the community want and if the community has worked hard to do a Place Plan then this should be taken into consideration and come under any type of planning policy whether it be the LDP, etc.'

Councillor Hinds explained that she had submitted the Notice of Motion prior to the WG consultation on proposals to temporarily dis-apply paragraph 6.2 of TAN1 and sought Members' support to respond to the consultation. In highlighting the policy implications on communities, she referred to the planning appeal decision in her ward which had been passed under appeal.

As Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection, Councillor Bithell appealed to Members to endorse the recommendations agreed by Cabinet earlier in the day and to write individually to WG to abolish the policy.

The Chief Officer (Governance) read out a key extract from the response which had been summarised by the Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy) and agreed by Cabinet at the meeting earlier in the day:

1. Council agrees with and fully supports the proposed dis-application of the relevant paragraph within TAN1 not only for the duration of the call for evidence but until such time as the outcome of the review is known and the actions in relation to revising TAN1 are understood.
2. Clear evidence suggests that a significant and growing quantum of undeveloped planning permissions exists within Wales. When current, emerging and adopted Local Development Plan (LDP) supply is measured against the rates that housing developers are currently building houses, all bar one Local Planning Authority (LPA) in Wales could demonstrate a five year supply on this basis.
3. Council confirms that the dis-application of the relevant paragraph will significantly relieve the pressure it is experiencing to accept speculative development.
4. This would enable the Council to maintain its focus on progressing the LDP which is at a critical stage in terms of preparing its deposit plan and where the Council must make decisions about allocating sufficient and sustainable sites to meet the Plan's requirements.
5. The scope of the review must be broad and challenging and not just to LPAs. The building industry must be fully engaged with the review in a non-adversarial sense and must be prepared to be challenged and open in providing evidence of their genuine capacity to build homes within Wales. This is from the perspective of existing permitted but as yet undeveloped units as well as bringing forward sites in Local Development

Plans. This must also fundamentally test the perception that exists of land banking as well as the approach to delivering housing in Wales.

6. The outcome and actions from the review should be fully assessed and shared with all interested parties to avoid the undue haste at which TAN1 was previously reviewed and amended and the consequent issues that are now being experienced as a result of that hasty review.

Councillor Hinds indicated that the above covered her concerns. This amendment was seconded by Councillor Attridge.

It was clarified by the Chief Executive that Council was being asked to support the Cabinet resolution.

Councillor Peers spoke in support of the Notice of Motion and Cabinet response to seek an end to TAN1 which was undermining the LDP. He gave assurance that the Planning Strategy Group had considered the matter in detail and he asked what steps could be taken in the interim period to reduce the pressure on communities.

Speaking in support, Councillor David Healey said that representations should be made to WG to widen the scope of the review to reconsider the methodology used to calculate housing land supply.

Councillor David Williams raised points about seeking more protection for rural communities.

Councillor Heesom said that it may be appropriate to pursue a judicial review of the decision on the Penyffordd application whilst the consultation period was ongoing.

Councillor Butler explained that the Planning Strategy Group had been working on the matter for some time. He said that collective support by the Council was needed including seeking suspension of TAN1 until the outcome of the review was known. This view was shared by Councillor Owen Thomas.

In response to Councillor Peers' question, the Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy) asked that Members collectively support the amended Notice of Motion and also individually respond to the WG consultation. He gave assurance to Councillor Healey that as part of the call for evidence, the Council would highlight the flaw in the calculation to demonstrate a five year housing land supply, as evidenced by the low ratio of LPAs which could do so. He went on to stress the need for an urgent decision by WG to dis-apply the relevant paragraph.

The Chief Officer (Governance) clarified that Members were being asked to endorse the Cabinet resolution including representations on the methodology for calculating housing land supply.

On being put to the vote, the Motion - as amended - was unanimously supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Notice of Motion from Councillor Hinds be supported as follows: 'That the Council review residents' parking generally across the County, to target and prioritise parking schemes outside Council sheltered bungalows and introduce on-street parking powers where possible. As part of that review, to identify Council-owned land and parking bays, as referred to in the Notice of Motion, to identify where parking powers could be introduced.'
- (b) That the Notice of Motion from Councillor Hinds be supported as follows: 'That Members support the resolution of Cabinet on 19 June 2018 for a response to be made to Welsh Government as set out in the Cabinet report and specifically paragraph 1.07 including representations on the recalculation for housing land supply as part of the call for evidence.'

23. COUNCIL PLAN 2018-19

Councillor Mullin moved the recommendations in the report on the annual review of the Council Plan 2017-23 which had been refreshed for structure and content for 2018-19. He thanked Members for their input at the recent workshop and at the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee. This was seconded by Councillor Attridge.

In presenting the report, the Chief Executive explained that the Plan should be published annually and the contents were subject to a rolling review. He drew attention to the appendices including the responses to Member consultation and confirmed that Cabinet had recommended the Plan for approval.

The Corporate Business & Communications Executive Officer gave a presentation covering the following:

- How the Plan is put together
- Choosing in-year priorities
- New content: national issues
- Member consultation
- Benefits of planning
- This year's 2018/19 Council Plan
- Using the Plan
- Next steps

During the presentation, a reminder was given of the role of Overview & Scrutiny in monitoring progress and the Audit Committee in monitoring strategic risks. The low number of significant ongoing issues of underperformance from 2017/18 would be subject to further monitoring through agreed action plans.

Councillor Richard Jones said that despite previous requests, revisions were not highlighted in Part 2 of the Plan and he gave examples of changes to measurements and targets where explanation should have been given, which he agreed to share in full after the meeting. To enable the Council to meet its statutory duty on publishing the Plan, the Chief Executive suggested that the recommendation

be changed to adopt the Council Plan as it stood, subject to ongoing review of targets for improvement.

Councillor Jones also suggested changes to wording on two of the impacts under the 'Business Sector Growth and Regeneration' priority which he said could not be included at this stage. On the delivery of commitments though the Regional Economic Growth Deal (Item 2), the Chief Executive agreed that the second sentence should be removed. On the development of regional and local transport strategy (Item 7), it was agreed that the first bullet-point be amended to read 'Proposing that transport infrastructure features in the Regional Economic Growth Deal proposal' to reflect this particular aim in-year.

Councillor Peers said that tracked changes in Part 1 of the Plan should reflect explanation on why aims had been deleted. In response to queries, the Chief Executive provided clarification on terminology in the document. On the 'Modern, Efficient and Adapted Homes' priority, whilst the Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy) acknowledged the request to reinstate the aim to maximise provision of affordable homes through the planning process, he pointed out that the Council had little control on influencing performance. As such, he suggested that the objective be included as a third bullet-point under 'achievement will be measured through', but with no set target. The Chief Executive and Councillor Bithell were in agreement that schemes should be measured on an individual basis as it was not viable to set an overall target.

Under the 'Ambitious Council' theme, Councillor Heesom stated his reservations about county-wide benefits from the Regional Growth Economic Growth Deal.

The Executive Officer advised that a more detailed report to explain all the changes would be brought to the next meeting of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

The Chief Executive clarified the proposed changes and spoke about the potential to bring forward consultation on the Plan for 2019-20 at an earlier stage next year.

In summing up, Councillor Mullin said that the process demonstrated the effectiveness of Overview & Scrutiny and he thanked the Executive Officer and her team for their hard work.

On being put to the vote, the recommendation from Cabinet and proposed changes were carried.

RESOLVED:

That the Council Plan 2018-19 be adopted on the recommendation of Cabinet, subject to:

- the agreed changes to wording on the Regional Economic Growth Deal and the development of the Regional and Local Transport Strategy under the 'Business Sector Growth and Regeneration' priority;
- the inclusion of the objective to maximise provision of affordable housing, with a broader approach to performance be included under the 'Modern, Efficient and Adapted Homes' priority; and
- an open approach to reviewing targets for improvement at any stage.

24. GROWTH VISION AND STRATEGY FOR THE ECONOMY OF NORTH WALES: GOVERNANCE AGREEMENT

The Chief Executive and Chief Officer (Governance) presented the report on the development of the North Wales Growth Deal Bid to seek approval of the non-executive arrangements within Governance Agreement 1 (GA1) following Cabinet approval of the executive arrangements earlier in the day.

Explanation was given on the two areas of decision-making needed to approve the first stage of the Governance Agreement so that the Constitution could be updated accordingly. The aim of the Growth Deal Bid was to benefit the economy of the region and the Growth Strategy would enable a unified approach to access bids for funding, such as the Prosperity Fund. As requested at the recent Member workshop, information was shared on the revised governance model of the joint statutory regional committee which was circulated to replace that appended to the report. This clarified the decision-making or advisory responsibilities of each partner. Whilst the GA1 set out how the committee would operate in the interim period, the second part of the Agreement would include more detail on commitments and would be subject to consultation in 2019.

The Chief Executive said that achievements on the Growth Deal Bid would strengthen the case for improved regional collaborative working, which was viewed as a likely alternative to local government reform in Wales. He said that the three areas identified for improvement through regional working in North Wales were economy, health and social care and community safety.

The Chief Officer provided information on the content of GA1, explaining that agreement on Overview & Scrutiny arrangements was a Council decision. He outlined the four main safeguards as set out in the report and gave a reminder that the proposition document would be submitted for Council approval in September.

In moving the recommendations, Councillor Butler acknowledged the concerns which had been expressed by some Members but highlighted the importance of the Deal and the retention of local control on specific governance issues.

Councillor Peers raised a number of points about the presentation of the document which the Chief Officer agreed to address when finalising the GA1 once comments from all councils had been received. The Chief Executive provided clarification on a number of areas within the GA1 including contributions from the six councils and agreed to re-circulate the Growth Strategy to Members. On the suggestion to insert 'where possible' in respect of devoting sufficient resources to

deliver the Growth Deal, officers highlighted the importance of each council honouring its share of commitments as part of the agreement.

Whilst Councillor Heesom acknowledged the significant opportunities from the Growth Deal, he reiterated his concerns about the extent of the benefits.

Councillor Richard Jones spoke in support of the regional approach but questioned the County-wide benefits. He referred to the objectives set out in the GA1 and said that items of direct benefit to Flintshire should have been brought to Council at an earlier stage to provide clarification to Members on what they were being asked to agree. He queried the full costs of the Growth Deal and arrangements for appointing representatives to the joint committee. He went on to request that local scrutiny be undertaken by the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee with other relevant Overview & Scrutiny committees and that those meetings be webcast.

Councillor Woolley spoke in support of the Growth Deal but had concerns about the reported outcomes of similar arrangements in England. On the GA1, he expressed reservations about wording used in the sections on withdrawal and consequences of termination of the agreement.

Councillor Carolyn Thomas highlighted the good progress being made on cross-border transport infrastructure and maximising funding opportunities to improve links across the County.

Councillor Banks also spoke in support of the bid but shared some Members' concerns about equitable investment in transport across the County.

In responding to the concerns raised, the Chief Officer said that this model differed from that in England and that the joint committee involved all six councils where local scrutiny arrangements applied. He provided assurance on powers to be granted to sub-committees, the safeguards for Member approval at key stages and audit arrangements by the host authority.

The Chief Executive said that the unified regional approach had already helped to attract some funding and that the agreement needed to be legal, credible and workable in order to be accepted by both governments. He spoke about the aim of investing in growing business sectors across the region to achieve direct and indirect benefits and said that the eight key programmes shared at the Member workshop would be prioritised by both governments at the final bid stage.

Members were advised that the regional board would agree an approach to sharing interim reports on the development of the bid with individual councils.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That progress on the development of a Growth deal bid is noted and welcomed;
- (b) That Council approves all non-executive elements of the first stage Governance Agreement as outlined at the meeting;

- (c) That the Council be presented with the final draft Growth Deal Bid for review and consent in September/October prior to the stage of reaching Heads of Terms with both Governments;
- (d) That delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive and Chief Officer (Governance) in consultation with the Leader to finalise the terms of the Governance Agreement in accordance with the draft attached to the Cabinet report; and
- (e) That the executive arrangements contained within the Governance Agreement be included in the Constitution and that Council be requested to include the non-executive arrangements within the Constitution.

25. COUNCIL TAX CARE LEAVERS DISCOUNT

A report was received on proposals to provide a discount of up to 100% from the payment of Council Tax to care leavers aged between 18 and 25 residing in Flintshire.

As Cabinet Member for Social Services, Councillor Christine Jones welcomed the proposals to help vulnerable young people in their transition to adulthood and independent living.

The Revenues Manager advised that the estimated cost of funding the scheme would be around £14K per annum and that up to ten individuals in Flintshire would qualify for a discount including care leavers residing in Flintshire but had previously been in the care of another council. If supported by Members, Cabinet would be asked to adopt the new scheme with effect from 1 April 2018.

As Chairman of the Children's Services Forum, Councillor Bithell welcomed the proposals.

In response to a query by Councillor Carver, the Revenues Manager explained that the policy for the scheme would take account of differing circumstances and living arrangements.

In supporting the proposals, Councillor Tudor Jones spoke about the need for continued support to care leavers beyond the age of 18. The Chief Officer (Social Services) advised that support was available for care leavers up to the age of 25, depending on the individual's circumstances. He referred to plans to further strengthen support for care leavers.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Council provides feedback to Cabinet on the potential introduction of a Council Tax Discount scheme for care leavers; and
- (b) That the Council supports the development of a Council Tax Discretionary Discount scheme for Care Leavers, subject to final approval of Cabinet, with the aim of providing discounts of up to 100% to all care leavers up to the age of 25.

26. APPROVAL OF CLWYD PENSION FUND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Chief Officer (Governance) presented the report to enable the Clwyd Pension Fund Committee, as the more appropriate body, to approve the Clwyd Pension Fund final statement of accounts, rather than full Council. This approach, which was supported by the Wales Audit Office, would still involve consideration of the final accounts by the Audit Committee.

On behalf of the Clwyd Pension Fund Committee, the Chairman, Councillor Dave Hughes, confirmed support for this approach.

RESOLVED:

That Clwyd Pension Fund final statement of accounts is considered by the Audit Committee and approved by the Clwyd Pension Fund Committee.

27. SCHEDULE OF REMUNERATION FOR 2018/19

The Democratic Services Manager presented the Schedule of Remuneration for 2018/19 for formal approval, subject to two amendments under section 14 and schedule 1.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That subject to the two amendments, the completed Schedule of Remuneration for 2018/19 be approved for publication; and
- (b) That the Democratic Services Manager be authorised to add the name of the final co-optee to the schedule when appointed.

28. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There was one member of the press in attendance.

(The meeting started at 2pm and ended at 5.20pm)

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Chairman

Notice of Motion
Flintshire County Council - 12 September 2018

Councillor Tony Sharps

The Council calls on the Chief Executive to ensure that the Chief and Senior Officers respond to Councillors' requests with courtesy and good manners without any undue delay.

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FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Meeting	Wednesday 12 September 2018
Report Subject	Statement of Accounts 2017/18 and Supplementary Financial Information to Statement of Accounts 2017/18
Report Author	Corporate Finance Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report presents the:

- Final version of the Statement of Accounts 2017/18 incorporating those changes agreed with Wales Audit Office (WAO) during the course of the audit for Member approval (Appendix 1).
- WAO's presentation in connection with the audit of the Statement of Accounts 2017/18 (Appendix 4).
- Letter of Representation for Flintshire County Council (Appendix 3).
- Supplementary information to the Statement of Accounts 2017/18 on full time equivalent pay, in excess of £60,000, as requested by a notice of motion approved by Council on 29th January 2013 (Appendix 5).

WAO presented their report in full to the Audit Committee on the morning of the 12th September 2018, and will be in attendance at the meeting to present their findings to Council.

If the Audit Committee recommend any changes to the Statement of Accounts or wish to make any specific comments to Council, these will be reported verbally at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Council approve the final version of the Statement of Accounts 2017/18.
2	Council accept the Letter of Representation.

3	Council note the Supplementary Financial Information to the Statement of Accounts 2017/18.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
1.01	The annual statutory deadline for the approval of the Statement of Accounts is currently 30 th September. The audit of the Statement of Accounts 2017/18 is now substantially complete. The statutory audit completion notice will be reported in due course. A copy of the Statement of Accounts 2017/18 is attached at Appendix 1.
1.02	The regulations under which the Statement of Accounts is prepared are changing with effect from financial year 2018/19, which means that the accounts need to be approved by 15 th September. The Statement of Accounts 2017/18 has been successfully prepared to this earlier deadline as preparation for 2018/19.
1.03	WAO presented the ISA (International Standards on Auditing) 260 report to the Audit Committee on 12 th September 2018. ISA 260 requires the auditor to communicate relevant matters relating to the audit of the financial statements to those charged with governance of the entity. This year the report takes the form of a presentation, as a means of improving accessibility to the report. A copy of the presentation is attached at Appendix 4.
1.04	During the audit, changes agreed with WAO were made to the draft Statement of Accounts 2017/18, and those which are reportable under ISA 260 are shown in Appendix 2.
1.05	If the Audit Committee recommends any changes to the Statement of Accounts 2017/18 or wishes to make any specific comments to Council, these will be reported verbally at the meeting.
1.06	The Flintshire County Council Letter of Representation to the WAO is attached at Appendix 3. In the Letter of Representation the Council confirms that the information contained in the financial statements is true and accurate and that all information has been disclosed.
	<u>Supplementary Financial Information to the Statement of Accounts 2017/18</u>
1.07	<p>Flintshire County Council approved the following Notice of Motion on 29th January 2013:</p> <p>“In the interests of openness and transparency, this Motion calls for the Council to publish a separate supplementary report to coincide with and accompany the presentation to Council of the Annual Statement of Accounts.</p> <p>This supplementary report to contain, in the same style and presentation as</p>

	<p>the existing 'Senior Employee Emoluments – Salary over £150,000' and 'Salary over £60,000 per year', the same financial information for ALL council employees, consultants and 'non-permanent posts' with a salary over £60,000 per year who are NOT listed within the existing framework of the Annual Statement of Accounts.</p> <p>In instances where those employees are in post for less than the financial year, then both their actual salary and equivalent annualised salary are to be shown.”</p> <p>The information for 2017/18 in response to the Notice of Motion was presented to the Audit Committee at its meeting on 11th July 2018. The Committee had no observations or matters to draw to Council’s attention.</p>
1.08	<p>Appendix 5 contains the information requested above in respect of the financial year 2017/18.</p> <p>For clarity the information has been split into the three categories below, which are described in the following paragraphs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table 1 – Council employees • Table 2 – Posts covered by interim or temporary arrangements • Table 3 – Payments to consultants and non-permanent posts.
1.09	<p>Table 1 contains costs (including termination benefits where applicable) for council employees only. For the purpose of this report council employees have been defined as permanent members of staff paid via Flintshire County Council’s payroll system.</p> <p>As the Notice of Motion requests, the detail of any council employee already included in the Senior Employee Emoluments note in the Statement of Accounts 2017/18 has not been included.</p>
1.10	<p>Table 2 shows the number of interim or temporary arrangements in place to cover posts during 2017/18. Where such arrangements are in place, the Council has procured the services of individuals to fulfil the requirements of the post through a contract with another organisation. The Council paid the organisation, and that organisation employed and paid a salary to the individual. Please note these amounts do not reflect the individuals’ salaries.</p>
1.11	<p>Table 3 contains payments made for consultants and non-permanent posts. It is important that Members note that actual costs incurred by the Council in 2017/18 are in bold in the third column in table 3.</p> <p>The fourth column, theoretical annual costs, has been supplied to provide an equivalent annualised salary as requested by the Notice of Motion. Figures have been calculated by taking the daily (or hourly costs in some cases) and grossing up assuming a 37 hour standard week and that 48 weeks per year are worked. As is clear from the difference between both columns the staff were in post for significantly less than a year.</p>
1.12	<p>The Council has adopted the following definition to describe a consultant, as agreed at Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee in</p>

	<p>March 2016:</p> <p>“A consultant is an organisation or an individual contracted to provide specific services to the Council for a limited period of time. These are services where the Council does not have the expertise ‘in-house’ to be self-sufficient or where the Council has some expertise but insufficient capacity. It is not possible for the Council to be wholly self-sufficient and it would be a poor use of resources to employ specialist individuals to maintain an internal expertise which is only required occasionally or indeed once.”</p> <p>Consultants are classified into 2 groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retained consultant: with a contract in place for the periodic provision of advice; and • Project consultant: to work on defined and time limited projects on strategy, structure or management.
1.13	<p>The Notice of Motion specifically requests information on salaries of consultants and non-permanent posts.</p> <p>Amounts have been taken from the general ledger based on codes used to categorise on the basis of the ‘Retained Consultant’, ‘Project Consultant’ and agency workers definitions. These will be on an accruals rather than a cash basis, therefore relating to costs of services provided during the year, rather than amounts physically paid during the year.</p>
1.14	<p>Flintshire County Council leads on a number of collaborative projects with partner Local Authorities, examples being the North Wales Regional Waste Treatment Project and Regional Emergency Planning Service. Members are advised that the information supplied in Appendix 5 does not include the costs of any individual working for joint arrangements, given that the expenditure has been incurred by the partnership and not Flintshire County Council. Joint arrangements that are set up as Joint Committees publish their own separate accounts.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	Financial implications are as set out in the report. There are no other resource implications as a result of this report.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	None required and none undertaken.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	Actions will be taken in the current year (2018/19) to address

	recommendations from the WAO's report.
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5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Statement of Accounts 2017/18. 2. Table of significant audit issues. 3. Flintshire County Council Letter of Representation. 4. WAO ISA 260 presentation. 5. Supplementary Financial Information to Statement of Accounts 2017/18.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Contact Officer: Paul Vaughan, Interim Technical Finance Manager. Telephone: 01352 702289. E-mail: paul.vaughan@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>Financial Audit: The annual external audit of the Council's Statement of Accounts.</p> <p>Financial Year: the period of 12 months commencing on 1 April.</p> <p>Statement of Accounts / Final Accounts / Financial Accounts or Statements: The Council's annual finance report providing details of the Council's financial performance and position at the end of the financial year. The format is prescribed to enable external comparison with other public and private entities.</p> <p>Wales Audit Office: works to support the Auditor General as the public sector watchdog for Wales. They aim to ensure that the people of Wales know whether public money is being managed wisely and that public bodies in Wales understand how to improve outcomes.</p>

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STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

2017-18



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NARRATIVE REPORT

INTRODUCTION

Flintshire County Council's Statement of Accounts for 2017/18 details the income and expenditure on service provision for the year 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 and the value of the Council's assets and liabilities as at 31st March 2018. The Group Accounts incorporates the Council's Financial Statements with that of its wholly owned subsidiaries North East Wales Homes (NEW Homes), Newydd and Theatr Clwyd Productions Ltd.

The Accounts have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the 2017/18 Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting which is based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

As always the production of this comprehensive and complex set of accounts has required an enormous effort from many people across the Council, both within finance and within service portfolio areas. However, the Council has still managed to prepare and submit the Accounts to the Council's External Auditors by the legislative deadline of 30th June 2018. Furthermore, in anticipation of the earlier statutory closure deadlines effective from 2018/19, the Council has managed to submit the accounts by the earlier deadline of 15th June, a year sooner than required.

The Council set its budget for the 2017/18 financial year in the context of a continuing reduction in public sector funding and a rising demand for its services. Despite facing significant challenges, the Council managed to achieve 94% of its budgeted efficiencies and was able to limit spending to £2,107k less than its approved budget, due to a combination of one-off savings and good financial management and control. The most significant impact was a further change in year to the Council's Minimum Revenue Provision Policy which had a positive effect of £1,422k.

The revenue outturn position, explained below, is important to residents and rent payers, as it records only those expenses which statute allows to be charged against the Council's annual budget and amounts collected from council tax and rents. Revenue outturn differs from the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) as the CIES includes charges for items such as depreciation, impairment, capital grants and pension charges which are accounting adjustments not included in the outturn.

In addition to meeting the statutory deadline for producing the Accounts, the finance service also aspires to develop a Statement of Accounts that is more accessible to users. Flintshire County Council is a large and diverse organisation and the information contained in these Accounts is technical and complex. The aim of this narrative statement, therefore, is to provide a general guide to the items of interest and highlights some of the more significant matters that have contributed to the final position for the financial year ending 31st March 2018.

COUNCIL PERFORMANCE DURING THE YEAR

The Council's Improvement Plan for 2017/18 set the Council's priorities for the year, identifying the areas where service change or focus was needed. The Plan has six priorities and a number of sub-priorities dependent upon the focus of attention for the year. The plan is published on the Council's website and is a user friendly document which clearly explains for each sub-priority why it is a priority, what we intend to achieve and how we will measure those achievements. A separate linked document is also published which describes in more detail the actual measures and milestones in making improvements or change throughout the year.

Public reports which measure our progress against this document are published quarterly, with the outturn for the year reported to Cabinet in June 2018. This report is available on the Council's website. The end of year report is published in October 2018.

NARRATIVE REPORT

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE DURING THE YEAR

The revenue budget covers the Council's day-to-day expenditure and income on such items as salaries and wages, running costs of services and the financing costs of capital expenditure. The capital programme covers expenditure on the acquisition of significant assets which will be of use or benefit to the Council in providing its services beyond the year of account, such as the enhancement or replacement of roads, buildings and other structures.

Economic climate

Approximately 73% of the budget requirement for Council services comes from Welsh Government through Aggregate External Funding (Revenue Support Grant and Non Domestic Rates). In 2017/18, there was a below inflationary increase in funding of 0.2% which was combined with significant cost pressures from factors outside of the Council's control such as policy directions or new legislation from UK and Welsh Government. These unfunded pressures are expected to be met by the Council without extra funds being set aside by Government and include; inflation, demographic growth, additional workforce cost pressures and a general increase in demand for Council services. The impact of funding not keeping pace with increasing costs has significant consequences and is expected to do so in future years as reflected in our latest Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Despite this financial challenge, portfolio business plans and corporate financing options enabled us to plan for £8,433k of new efficiencies in our 2017/18 budget, enabling the Council to invest in priorities such as school budgets, social care and providing resources to re-shape services.

Revenue outturn compared to budget

The Council Fund budget for 2017/18 was set at £255,156k and approved by Council on 14th February 2017. Budget monitoring information was reported to Cabinet on a monthly basis throughout the year, with final outturn scheduled to be reported on 17th July 2018.

The budget strategy for 2017/18 was based on an organisational strategy to reduce costs to shield and protect local services. It includes a package of measures and proposals which combine corporate financing options, portfolio level business plan proposals, review of pressures and workforce numbers, as well as maximisation of income generation and a review of reserves and balances.

Total net expenditure for 2017/18 amounted to £253,575k against the budget of £255,156k.

NARRATIVE REPORT

	2017/18 Budget £000	2017/18 Actual £000	Variance £000
Corporate Services :			
Chief Executive	2,926	2,805	(121)
People and Resources	4,073	4,412	339
Governance	7,613	7,634	21
	<u>14,612</u>	<u>14,851</u>	<u>239</u>
Social Services	62,494	63,250	756
Community and Enterprise	12,636	12,290	(346)
Streetscene and Transportation	27,770	29,928	2,158
Planning and Environment	4,887	5,132	245
Education and Youth	99,705	99,709	4
Organisational Change	7,896	7,681	(215)
Net expenditure on services	230,000	232,841	2,842
Central loans and investment account	13,262	10,848	(2,414)
Central and Corporate Finance	14,240	12,231	(2,009)
Total net expenditure	257,501	255,920	(1,581)
Contribution from reserves	(2,345)	(2,345)	0
Budget requirement	<u>255,156</u>	<u>253,575</u>	<u>(1,581)</u>
Financed by			
Council tax (net of community council precepts expenditure)	70,123	70,649	(526)
General grants	135,345	135,345	0
Non-domestic rates redistribution	49,688	49,688	0
Total resources	<u>255,156</u>	<u>255,682</u>	<u>(526)</u>
Net variance - (underspend)	<u>0</u>	<u>(2,107)</u>	<u>(2,107)</u>

The underspend of £1,581k, increased to £2,107k by way of additional Council Tax income of £526k, combined with other agreed funding transfers to produce year-end Council fund revenue reserves of £13,697k.

NARRATIVE REPORT

The table below shows the position for the Housing Revenue Account for the year:

	2017/18 Budget £000	2017/18 Actual £000	Variance £000
Estate Management	1,633	1,572	(61)
Landlord Services	1,386	1,404	17
Repairs & Maintenance	8,559	7,794	(765)
HRA Projects	93	303	210
Finance & Support	1,257	1,036	(221)
Revenue contributions to fund Capital Expenditure	10,863	12,248	1,385
Net expenditure on services	23,792	24,357	565
Central loans and investment account	7,544	6,968	(576)
Support Services	937	1,017	80
Total net expenditure	32,273	32,342	69
Contribution from reserves	244	276	32
Budget requirement	32,517	32,618	101
Financed by			
Rents	31,666	31,755	(89)
Grants and Other Income	851	863	(12)
Total resources	32,517	32,618	(101)
Net variance	0	0	0

2017/18 was the third of a 6 year programme of capital schemes to improve the quality of its housing stock and achieve the Welsh Housing Quality Standard which is in part funded by revenue contributions. The planned WHQS capital programme increased during the year. The increased expenditure was mitigated by underspends on other budget headings, procurement rebates and additional borrowing of £512k specifically for WHQS. A contribution of £276k was made to specific earmarked reserves bringing the total HRA reserves as at 31st March 2018 to £1,918k.

Capital Programme Budget, Outturn and Financing

Each year the Council approves a programme of capital works, which provides for investment in assets such as land, buildings and road improvements. The 2017/18 Capital Programme was approved in the sum of £47,179k (Housing Revenue Account £27,744k and Council Fund £19,435k); this figure increased during the course of the year to a final programme total of £59,143k, (Housing Revenue Account £29,772k and Council Fund £29,371k). Capital Programme budget monitoring information was reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis throughout the year, with final outturn scheduled to be reported on 17th July 2018.

NARRATIVE REPORT

Expenditure incurred is set out in the table below presented on the basis of those 'service blocks' used by Welsh Government in collecting capital data by way of the Capital Outturn Return (COR) forms, for its published Local Government Finance Statistics. Schemes and projects include; investment in the Council's housing stock as part of the plan to achieve the Welsh Housing Quality Standard, and the 21st Century Schools building programme which includes building a new all through school for ages 3 to 16 at Holywell and a 'hub' for post 16 education in Deeside in partnership with Coleg Cambria.

	2018
	£000
Education	8,543
Social services	417
Transport	7,773
Housing	35,582
Libraries, culture and heritage	52
Agriculture and fisheries *	255
Sport and recreation	1,095
Other environmental services	3,664
Outturn	57,381

* Incorporating land drainage and flood prevention/coast protection (to which the Council's expenditure relates)

The programme was financed as follows -

	2018
	£000
Supported borrowing	4,124
Other borrowing (including Salix loans)	23,636
Capital receipts	0
Capital grants and contributions	16,750
Capital reserves/capital expenditure funded from revenue account	12,871
Core financing	57,381

Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme (SHARP)

The Council has embarked on an ambitious house building programme as part of its Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme (SHARP). Over a 5 year period 500 new homes will be built at a range of sites across the county, a mixture of new council houses and affordable homes, alongside commissioning a range of linked regeneration initiatives and community benefits.

During the year, the Council House building programme continued, all funded through the Housing Revenue Account. 44 new homes were completed and occupied at sites in Connah's Quay, Leeswood, Mold and Flint and substantial progress was made towards 20 more homes in these locations. Work began to develop another 15 homes on the former Melrose Centre site in Aston and on the former Dairy Site in Connah's Quay. Total costs during the year equated to £7,580k (included within the housing figure in the Capital Outturn above). Approval was also given in March for a further 75 HRA properties on sites in Gronant, Pen-y-ffordd and Dobshell.

NARRATIVE REPORT

Affordable homes are being developed through the Council's wholly owned subsidiary North East Wales Homes (NEW Homes) in partnership with the Council. During the year the NEW Homes board approved the development of 62 new affordable homes for rent at The Walks site in Flint (one of the former maisonette sites). Following a thorough appraisal of capital funding options available the board's preferred option was to seek approval to borrow the capital finance required directly from the Council. The Council approved the loan with £3,560k drawn down during the year (also included within the housing figure in the Capital Outturn).

Borrowing

No long term Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)/financial institution borrowing was undertaken during 2017/18 - the Council continues to use cash reserves and short term borrowing to fund capital expenditure in place of new borrowing. The balance sheet (long term) borrowing total of £253,672k includes, the sum of £3,051k relating to interest free loans from Salix Finance Ltd, an independent company funded by the Carbon Trust to help improve energy efficiency in the public sector buildings, with new loans taken out during the year to improve the energy efficiency of street lighting, and loans totaling £860k from Welsh Government for regeneration initiatives in Deeside under the Vibrant and Viable Places Scheme within the Capital Programme.

Financial Position at 31st March 2018

Reserves and Provisions

The Council sets funding aside to meet future liabilities and service developments in provisions and reserves held on the Balance Sheet at 31st March 2018.

Provisions are based on past events that place an obligation on the Council which is likely to result in a future financial liability, but there is uncertainty over the timing and precise value of the liability. Provisions are disclosed in Note 18.

The Council has established a number of revenue reserves, falling outside the definition of a provision, which are summarised in the table below. The Council fund balance is a measure of the uncommitted reserves the Council holds prudently to meet cash flow requirements and unforeseen future events.

	2018	Net Underspend	Other	2017
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Council fund (unearmarked) balance	13,697	2,107	637	10,953
Earmarked council fund reserves	13,591	0	(5,378)	18,969
Locally managed schools	1,285	0	(271)	1,556
Housing Revenue Account reserves	1,918	276	0	1,642
Total revenue reserves	30,491	2,383	(5,012)	33,120

Pension Liability

The liability recorded in the balance sheet (£348,865k) has decreased by £46,185k during the year, mainly as a result of changes to the financial assumptions used by the pension fund Actuary. The main change relates to the increase in the discount rate used to discount the future cash flows of the fund and a reduction in the assumption of the rate of Consumer Price Index. These assumptions are determined by the Actuary and represent the market conditions at the balance sheet date. The Council relies and places assurance on the professional judgement of the Actuary and the assumptions used to calculate the liability. Disclosures in Note 41 are in accordance with International Accounting Standard 19 (IAS 19), accounting in full for the pension liability, that is the total projected deficit over the life of the fund. IAS 19 has no impact on Council tax levels or housing finance, but the liability does impact on the net worth of the Council as reflected in the balance sheet total of £115,014k (£43,518k as at 31st March 2017).

NARRATIVE REPORT

Revaluation of Non-Current Assets

All non-current assets must be revalued every five years. The Council meets this requirement by revaluing a proportion of the total asset portfolio each year and during 2017/18 (the third year of the current cycle, commencing 1st April 2015) 23% of operational non-dwelling assets were revalued. The exception to this arrangement is Council Dwellings which were all valued in 2015/16.

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK FOR THE COUNCIL

The Council has a Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) which forecasts the amount of resource that the Council is likely to have over the next 3 years, identifies any funding gap, which enables specific actions to be identified to balance the budget and manage resources.

The MTFS is under constant review to reflect budget developments at a national and local level. The Council has adopted a principled but high risk approach to finding solutions to the unprecedented level of budget savings to be found for 2018/19 and beyond and a revised version is due to be published later in 2018.

The Council was able to set a balanced budget for 2018/19 at its meeting in February 2018 although the latest forecast is that a further £10.6m will need to be found for 2019/20. This forecast continues to be developed, alongside the development of a refreshed medium term forecast over the next 3 to 5 years, to incorporate budget developments at a national and local level.

Flintshire, as a low funded Council, has made the case that it is particularly exposed to the significant annual reductions to public sector funding to meet current and new cost burdens. The Council continues to work with Welsh Government to address this as part of its overall financial strategy.

Regular updates will be provided to Cabinet and relevant Scrutiny Committees throughout the year as part of the budget process which will include public engagement and external stakeholder sessions.

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Council has a comprehensive risk management policy and strategy. All the priority areas within the Annual Improvement Plan identify the risks which may prevent or hinder successful delivery of our aims. These risks are assessed and then tracked throughout the year on a minimum quarterly basis. Risk management is also embedded within our ways of working – for example, through partnerships, business plan efficiency reports and within each report submitted to Cabinet or Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

The Audit Committee receives a summary of the Council's strategic risks at both mid-year and end of year. The end of year risk register was reported to Audit Committee in June 2018 and is available on the Council's website.

CHANGES AND FUTURE CHANGES TO THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

During the year no significant changes have been introduced to the Council's Statement of Accounts.

NARRATIVE REPORT

Future changes affecting the Statement of Accounts:

- The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2018 came into force on 14th March 2018. The regulations confirmed the new timetables for the publishing of statements of accounts in Wales. In 2017-18 this remains as 30th June (certification by the Section 151 Officer), but in future years the dates will be brought forward. The Council is actively preparing for having to produce its accounts earlier in conjunction with its external auditors. The regulations also remove the requirement for pension fund statements to be included in the administering bodies' accounts.

CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES

At its meeting on 1st March 2018, the Council agreed to revise its policy on setting the Minimum Revenue Provision and this is reflected in a revision to the appropriate accounting policy. There have been no other significant changes to accounting policies during the year.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Statement of Accounts is available on the internet (www.flintshire.gov.uk); with further information available on accounts and budgets available on request from the Corporate Finance Manager, Flintshire County Council, County Hall, Mold, CH7 6NA.

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

THE AUTHORITY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Authority is required to :-

- make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Authority, this is the Corporate Finance Manager as Chief Finance Officer;
- to manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets;
- approve the statement of accounts.

Signed :

**Cllr Paul Cunningham
Chair to the County Council**

Date :

THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Authority's statement of accounts in accordance with the proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in Great Britain ("the Code").

In preparing this statement of accounts, the Chief Finance Officer has :-

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

The Chief Finance Officer has also :-

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

The statement of accounts presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority at 31st March 2018, and its income and expenditure for the year then ended.

Signed :

**Gary Ferguson CPFA
Corporate Finance Manager (Chief Finance Officer)**

Date :

EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS

for the year ended 31st March 2018

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

2017/18	Net Portfolio Final Outturn Reported £000	Adjustments for Movements (to)/from Earmarked Reserves £000	Chargeable to C F / HRA Reserves £000	Adjustments between Funding & Accounting Basis £000	Net Expenditure - CI&ES £000
Chief Executives	2,805	51	2,856	39	2,895
Community & Enterprise	11,764	(221)	11,543	(14,604)	(3,060)
Education & Youth	99,709	1,112	100,821	5,972	106,793
Governance	7,634	350	7,984	1,613	9,597
Organisational Change	7,681	432	8,113	706	8,819
People & Resources	4,412	117	4,529	109	4,638
Planning & Environment	5,132	120	5,251	850	6,101
Social Services	63,250	149	63,399	799	64,198
Streetscene & Transportation	29,928	(317)	29,611	5,813	35,425
Corporate & Central Finance	20,735	3,192	23,927	(15,923)	8,003
Housing revenue account (HRA)	0	(276)	(276)	16,119	15,844
Theatr Clwyd	0	5	5	39	43
Cost of services	253,049	4,714	257,763	1,531	259,295
Other Income and Expenditure	(255,156)	20	(255,136)	21,584	(233,551)
(Surplus)/deficit on the provision of services	(2,107)	4,735	2,628	23,116	25,743
Opening Council Fund / HRA Reserves			33,120		
In Year Revenue Surplus / Deficit					
Council Fund (CF)			(2,903)		
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)			276		
Closing Council Fund / HRA Reserves			30,493		

2016/17	Net Portfolio Final Outturn Reported £000	Adjustments for Movements (to)/from Earmarked Reserves £000	Chargeable to C F / HRA Reserves £000	Adjustments between Funding & Accounting Basis £000	Net Expenditure - CI&ES £000
Chief Executives	2,892	78	2,970	(74)	2,896
Community & Enterprise	11,868	192	12,060	532	12,592
Education & Youth	98,947	2,047	100,994	24,792	125,786
Governance	7,779	271	8,050	974	9,024
Organisational Change	8,079	276	8,355	5,462	13,817
People & Resources	4,574	63	4,637	(171)	4,466
Planning & Environment	5,368	(32)	5,336	2,255	7,591
Social Services	60,821	880	61,701	(810)	60,891
Streetscene & Transportation	29,364	625	29,989	5,213	35,202
Corporate & Central Finance	20,260	3,999	24,259	(17,824)	6,435
Housing revenue account (HRA)	0	(126)	(126)	11,702	11,576
Theatr Clwyd	0	(182)	(182)	(63)	(245)
Cost of services	249,952	8,091	258,043	31,988	290,031
Other Income and Expenditure	(251,991)	234	(251,757)	13,788	(237,969)
(Surplus)/deficit on the provision of services	(2,039)	8,325	6,286	45,776	52,062
Opening Council Fund / HRA Reserves			39,406		
In Year Revenue Surplus / Deficit					
Council Fund (CF)			(6,411)		
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)			125		
Closing Council Fund / HRA Reserves			33,120		

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

for the year ended 31st March 2018

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure 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 local taxation. Authorities raise local 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.

		2018			2017	
	Note	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Service Expenditure Analysis						
Chief Executives		3,016	(121)	2,895	2,933	(37)
Community & Enterprise		43,459	(46,520)	(3,060)	54,657	(52,118)
Education & Youth		135,995	(29,203)	106,793	147,935	(22,149)
Governance		10,497	(900)	9,597	9,778	(754)
Organisational Change		11,014	(2,195)	8,819	23,757	(9,940)
People & Resources		5,030	(392)	4,638	4,797	(331)
Planning & Environment		9,646	(3,544)	6,101	10,894	(3,303)
Social Services		85,020	(20,822)	64,198	79,137	(18,246)
Streetscene & Transportation		47,348	(11,924)	35,425	46,391	(11,189)
Corporate & Central Finance		9,305	(1,302)	8,003	7,163	(728)
Housing revenue account (HRA)		48,959	(33,115)	15,844	43,751	(31,909)
Housing revenue account (HRA) - Valuations Dwellings		0	0	0	(266)	0
Theatr Clwyd		5,933	(5,889)	43	5,768	(6,013)
Cost of services		415,222	(155,927)	259,294	436,695	(156,717)
Other Operating Expenditure	4			26,221		
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	5			20,716		
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	6			(280,488)		
(Surplus)/deficit on the provision of services	3			25,743		52,062
(Surplus)/deficit arising on revaluation of non-current assets				(48,838)		(7,949)
(Surplus)/deficit arising on revaluation of available-for-sale financial assets				0		0
Actuarial (gains) or losses on pension assets and liabilities				(48,404)		80,557
Total comprehensive income and expenditure				(71,499)		124,670

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

for the year ended 31st March 2018

The movement in reserves statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into Usable Reserves (those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other (Unusable) Reserves.

The Surplus or (Deficit) on the Provision of Services line shows the true economic cost of providing the Council's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the Council Fund Balance and the Housing Revenue Account for council tax setting and dwellings rent setting purposes.

The Increase / Decrease in the year shows the Statutory Council Fund Balance and Housing Revenue Account Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves as shown in Note 20.

		Council Fund Reserves	Housing Revenue Account Balance	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Reserves of the Authority
	Note	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
At 31st March 2017		31,478	1,642	10,671	4,012	47,803	(4,285)	43,518
In Year Movement in Reserves								
Total comprehensive income and expenditure		(4,600)	(21,143)	0	0	(25,743)	97,242	71,499
Adjustments between accounting and funding basis under	7	1,697	21,419	3,423	813	27,352	(27,352)	0
Increase/(decrease) in year		(2,903)	276	3,423	813	1,609	69,890	71,499
At 31st March 2018		28,575	1,918	14,094	4,825	49,412	65,605	115,017

		Council Fund Reserves	Housing Revenue Account Balance	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Reserves of the Authority
	Note	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
At 31st March 2016		37,889	1,517	7,969	3,336	50,711	117,479	168,190
In Year Movement in Reserves								
Total comprehensive income and expenditure		(36,713)	(15,349)	0	0	(52,062)	(72,608)	(124,670)
Adjustments between accounting and funding basis under	7	30,302	15,474	2,702	676	49,154	(49,154)	(0)
Increase/(decrease) in year		(6,411)	125	2,702	676	(2,908)	(121,763)	(124,670)
At 31st March 2017		31,478	1,642	10,671	4,012	47,803	(4,285)	43,518

BALANCE SHEET

as at 31st March 2018

		2018		2017	
	Note	£000	£000	£000	£000
NON-CURRENT ASSETS					
Property, Plant & Equipment	8				
Council dwellings		207,735		210,912	
Other land and buildings		313,234		271,556	
Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment		14,577		15,918	
Surplus assets		8,934		9,008	
Infrastructure assets		153,463		151,232	
Community assets		4,721		4,721	
Assets under construction		7,512		3,789	
Total Property, Plant & Equipment			710,176		667,136
Investment properties and Agricultural Estate	9		29,064		28,508
Intangible assets			57		110
Long term debtors	11		2,387		2,211
NON-CURRENT ASSETS TOTAL			741,684		697,965
CURRENT ASSETS					
Inventories		836		1,075	
Short term debtors (net of impairment provision)	12	44,675		40,266	
Short term investments	13	0		0	
Cash and cash equivalents	14	31,803		6,962	
Assets held for sale	10	1,517		4,243	
CURRENT ASSETS TOTAL			78,831		52,546
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Borrowing repayable on demand or within 12 months	15	(58,084)		(14,377)	
Short term creditors	16	(30,622)		(32,404)	
Provision for accumulated absences		(1,776)		(2,651)	
Deferred liabilities	38	(541)		(565)	
Grants receipts in advance	17	(2,512)		(1,528)	
Provisions	18	(609)		(418)	
CURRENT LIABILITIES TOTAL			(94,144)		(51,943)
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Long term creditors	16	(1,342)		(240)	
Long term borrowing	19	(253,672)		(250,998)	
Deferred liabilities	38	(4,846)		(5,386)	
Provisions	18	(1,000)		(994)	
Other long term liabilities	41	(348,865)		(395,050)	
Grants receipts in advance	17	(1,632)		(2,382)	
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES TOTAL			(611,357)		(655,050)
NET ASSETS			115,014		43,518

BALANCE SHEET

		2018		2017	
	Note	£000	£000	£000	£000
USABLE RESERVES	20				
Capital receipts reserve		14,094		10,671	
Capital grants unapplied		4,825		4,012	
Council fund		13,697		10,953	
Earmarked reserves		14,876		20,525	
Housing revenue account		1,918		1,642	
USABLE RESERVES TOTAL			49,410		47,803
UNUSABLE RESERVES	21				
Revaluation reserve		103,062		59,697	
Capital adjustment account		319,537		340,435	
Financial instruments adjustment account		(6,452)		(6,814)	
Pensions reserve		(348,865)		(395,050)	
Deferred capital receipts		98		98	
Accumulated absences account		(1,776)		(2,651)	
UNUSABLE RESERVES TOTAL			65,604		(4,285)
TOTAL RESERVES			<u>115,014</u>		<u>43,518</u>

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

- Usable Reserves - 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 (e.g. the Capital Receipts Reserve that may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt).
- Unusable Reserves - those reserves that the Authority is unable to use to provide services, including reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (e.g. the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold, and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line 'Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

for the year ended 31st March 2018

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.

The cash flow statement is reported using the indirect method, whereby net surplus or deficit on the provision of services is adjusted for the effects of transactions of a non-cash nature, any deferrals or accruals of past or future operating cash receipts or payments, and items of revenue or expense associated with investing or financing cash flows.

	Note	2018		2017	
		£000	£000	£000	£000
Net surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services		(25,743)		(52,062)	
Adjustment to surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements		62,551		68,900	
Adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities		<u>(20,986)</u>		<u>(22,811)</u>	
Net cash flows from operating activities	22		15,822		(5,973)
Net cash flows from investing activities	23	(30,087)		(22,245)	
Net cash flows from financing activities	24	<u>39,106</u>		<u>10,117</u>	
			9,019		(12,128)
Net increase or decrease in cash and cash equivalents			24,841		(18,101)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	14		6,962		25,063
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	14		31,803		6,962

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31st March 2018

INTRODUCTION TO NOTES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18 (the Code) and the Council's accounting policies. The notes that follow (1 to 41) set out supplementary information to assist readers of the accounts.

1. NOTE TO EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS

The adjustments between the funding and accounting basis within the Expenditure and Funding Analysis is explained in more detail below.

Adjustments from Council Fund / HRA to arrive at CI&ES Amounts	2017/18			
	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Adjustments for Employee Benefit Purposes	Other Adjustments	Total Adjustments
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Note	a	b	c	
Chief Executives	0	39	0	39
Community & Enterprise	2,331	(6,314)	(10,620)	(14,604)
Education & Youth	7,817	(1,627)	(219)	5,972
Governance	1,564	76	(28)	1,613
Organisational Change	3,210	(3,701)	1,197	706
People & Resources	0	109	0	109
Planning & Environment	944	126	(220)	850
Social Services	269	530	0	799
Streetscene & Transportation	6,023	252	(462)	5,813
Corporate & Central Finance	1,343	1,550	(18,817)	(15,923)
Housing revenue account (HRA)	35,239	123	(19,243)	16,119
Theatr Clwyd	0	39	0	39
Cost of services	58,741	(8,799)	(48,411)	1,531
Other Income and Expenditure from the EFA	(16,663)	10,142	28,106	21,585
Differences between CF / HRA surplus / deficit and CI&ES surplus / deficit	42,078	1,343	(20,305)	23,116

Adjustments from Council Fund / HRA to arrive at CI&ES Amounts	2016/17			
	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Adjustments for Employee Benefit Purposes	Other Adjustments	Total Adjustments
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Note	a	b	c	
Chief Executives	0	(74)	0	(74)
Community & Enterprise	4,051	(208)	(3,311)	532
Education & Youth	26,748	(1,826)	(130)	24,792
Governance	1,218	(152)	(92)	974
Organisational Change	5,005	(470)	927	5,462
People & Resources	33	(204)	0	(171)
Planning & Environment	2,575	(237)	(83)	2,255
Social Services	213	(1,023)	0	(810)
Streetscene & Transportation	6,845	(478)	(1,154)	5,213
Corporate & Central Finance	1,147	136	(19,107)	(17,824)
Housing revenue account (HRA)	30,453	(210)	(18,541)	11,702
Theatr Clwyd	0	(63)	0	(63)
Cost of services	78,288	(4,809)	(41,491)	31,988
Other Income and Expenditure from the EFA	(16,166)	11,383	18,571	13,788
Differences between CF / HRA surplus / deficit and CI&ES surplus / deficit	62,122	6,574	(22,920)	45,776

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

a. Adjustments for Capital Purposes

This column adds in capital accounting adjustments that are not reported within a portfolio's final outturn but are required in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement by the Code of Practice and includes; depreciation, impairments, revaluation losses, amortisation, and revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute (REFCUS).

Net gains and losses on the disposal of non-current assets (included within other operating expenditure) and capital grants and contributions (included within taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure) are reported in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but not in the final outturn report and therefore are included within capital accounting adjustments.

b. Adjustments for Employee Benefit Purposes

This column adds in accounting adjustments related to IAS 19 Employee Benefits that are not reported within a portfolio's final outturn but are required in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement by the Code of Practice and includes; pension adjustments – removing the employer pension contributions made to the pension funds during the year, and replacing with the current service and past service costs (being the calculated benefit earned during the year), and the movement on the accumulated absences provision (being the accounting cost of leave entitlements earned by employees but not taken before the year-end which is carried forward into the next financial year).

The administrative expenses and the net interest on the net defined benefit liability (included within other operating expenditure and financing and investment income and expenditure respectively) are reported in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but not in the final outturn report and therefore are included within employee benefit accounting adjustments.

c. Other Adjustments

This column contains all other accounting adjustments required in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement by the Code of Practice that are not reported within a portfolio's final outturn and includes; Capital grants received to fund REFCUS, removal of charges to revenue to fund capital schemes, removal of statutory provision for the financing of capital expenditure (Minimum Revenue Provision) and debt rescheduling.

In addition, the column also includes adjustments for transactions reported within a portfolio's final outturn required by the Code of Practice to be reported below the Cost of Services line within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and includes; income and expenditure related to investment properties (included within financing and investment income and expenditure), interest payable and interest and investment income (included within financing and investment income and expenditure).

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2. SEGMENTAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Income and expenditure reported on a segmental basis included within the column 'Net Portfolio Final Outturn' in the Expenditure and Funding Analysis as required by the Code of Practice is shown below-

2017/18	CE £000	C&E £000	E&Y £000	Gov £000	OC £000	P&R £000	P&E £000	SS £000	S&T £000	Central and Corporate Finance £000	Theatr Clwyd £000	HRA £000	Total £000
Revenues from External Customers	(121)	(3,179)	(8,798)	(684)	(4,476)	(385)	(1,959)	(9,078)	(9,408)	(1,302)	(3,975)	(33,115)	(76,480)
Revenues from Transactions with other Operating Segments	0	(109)	(3,881)	(954)	(841)	(42)	(168)	(135)	(905)	(119)	(68)	0	(7,220)
Interest Revenues	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(137)	0	0	(137)
Interest Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,913	0	4,637	12,550

2016/17	CE £000	C&E £000	E&Y £000	Gov £000	OC £000	P&R £000	P&E £000	SS £000	S&T £000	Central and Corporate Finance £000	Theatr Clwyd £000	HRA £000	Total £000
Revenues from External Customers *	(16)	(3,124)	(2,326)	(560)	(10,953)	(331)	(1,859)	(9,611)	(7,469)	(695)	(2,250)	(31,809)	(71,002)
Revenues from Transactions with other Operating Segments	0	(95)	(3,455)	(935)	(3,772)	(7)	(164)	(153)	(934)	0	(41)	0	(9,555)
Interest Revenues	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(224)	0	0	(224)
Interest Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,774	0	4,815	12,590

* Restated to account for transactions relating to Theatre Clwyd Productions Ltd

3. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ANALYSED BY NATURE

Income and Expenditure reported within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is analysed as follows-

Nature of Expenses	2017/18 £000	2016/17 £000
Expenditure		
Employee Benefit Expenses	169,420	177,470
Other Service Expenses	198,452	203,115
Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment	58,589	78,524
Interest Payments	13,090	13,401
Precept and Levies	25,886	24,684
Gain or loss on disposal of fixed assets	(559)	(2,089)
Total Expenditure	464,879	495,105
Income		
Fees, Charges and Other Service Income	(71,691)	(72,006)
Grants and Contributions	(235,687)	(237,687)
Interest and Investment Income	(2,720)	(2,153)
Income from Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates	(129,039)	(131,197)
Total Income	(439,136)	(443,043)
Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	25,743	52,062

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

4. OTHER OPERATING EXPENDITURE

	2018 £000	2017 £000
Precept - Office of North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner	15,836	15,070
Other preceptors - Community Councils	2,711	2,591
Levy - North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority	7,340	7,023
Net gain on the disposal of non-current assets	(559)	(2,089)
Admin. expenses on the net defined benefit liability	894	940
	<u>26,221</u>	<u>23,535</u>

5. FINANCING AND INVESTMENT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

An aggregate net financing and investment income and expenditure total of £20,716k (£22,669k in 2016/17), incorporates the investment losses and investment expenditure detailed below.

	2018 £000	2017 £000
Interest payable and similar charges	13,189	13,401
Investment losses and investment expenditure	2,005	2,454
Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (see note 41)	9,248	10,443
Interest and investment income	<u>(3,727)</u>	<u>(3,629)</u>
	<u>20,716</u>	<u>22,669</u>

6. LOCAL TAXATION AND NON-SPECIFIC GRANT INCOME

	2018 £000	2017 £000
Council tax income*	(79,350)	(75,293)
Non-domestic rates	(49,688)	(45,851)
Non-ringfenced government grants	(135,345)	(138,899)
Capital grants and contributions	(16,105)	(14,077)
	<u>(280,488)</u>	<u>(274,120)</u>

*2016/17 restated to include Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Council Tax

All domestic properties are included in the Council Tax Valuation List which is issued and maintained by the Valuation Office Agency, part of HMRC. Each property is placed in one of nine property bands (Band A to Band I) depending on the open market valuation of the dwelling at 1st April 2003 (otherwise known as the valuation date). A tenth band (A-) is only available to those taxpayers who live in band 'A' properties and are entitled to a disabled banding reduction.

Council Tax is payable based on the valuation band into which a property has been placed by the Valuation Office Agency. Gross charges are calculated by dividing the total income requirements of the County Council, Police and Crime Commissioner for North Wales and Town/Community Councils by the council tax base.

The tax base is the total of all the properties in each band expressed as Band 'D' equivalent numbers and adjusted for exemptions, discounts and disregards. Allowances are also made within the tax base for bad or doubtful debts. The tax base for 2017/18 was 63,543 band 'D' equivalent properties (62,759 in 2016/17).

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Flintshire County Council precept for a band 'D' property in 2017/18 was £1,103.55 (£1,071.41 in 2016/17). Council tax bills were based on the following multipliers for bands A- to I :-

Band	A-	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Multiplier	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9	21/9
No. of equivalent Band 'D' dwellings	7	2,235	6,187	15,897	11,510	11,878	9,822	4,928	1,102	460

Other precepts added to 2017/18 Council Tax demand notices included the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner precept in the sum of £15,836k (£15,070k in 2016/17) and 34 Town and Community Councils who collectively raised precepts totalling £2,711k (£2,591k in 2016/17).

Analysis of the net proceeds from Council tax:

	2018 £000	2017 £000
Council tax collected	89,434	85,578
Increase/Decrease in bad debts provision	79	0
Council Tax Reduction Scheme*	(9,955)	(10,053)
Amounts written off to provision	(208)	(232)
	<u>79,350</u>	<u>75,293</u>
Less - Payable to North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner	(15,836)	(15,070)
	<u>63,515</u>	<u>60,223</u>

*Not disclosed in 2016/17 accounts

Non-Domestic Rates (NDR)

NDR is organised on a national basis. The government sets the rate poundage which in 2017/18 was 49.9p for all properties (48.6p in 2016/17). The Council is responsible for collecting the rates in its area, which are paid into the NDR pool administered by the Welsh Government.

The Welsh Government distributes NDR pool receipts to local authorities on the basis of a fixed amount per head of population. 2017/18 NDR income paid into the pool was £56,747k after relief and provisions (£65,805k in 2016/17), based on a year end rateable value total of £147,698k (£154,991k in 2016/17).

Analysis of the net proceeds from non-domestic rates:

	2018 £000	2017 £000
Non-domestic rates collected	57,083	65,973
Less - Paid into NDR pool	(56,747)	(65,805)
Less - Cost of collection	(339)	(341)
Increase/Decrease in bad debts provision	(85)	168
Relief Schemes	88	5
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Receipts from pool	49,688	45,851
	<u>49,688</u>	<u>45,851</u>

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

7. 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. The debit adjustment for the year is £27,352k (£49,154k in 2016/17)

	Usable Reserves				Unusable Reserves
	Council Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
2017/18					
Adjustments involving the Capital Adjustment Account:					
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES):					
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non current assets	17,724	35,239	0	0	(52,963)
Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	3,135	0	0	0	(3,135)
Movements in the market value of Investment Properties	(152)	0	0	0	152
Amortisation of intangible assets	53	0	0	0	(53)
Capital grants and contributions applied	0	0	0	(16,750)	16,750
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	2,590	0	0	0	(2,590)
Amounts of non current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CIES	2,703	162	0	0	(2,865)
Inclusion of items not debited or credited to the CIES:					
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	(3,125)	(2,337)	0	0	5,462
Capital expenditure charged against the Council Fund and HRA balances	(623)	(12,248)	0	0	12,871
Adjustments involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account:					
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to CIES	(17,562)	0	0	17,562	0
Adjustments involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:					
Transfer of sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CIES	(3,332)	(92)	3,424	0	0
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	0	0	0	0
Adjustments involving the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account:					
Amount by which finance costs charged to the CIES are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(360)	(2)	0	0	362
Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve:					
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the CIES	26,048	1,985	0	0	(28,033)
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(24,527)	(1,288)	0	0	25,815
Adjustment involving the Accumulated Absences Account:					
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CIES on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(875)	0	0	0	875
Adjustments involving the Deferred Capital Receipts Account:					
Transfer from CIES to deferred Capital Receipts Reserve	0	0	0	0	0
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	1,697	21,419	3,423	813	(27,352)

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	Usable Reserves				Unusable Reserves
	Council Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
2016/17					
Adjustments involving the Capital Adjustment Account:					
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES):					
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non current assets	19,980	30,716	0	0	(50,696)
Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	18,764	(266)	0	0	(18,498)
Movements in the market value of Investment Properties	235	0	0	0	(235)
Amortisation of intangible assets	114	3	0	0	(117)
Capital grants and contributions applied	0	0	0	(17,104)	17,104
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	8,978	0	0	0	(8,978)
Amounts of non current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CIES	1,845	1,106	0	0	(2,951)
Inclusion of items not debited or credited to the CIES:					
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	(4,101)	(2,132)	0	0	6,233
Capital expenditure charged against the Council Fund and HRA balances	(1,289)	(11,566)	0	0	12,855
Adjustments involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account:					
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to CIES	(17,780)	0	0	17,780	0
Adjustments involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:					
Transfer of sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CIES	(2,262)	(2,778)	5,033	0	7
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	0	(2,331)	0	2,331
Adjustments involving the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account:					
Amount by which finance costs charged to the CIES are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(362)	(3)	0	0	365
Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve:					
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the CIES	29,204	1,623	0	0	(30,827)
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(23,783)	(1,230)	0	0	25,013
Adjustment involving the Accumulated Absences Account:					
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CIES on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	759	1	0	0	(760)
Adjustments involving the Deferred Capital Receipts Account:					
Transfer from CIES to deferred Capital Receipts Reserve	0	0	0	0	0
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	30,302	15,474	2,702	676	(49,154)

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

8. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Council dwellings, other land and buildings, vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment that are held, occupied, used or contracted to be used on behalf of the Authority, or consumed in the direct delivery of services. Included are dwellings and other housing properties, office buildings, schools, libraries, sports centres and pools, residential homes/day centres, depots and workshops, cemetery buildings, off street car parks, vehicles, mechanical plant, fixtures and fittings and other equipment.

Infrastructure assets are inalienable assets, expenditure on which is only recoverable by continued use of the asset created, i.e. there is no prospect of sale or alternative use. Included are highways, footpaths, bridges, water and drainage facilities and coastal defences.

Community assets are assets that the Authority intends to hold in perpetuity, that have no determinable useful life and which may, in addition, have restrictions on their disposal. There is little prospect of sale and change of use. Included are parks and open spaces, recreation grounds, play areas and cemetery land.

Movements 2017/18

	Council Dwellings & Garages	Other Land & Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	Surplus Assets	Infrastructure Assets	Community Assets	Assets under Construction	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost or Valuation								
At 1st April, 2017	267,720	320,985	28,201	9,116	225,505	4,721	3,789	860,038
Additions and Acquisitions	22,192	4,610	2,122	77	8,028	0	13,747	50,776
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	0	34,300	0	7	0	0	0	34,307
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	(1,094)	0	0	0	0	0	(1,094)
Assets Derecognised	0	(34)	(1,900)	0	0	0	0	(1,934)
Reclassifications	(162)	(225)	0	(19)	0	0	0	(406)
Other movements in cost or valuation	10,024	0	0	0	0	0	(10,024)	0
At 31st March 2018	299,774	358,542	28,423	9,181	233,533	4,721	7,512	941,687
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment								
As At 1st April, 2017	(56,808)	(49,430)	(12,283)	(108)	(74,273)	0	0	(192,902)
Depreciation charge	(5,076)	(13,213)	(3,463)	(62)	(5,797)	0	0	(27,611)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	0	15,739	0	0	0	0	0	15,739
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	1,227	0	0	0	0	0	1,227
Impairments written out to the Revaluation Reserve	0	1,890	0	(7)	0	0	0	1,883
Impairments recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	0	(3,246)	0	0	0	0	0	(3,246)
Reversal of Impairments recognised in the Surplus/Deficit	0	5,096	0	7	0	0	0	5,103
Impairments written out to Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	(1,953)	0	0	0	0	0	(1,953)
Impairments recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(30,155)	(1,485)	0	(77)	0	0	0	(31,717)
Assets Derecognised	0	34	1,900	0	0	0	0	1,934
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	0	32	0	0	0	0	0	32
At 31st March 2018	(92,039)	(45,309)	(13,846)	(247)	(80,070)	0	0	(231,511)
Balance Sheet at 31st March 2018	207,735	313,234	14,577	8,934	153,463	4,721	7,512	710,176
Balance Sheet at 1st April 2017	210,912	271,555	15,918	9,008	151,232	4,721	3,789	667,136
Nature of Asset Holding								
Owned	207,735	313,234	9,966	8,934	153,463	4,721	7,512	705,565
Finance Lease	0	0	4,611	0	0	0	0	4,611
At 31st March 2018	207,735	313,234	14,577	8,934	153,463	4,721	7,512	710,176

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Movements 2016/17

	Council Dwellings & Garages	Other Land & Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	Surplus Assets	Infrastructure Assets	Community Assets	Assets under Construction	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost or Valuation								
At 1st April, 2016	242,376	302,265	27,505	8,721	222,108	4,711	21,089	828,775
Additions and Acquisitions	26,232	13,711	4,329	20	3,397	10	3,419	51,118
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	(14)	7,951	0	(230)	0	0	0	7,707
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	(14,697)	(346)	(209)	0	0	0	(15,252)
Assets Derecognised	0	(4,940)	(3,287)		0	0	0	(8,227)
Reclassifications	(874)	(4,714)	0	664	0	0	0	(4,924)
Other movements in cost or valuation	0	21,410	0	150	0	0	(20,719)	841
At 31st March 2017	267,720	320,986	28,201	9,116	225,505	4,721	3,789	860,038

Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment

As At 1st April, 2016	(26,190)	(42,303)	(12,544)	(27)	(68,559)	0	0	(149,623)
Depreciation charge	(5,050)	(10,315)	(2,940)	(61)	(5,714)		0	(24,080)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	16	3,896	0	84	0	0	0	3,996
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	224	94	0	0	0	0	318
Impairments written out to the Revaluation Reserve	0	(260)	0	72	0	0	0	(188)
Impairments recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	0	(4,094)	0	(2)	0	0	0	(4,096)
Reversal of Impairments recognised in the Surplus/Deficit	0	2,167	0	121	0	0	0	2,288
Impairments written out to Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	97	0	(121)	0	0	0	(24)
Impairments recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(25,584)	(3,938)	(180)	(18)	0	0	0	(29,720)
Assets Derecognised	0	4,940	3,287	0	0	0	0	8,227
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	0	156	0	(156)	0	0	0	0
At 31st March 2017	(56,808)	(49,430)	(12,283)	(108)	(74,273)	0	0	(192,902)

Balance Sheet at 31st March 2017

210,912	271,556	15,918	9,008	151,232	4,721	3,789	667,136
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Balance Sheet at 1st April 2016

216,186	259,962	14,961	8,694	153,549	4,711	21,089	679,152
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Nature of Asset Holding

Owned	210,912	271,556	10,680	9,008	151,232	4,721	3,789	661,898
Finance Lease	0	0	5,238	0	0	0	0	5,238
At 31st March 2017	210,912	271,556	15,918	9,008	151,232	4,721	3,789	667,136

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Fair Value Measurement of Surplus Assets

Details of the authority's surplus assets and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 31st March is as follows:

	Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1) £000	Other significant observable inputs (Level 2) £000	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) £000	Fair Value as at 31 March £000
2017/18 Surplus Assets	0	3,261	5,674	8,935
2016/17 Surplus Assets	0	3,280	5,729	9,009

There were no transfers between different levels of the fair value hierarchy during the year and there has been no change in the valuation techniques used during the year for surplus assets.

In estimating the fair value of the authority's surplus assets, the highest and best use of the properties has been taken into account.

The authority is required to disclose where the highest and best use differs from current use. In line with their treatment as surplus assets, a number of these assets are currently vacant; in these cases the current use is not the highest and best use.

The Council's valuers, in using appropriate valuation techniques, have maximised the use of relevant known inputs and minimised the use of unobservable inputs.

The valuation techniques used to measure the fair value of surplus assets are the market approach and the income approach. The Council's valuers considered these bases to be appropriate because:-

- (i) Market approach - use of prices and other relevant information and data generated by market transactions reflects the value of the asset payable by the market.
- (ii) Income approach – use of this approach reflects the market expectation of the future cash flows receivable from that asset.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

9. INVESTMENT PROPERTIES AND AGRICULTURAL ESTATE

	2018 £000	2017 £000
Cost or Valuation		
At 1st April	28,554	30,612
Reclassifications	405	(1,868)
Additions	86	46
Revaluation Increases/Decreases to Surplus/Deficit	106	(237)
Other Adjustments	0	1
At 31st March	<u>29,151</u>	<u>28,554</u>
Depreciation and Impairments		
At 1st April	46	1
Reclassifications	0	0
Reversal of Impairments recognised in the Surplus/Deficit	0	(1)
Impairment / Depn	41	46
At 31st March	<u>87</u>	<u>46</u>
Balance Sheet at 31st March	<u>29,064</u>	<u>28,508</u>

Fair Value Measurement of Investment Property

Details of the authority's investment properties and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 31st March is as follows:

	Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1) £000	Other significant observable inputs (Level 2) £000	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) £000	Fair Value as at 31 March £000
2017/18				
Commercial and Industrial Estates	0	0	16,912	16,912
Agricultural Estate - Farms	0	0	11,290	11,290
Agricultural Estate - Grazing Land	0	0	861	861
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>29,063</u>	<u>29,063</u>
2016/17				
Commercial and Industrial Estates	0	0	17,018	17,018
Agricultural Estate - Farms	0	10,630	0	10,630
Agricultural Estate - Grazing Land	0	0	860	860
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>10,630</u>	<u>17,878</u>	<u>28,508</u>

Transfers between different levels of the fair value hierarchy during the year have occurred due to volatile market factors and abnormal uncertainty due to the result of the EU referendum creating a wider than normal level of uncertainty affecting the assumptions used in valuations.

In estimating the fair value of the authority's investment properties, the highest and best use of the properties is their current use.

The fair value of the authority's investment property is measured annually at each reporting date. In 2017/18 the Council's farms and smallholdings were valued by an external valuer, with the remainder of the valuations carried out by the Council's internal valuers.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

All valuations are carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. The authority's valuation experts work closely with finance officers regarding all valuation matters.

Valuation Techniques used to Determine Level 2 and 3 Fair Values for Investment Properties

Significant Observable Inputs – Level 2

The Council's farms and smallholdings were valued by an external independent valuer in accordance with IFRS 13 Fair Value requirements, using the market approach for such assets but reflecting the specific circumstances of each asset e.g. vacant or subject to an existing tenancy. The valuation hierarchy Level 2 was considered appropriate given details of the market comparators were provided as part of the valuation report. The valuation techniques also considered highest and best use reflecting what is physically possible or legally permissible.

Significant Unobservable Inputs – Level 3

The valuation techniques used to measure the fair value of the grazing and bare land are the market approach and the income approach. The Council's valuers considered these bases to be appropriate because:-

- (i) Market approach – use of prices and other relevant information and data generated by market transactions reflects the value of the asset payable by the market.
- (ii) Income approach – use of this approach reflects the market expectation of the future cash flows receivable from that asset.

The Council's valuers, in using appropriate valuation techniques in the circumstances and where sufficient data is available, have maximized the use of relevant known inputs and minimized the use of unobservable inputs. The grazing and bare land valuation techniques reflected Level 3 input due to the lack of market data obtainable by the Council's valuers.

The valuation techniques used to measure the fair value of the commercial and industrial estates are the income approach (for assets) and the market approach (for vacant land). The Council's valuers considered these bases to be appropriate because:-

- (i) Income approach – use of this approach reflects the market expectation of the future cash flows receivable from that asset.
- (ii) Market approach - use of prices and other relevant information and data generated by market transactions reflects the value of the asset payable by the market.

However, predominately the approach to valuing the commercial and industrial units was done using the Council's own existing information and data reflecting such factors as rent growth, occupancy levels, bad debt levels, and costs for repair and maintenance obligations. Therefore, the Council's commercial and industrial unit's valuation hierarchy is Level 3 as the valuation approach uses unobservable inputs and that this is done on the same basis when valuing the asset as would be used by market participants.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

10. ASSETS HELD FOR SALE

	Council Dwellings & Garages £000	Other Property, Plant & Equipment £000	Investment Properties £000	Total £000
At 1st April 2017	0	1,112	3,131	4,243
Additions	0	0	0	0
Assets newly classified as held for sale	162	212	0	374
Assets declassified as held for sale	0	0	(404)	(404)
Net Reclassifications	162	212	(404)	(30)
Impairments	0	0	0	0
Revaluation gains	0	105	82	187
Revaluation losses	0	0	(19)	(19)
Net Revaluations	0	105	63	168
Assets sold	(162)	(629)	(2,073)	(2,864)
At 31st March 2018	0	800	717	1,517

	Council Dwellings & Garages £000	Other Property, Plant & Equipment £000	Investment Properties £000	Total £000
At 1st April 2016	0	956	2,600	3,556
Additions	0	100	0	100
Assets newly classified as held for sale	874	4,214	2,051	7,139
Assets declassified as held for sale	0	0	(347)	(347)
Net Reclassifications	874	4,214	1,704	6,792
Impairments	0	0	0	0
Revaluation gains	0	374	178	552
Revaluation losses	0	(3,640)	(166)	(3,806)
Net Revaluations	0	(3,266)	12	(3,254)
Assets sold	(874)	(892)	(1,185)	(2,951)
At 31st March 2017	0	1,112	3,131	4,243

Fair Value Measurement of Assets Held for Sale

Details of the authority's assets held for sale and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 31 March is as follows:

	Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1) £000	Other significant observable inputs (Level 2) £000	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) £000	Fair Value as at 31 March £000
2017/18 Assets Held for Sale	0	0	1,517	1,517
2016/17 Assets Held for Sale	0	710	3,533	4,243

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

There were no transfers between different levels of the fair value hierarchy during the year and there has been no change in the valuation techniques used during the year for Assets Held for Sale.

In estimating the fair value of the authority's assets held for sale, the highest and best use of the properties has been taken into account.

The authority is required to disclose where the highest and best use differs from current use. A number of assets held for sale are currently vacant pending disposal; in these cases the current use is not the highest and best use.

Significant Unobservable Inputs – Level 3

The valuation techniques used to measure the fair value of assets held for sale are the market approach and income approach. The Council's valuers considered these bases to be appropriate because:-

- (i) Market approach - use of prices and other relevant information and data generated by market transactions reflects the value of the asset payable by the market.
- (ii) Income approach – use of this approach reflects the market expectation of the future cash flows receivable from that asset.

The Council's valuers, in using appropriate valuation techniques have maximized the use of relevant known inputs and minimized the use of unobservable inputs.

11. LONG TERM DEBTORS

	2018 £000	2017 £000
Other entities and individuals	2,387	2,211
Total	<u>2,387</u>	<u>2,211</u>

Analysis of long term debtors classified as 'Other entities and individuals':-

	2018 £000	2017 £000
Renewal and improvement loans	2,134	1,923
First time buyer loans	100	100
Assisted car purchase loans	11	47
Affordable housing deposits	98	98
Private street works	44	43
Total	<u>2,387</u>	<u>2,211</u>

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

12. SHORT TERM DEBTORS

	2018	2017
	£000	£000
Central government bodies	14,661	16,231
Other local authorities	1,873	1,771
NHS bodies	3,762	2,513
Public corporations and trading funds	3	0
Other entities and individuals	24,120	19,420
Council tax	2,700	2,714
	<u>47,119</u>	<u>42,649</u>
Less provision for impairment losses (note 18)	(2,444)	(2,383)
Total	<u>44,675</u>	<u>40,266</u>

13. SHORT TERM INVESTMENTS

The balance sheet total is recorded net of those sums invested for 3 months or less (including overnight/call account monies) which are treated as cash.

	2018	2017
	£000	£000
Investments (3 months – 365 days)	0	0
Accrued interest	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

14. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2018	2017
	£000	£000
Current Assets		
Temporary investments (call accounts)	0	0
Cash and cash equivalents	34,161	9,375
Cash overdrawn	<u>(2,358)</u>	<u>(2,413)</u>
	31,803	6,962
Total	<u>31,803</u>	<u>6,962</u>

15. BORROWING REPAYABLE ON DEMAND OR WITHIN 12 MONTHS

	2018	2017
	£000	£000
Accrued interest on long term external borrowing	5,837	2,722
Loan Maturing	0	1,600
Invest to Save loan (from Welsh Government)	0	0
Energy Efficiency Loans (from Salix Finance Ltd.)	105	54
Short Term external borrowing	52,100	10,000
Accrued interest on short term external borrowing	42	1
Total	<u>58,084</u>	<u>14,377</u>

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

16. CREDITORS

	2018 £000	2017 £000
Short Term		
Central government bodies	5,131	8,009
Other local authorities	2,998	1,449
NHS bodies	315	596
Public corporations and trading funds	3	1
Other entities and individuals	22,175	22,349
Total	<u>30,622</u>	<u>32,404</u>
Long Term		
Other local authorities	205	0
NHS bodies	145	0
Other entities and individuals	992	240
Total	<u>1,342</u>	<u>240</u>

17. GRANT INCOME

The Authority credited the following grants and contributions to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:

	2018 £000	2017 £000
Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income		
Revenue Support Grant	135,345	138,899
Total Non Ringfenced Government Grants	<u>135,345</u>	<u>138,899</u>
Welsh Government (WG):		
Major Repairs Allowance	5,065	5,050
General Capital Grant	2,510	2,545
21st Century Schools	1,739	1,330
Local Transport Fund	2,001	230
Road Refurbishment Grant	1,427	0
Other WG Grants	1,802	3,017
Other Capital Grants and Contributions	1,561	1,905
Total Capital Grants and Contributions	<u>16,105</u>	<u>14,077</u>
Total	<u>151,450</u>	<u>152,976</u>

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2018 £000	2017 £000
Credited to Services		
WG		
Supporting People	5,809	5,810
DELLS Post 16	4,756	5,012
Education Improvement Grant	6,474	6,408
Flying Start	2,907	2,955
Families First	1,565	1,533
Pupil Deprivation	3,660	3,416
Concessionary Fares	1,853	2,066
Single Revenue Grant	2,897	2,822
Integrated Care Fund	1,857	1,412
Independent Living Fund	1,591	1,558
Other	8,864	6,025
Department of Work and Pensions	37,052	40,408
Arts Council Wales	2,043	2,031
Other Grants and Contributions	2,908	3,254
Total	<u>84,236</u>	<u>84,710</u>

Grants and Contributions Received in Advance

The Authority has received a number of grants and contributions that have yet to be recognised as income as they have conditions attached to them. The funding will be returned to the grantor if the conditions are not met. The balances at the year end are as follows:

	2018 £000	2017 £000
Short Term		
Revenue Grants	1,908	1,101
Capital Grants	0	0
Capital Contributions	319	322
Revenue Contributions	285	105
Total	<u>2,512</u>	<u>1,528</u>
Long Term		
Revenue Grants	0	0
Capital Grants	0	0
Revenue Contributions	431	324
Capital Contributions	1,201	2,058
Total	<u>1,632</u>	<u>2,382</u>

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

18. PROVISIONS

The amounts recognised as provisions are the best estimates of the expenditure required to settle present obligations. The provision total (non current and current) of £1,609k incorporates the following balances :-

	2018 £000	Additions £000	Expenditure Incurred £000	Amounts Reversed £000	Unwinding Discounting £000	2017 £000
Current Liabilities						
Aftercare of former landfill sites	49	4	0	0	2	43
Employee Termination Benefits	561	561	(336)	0	0	336
Employment Tribunals	0	0	(39)	0	0	39
Total	609	565	(375)	0	2	418
Non-Current Liabilities						
Aftercare of former landfill sites	995	0	0	(13)	19	989
Remediation works at former landfill sites	5	0	0	0	0	5
Total	1,000	0	0	(13)	19	994

- The aftercare of former landfill sites provides for the environmental aftercare costs for the former waste disposal sites at Standard, Buckley and Brookhill, Buckley, split across a current liability and a non-current liability. The projected costs have been embodied in performance deeds with Natural Resources Wales (formerly the Environment Agency). These deeds form the basis of the Council's legal obligation to make financial provision for aftercare for 60 years from the date the landfill site was closed. The provision is revised by way of indexation each year in line with RPI, and reviewed for adequacy. The provision matches the legal obligation contained in the performance deeds.
- The Council's service Portfolios have business plans which include planned reductions to workforce numbers and costs in order to making recurring revenue savings. The Council was sufficiently committed with some proposals at the balance sheet date to warrant the creation of a provision in 2017/18 for the termination benefits of employees leaving the Council's employment in 2018/19.
- The employee claims provision covered the anticipated costs of employee claims against the Council.
- In accordance with the requirements of Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Council's Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy, former waste disposal sites across the County will be considered with the condition of each assessed as necessary in due course. The Council has set aside a provision to fund its liabilities for any remediation works deemed necessary on a best estimate basis at the balance sheet date.

Current Provisions - Provision for Impairment Losses (Bad Debts)

Amounts due to the Council have been reduced by estimated provisions for impairment losses.

	2018 £000	2017 £000
Housing rents	578	422
Council tax	723	802
Other debtors	1,143	1,159
Total	2,444	2,383

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

19. LONG TERM BORROWING

Analysis	Interest Rates		2018	2017
	Minimum %	Maximum %	£000	£000
By Loan Type (Fixed Rate)				
Salix Finance (Energy Efficiency)		Interest Free	3,051	378
Government (PWLB)	0.57	9.50	230,810	230,810
Other financial institutions	4.48	4.58	18,950	18,950
Welsh Government		Interest Free	860	860
Total			<u>253,672</u>	<u>250,998</u>
By Maturity				
Between 1 and 2 years			235	105
Between 2 and 5 years			16,429	13,362
Between 5 and 10 years			17,034	14,129
More than 10 years			219,974	223,402
Total			<u>253,672</u>	<u>250,998</u>

20. USABLE RESERVES

The Council maintains a number of reserves on the Balance Sheet. Some are held for statutory reasons, some are needed to comply with proper accounting practice and others have been set up voluntarily to earmark resources for future spending plans. Movements in the Authority's usable reserves are detailed in the Movement in Reserves Statement and in note 7.

Council Fund

The Council fund balance of £13,697k represents the value of unearmarked reserves available to the Authority (£10,953k in 2016/17).

Housing Revenue Account

The housing revenue account reserve cumulative balance of £1,918k (£1,642k in 2016/17) includes the 2017/18 HRA surplus of £276k (£125k (surplus) in 2016/17), as detailed on page 64.

Capital Receipts Reserve

The capital receipts reserve contains receipts from the sale of assets which have yet to be used to finance capital or to repay debt.

Capital Grants Unapplied

Capital grants unapplied are amounts received but not yet applied to finance capital expenditure.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Earmarked Reserves

Total earmarked reserves of £14,876k (£20,525k in 2016/17) include:

- Service balances – represents service departments carrying forward unspent funding for use in the subsequent financial year and other relevant specific income / underspends one-off in nature that extend over more than one year.
- School balances – this sum represents the element of balances released under the delegation of budgets to schools which remained unspent at the end of the financial year.
- Single status / equal pay – accumulated reserve to fund further one-off workforce costs along with the final phases of pay protection arising from implementation of the single status agreement.
- Investment in Organisational change – accumulated reserve to fund the costs of remodeling services and 'Invest to Save' type projects.
- Budget Strategy - accumulated reserve for use in balancing budgets over the medium term.
- Benefits Equalisation – this reserve was introduced to mitigate against the potential volatility in Housing Benefit Subsidy.
- County Elections – reserve to fund the costs of future elections
- Supporting people – this reserve has been established to mitigate the impact of proposed reductions in grant funding by Welsh Government.
- Local Development Plan – funding for costs associated with finalising, and then implementing, the Local Development Plan
- Waste Disposal – reserve used predominantly to fund Flintshire County Council's contribution to the North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Partnership.
- Winter Maintenance – reserve set up as a contingency in the event of severe weather conditions
- Insurance Reserves – various Insurance related reserves including the Council's fund to meet the costs of self-insurance as not all risks are externally insured.
- Flintshire Trainees – reserve to fund the Flintshire Trainee programme.
- Kitchen Refurbishment – reserve to fund kitchen refurbishments at various schools.
- Rent Income Shortfall – reserve created to mitigate loss of income from industrial property rent.
- Schools Kitchen Ventilation – reserve to fund feasibility works considering the need to upgrade kitchen ventilation systems at various schools.
- Customer Service Strategy – to enable the roll out of the Customer Services Strategy. This will include improvements to Connect Centres, improving self-service facilities and investment in new software.
- Capita One – a regional IT system holding management information for schools hosted by Flintshire. Any funds held at the end of the financial year in excess of costs incurred will be spent on delivering the service in future years.
- Public Sector Broadband (PSBA) – to assist in the introduction of Learning in Digital Wales.
- Supervision Fees – this reserve is used for work carried out by the Development Control Team in supervising works on housing developments in connection with the adoption of roads and/or other related work deemed necessary.
- Transportation Review – to fund a review of the way transport services are delivered.
- LMS Curriculum – funding is used for transitional costs relating to school modernisation for schools.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- Restoration of Ewloe Offices – reserve to refurbish the council owned offices in Ewloe to allow officers to relocate to this building.
- Organisational Change/ADM – to support initial set up costs and financial technical support for contingency against any financial issues arising as a result of implementing different service delivery methods.
- Grants & Contributions – various grants and contributions from external providers that must be spent in accordance with associated restrictions on use.

Movement between earmarked reserves is summarised in the following table:-

	Balance at 31 March 2016	Transfers Out 2016/17	Transfers In 2016/17	Balance at 31 March 2017	Transfers Out 2017/18	Transfers In 2017/18	Balance at 31 March 2018
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Service balances	3,730	(3,545)	1,426	1,611	(969)	873	1,515
School balances	2,306	(4,139)	3,389	1,556	(4,489)	4,218	1,285
Single status/equal pay	7,549	(3,223)	159	4,485	(2,970)	106	1,621
Investment in Organisational Change	1,269	(541)	210	938	(399)	900	1,439
Budget Strategy	4,460	(1,575)	7	2,892	(2,892)	0	0
Benefits equalisation	193	(108)	34	119	0	199	318
County elections	194	(186)	130	138	(152)	184	170
Supporting people	832	(445)	0	387	(387)	0	0
Local Development Plan (LDP)	647	(177)	10	480	(300)	0	180
Building control	91	(30)	61	122	(108)	41	55
Waste disposal	371	(337)	278	312	(208)	25	129
Flintshire Enterprise Ltd	73	(6)	0	67	0	41	108
Design fees	200	0	0	200	0	0	200
Winter maintenance	250	(35)	0	215	0	0	215
Car Parking	86	(60)	0	26	0	22	48
Insurance Reserves	1,221	(585)	835	1,471	(594)	928	1,805
Cash Receipting Review	241	(163)	1	79	0	4	83
Flintshire Trainees	0	0	398	398	0	78	476
Kitchen Refurbishment	0	0	110	110	(110)	0	0
Rent Income Shortfall	0	0	300	300	(150)	0	150
Schools Kitchen Ventilation	0	0	200	200	(200)	0	0
Customer Service Strategy	0	0	129	129	(26)	0	103
Capita One	0	0	109	109	(90)	0	19
PSBA	0	0	530	530	(530)	0	0
Supervision Fees	0	0	141	141	(141)	49	49
Transportation Review	0	0	170	170	0	0	170
LMS Curriculum	1,295	(1,034)	524	785	(791)	785	779
Restoration of Ewloe Offices	0	0	0	0	0	830	830
Org Change/ADM	0	0	0	0	(145)	300	155
Emergency Remediation	0	0	0	0	0	50	50
Grants & Contributions	2,737	(821)	639	2,555	(617)	986	2,924
Total	27,745	(17,010)	9,790	20,525	(16,268)	10,619	14,876

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

21. UNUSABLE RESERVES

The balances on unusable reserves are as follows :–

Reserves	2018 £000	2017 £000
Revaluation reserve	103,062	59,697
Capital adjustment account	319,537	340,435
Financial instruments adjustment account	(6,452)	(6,814)
Pensions reserve	(348,865)	(395,050)
Deferred Capital Receipt	98	98
Accumulated absences account	(1,776)	(2,651)
Total Unusable Reserves	<u>65,604</u>	<u>(4,285)</u>

The details of movements on unusable reserves are as follows :–

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 revaluation reserve records unrealised revaluation gains arising since 1st April 2007, the date that the Reserve was created. The reserve is matched by non-current assets within the balance sheet - the resources are not available for financing purposes.

	2018 £000	£000	2017 £000	£000
Balance at 1st April		59,697		55,016
Upward revaluation of assets	57,051		13,654	
Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the surplus/deficit on the provision of services	<u>(8,213)</u>		<u>(5,705)</u>	
Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the surplus/deficit on the provision of services		48,838		7,949
Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	(5,133)		(2,721)	
Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	<u>(340)</u>		<u>(547)</u>	
Amount written off to the capital adjustment account		(5,473)		(3,268)
Balance at 31st March		<u>103,062</u>		<u>59,697</u>

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Pensions Reserve

The pensions reserve is an adjustment account that absorbs the timing differences arising from different arrangements for post employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions.

The Authority accounts for post employment benefits in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement - the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service. The liabilities recognised in the accounts are updated to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs.

Statutory arrangements require those benefits earned to be financed as and when the Authority makes the employer's contributions to the pension fund, or eventually pays any pensions for which it has direct responsibility. 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 Authority 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.

	2018 £000	2017 £000
Balance at 1st April	(395,050)	(308,679)
Return on plan assets	10,491	84,251
Actuarial gains and losses	37,912	(164,808)
Net charges to surplus / deficit on provision of services	(28,033)	(30,827)
Employers' contributions payable to the scheme	25,815	25,013
Balance at 31st March	<u>(348,865)</u>	<u>(395,050)</u>

Capital Adjustment Account

The capital adjustment account absorbs the timing difference arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of non-current assets and for financing the acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under the 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 reserves 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 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 7 provides details of the source of all the transactions posted to the account, apart from those involving the revaluation reserve.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2018		2017
	£000	£000	£000 £000
Balance at 1st April		340,435	380,112
Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement:			
- Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(52,983)		(50,695)
- Revaluation losses on PP&E	(3,135)		(18,498)
- Amortisation of intangible assets	(53)		(117)
- Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(2,590)		(8,978)
- Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	(2,865)		(2,951)
- Movements in the market value of investment properties debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	152		(235)
	<u>(61,474)</u>		<u>(81,474)</u>
Adjusting amounts written out of the revaluation reserve	<u>5,472</u>		<u>3,268</u>
Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year		(56,002)	(78,206)
Capital financing applied in the year:			
- Use of the capital receipts reserve	0		2,329
- Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure statement that have been applied to capital financing	16,750		17,104
- Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the Council Fund and HRA balances	5,506		6,232
- Capital expenditure charged against the council fund and HRA balances	12,871		12,855
Long term debtors adjustments - Loan Repayments	(23)		7
		35,104	38,529
Balance at 31st March		<u>319,537</u>	<u>340,435</u>

Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

The financial instruments adjustment account (FIAA) provides a balancing mechanism between the different rates at which gains and losses (such as premiums on the early payment of debt) are recognised under the Code and are required by statute to be met from the Council fund. Again, the reserve is matched by borrowings and investments within the balance sheet, and the resources are not available for financing purposes.

	2018		2017
	£000	£000	£000 £000
Balance at 1st April		(6,814)	(7,177)
Premiums incurred in the year and charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement	0		0
Proportion of premiums incurred in previous financial years to be charged against the Council Fund balance in accordance with statutory requirements	<u>361</u>		<u>363</u>
Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive income and expenditure statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements		361	363
Balance at 31st March		<u>(6,452)</u>	<u>(6,814)</u>

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Deferred Capital Receipts

Deferred capital receipts are loans that the Council has made to individuals on the affordable homes register. The loan is the individual's deposit to assist in the purchase of an affordable home in the county. The loan is repayable on the earlier of, when the house is sold or 25 years. The reserve holds the recognised future receipt.

	2018 £000	2017 £000
Affordable homes deposits	98	98
	<u>98</u>	<u>98</u>

22. CASH FLOW STATEMENT - OPERATING ACTIVITIES

The net cash flows from operating activities of £15,822k inflow (£5,973k outflow in 2016/17) include the following interest elements:

	2018 £000	2017 £000
Interest received	129	155
Interest paid	(16,325)	(13,159)

23. CASH FLOW STATEMENT - INVESTING ACTIVITIES

	2018 £000	2017 £000
Purchase of property, plant & equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(50,861)	(50,997)
Purchase of short term and long term investments	0	0
Other payments for investing activities	(212)	(109)
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant & equipment, investment property and intangible assets	3,423	5,031
Proceeds from short term and long term investments	0	6,000
Other receipts from investing activities	17,563	17,830
Net cash flows from investing activities	<u>(30,087)</u>	<u>(22,245)</u>

24. CASH FLOW STATEMENT - FINANCING ACTIVITIES

	2018 £000	2017 £000
Cash receipts of short term and long term borrowing	44,824	10,697
Other receipts from financing activities	0	0
Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liability relating to finance leases	(564)	(580)
Repayment of short term and long term borrowing	(1,600)	0
Other payments for financing activities	(3,555)	0
Net cash flows from financing activities	<u>39,106</u>	<u>10,117</u>

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

25. OFFICERS' REMUNERATION

Senior Employee Emoluments

The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 requires disclosure (in £5,000 bandings) of the number of employees whose remuneration - all sums paid to or receivable by the employee including payments on termination of employment, expense allowances chargeable to tax, and the money value of benefits - exceeded £60,000. The band values do not include employer pension contributions. Columns for schools include all maintained schools including Voluntary Aided and Foundation Schools.

Remuneration Band	2018		2017	
	Non-Schools	Schools	Non-Schools	Schools
	No.	No.	No.	No.
£60,000 - £64,999	3	14	2	16
£65,000 - £69,999	1	9	1	9
£70,000 - £74,999	0	10	0	9
£75,000 - £79,999	0	3	0	3
£80,000 - £84,999	0	1	0	1
£85,000 - £89,999	0	1	0	1
£90,000 - £94,999	0	1	0	2
£95,000 - £99,999	0	1	0	1
£100,000 - £104,999	0	1	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4	41	3	42

Some posts occupied are paid in accordance with nationally agreed Soulbury terms and conditions. Governing Bodies have some discretion in setting the salaries of Head Teachers, within the parameters of the School Teacher's pay and conditions 2015.

The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 also requires disclosure of the individual remuneration details for senior employees by post where the salary is between £60,000 and £150,000 and by name where the salary exceeds £150,000. Senior employees for the purpose of the disclosure are the chief executive, chief officers, statutory officers and persons for whom the chief executive is directly responsible.

The salaries of the Chief Executive and the Chief Officer team have been set by full Council in accordance with the Council's Pay Policy Statement (available on the Council's website). There has been no variation to pay rates during the year other than inflationary increases for implementation of nationally agreed annual pay awards to reflect the increased cost of living. No bonuses, taxable expense allowances, compensation payments or other taxable benefits were received by Chief Officers.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Post Title	Note	2017/18		2016/17	
		Remuneration £	Employer's Pension Contributions £	Remuneration £	Employer's Pension Contributions £
Chief Executive	1	133,870	36,011	132,545	33,680
Chief Officer Governance	1	92,605	24,911	87,567	22,251
Chief Officer Education & Youth	2 3	25,392	6,830	93,236	23,691
Interim Chief Officer Education & Youth	4	78,011	20,985	64,191	16,305
Chief Officer Social Care	2	92,605	24,911	93,236	23,691
Chief Officer Community & Enterprise		92,605	24,911	91,688	23,298
Chief Officer Planning & Environment		92,605	24,911	87,567	22,251
Chief Officer Streetscene & Transportation		92,605	24,911	87,567	22,251
Chief Officer Organisational Change 1		92,605	24,911	87,567	22,251
Chief Officer Organisational Change 2		92,605	24,911	87,567	22,251
Corporate Finance Manager (Section 151 Officer)		69,100	18,512	73,336	18,635
Senior Manager (HR & OD)		64,491	17,348	63,890	16,235
		<u>1,019,099</u>	<u>274,063</u>	<u>1,049,957</u>	<u>266,790</u>

Note 1 : Remuneration does not include any amounts received for;

a) Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer roles at elections (costs for national, regional, local elections and referenda reimbursed by respective Government based on a nationally set payment formula) and;

b) Clerk and Deputy Clerk roles to the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority (costs reimbursed).

Note 2 : Former Directors receiving pay protection under the Council's Organisational Change policy.

Note 3 : Employment end date 9th July 2017

Note 4 : New appointment to Chief Officer role-start date 26th June 2017. Remuneration not disclosed in 2016/17 accounts

The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 also require disclosure of the ratio of remuneration between the Chief Executive and the median full time equivalent earner (£17,772); for 17/18 this was 1:7.53 (for 2016/17 this was 1:7.72).

Exit Packages

The Council is required to disclose (in £20k bandings up to £100k with £50k bandings thereafter) the number of exit packages agreed and the cost of the packages to the Council in the financial year. Exit costs arising in 2017/18 which the Council is committed to incurring at the 31st March 2018, but paid after this date, are also included in the disclosure. Information is included for all maintained schools including Voluntary Aided and Foundation Schools.

The totals disclosed are made up of redundancy payments made to the individual and any payments made by the Council to the pension fund when an employee retires early without actuarial reduction in pension in accordance with the Council's Discretionary Compensation Policy. The costs of which have been met from an earmarked reserve set up specifically to fund the costs of organisational change.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Exit Package Cost Band	Compulsory Redundancies		Other Departures Agreed		Total Exit Packages by Cost Band		Total Exit Packages in Each Band	
	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	£	£
£0 - £20,000	65	58	4	21	69	79	475,116	548,945
£20,001 - £40,000	25	14	2	15	27	29	758,816	845,785
£40,001 - £60,000	8	3	0	3	8	6	355,465	282,107
£60,001 - £80,000	1	0	2	2	3	2	233,609	139,848
£80,001 - £100,000	3	0	1	0	4	0	357,855	0
£100,001 - £150,000	1	0	1	1	2	1	238,877	110,647
	<u>103</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>2,419,738</u>	<u>1,927,332</u>

26. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Allowances totaling £1,417k were paid directly to members of the Council, and on their behalf in 2017/18 (£1,339k in 2016/17), including £35k paid to former members of the Council who did not return to office following the May 2017 elections.

	2018 £000	2017 £000
Basic allowance	932	929
Special responsibility allowance	244	247
Employer's national insurance	83	84
Employer's superannuation	126	63
Members' expenses	32	16
	<u>1,417</u>	<u>1,339</u>

Expenses include costs of travel, subsistence, telephones and refreshments.

The allowances paid fall into the following bands :-

Allowance Band	2018 Number of Members	2017 Number of Members
£0 - £9,999	2	0
£10,000 - £14,999	26	39
£15,000 - £19,999	25	12
£20,000 - £24,999	5	8
£25,000 - £29,999	3	3
£30,000 - £34,999	6	5
£35,000 - £39,999	2	1
£40,000 - £44,999	1	1
£45,000 - £49,999	0	0
£50,000 - £54,999	0	0
£55,000 - £59,999	0	0
£60,000 - £64,999	1	1
	<u>71</u>	<u>70</u>

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

27. 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 the ability to limit another party's ability to bargain freely with the Authority.

Figures for 2016/17 have been restated to reflect a different basis of calculation.

Welsh and Central Government

Welsh Government exerts significant influence through legislation and grant funding – it is responsible for providing the statutory framework, within which the Council operates, provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties such as council tax bills and housing benefits. Grants received from Welsh and other Government departments are set out in notes 6 and 17.

Members

Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. The total of members allowances paid in 2017/18 is shown in note 26.

The Council appoints members to some external charitable and voluntary bodies, or Members have disclosed a link to organisations, public bodies and authorities. The total transactions with bodies under this heading during 2017/18 are as follows:

• Payments	£667k	(£801k in 2016/17)
• Receipts	£16k	(£19k in 2016/17)
• Amounts owed by the Council	£20k	(£54k in 2016/17)
• Amounts owed to the Council	£4k	(£0k in 2016/17)

Members have declared an interest or relationship in companies or businesses which may have had dealings with the Council. The total payments made to companies under this heading during 2017/18 and amounts outstanding at 31st March are as follows:

• Payments	£245k	(£84k in 2016/17)
• Receipts	£84k	(£0k in 2016/17)
• Amounts owed by the Council	£44k	(£21k in 2016/17)
• Amounts owed to the Council	£245k	(£0k in 2016/17)

A Member has submitted a 'Candidate Site' for inclusion within the Local Development Plan. The Council undertook a 'Call for Candidate Sites' whereby any interested persons could put forward land to be considered by the Council as potential sites for inclusion within the Plan. There is no guarantee that the site will be included within the Plan.

The personal interests of all members are recorded in the Public Register of Members' Interests, in accordance with the law and the Council's Code of Conduct. The Register is available for public inspection by contacting Chief Officer Governance at Flintshire County Council, County Hall, Mold.

Officers

Senior Officers have declared, as required and where appropriate, an interest or relationship in companies, voluntary, charitable, or public bodies which receive payments from the Council. The total transactions with such bodies during 2017/18 are as follows:

• Payments	£373k	(£367k in 2016/17)
• Amounts owed to the Council	£4k	(£0k in 2016/17)

Community Asset Transfer (CAT)

A number of Members and Senior Officers will have an interest in local community groups involved in the Council's CAT scheme. The scheme involves leasehold transfer (at nominal value) of specific Council assets to organisations

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

with a social purpose who plan to use the assets for the benefit of the local community. The assets have remained on the Council's balance sheet and have a combined net book value of £9,828k (£10,184k in 2016/17). In some circumstances the Council has, or plans to, issue capital grants for any necessary capital works. Transactions with these groups during 2017/18 are:

• Grants awarded	£352k	(£95k in 2016/17)
• Grants paid in advance	£33k	(£33k in 2016/17)
• Payments	£48k	(£44k in 2016/17)
• Amounts owed by the Council	£7k	(£4k in 2016/17)
• Receipts	£2k	(£0k in 2016/17)

Associated companies

The Council has three wholly owned subsidiaries, North East Wales Homes Ltd., Newydd Catering and Cleaning Ltd, and Theatr Clwyd Productions Ltd. These are companies limited by shares and are included in the Authority's group accounting boundary. North East Wales Homes has a loan facility with the Council, and as at 31st March 2018 this amounted to £7,106k.

Other Public Bodies

Clwyd Pension Fund

The Council is the administering authority for the Clwyd Pension Fund. Details of transactions with the Clwyd Pension Fund can be found within the Clwyd Pension Fund accounts which are available at www.clwydpensionfund.org.uk

Teachers Pensions Agency

The pension costs charged are the contribution rate set by the Department for Education on the basis of a notional fund. Teacher's pension details are set out in note 41.

North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner and North Wales Fire Authority

Police and Crime Commissioners and Fire and Rescue Authorities set their own charges to council tax payers which are then included in the council tax bill – these charges are known as the precept. Total precepts and levies paid to the Office of the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner and the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority amounted to £23,176k (£22,093k in 2016/17).

Other transactions with North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner and North Wales Fire Authority during 2017/18 are:

• Payments	£39k	(£21k in 2016/17)
• Receipts	£98k	(£109k in 2016/17)
• Amounts owed by the Council	£5k	(£5k in 2016/17)
• Amounts owed to the Council	£26k	(£35k in 2016/17)

Community / Town Councils

Total precepts including cemetery precepts paid to the 34 community/town councils amounted to £2,719k (£2,602k in 2016/17). Other transactions with community councils during 2017/18 are:

• Payments	£114k	(£64k in 2016/17)
• Receipts	£360k	(£276k in 2016/17)
• Amounts owed by the Council	£15k	(£10k in 2016/17)
• Amounts owed to the Council	£63k	(£59k in 2016/17)

Transactions with the following bodies during 2017/18 were as follows:

Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board (related healthcare activities):

• Payments	£1,926k	(£1,710k in 2016/17)
• Receipts	£7,377k	(£6,424k in 2016/17)

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

• Amounts owed by the Council	£295k	(£505k in 2016/17)
• Amounts owed to the Council	£3,604k	(£2,531k in 2016/17)

Welsh Joint Education Committee:

• Payments	£206k	(£508k in 2016/17)
• Receipts	£0k	(£8k in 2016/17)
• Amounts owed by the Council	£437k	(£340k in 2016/17)

Welsh Local Government Association:

• Payments	£100k	(£101k in 2016/17)
• Receipts	£7k	(£7k in 2016/17)
• Amounts owed by the Council	£0k	(£1k in 2016/17)

28. AUDIT FEES

Total audit and inspection fees due during the year amounted to £370k (£363k in 2016/17). External audit services were provided by Wales Audit Office.

	2018	2017
	£000	£000
Fees for the Statement of Accounts	207	210
Fees for the Local Government Measure	100	100
Fees for grants	63	53
	<u>370</u>	<u>363</u>

29. NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES (WALES) ACT 2006

The Council has an agreement with Wrexham County Borough Council and the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, pursuant to Section 33 of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006, for the provision of an integrated community equipment service under a pooled fund arrangement. The service is provided through staff of Flintshire County Council (as host partner) from Unit 3, Hawarden Industrial Estate, Hawarden.

Partnership	2018	2017
	£000	£000
Gross expenditure	996	1,034
Gross income	(1,128)	(1,100)
(Surplus) / deficit for year	<u>(132)</u>	<u>(66)</u>
Contribution to Budget		
Flintshire County Council	291	288

Unit 3, which is situated within Flintshire, is jointly owned by Flintshire County Council (50.25%) and Wrexham County Borough Council (49.75%), and has been valued at £1,011k; the premises are included in Flintshire County Council's balance sheet (as host partner):-

	Gross £000	Net £000	%
Flintshire County Council	508	495	50.25
Wrexham County Borough Council	503	490	49.75
	<u>1,011</u>	<u>985</u>	<u>100.00</u>

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

30. AGENCY SERVICES

Flintshire County Council is one of six partners within the North Wales Trunk Road Agency (NWTRA), the other partners being Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Gwynedd and Wrexham Councils. The Streetscene & Transportation Portfolio within Flintshire County Council undertakes trunk road work on behalf of NWTRA for the Welsh Government. Reimbursement for work carried out under the Trunk Road Agency Agreement amounted to £3,103k (£2,481k in 2016/17).

The six North Wales councils act as agents of Welsh Government in providing recyclable loans under the Houses into Homes Scheme in perpetuity, for the repair of properties which have been long term vacant, with the aim of bringing them back into use. Flintshire County Council is the lead/banker authority for the North Wales region and responsible for administering the fund. No further income was received from Welsh Government during 2017/18 (£0k in 2016/17) with gross payments against the brought forward sum amounting to £649k (£355k in 2016/17), with repayments of £125k made during the year, combining to a net total payments of £524k. Of these Flintshire County Council received and issued £168k of loans (£280k in 2016/17) with £125k being repaid (£325k in 2016/17).

Welsh Government has provided funding to Flintshire County Council to provide additional recyclable loan products which are treated as agency arrangements in the Council's accounts. The first product is a second Houses into Homes scheme with the funding to be returned in 13 years' time, with the same purpose as outlined above. No loans have been issued so far. The second product, called Home Improvement Loans, is for works in making residential properties safe warm and/or secure, again with the funding to be returned in 13 years' time. £109k has been granted in loans in year (£17k in 2016/17).

Flintshire County Council acts as an agent on behalf of Welsh Government in receiving and distributing various grants for the North Wales region. Bus Services Support Grant is used to support bus and community transport services in the region. The total received in 2017/18 was £7,692k, of which £745k was Flintshire's share and is included in Flintshire's accounts (£6,748k in 2016/17, £593k in Flintshire's accounts).

Flintshire County Council acts as agents on behalf of water companies collecting water and sewerage charges from tenants living in Council owned dwellings. In 2017/18 £3,495k was collected (£3,473k 2016/17). The Council also acts as agent in arranging and collecting household contents insurance for tenants' belongings on their behalf if they wish. In 2017/18 £99k was collected (£101k in 2016/17). The Council also collects heating charges from tenants living in Council owned communal buildings, and in 2017/18 £139k was collected (£161k in 2016/17).

31. OTHER FUNDS ADMINISTERED BY THE AUTHORITY

The Council administers a trust fund on behalf of Optec D.D. (UK) Limited. The fund provides financial support to the youth exchange scheme between Flintshire County Council and Murata and Kuga Cho in Japan. The fund balance at 31st March 2018 was £45k (£61k in 2016/17) and is not included in the balance sheet.

Flintshire County Council acted as lead authority in the administration of the Welsh Church Acts Fund on behalf of Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham. Income received from investments, net of central management expenses, was apportioned to each authority to be used to give grants which accord with the stated objectives. On 29th March 2018, the funds held by Flintshire County Council (£537k) and the administration of the Fund were transferred to the Community Foundation in Wales. Flintshire County Council still holds £13k which will be transferred in 2018-19 (the fund balance was £570k in 2016/17).

In the Social Services portfolio the Social Services for Adults Section maintain individual bank accounts for service users living in the community who are unable to cope with their financial affairs; individual members of the Deputyship team are approved to act as corporate appointee with the Department for Work and Pensions for each service user. The total amount held by the Council at 31st March 2018 was £4,417k in 423 separate accounts (£3,912k in 408 accounts in 2016/17).

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

32. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

In accordance with the provisions of Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Council's Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy, former waste disposal sites within the county will be considered and the condition of each assessed in due course. The assessments may conclude that liability for carrying out some or all of any necessary remediation works will be the Council's responsibility.

The Council recognises that any future payments made by MMI will be made at the reduced rate of 75% and has created an earmarked reserve to fund the 25% that the Council in any future claim settled will need to fund. The projection of future claims is uncertain because of the latent nature of many of the claims that MMI is still receiving. The levy is subject to review at least once every 12 months by the scheme administrator, and the most recent indication from the administrator is of a levy ranging from 15% to 34%.

Flintshire is the legislative successor body in respect of all abuse claims relating to the former Clwyd County Council. A number of claims continue to be brought by former children in care. In some cases the Council's insurers were not on cover and so the Council may need to fund any such claim that is successful.

There are 5 claims against the Council in Employment Tribunals which will be heard in the next financial year. Based on the outcomes of the cases the Council could have to pay all, some or none of the claims.

The Council has entered into long term contracts with two service providers, Newydd and AURA. There has been a transfer of Council employees to the new service providers. The Council has given pension guarantees to Newydd and Aura. These guarantees mean that if these bodies are unable to meet their pension obligations at a future point in time then the Council will assume responsibility for them.

33. CONTINGENT ASSETS

Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 allows legal agreements as part of planning approval that commits the developer to undertake works or in-kind contributions towards a variety of infrastructure or services. An affordable housing scheme called 'Shared Equity' is one such commitment, the developer makes a number of properties available for purchase by those on the affordable housing register at 70% of the market value. The remaining 30% share in the properties is transferred to the Council in the form of a legal charge against the property. At any point in the future the homeowner can redeem the Council's 30% share, or sell the property. The first call is a sale to others on the affordable housing register. If after a set period the property does not sell it can be sold on the open market. It is probable that the Council will benefit in the form of capital receipts in the future from these agreements, however the receipt must be used for the provision of affordable housing.

As the result of a successful case brought by the London Borough of Ealing against HMRC in relation to the treatment of VAT on sporting activities, Flintshire has lodged two separate claims for the recovery of VAT from previous years. HMRC has informed Flintshire that the first claim has been successful and the amount which Flintshire will receive is about £1,100k. The second claim remains outstanding and it is unclear when this will be considered by HMRC and what amount Flintshire might expect to receive.

34. CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS AND ASSUMPTIONS MADE

In preparing the Statement of Accounts, the Council has had to make judgements, estimates and assumptions for certain items that affect the application of its policies and reported levels of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. The estimates and associated assumptions have been based on historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors that are considered to be reasonable and are used to inform the basis for judgements about the carrying values of assets and liabilities, where these are not readily available from other sources. However, because these cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from those assumptions and estimates made.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The significant accounting estimates within the Statement of Accounts relate to non-current assets and the impairment of financial assets. Estimates and underlying assumptions are regularly reviewed. Changes in accounting estimates are adjustments of the carrying amount of an asset or a liability, or the amount of the periodic consumption of an asset, that results from the assessment of the present status of, and expected future benefits and obligations associated with assets and liabilities. Changes to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The critical accounting judgements made by the Council which have a significant effect on the financial statements are:

- **Future Levels of Government Funding and Levels of Reserves** – The future levels of funding for local authorities has a high degree of uncertainty. The Council has set aside amounts in provisions, working balances and reserves which it believes are appropriate based on local circumstances including its overall budget size, risks, robustness of budget estimates, major initiatives being undertaken, budget assumptions, other earmarked reserves and provisions and the Council's track record in financial management. The Council has published a Medium Term Financial Strategy which can be found on the Council's website.
- **Provisions** – The Council is required to exercise judgement in assessing whether a potential liability should be accounted for as a provision or contingent liability. In calculating the level of provisions the Council also exercises judgement; they are measured at the Council's best estimate of the costs required to settle the obligation at the Balance Sheet date.
- **Investment Properties** – The Council classifies investment properties in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Practice, that being that assets are held solely for rental income or capital appreciation. Assessment of such properties involves exercising judgement, which could be subject to a difference in interpretation.
- **Asset Valuations** – The Council values its Housing Stock by estimating the 'Existing Use Value – Social Housing'. The valuation methodology applied is the Adjusted Vacant Possession Value (known as the Beacon Approach). There is currently no guidance in Wales that specifically defines the components within the methodology, some of which rely on professional judgments particular to local circumstances.

The approach seeks to obtain a value for the asset, based on the Fair Value (market value) assuming 'vacant possession' of the asset which is then adjusted to reflect the asset's use for social housing with a sitting tenant. The underlying principles of this approach are:

- A representative asset is normally used as the basis for valuing a set of similar assets.
- The asset's Fair Value (market value) is determined from sales evidence relating to comparable properties. This provides a 'vacant possession' value.
- The market value is adjusted by a factor to reflect the difference between private sector rents / yields and social housing rents / yields. This is intended to reflect the differential cash flows that would arise between the two types of landlord given that there is a sitting tenant in the property and that any development value is to be ignored as continuation of the existing use is assumed.
- **Accounting for arrangements containing a lease (embedded leases)** – During 2016/17 the Council entered into an arrangement where supply and maintenance of all vehicles, along with fleet management, would be undertaken by Essential Fleet Services (EFS). The Council has reviewed the appropriate accounting guidance, sought professional advice, and concluded that this arrangement contains embedded operating leases.
- **Community Asset Transfers (CATs)** - involve leasehold transfer (at nominal value) of specific Council assets to organisations with a social purpose who plan to use the assets for the benefit of the local community. The lease agreements have been considered; whilst operational risk and reward transfers to the community group, the Council's view is that the risk and reward of ownership remains with the Council and therefore the value of the assets have remained on the Council's balance sheet.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- Leisure and Libraries Leases - involve leasehold transfer of specific Council assets to a charitable, not-for-profit, organisation which is responsible for managing the majority of leisure centres and libraries previously operated directly by Flintshire County Council. The lease agreements have been considered; whilst operational risk and reward transfers to the charitable organisation, the Council's view is that the risk and reward of ownership remains with the Council and therefore the value of the assets have remained on the Council's balance sheet. The classification of the assets have also remained consistent with prior year's treatment. They are recognised as operational Property, Plant and Equipment, which aligns with the classification most suitable to the use of the assets when compared to other definitions of assets such as surplus or investment assets.

The key sources of estimation uncertainty identified by the Council which have a significant effect on the financial statements are:

- Retirement Benefit Obligations** – The Council recognises and discloses its retirement benefit obligation in accordance with the measurement and presentational requirements of IAS 19 "Employee Benefits". The estimation of the net pension liability depends on a number of complex judgements and estimates relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of actuaries is engaged to provide the Council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied. Changes in these assumptions can have a significant effect on the value of the Council's retirement benefit obligation. Further detail assessing the sensitivities of estimates can be found in Note 41.
- Impairment of Financial Assets** – The Council provides for the impairment of its receivables based on the age, type and recoverability of each debt. A reasonable estimate of impairment for doubtful debts is provided for within the Council's accounts at the Balance Sheet date, however in the current economic climate it is not certain that such an allowance would be sufficient.
- Property, Plant and Equipment** – Assets are depreciated over their useful life and reflect such matters as the level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual types of asset, cost of replacement and assuming prudent maintenance, an estimate of the unexpired useful life of the asset.
- Valuation techniques** are used to determine the fair value of surplus assets, assets held for sale and investment properties. This involves developing estimates and assumptions consistent with how market participants would value such assets. As far as possible, assumptions are based on observable data. If observable data is not available the best information available is used. Thus, estimated fair values may vary from actual prices that would be achieved in an arm's length transaction at the reporting date.

35. PROVISION FOR REPAYMENT OF EXTERNAL LOANS

Section 22 of the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 requires the Authority to set aside a minimum revenue provision (MRP) in respect of the financing of capital expenditure incurred in that year or in any financial year prior to that year. The amounts set aside in 2017/18 were as follows:-

	2018 £000	2017 £000
Total minimum revenue provision	5,505	6,233
Recharge to housing revenue account	(2,337)	(2,132)
	<u>3,168</u>	<u>4,101</u>

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

36. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND CAPITAL FINANCING

The total amount of capital expenditure incurred in the year is shown in the following table (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 Authority, the expenditure results in an increase in the capital financing requirement, a measure of the capital expenditure incurred historically by the Authority that has yet to be financed.

	2018 £000	2017 £000
Capital Investment		
Property, plant and equipment	50,860	50,997
Intangible assets	0	0
REFCUS	6,521	12,496
	<u>57,381</u>	<u>63,493</u>
Sources of Finance		
Capital receipts	0	(2,329)
Capital grants and contributions	(16,750)	(17,104)
Capital reserves / CERA	(12,871)	(12,855)
	<u>(29,621)</u>	<u>(32,288)</u>
Increase/(decrease) in capital financing requirement	<u>27,760</u>	<u>31,205</u>
Increase in supported borrowing	4,124	4,137
Increase in other (unsupported) borrowing	23,636	27,068
	<u>27,760</u>	<u>31,205</u>

37. FUTURE CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

At 31st March 2018, the Authority has entered into a number of contracts for the construction or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment in 2018/19 and future years. The major commitments, in excess of £1m, are shown below:

Contract Details	2018 Contract Value £000
Council Fund	
Connah's Quay High School	8,265
Penyffordd CP School	6,629
	<u>14,894</u>
Total Commitments	<u>14,894</u>

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

38. LEASING

Lessee Rentals

Finance Leases

The Council has acquired a number of items of vehicles, plant and equipment under finance leases. The assets acquired under these leases are carried as Property, Plant and Equipment in the Balance Sheet at the following net amounts:

Asset Classification	2018 £000	2017 £000
Vehicles, plant and equipment	<u>4,614</u>	<u>5,238</u>

The Council is committed to making minimum payments under these leases comprising settlement of the long-term liability for the interest in the property, plant and equipment 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 of which £541k is due to be paid during the next 12 months (£565k equivalent for the previous financial year).

	2018 £000	Repaid £000	New £000	2017 £000
Finance lease liabilities (net present value of the minimum lease payments):				
Current	541	24	0	565
Non-current	<u>4,846</u>	<u>540</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5,386</u>
	5,387	564	0	5,951
Finance costs payable in future years	<u>2,365</u>	<u>520</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,885</u>
Minimum lease payments	<u>7,752</u>	<u>1,084</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8,836</u>

Minimum lease payments - the lowest amount that a lessee can expect to pay on a lease over its lifetime

Finance lease liabilities - the capital element of the minimum lease payments

Finance costs - the interest element of the minimum lease payments

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

	Minimum Lease Payments		Finance Lease Liabilities	
	2018 £000	2017 £000	2018 £000	2017 £000
Not later than one year	1,006	1,084	541	565
Later than one year and not later than five years	4,313	4,501	2,718	2,661
Later than five years	<u>2,433</u>	<u>3,251</u>	<u>2,128</u>	<u>2,725</u>
	<u>7,752</u>	<u>8,836</u>	<u>5,387</u>	<u>5,951</u>

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Operating Leases

In 2017/18, operating lease rentals paid amounted to £3,282k (£1,811k in 2016/17).

Asset Classification	2018 £000	2017 £000
Land	45	45
Buildings	144	139
EFS Fleet Contract	2,764	925
Vehicles, plant and equipment	329	702
	<u>3,282</u>	<u>1,811</u>

The minimum lease payments due under operating leases in future years are:

	Land £000	Buildings £000	EFS Fleet Contract £000	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £000	Total £000
Not later than one year	42	160	3,050	190	3,442
Later than one year and not later than five years	92	346	12,127	189	12,754
Later then five years *	989	942	1,532	0	3,463
	<u>1,123</u>	<u>1,448</u>	<u>16,709</u>	<u>379</u>	<u>19,659</u>

* Any open ended agreements are calculated to 2030/31 in line with the general average life of the longest leases

During 2016/17 the Council entered into an arrangement where supply and maintenance of all vehicles, along with fleet management, would be undertaken by Essential Fleet Services (EFS). This arrangement is considered to contain embedded leases, therefore payments to EFS are included in the figures above. It is not considered practical to split the payments into lease elements and non-lease elements, therefore the total payments are shown. The figures are adjusted to reflect the fact under this arrangement EFS are reimbursing the Council for existing vehicle leases until their expiry.

Lessor Rentals

Operating Leases

The Council leases out property under operating leases largely for economic development purposes. In 2017/18, lease rentals receivable amounted to £2,829k (£3,008k in 2016/17).

The minimum lease payments receivable under operating leases in future years are:

	Land £000	Buildings £000	Total £000
Not later than one year	69	1,999	2,068
Later than one year and not later than five years	184	6,941	7,125
Later then five years *	457	8,840	9,297
	<u>710</u>	<u>17,780</u>	<u>18,490</u>

* Any open ended agreements are calculated to 2030/31 in line with the general average life of the longest leases

Finance Leases

The Council does not lease out any properties on finance leases

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

39. ACCOUNTING STANDARDS ISSUED BUT NOT YET ADOPTED

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18 has not introduced any changes, amendments and interpretations to existing standards which are mandatory for the Council's accounting periods beginning on or after 1st April 2017 or later periods and would require changes to accounting policies in next years' accounts.

IFRS 9 – Financial Instruments

The Council will adopt IFRS 9 Financial Instruments with effect from 1st April 2018. This introduces changes to the classification of financial assets and the earlier recognition of the impairment of financial assets under a new “expected credit loss” model.

The Council does not expect the reclassification changes to have a material impact upon the financial statements because the majority of its financial assets will retain the same measurement basis. To this end, on 1st April 2018 the Council irrevocably elected to present changes in the fair value of equity investments in other comprehensive income as permitted by the IFRS.

The Council does not expect the impairment changes to have a material impact upon the financial statements because the impairment charge will be immaterial for its treasury management assets (e.g. MMFs, bank deposits and bonds) and already makes a provision for doubtful debts on its service assets

IFRS 15 – Revenue from Customers with Contracts

The Council from 1st April 2018 will adopt IFRS 15 Revenue Recognition from Contracts with Customers and IPSAS 23 Revenue from Non-Exchange Transactions (Taxes and Transfers) account for revenue recognition in accordance with these standards. IFRS 15 will require local authorities to recognise revenue in such a way that it represents the transfer of promised goods or services to the service recipient (customer) in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the authority expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services.

CIPFA is of the view that generally this should not have a substantial effect for local authorities with relatively predictable income streams but it may have an impact on authorities where the consideration is variable and/or when income is recognised over time. The Council does not expect the changes to have a material impact upon the financial statements.

IFRS 16 – Leases

This standard will require the Council where they are lessees to recognise most leases on their balance sheets as right-of-use assets with corresponding lease liabilities (there is recognition for low-value and short-term leases). The Council at this time does not expect the changes to have a material impact upon the financial statements however further work is being undertaken to assess the impact of the changes.

IAS 7 Statement of Cash Flows (Disclosure Initiative) –

The adoption of the standard will potentially require the Council to provide additional analysis of Cash Flows from Financing Activities (disclosed at Note 24) in future years.

IAS 12 Income Taxes (Recognition of Deferred tax Assets for Unrealised Losses) -

This applies to deferred tax assets related to debt instruments measured at fair value. The Council does not expect the changes to have a material impact upon the financial statements.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

40. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Financial instruments included in the balance sheet are made up of the following financial liabilities and assets:

	Long-Term		Current	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Financial liabilities at amortised cost				
Principal	253,672	250,998	52,205	11,654
Accrued Interest	0	0	5,879	2,723
Borrowing	<u>253,672</u>	<u>250,998</u>	<u>58,084</u>	<u>14,377</u>
Cash overdrawn	0	0	2,358	2,413
Cash & Cash Equivalents	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,358</u>	<u>2,413</u>
Finance Leases	4,846	5,386	541	565
Deferred Liabilities	<u>4,846</u>	<u>5,386</u>	<u>541</u>	<u>565</u>
Trade Payables	0	0	26,534	24,694
Within Creditors	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>26,534</u>	<u>24,694</u>
Total financial liabilities	<u>258,518</u>	<u>256,384</u>	<u>87,517</u>	<u>42,049</u>
Financial assets at amortised cost				
Principal	0	0	0	0
Accrued Interest	0	0	0	0
Investments	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Cash & Cash Equivalents	0	0	34,154	9,375
Accrued Interest	0	0	7	1
Cash & Cash Equivalents	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>34,161</u>	<u>9,376</u>
Trade Receivables	2,387	2,211	21,371	22,061
Within Debtors	<u>2,387</u>	<u>2,211</u>	<u>21,371</u>	<u>22,061</u>
Total financial assets	<u>2,387</u>	<u>2,211</u>	<u>55,532</u>	<u>31,437</u>

Short term Creditors (note 16) includes a further £4,088k (2016/17 £5,980k) that does not meet the definition of a trade payable.

Short term Debtors (note 12) includes a further £23,304k (2016/17 £16,277k) that does not meet the definition of a trade receivable.

Within the Cash and Cash Equivalent line on the Balance Sheet financial assets and liabilities are offset:-

	2018	2017
	Net	Net
	Total	Total
	£000	£000
Financial Assets - Bank Accounts in Credit	34,161	9,375
Financial Liabilities - Cash Overdraft	(2,358)	(2,413)
Net Position reported on Balance Sheet	<u>31,803</u>	<u>6,962</u>

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

	2018			2017		
	Financial Liabilities	Financial Assets		Financial Liabilities	Financial Assets	
	Liabilities Measured at Amortised Cost £000	Loans and Receivables £000	Total £000	Liabilities Measured at Amortised Cost £000	Loans and Receivables £000	Total £000
Interest expense	(13,189)	0	(13,189)	(13,401)	0	(13,401)
Interest payable and similar charges	(13,189)	0	(13,189)	(13,401)	0	(13,401)
Interest income	0	129	129	0	141	141
Interest and investment income	0	129	129	0	141	141
Net gain/(loss) for the year	(13,189)	129		(13,401)	141	

Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities Carried at Amortised Cost

Financial assets classified as loans and receivables and all non-derivative financial liabilities are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost. Their fair values in the table below have been estimated by calculating the net present value of the remaining contractual cash flows at 31st March 2018, 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 value of "Lender's Option Borrower's Option" (LOBO) loans have been increased by the value of the embedded options. Lenders' options to propose an increase to the interest rate on the loan have been valued according to a proprietary model for Bermudan cancellable swaps. Borrower's contingent options to accept the increased rate or repay the loan have been valued at zero, on the assumption that lenders will only exercise their options when market rates have risen above the contractual loan rate.
- 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 31st March.
- The fair values of finance lease liabilities have been calculated by discounting the contractual cash flows 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.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The fair values are calculated as follows, the fair value hierarchy is explained within the Council's accounting policies

	Fair Value Level	2018		2017	
		Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000
Financial Liabilities					
PWLB	2	230,810	337,993	230,810	352,221
LOBOs	2	18,950	27,383	18,950	29,163
Lease payables	3	5,387	4,873	5,951	5,432
		<u>255,147</u>	<u>370,249</u>	<u>255,711</u>	<u>386,816</u>
Financial Assets					
Certificates of Deposits	2	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

The PWLB fair value is higher than the carrying amount because the Authority's portfolio of loans includes a number of fixed loans where the interest rate payable is higher than the rates available for similar loans at the balance sheet date. This commitment to pay interest above current market rates increases the amount that the Authority would have to pay if the lender requested or agreed to early repayment of the loans. The same is the case for LOBOs, with the interest rates higher than the PWLB rates available at the balance sheet date, resulting in a higher fair value.

The Council is in receipt of Loans from the Salix Energy Efficiency scheme delivered by the Welsh Government in Partnership with Salix Finance and The Carbon Trust to provide interest free loans. The Council does not account for these loans as soft loans because the fair value adjustment is not material. This approach has also been taken for loans for Vibrant and Viable Places loans.

Disclosure of 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 Investment Strategy in compliance with the Welsh Government Guidance on Local Government Investments. This Guidance emphasises that priority is to be given to security and liquidity, rather than yield. The Council's Treasury Management Strategy and its Treasury Management Practices seek to achieve a suitable balance between risk and return or cost. These practices include financial risks such as Credit Risk, Liquidity Risk and Market Risk.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

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

The Authority's overall risk management programme focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential effects on the resources available to fund services. Risk management is carried out by a central treasury team, under policies approved by Flintshire County Council in the Policy Statement and Strategy. Flintshire provides written principles for overall risk management, as well as written policies covering specific areas, such as interest rate risk, credit risk and the investment of surplus cash.

Risk - Liabilities

The Council has raised long term finance by either borrowing from the PWLB or the market via LOBOs.

- PWLB – The majority of this debt is fixed rate, hence there is interest rate risk. If rates fall in the future, the Council will be paying higher than the current market rate, however, it is considered more beneficial to have budget certainty on future payments of interest in a low interest rate environment; as at 31st March 2018, 4.3% of PWLB debt was variable rate, reducing the interest rate risk but increasing budget uncertainty. There is an option in the Treasury Management Strategy to have £60m variable debt if deemed appropriate. Liquidity risk is managed through the debt maturity profile and a prudential indicator which does not allow any more than 10% of debt to reach maturity in any one year.
- LOBOs - All LOBOs have a fixed rate of interest for a period of between 12 and 23 months followed by a further fixed rate for the period of the loan, however the loan can be recalled by the lender after a certain fixed period of time. LOBOs are used because they have an interest rate lower than PWLB and this is balanced against the risks of rates rising and the loan having to be repaid which results in re-financing risk at a time of higher interest rates. The amount of LOBOs is restricted to £60m of long term borrowing.

Analysis shows that if interest rates rose by 1% the financial effect would be an increase in variable rate debt costs of £290k.

Risk - Loans and Receivables

Long Term Investments -

- Investments of more than 1 year are referred to as non-specified investments because of the additional interest rate risk. There is a limit of £5m for long term investments and additional procedures for authorisation by the Corporate Finance Manager.
- Deposits with banks and building societies do carry some credit risk and this is managed by using three rating agencies. The Council uses the following criteria, and investments are made subject to the monetary and time limits shown.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Minimum Credit Rating	Banks Unsecured	Banks Secured	Government	Corporates	Registered Providers
UK Government			£ Unlimited 50 years		
AAA	£2m	£2m	£2m	£2m	£2m 10 years
AA+	5 years	5 years	25 years	5 years	
AA	£2m 4 years	£2m 4 years	£2m 15 years	£2m 4 years	
AA-	£2m 3 years	£2m 3 years	£2m 10 years	£2m 3 years	
A+	£2m 2 years	£2m 2 years	£2m 5 years	£2m 2 years	£2m 5 years
A	£2m 1 year	£2m 1 year		£2m 1 year	
A-	£2m 6 months	£2m 6 months		£2m 6 months	
Pooled Funds	£3m per fund				
BBB-	The Council is restricted to overnight deposits in its' own current account bank with a limit of £5m where the banks lowest credit rating is BBB+, BBB or BBB- (or equivalent)				

Analysis shows that if interest rates rose by 1% the financial effect would be an increase in investment income of £334k. If rates fell by 1%, there would be a loss of income for the same amount.

Bonds -

Investments in bonds have limited credit risk because they are government backed but the market will fluctuate based on current interest rates thus changing the fair value.

Other Receivables -

Customers are required to make arrangements to pay outstanding monies due to the Council, based on their ability to pay. Customers are requested to complete a financial assessment form and are required to confirm in writing the amount agreed and the start date of the arrangement, and to make the Council fully aware of any circumstances surrounding their ability to pay which they wish to be taken into account in making the assessment.

41. PENSIONS

Pensions - Teachers

Teachers employed by the Council are members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme a multi-employer defined benefit scheme, providing teachers with specified benefits upon their retirement. For accounting purposes it is treated as a defined contribution scheme as the Council is unable to identify its share of assets and liabilities with sufficient reliability. The scheme is unfunded and the Department for Education uses a notional fund as the basis for calculating the employers' contribution rate.

The Council contributes to the scheme by making contributions based on a percentage of teachers' pensionable salaries. In 2017/18 the Council paid £8,337k (£8,334k in 2016/17), which represents 16.48% (average) of teachers' pensionable pay (16.48% in 2016/17). The contributions due in 2018/19 are estimated to be £8,043k, 16.42% of teachers' pensionable pay.

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

In addition, the Council is responsible for all pension payments relating to the award of discretionary post-retirement benefits on early retirements (also known as added years) it has awarded, together with the related increases, outside of the terms of the teachers' scheme. These are accounted for on a defined benefit basis as detailed in the following section.

Pensions - Other Employees

As part of their terms and conditions of employment of its officers the Council makes contributions towards the costs of post-employment benefits. Officers employed by the Council are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme, the Clwyd Pension Fund, administered locally by Flintshire County Council. This is a funded defined benefit final salary scheme, meaning that the Council and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension's liabilities with investment assets.

Discretionary post-retirement benefits awarded on early retirement are an unfunded defined benefit arrangement, under which liabilities are recognised when payments are made. There are no plan assets built up to meet these pension liabilities.

The Clwyd 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 Clwyd Pension Fund Panel. Policy is determined in accordance with the Pension Fund Regulations.

The principal risks to the Council of the scheme are the longevity assumptions, statutory changes to the scheme, structural changes to the scheme (i.e. large-scale withdrawals from the scheme), changes to inflation, bond yields and the performance of the equity investments held by the scheme.

Further information regarding the Clwyd Pension Fund accounts and the Clwyd Pension Fund Annual Report are available from www.clwydpensionfund.org.uk.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Transactions Relating to Retirement Benefits

The cost of retirement benefits is recognised in the net cost of services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge that is required to be made against Council tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of retirement benefits is reversed out in the movement in reserves statement. The transactions that have been made in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement and the movement in reserves statement during the year are :-

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Discretionary Benefits Arrangements	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement				
Service Expenditure Analysis -				
Current service cost	26,602	18,725	0	0
Past service cost/(gain)	1	46	0	0
Curtailments/settlements	(8,712)	673	0	0
Other Operating Expenditure -				
Administration expenses	894	940	0	0
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure				
Net interest expense	7,999	8,987	1,249	1,456
Net charge to surplus / deficit on the provision of services -	26,784	29,371	1,249	1,456
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability -				
Return on plan assets	10,491	84,251	0	0
Actuarial gains and losses - financial assumptions	36,849	(154,635)	1,063	(10,173)
Net charge to other comprehensive income and expenditure -	47,340	(70,384)	1,063	(10,173)
Net charge to Comprehensive Income and Expenditure -	74,124	(41,013)	2,312	(8,717)
Movement in Reserves Statement				
Reversal of net charges made to surplus / deficit on the provision of services for retirement benefits in accordance with IAS 19	(26,784)	(29,371)	(1,249)	(1,456)
Actual amount charged against the Council fund balance for pensions in the year				
Employers' contributions payable to scheme	22,673	21,805	3,142	3,208
Net debit/(credit) to the movement in reserves statement	(4,111)	(7,566)	1,893	1,752

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Pensions Assets and Liabilities in Relation to Retirement Benefits Recognised in the Balance Sheet

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

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Discretionary Benefits Arrangements	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Present value of liabilities	(891,294)	(930,122)	(48,620)	(51,576)
Fair value of assets	591,049	586,648	0	0
Surplus/deficit in the scheme	<u>(300,245)</u>	<u>(343,474)</u>	<u>(48,620)</u>	<u>(51,576)</u>

The liabilities total reflects the underlying long-term commitments that the Authority has in respect of retirement benefits due. The net liability of £358,204k is included as part of the unusable reserves total on the Balance Sheet.

Reconciliation of present value of the scheme liabilities:-

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Discretionary Benefits Arrangements	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	£000	£000	£000	£000
1st April	930,122	751,269	51,576	43,155
Current service cost	26,602	18,725	0	0
Interest cost	22,435	26,652	1,249	1,456
Contributions by scheme participants	4,806	4,996	0	0
Actuarial gains and losses - Financial assumptions	(36,849)	154,635	(1,063)	10,173
Benefits paid	(27,106)	(26,874)	(3,142)	(3,208)
Past service costs	1	46	0	0
Curtailments/settlements	(28,717)	673	0	0
31st March	<u>891,294</u>	<u>930,122</u>	<u>48,620</u>	<u>51,576</u>

Reconciliation of fair value of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) assets:-

	2018	2017
	£000	£000
1st April	586,648	485,745
Interest income	14,436	17,665
Administration Expenses	(894)	(940)
Return on plan assets	10,491	84,251
Employer contributions	22,673	23,437
Contributions by scheme participants	4,806	4,996
Benefits paid	(27,106)	(28,506)
Settlements	(20,005)	0
31st March	<u>591,049</u>	<u>586,648</u>

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Local Government Pension Scheme's assets consist of the following categories:-

	2018		2017	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Equity investments:				
UK Quoted*	0		0	
Global Quoted*	48,466		45,172	
Global Unquoted	0		0	
US*	0		0	
Japan*	0		0	
Europe*	0		0	
Emerging Markets*	41,373		36,372	
Frontier*	0		0	
Far East*	0		0	
	<u> </u>	89,839	<u> </u>	81,544
Bonds:				
Overseas Other	67,380		69,811	
LDI*	133,577		136,689	
	<u> </u>	200,957	<u> </u>	206,500
Property:				
UK*	30,143		26,399	
Overseas	7,684		13,493	
	<u> </u>	37,827	<u> </u>	39,892
Cash:				
Cash Accounts*	7,093		5,280	
	<u> </u>	7,093	<u> </u>	5,280
Alternatives:				
Hedge Funds	49,648		51,625	
Private Equity	60,878		58,665	
Infrastructure	13,594		10,560	
Timber & Agriculture	8,275		9,973	
Commodities	0		0	
Private Credit	4,728		0	
DGF	118,210		122,609	
	<u> </u>	255,333	<u> </u>	253,432
	<u> </u>	591,049	<u> </u>	586,648

* Denotes classes of assets that have a quoted market price in an active market.

The scheme maintains positions in a variety of financial instruments which exposes it to a variety of financial risks including credit risk, counterparty risk, liquidity risk, market risk and exchange rate risk. Risk management procedures are annually reviewed and focus on the unpredictability of financial markets and implementing restrictions to minimize these risks. The current policy is to lower risk by diversifying investments across asset classes, investment regions and fund managers.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependant on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels, etc. The liabilities have been assessed by Mercer Human Resource Consulting Limited, an independent firm of actuaries; estimates for the County Council are based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31st March 2016. The significant assumptions used by the actuary are:-

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Discretionary Benefits Arrangements	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Mortality Assumptions				
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners -				
Men	23.1yrs	23yrs	23.1yrs	24yrs
Women	25.6yrs	25.5yrs	25.6yrs	26.6yrs
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners -				
Men	25.7yrs	25.6yrs	n/a	n/a
Women	28.3yrs	28.2yrs	n/a	n/a
Rate of inflation (Consumer Prices Index)	2.1%	2.3%	2.1%	2.3%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.4%	3.6%	n/a	n/a
Rate of increase in pensions	2.2%	2.3%	2.2%	2.3%
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	2.6%	2.5%	2.6%	2.5%

The estimation of the defined benefit obligation is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. The sensitivity analyses below are calculated by altering relevant assumptions by the amount specified, whilst assuming that all other variables remain the same. This approach is not necessarily realistic, since some assumptions are related; for example, if the scenario is to show the effect of higher than expected inflation, it might be reasonable to expect that nominal yields on corporate bonds will be higher too. However, the analysis isolates one effect from another.

	Impact of Increase on Defined Benefit Obligation	Impact of Decrease on Defined Benefit Obligation
	£000	£000
Longevity (increase / decrease in 1 year)	(18,741)	18,741
Rate of inflation (increase / decrease by 0.1%)	(16,883)	16,883
Rate of increase in salaries (increase / decrease by 0.1%)	(2,724)	2,724
Discount Rate (increase / decrease by 0.1%)	16,584	(16,584)

Increases in pensions are linked to increases to inflation (CPI) therefore the impact is the same for rate of inflation and rate of increases in pensions.

Impact on Cash Flows

Regulations governing the scheme require actuarial valuation to be carried out every three years. Contributions for each employer are set having regard to their individual circumstances. The Regulations require the contributions to be set with a view to targeting the scheme's solvency, and the detailed provisions are set out in the Clwyd Pension Fund Funding Strategy Statement. The most recent valuation was carried out as at 31st March 2016, which showed a shortfall of assets against liabilities of £437 million as at that date; equivalent to a funding level of 76%. The scheme's employers are paying additional contributions over a period of up to 15 years in order to meet the shortfall.

The total contributions expected to be made to the LGPS by the Council in the year to 31st March 2019 is £23.3m.

The duration of the defined benefit obligation for LGPS Members is 18 years, 2017/18 (18 years 2016/17).

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT - INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND MOVEMENT ON RESERVES STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31st March 2018

The HRA Income and Expenditure Statement shows the economic cost in the year of providing housing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from rents and government grants. Authorities charge rents to cover expenditure in accordance with the legislative framework; this may be different from the accounting cost. The increase or decrease in the year, on the basis on which rents are raised, is shown in the Movement on the Housing Revenue Statement.

	2018		2017	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Expenditure				
Repairs and maintenance		7,354		7,189
Management and supervision		4,239		3,701
Specialist Services		1,551		1,654
Rents, rates, taxes and other charges		6		125
Depreciation and impairment of non-current assets		35,317		30,719
Valuations - Dwellings		0		(266)
Debt management costs		42		33
Increase in bad debt provision		450		330
Total expenditure		<u>48,959</u>		<u>43,485</u>
Income				
Dwelling rents (gross)	31,645		30,200	
Non-dwelling rents (gross)	<u>364</u>		<u>352</u>	
		32,009		30,552
Charges for services and facilities		1,058		719
Reimbursement of Costs		48		638
Total income		<u>33,115</u>		<u>31,909</u>
Net cost of HRA services as included in the whole authority Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		15,844		11,576
Other Operating Expenditure				
Net (gain) / loss on the disposal of non-current assets		70		(1,672)
Admin. expenses on the net defined benefit liability		53		53
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure				
Interest payable and similar charges		4,655		4,841
Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (see note 41)		521		551
Total (surplus) / deficit for the year on HRA services		<u>21,143</u>		<u>15,349</u>

This statement shows how the surplus/deficit on the Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement for the year reconciles to the surplus/deficit for the year on the Statutory Housing Revenue Account.

	Note (from core notes)	2018 £000	2017 £000
At 1st April		1,642	1,517
Surplus/(deficit) on the HRA income and expenditure statement		(21,143)	(15,349)
Total comprehensive income and expenditure		<u>(21,143)</u>	<u>(15,349)</u>
Adjustments between accounting and funding basis under regulations	7	21,419	15,474
Increase/(decrease) in year on the HRA		<u>276</u>	<u>125</u>
At 31st March		<u>1,918</u>	<u>1,642</u>

NOTES TO THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

1. LEGISLATION

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA), in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, reflects a statutory obligation to account separately for local authority housing provision. It shows the major elements of housing revenue expenditure - maintenance, rent rebates, administration - and capital financing costs, and how these are met by rents, subsidy and other income.

2. HOUSING STOCK

The type and number of dwellings at 31st March 2018 were:-

Type	2018 No.	2017 No.
Houses	4,048	4,029
Flats	1,373	1,355
Maisonettes	10	10
Bungalows	1,794	1,795
	<u>7,225</u>	<u>7,189</u>

3. RENT ARREARS

The rents total of £1,539k (£1,094k in 2016/17) includes, in addition to the basic rent element, amounts due in respect of water/sewerage rates, heating charges, household insurance, communal television licences and value added tax on some garage rentals. These individual rent elements cannot be separately identified from the whole.

Analysis of arrears	2018 £000	2017 £000
Rents		
Current tenants	1378	953
Former tenants	161	141
	<u>1,539</u>	<u>1,094</u>
 Provision for impairment losses (bad debts)	 £000	 £000
Opening provision	422	409
Written off in year	(287)	(290)
Increase in provision	443	303
	<u>578</u>	<u>422</u>

NOTES TO THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

4. NON-CURRENT ASSET ACCOUNTING

Capital Expenditure and Financing

HRA capital expenditure of £29,772k was incurred as follows; £0k - Land, £21,480k - Council Dwellings, £6,659k - Assets Under Construction £712k – equipment, (£29,911k in 2016/17). Financed as follows:-

	Capital Receipts £000	Capital Grants & Contributions £000	Revenue Contributions £000	Borrowing £000	Total £000
Capital financing	0	5,332	12,248	12,192	29,772
	<u>0</u>	<u>5,332</u>	<u>12,248</u>	<u>12,192</u>	<u>29,772</u>

Major Repairs Allowance (MRA)

Included within the capital grants and contributions total (£5,332k) is the 2017/18 MRA allocation figure of £5,065k (£5,050k in 2016/17). The MRA allocation figure is included within the government grants – general line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. This Welsh Government grant was fully used in 2017/18 in financing qualifying capital expenditure.

Capital Receipts

Gross capital receipts of £355k (£2,801k in 2016/17) were realised by way of the disposal of dwellings, land sales, and shared ownership sales:-

	2018 £000	2017 £000
Council dwellings	277	1,724
Shared Ownership Sales	78	130
Land sales	<u>0</u>	<u>947</u>
	<u>355</u>	<u>2,801</u>

Depreciation

Straight line depreciation is provided for on all housing revenue account non-current assets with a finite useful life, other than for non-depreciable land. The charge of £5,162k (£5,132k in 2016/17) is based on the 2017/18 opening net balance sheet valuations (valuation list less cumulative depreciation), with assumed nil residual values.

	2018 £000	2017 £000
Dwellings	5,056	5,030
Garages	20	20
Plant and equipment	<u>86</u>	<u>82</u>
	<u>5,162</u>	<u>5,132</u>

Impairment Losses and Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute

A HRA impairment adjustment total of £30,155k was accounted for in 2017/18 (£25,584k in 2016/17). No revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute was accounted for in 2017/18 (£0k in 2016/17).

NOTES TO THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

5. HRA SHARE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO / FROM PENSIONS RESERVE

The cost of retirement benefits is recognised in the net cost of services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge required to the HRA is based on the employers' contributions made in year, so the real cost of retirement benefits is reversed out in the movement in reserves statement.

The HRA transactions in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement and the movement in reserves statement during the year are:-

	2018		2017	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement				
Service Expenditure Analysis -				
Current service cost	1,411		982	
Curtailments/settlements	<u>0</u>		<u>37</u>	
Other Operating Expenditure -		1,411		1,019
Administration expenses	<u>53</u>		<u>53</u>	
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure		53		53
Net interest expense	<u>521</u>		<u>551</u>	
		<u>521</u>		<u>551</u>
Total HRA Charge		<u>1,985</u>		<u>1,623</u>
Movement in Reserves Statement				
Reversal of net charges made to surplus / deficit on the provision of services for retirement benefits in accordance with IAS 19		(1,985)		(1,623)
Actual amount charged against the HRA balance for pensions in the year:				
Employers' contributions payable to scheme		1,288		1,230

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2017/18 financial year and its position at the year end of 31st March 2018. The Council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 which require the accounts to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18 (the Code) 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.

Accruals of Income and Expenditure

The revenue and capital accounts of the Council are prepared on an accruals basis. Sums are included in the final accounts to cover income or expenditure attributable to the year of account for goods received or work done, but for which payment has not been received/made by 31st March 2018. Where income and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. In particular:-

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.

Borrowing Costs

The Council has elected to adopt the adaptation by the Code in respect of IAS 23 which allows borrowing costs in respect of qualifying assets to be expensed rather than capitalised. Therefore, all borrowing costs are recognised as an expense as they are incurred.

Capital Receipts

Capital receipts arise from the disposal of property assets and the repayment of advances, and are accounted for on an accruals basis; amounts not exceeding £10k from any disposal are treated as revenue income, in accordance with capital regulations. The balance of receipts which has not been used for capital financing purposes is included in the Balance Sheet as usable capital receipts.

Carbon Reduction Commitment Scheme

The Council is required to participate in the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme. The scheme is currently in the fourth year of the second phase running from 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2019.

The Council is required to purchase and surrender allowances, currently retrospectively, on the basis of emissions i.e. carbon dioxide produced as energy is used. As carbon dioxide is emitted (i.e. as energy is used), a liability on the Balance Sheet and an expense within the cost of services line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are recognised. The liability will be discharged by surrendering allowances. The liability is measured at the best estimate of the expenditure required to meet the obligation, normally at the current market price of the number of allowances required to meet the liability at the reporting date.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

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

Charges to Revenue for Non Current Assets

Service Portfolios are charged with the following amounts to record the cost of holding fixed assets during the year:-

- Depreciation attributable to the assets used by the relevant service.
- Revaluation and impairment losses on assets used by the service where there are no accumulated gains in the Revaluation Reserve against which the losses can be written off.
- Amortisation of intangible fixed assets attributable to the service.
- The Council is not required to raise Council Tax to fund depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisation. However, it is required to make an annual contribution from revenue towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement equal to an amount calculated on a prudent basis determined by the Council in accordance with statutory guidance. Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisation are, therefore, replaced by the contribution in the Council Fund Balance – Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) - by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

The Council's MRP is calculated in accordance with the 2016/17 MRP Policy Statement agreed by Council in February 2016, subsequently amended in June 2016, February 2017 and March 2018, set in accordance with Welsh Government Guidance on MRP. The Council's Policy is to charge minimum revenue provision of:

- 2% of debt outstanding for the housing revenue account
- 2% of council fund debt outstanding fixed at 31st March 2016, on capital expenditure incurred before 1st April 2008 and capital expenditure funded by supported borrowing between 1st April 2008 and 31st March 2016
- Capital expenditure incurred on or after 1st April 2008 funded by prudential borrowing, and all future debt funded capital expenditure will be repaid based on the expected useful life of the asset using the annuity method.

In addition, the Council may pay off or replace loans earlier than originally planned as part of its debt management strategy, dependent upon prevailing market conditions, risk and financial benefit. A breakdown of MRP charged for the year is disclosed in Note 35.

Employee Benefits

Benefits Payable during Employment

Short-term employee benefits are those due to be settled within 12 months of the year-end. They include 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 Council. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements (or any form of leave, e.g. flexi time, time off in lieu) earned by employees but not taken before the year-end which employees can carry forward into the next financial year.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accrual is charged to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, (but then reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement) so that holiday benefits are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs.

Termination Benefits

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

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

Post Employment Benefits

Employees of the Council are members of two separate pension schemes:-

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

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

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

The Local Government Pension Scheme

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

- The liabilities of the pension fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit actuarial cost method – an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc, and projections of earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate based on the market yields at the reporting date on high quality corporate bonds.
- The assets of Clwyd Pension Fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

- The change in the net pensions liability is analysed into seven components:
 - 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 and Central Finance Service Portfolio.
 - Gains or losses on settlements and curtailments – the result of actions to relieve the Council of liabilities or events that reduce the expected future service or accrual of benefits of employees – debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Corporate and Central Finance Service Portfolio.
 - Net Interest on the net defined benefit liability – the net interest expense for the Council, the change during the period that arises from the passage of time – debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Calculated as interest on pension liabilities less the interest on assets. The value of liabilities is calculated by discounting the expected future benefit payments for the period between the expected payment date and the date at which they are being valued. Interest on assets is the interest on assets held at the start of the period and cashflows occurring during the period, calculated using the discount rate at the start of the year.
 - Administration expenses – the costs of running the fund attributable to the Council, does not include investment management expenses – debited to Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
 - Return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability – charged to the Pensions Reserve.
 - 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.
 - Contributions paid to the Clwyd 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 / HRA balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the pension fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards.

In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means that there are 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 / HRA of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

Discretionary Benefits

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

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Events After the Reporting Period

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

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

Fair Value Measurement

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

- Transactions take place in the principal market, or the most advantageous market
- Prices are set by market participants acting in their best economic interest
- Non-financial assets will be used in their highest and best use by both buyer and seller

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

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

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

Financial Instruments

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 with another entity that is potentially unfavourable to the Council.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Financial liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value and carried at their amortised cost. Annual charges to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, for interest payable, are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. This means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable (plus accrued interest) and interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable for the year in the loan agreement.

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

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

Financial Assets

A financial asset is a right to future economic benefits controlled by the Council that is represented by cash or other instruments or a contractual obligation to receive cash or another financial asset.

Financial assets are classified into two types:-

- Loans and receivables – assets that have fixed or determinable payments but are not quoted in an active market.
- Available-for-sale assets – assets that have a quoted market price and/or do not have fixed or determinable payments.

Loans and Receivables:

Loans and receivables are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument, and are initially measured at fair value. They are subsequently measured at their amortised cost.

Annual credits to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, for interest receivable, are based on the carrying amount of the asset, multiplied by the effective rate of interest of the financial instrument. This means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal receivable (plus accrued interest), and interest credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount receivable for the year, as determined in the loan agreement.

Available-for-Sale Assets:

Available-for-sale assets are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument, and are initially measured and carried at fair value.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Where the asset has fixed or determinable payments, annual credits to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest receivable, are based on the amortised cost of asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument.

Where there are no fixed or determinable payments, income (e.g. dividends) is credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when it becomes receivable by the Council.

Assets are maintained in the Balance Sheet at fair value. Values are based on the following principles:-

- Instruments with quoted market prices – the market price.
- Other instruments with fixed and determinable payments - discounted cash flow analysis.
- Equity shares with no quoted market prices – independent appraisal of company valuations.

Changes in fair value are balanced by an entry in the Available-for-Sale Reserve and the gain / loss is recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on Revaluation of Available-for-Sale Financial Assets.

The exception is where impairment losses have been incurred - these are debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, along with any net gain / loss for the asset accumulated in the Available-for-Sale Reserve.

Where assets are identified as impaired, because of a likelihood arising from a past event that payments due under the contract will not be made (fixed or determinable payments) or fair value falls below cost, the asset is written down and a charge made to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. If the asset has fixed or determinable payments, the impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the revised future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. Otherwise the impairment loss is measured as any shortfall of fair value against the acquisition cost of the instrument (net of any principal repayment and amortisation).

Any gains or losses that arise on derecognition of the asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, along with any accumulated gains or losses previously recognised in the Available-for-Sale Reserve. Where fair value cannot be measured reliably, the instrument is carried at cost less any impairment losses.

Government Grants and Contributions

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

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

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

Monies advanced as grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried in the Balance Sheet as creditors (Grants Receipts in Advance).

When conditions are satisfied, the grant or contribution is credited to the relevant service line (attributable revenue grants and contributions) or Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income (non-ringfenced revenue grants and all capital grants) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

Heritage Assets

Heritage assets are those assets that the Council intends to preserve in trust for future generations because of their cultural, environmental or historical associations. The Council's heritage assets include historical buildings, its archive (record office) collections, and museum collections.

Historical Buildings

The Council's historical buildings are located primarily in the Greenfield Valley Heritage Park. Historical buildings are classified as operational or non-operational.

Operational

If in addition to being held for their heritage characteristics, they are used for other activities or to provide other services; they are valued in the same way as other buildings of that general asset type, and accounted for as operational assets.

Non-Operational

If held for their heritage characteristics only; they are valued in accordance with FRS 30 (Heritage Assets). Consideration has been given to the categorisation and valuation of these assets on the basis of their existing and any potential alternative use. The majority of these do not command a market value and given their nature such value cannot be made on replacement cost basis; as such, historical cost measurement is considered appropriate where records are held. In accounting for these assets, it is recognised that the acquisition of the majority of them pre-date the existence of the current administrative authority (i.e. pre 1996 Local Government Re-organisation), and thereby prevents the collection of accurate/total historical cost information for accounting purposes.

Collections:-

County Archives

The archives, ranging from a single piece of paper to thousands of documents, are held under a variety of terms, the most common ones being deposit (long-term loan), gift or purchase.

The majority of archives are held on deposit. No attempt has been made to assign a cash or insurance value to this irreplaceable historical and cultural heritage, although in cases where the archives have been purchased, records of their saleroom value at the time may exist. Obtaining a valuation of all the owned assets would be a lengthy, resource intensive and costly exercise, and any market value placed on these assets would not be a true reflection of the value of the assets to the County's heritage; the assets, if lost, could not be replaced or reconstructed. Consequently, the Council does not recognise these assets on the Balance Sheet.

A small number of items are artefacts rather than documentary material which forms the large majority of the holdings, and as such are exceptions. The Council considers it appropriate to insure the artefacts even though it does not own them; their historical insurance value is £174,415 and is not considered material for reporting/disclosure purposes.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

County Museum

The County's museum collection consists of about 6,800 items or groups of items. Of these approximately 260 are displayed at Mold Museum, 200 at Buckley Museum and a group of about 580 items are on loan to Greenfield Valley Trust. The remainder is held in an off-site store. The majority of the collection items have been donated. The vast majority of the collection cannot be valued because of its diverse and unique nature. Conventional valuation approaches lack sufficient reliability and the cost of obtaining the valuations for these items would be disproportionate in terms of the benefit derived. As with the County Archives collection, the Council does not recognise these assets on the Balance Sheet.

Intangible Assets

Intangible assets are non-monetary assets without physical substance. Expenditure on intangible assets is capitalised only where it is expected that future economic benefits will flow to, or service potential be provided to, the Council and where the cost of the asset can be measured reliably.

Development expenditure, or purchased software licences may meet the definition of intangible assets when access to the future economic benefits that they represent is controlled by the Council, either through custody or legal protection; a de minimis expenditure level of £20k below which the requirements of capital accounting will not be applied is in place.

Intangible assets are carried at amortised cost. The depreciable amount of an intangible asset is amortised over its useful life to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Amortisation commences the first full year following acquisition / addition.

The most common useful lives used in respect of amortisation are:-

	Years
Software licences	5
Development expenditure	7

Where expenditure on intangible assets qualifies as capital expenditure for statutory purposes, amortisation charges are not permitted to have an impact on the Council Fund Balance, and are therefore reversed out of the Council Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement and posted to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Interest Charges

External interest payable is charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement together with the amortisation of gains and losses on the repurchase or early settlement of borrowing carried forward in the Balance Sheet.

Inventory

Inventories are included in the Balance Sheet at the lower of cost or net realisable value. The cost of each type of inventory is measured in a different way; the measurements used in respect of the Council's main inventories are:-

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| • Halkyn Depot (highways maintenance and rock salt) | Weighted average |
| • Alltami Depot (grounds & vehicle maintenance and rock salt) | Weighted average |
| • Alltami Depot (fleet fuel) | FIFO (first in first out) |
| • Canton Depot (building maintenance) | FIFO |

All other stock is measured at cost.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Investments

Investments are shown in the balance sheet at fair value (market value) for each class of financial instrument.

Short term deposits and investments are included in the cash and cash equivalents rather than short term investments if they mature within 3 months of the acquisition date, under IAS 7.

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.

Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value, being the price that would be received to sell such an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. As a non-financial asset investment properties are measured at highest and best use.

Properties are not depreciated but are revalued annually reflecting market conditions at the year-end. Gains and losses on revaluation are posted to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The same treatment is applied to gains and losses on disposal.

However, revaluation and disposal gains and losses are not permitted by statutory arrangements to have an impact on the Council Fund Balance. The gains and losses are, therefore, reversed out of the Council Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement and posted to the Capital Adjustment Account (and for any sale proceeds greater than £10k, the Capital Receipts Reserve).

Rentals received in relation to investment properties are credited to the Financing and Investment Income line and result in a gain for the Council Fund Balance.

Joint Committees

The Council recognises on the Balance Sheet the assets that it controls and the liabilities that it incurs from the activity of any service delivered in conjunction with other parties, and reflects within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement the expenditure it incurs, and the share of income it earns from such.

Leases

Finance Leases

For a lease to be classified as a finance lease substantially all risks and rewards of ownership need to be borne by the Council. There are five examples of situations that individually or in combination would normally lead to a lease being classified as a finance lease. These are:

- The lease transfers ownership of the asset to the lessee by the end of the lease term.
- The lessee has the option to purchase the asset at a price that is expected to be sufficiently lower than the fair value so as to make it reasonably certain the option will be exercised.
- The lease term is for the major part of the economic life of the asset.
- The present value of the minimum lease payments amounts to at least substantially all of the fair value of the leased asset (the Council have determined 'substantially all' to equate to 90% as advised by their independent lease consultants); and
- The leased assets are of such a specialised nature that only the lessee can use them without major modifications.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Where substantially all risks and rewards of ownership of a leased asset are borne by the Council, the asset is recorded as property, plant and equipment and a corresponding liability is recognised.

The value at which both are recognised is the lower of the fair value of the asset or the present value of the minimum lease payments, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease. The implicit interest rate is that which produces a constant periodic rate of interest on the outstanding liability.

The property, plant and equipment acquired under finance leases are depreciated over the life of the asset as per the depreciation accounting policy. The asset and liability are recognised at the inception of the lease, and are de-recognised when the liability is discharged, cancelled or expires.

The annual rental is split between the repayment of the liability and a finance cost. The annual finance cost is calculated by applying the implicit interest rate to the outstanding liability.

Operating Leases

Leases that do not meet the definition of finance leases are accounted for as operating leases. Operating lease rentals are charged to revenue accounts, on an accruals basis, on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Property leases are classified and accounted for as separate leases of land and buildings.

Prior Period Adjustments, Changes in Accounting Policies and Estimates and Errors

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

Changes in accounting policies are only made when required by proper accounting practices or the change provides more reliable or relevant information about the effect of transactions, other events and conditions on the Council's financial position or financial performance. Where a change is made, it is applied retrospectively (unless stated otherwise) by adjusting opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period as if the new policy had always been applied.

Material errors discovered in prior period figures are corrected retrospectively by amending opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period.

Property, Plant and Equipment

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

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment that is deemed to enhance the value of an asset is initially capitalised on an accruals basis, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. Such assets are subsequently revalued in-year and impaired or revalued as appropriate to ensure they are held at the correct carrying value.

Expenditure that maintains but does not add to an asset's potential to deliver future economic benefits or service potential (i.e. repairs and maintenance) is charged as an expense when it is incurred. A de minimis expenditure level of £20k below which the requirements of capital accounting will not be applied is in place.

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:-

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

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

- Council dwellings – current value, determined using the existing use value for social housing (EUV – SH).
- Infrastructure assets – depreciated historical cost.
- Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment – depreciated historical cost.
- All other operational assets – current value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value – EUV).
- Community assets – historical cost and not depreciated.
- Surplus assets – current value measurement is based on fair value, estimated at highest and best use from a market participant's perspective
- Assets under construction – historical cost.

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

Where non-property assets have short useful lives or low values (or both), depreciated historical cost basis is used as a proxy for current value.

Revaluation

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at current value are revalued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their current value at the year-end, but as a minimum every five years. The Council meets this requirement by revaluing a proportion of the total asset portfolio as at 1st April each year; in 2017/18 approximately 23% of operational non-dwelling assets were revalued. Valuations are undertaken in accordance with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Valuation – Professional Standards Global and UK Edition (January 2014). Valuations are carried out by the Council's in-house RICS valuers wherever possible, but in some cases external valuers are used.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The valuation methodology used for the HRA Housing Stock is the Beacon Approach, an adjusted vacant possession value technique based on the value of the property assuming vacant possession, with an adjustment factor to reflect continued occupation by a secured tenant. This methodology - the most widely adopted amongst local authorities in Wales - is the methodology that is most likely to produce consistent valuations of similar HRA properties in different local authorities. The current value of council dwellings is measured using existing use value–social housing (EUV–SH) as defined by RICS Valuation Standards, being the estimated amount for which a property should exchange (on the date of valuation) between a willing buyer and a willing seller, in an arm's-length transaction.

Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. Exceptionally, gains might be credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement where they arise from the reversal of a loss previously charged to a service.

Where decreases in value are identified, they are accounted for 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 or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

Impairment

Assets are reviewed for impairment at the end of each reporting period to ensure that they are not carried at a value higher than their recoverable amount. Examples of impairment include a significant reduction in a specific assets value and evidence of physical damage (e.g. fire damage).

Assets are assessed at each year-end as to whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. Where indications exist and any possible differences are estimated to be material, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated and, where this is less than the carrying amount of the asset, an impairment loss is recognised for the shortfall. Where impairment losses are identified, they are accounted for 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 any accumulated gains).
- Where there is no balance in the Revaluation Reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided for on all Property, Plant and Equipment assets with a finite useful life. An exception is made for assets without a determinable finite useful life and assets that are not yet available for use (i.e. assets under construction). Depreciation on new assets is charged from the first full year following addition in the case of all assets other than those acquired under finance leases, for which provision is made from the year of addition.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Depreciation is calculated on a straight line basis, assuming nil residual values for all property plant and equipment, with the most common useful lives being:-

	Years
Buildings	50
Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment	3-10
Infrastructure assets	40

Council Dwellings are depreciated by a sum equivalent to the Major Repairs Allowance (MRA).

Assets capitalised under finance leases are depreciated over the life assigned to the asset by either the contract in place or, in the absence of this information being available, the Council's independent lease consultants as a result of their review of the lease.

Assets under Construction are not depreciated until the asset is brought into use.

Componentisation

Where an item of Property, Plant and Equipment asset has major components whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the item and whose estimated useful life is significantly different from the useful life of the main asset, the components are depreciated separately.

A de minimis materiality level of £2.5m for the asset value has been set, below which individual items of property, plant and equipment will not be considered for componentisation; significant components will be deemed as those whose current value is 20% or more of the total current value of the asset.

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

Derecognition of Property, Plant and Equipment

An item of property, plant or equipment is derecognised by disposal or when no future economic benefit or service potential is expected from its use.

Disposals and Non-Current Assets Held for Sale

When it becomes probable that the carrying amount of an asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through its continuing use, it is reclassified as an Asset Held for Sale once all of the following criteria are met:

- The asset must be available for immediate sale in its present condition subject to terms that are usual and customary for sales of such assets.
- The sale must be highly probable; the appropriate level of management must be committed to a plan to sell the asset and an active programme to locate a buyer and complete the plan must have been initiated.
- The asset (or disposal group) must be actively marketed for a sale at a price that is reasonable in relation to its current fair value.

The sale should be expected to qualify for recognition as a completed sale within one year of the date of classification and action required to complete the plan should indicate that it is unlikely that significant changes to the plan will be made or that the plan will be withdrawn.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The asset is revalued immediately before reclassification and then carried at the lower of this amount and fair value less costs to sell. Where there is a subsequent decrease to fair value less costs to sell, the loss is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Gains in fair value are recognised only up to the amount of any previously recognised losses in the Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services. Depreciation is not charged on Assets Held for Sale.

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

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

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

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10k are categorised as Capital Receipts. The balance of receipts is required to be credited to the Capital Receipts Reserve, and can then only be used for new capital investment or set aside to reduce the Council's underlying need to borrow (the capital financing requirement). Receipts are appropriated to the Reserve from the Council Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Provisions

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Council a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefits or service potential, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of obligation.

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

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

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

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Contingent Liabilities

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

Contingent liabilities also arise in circumstances where a provision would otherwise be made but either it is not probable that an outflow of resources will be required or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably. Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts.

Contingent Assets

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

Schools

All of the Council's maintained schools are considered to be entities controlled by the Council. In line with the requirements of the code the Council accounts for its maintained schools within its single entity financial statements. This includes school income, expenditure, assets, liabilities, reserves and cash flows.

Non-current Assets - Schools

Non-current assets of Community schools are owned by the Council and are included in the Balance Sheet.

Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled school buildings are owned by religious bodies and therefore are not recognised on the Balance Sheet. Any land and/or playing fields that are owned by the Council at Voluntary Aided / Controlled schools is included on the Balance Sheet. The Council's single Foundation school is owned by the governors of the school and is therefore included in the Balance Sheet.

Subsidiaries

The Council wholly owns three companies called, North East Wales Homes and Property Management (NEW Homes), Newydd Catering & Cleaning Ltd, and Theatr Clwyd Productions Ltd.

As the Council therefore controls these entities it is required that they are consolidated in group accounts. In the Council's single entity accounts, the interests in subsidiaries is recorded at cost.

Reserves

Amounts set aside for purposes falling outside the definition of provisions are considered as reserves. They represent either a planned set-aside of cash to resource unforeseen expenditure demands in the short term, resources to assist cash flow management or accumulated resources which have not been spent or earmarked at the end of the accounting period. Transfers to and from Reserves are shown as appropriations in the Movement In Reserves Statement.

Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute (REFCUS)

Expenditure incurred during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provisions but that does not result in the creation of a non current asset has been charged as expenditure to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Where the Council has determined to meet the cost of this expenditure from existing capital resources or by borrowing, a transfer in the Movement in Reserves Statement from the Council Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account then reverses out the amounts charged so that there is no impact on the levels of council tax or rent.

Examples of REFCUS expenditure are Disabled Facilities grants, grants to businesses and private property enhancement schemes.

Value Added Tax

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

GROUP ACCOUNTS

The Code requires that a local authority with material interests in subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures should prepare Group Accounts in addition to its single entity accounts.

A subsidiary is an entity including an unincorporated entity such as a partnership that is controlled by another entity (the Council), known as the parent.

For Group Accounts purposes the Council has consolidated the accounts of three wholly owned subsidiaries of the Council;

- North East Wales Homes Limited (NEW Homes),
- Newydd Catering & Cleaning Ltd, and;
- Theatr Clwyd Productions Ltd

The Council's other collaborative working arrangements have been reviewed against the requirements of the Code, and it has been determined that none of these arrangements require inclusion in Group Accounts.

The Group Accounts include:

- Group Movement in Reserves Statement
- Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
- Group Balance Sheet
- Group Cash Flow Statement

NEW Homes

NEW Homes was established on 3rd April 2014 to own, lease and manage properties with the aim of increasing the quantity and quality of affordable housing across the county, whilst providing a professional service to landlords and tenants.

NEW Homes is a company limited by shares, wholly owned by the Council (1 at £1 par value), established under section 95 of the Local Government Act 2003. The Council has a high level of control over NEW Homes as the single shareholder approving:

- the issue of share capital
- the distribution of trading surplus
- annual business plan
- any asset disposals
- any borrowing against assets
- appointment of directors to the board

Further information on NEW Homes is available on its website www.northeastwaleshomes.co.uk,

NEW Homes balance sheet shows that it owns non-current assets, these currently equate to 37 properties in total donated by private developers for £1 each under section 106 agreements to provide affordable housing. These agreements between developers and local planning authorities are negotiated as part of a condition of planning consent and enable local authorities to negotiate contributions towards a range of infrastructure and services, including affordable housing. The total value of these properties in the NEW Homes Balance Sheet is £5.6m.

The Council and NEW Homes enter into a nomination rights agreement in respect of each property, which entitles the Council to select every tenant, and uses this to house people from the Flintshire affordable housing register.

GROUP ACCOUNTS

Newydd Catering & Cleaning Ltd

Newydd Catering & Cleaning Ltd a new Local Authority Trading Company incorporated on 28th February 2017 as a Company limited by shares with the Council owning all of the shares, 100 at £1 par value. The Catering and Cleaning service has been created with the objective to be more responsive to the demands of the market and be free to attract new customers outside of the Council.

On incorporation the Council is listed as having significant control in relation to the company; owns more than 75% of shares, holds more than 75% of voting rights and has the right to appoint / remove the majority of the Board of Directors

The Council has a high level of control over Newydd as the single shareholder approving;

- Approval of any strategic objectives and any strategic decisions
- The approval of any transfer or transmission of shares in the Company
- The approval of the retention or distribution of any financial surplus
- The issue by the Company of any shares in the capital of the Company, and the rights and/or restrictions of any shares.
- any borrowing against assets

Further information on Newydd Ltd is available on its website www.newydd.wales

Theatr Clwyd Productions Ltd

Theatr Clwyd Productions was incorporated on 22nd Dec 2015 as a Company limited by shares with the Council owning all of the shares, 1 at £1 par value. The company was established for the theatre to produce its own productions operating under the advantages available to Theatrical Production Companies.

The Council has a high level of control over Theatr Clwyd Productions as the single shareholder approving;

- Approval of the Business Plan and any decision that the Company should undertake on any business other than in accordance with the Business Plan.
- Approval of any changes to the memorandum and/or articles of association
- Approval of the issue of any shares
- Approval of any borrowing (unsecured or secured by a legal charge against land or buildings owned by the company)

Accounting Policies

The accounting policies for the Group follow those adopted by Flintshire County Council in the single entity statements, as detailed on pages 68 to 84. Where the subsidiaries accounting policies are different, adjustments have been made on consolidation to align any differences in accounting treatment.

GROUP MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

for the year ended 31st March 2018

	Council Fund Reserves £000	Other Useable Reserves £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Reserves of the Authority £000	Subsidiary Reserves £000	Total Group Reserves £000
At 31st March 2017	31,478	16,325	47,803	(4,283)	43,518	3,586	47,104
Total comprehensive income and expenditure	1,355	(21,143)	(19,788)	97,243	77,455	(4,587)	72,867
Adjustments between group accounts and authority accounts	(5,957)	0	(5,957)	0	(5,957)	3,038	(2,919)
Net increase/(decrease) before transfers	(4,602)	(21,143)	(25,745)	97,243	71,498	(1,549)	69,948
Adjustments between accounting and funding basis under regulations	1,697	25,655	27,352	(27,352)	0	0	0
Increase/(decrease) in year	(2,905)	4,512	1,607	69,889	71,498	(1,549)	69,949
At 31st March 2018	28,573	20,837	49,410	65,606	115,014	2,037	117,051

GROUP MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

for the year ended 31st March 2017

	Council Fund Reserves £000	Other Useable Reserves £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Reserves of the Authority £000	Subsidiary Reserves £000	Total Group Reserves £000
At 31st March 2016	37,889	12,822	50,711	117,479	168,190	2,489	170,679
Total comprehensive income and expenditure	(36,892)	(15,349)	(52,241)	(72,608)	(124,849)	1,276	(123,573)
Adjustments between group accounts and authority accounts	179	0	179	0	179	(179)	0
Net increase/(decrease) before transfers	(36,713)	(15,349)	(52,062)	(72,608)	(124,670)	1,097	(123,573)
Adjustments between accounting and funding basis under regulations	30,302	18,852	49,154	(49,154)	0	0	0
Increase/(decrease) in year	(6,411)	3,503	(2,908)	(121,762)	(124,671)	1,097	(123,574)
At 31st March 2017	31,478	16,325	47,803	(4,283)	43,518	3,586	47,104

GROUP COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

for the year ended 31st March 2018

	2018		2017	
	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	Gross Income
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Service Expenditure Analysis				
Chief Executives	3,014	(121)	2,893	(37)
Community & Enterprise	50,518	(46,927)	3,592	(52,295)
Education & Youth	131,535	(29,203)	102,333	(22,149)
Governance	10,494	(889)	9,605	(754)
Organisational Change	9,877	(2,079)	7,798	(9,940)
People & Resources	5,030	(384)	4,646	(256)
Planning & Environment	9,645	(3,544)	6,100	(3,303)
Social Services	84,288	(20,822)	63,466	(18,246)
Streetscene & Transportation	47,327	(11,871)	35,457	(11,189)
Corporate & Central Finance	9,305	(1,302)	8,003	(721)
Housing revenue account (HRA)	48,838	(33,115)	15,723	(31,909)
Housing revenue account (HRA) - Valuations	0	0	0	0
Theatr Clwyd	4,661	(4,539)	121	(6,013)
Cost of services	414,532	(154,796)	259,736	(156,812)
Other Operating Expenditure			26,221	
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure			20,890	
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income			(280,488)	
(Surplus)/deficit on the provision of services			26,358	52,165
Tax expenses of subsidiary			(219)	(5)
Group (Surplus)/deficit			26,139	52,160
(Surplus)/deficit arising on revaluation of non-current assets			(50,199)	(9,144)
(Surplus)/deficit arising on revaluation of available-for-sale financial assets			0	0
Tax relating to other comprehensive income			357	0
Actuarial (gains) or losses on pension assets and liabilities			(49,164)	80,557
Total comprehensive income and expenditure			(72,867)	123,573

GROUP BALANCE SHEET

as at 31st March 2018

		2018		2017	
	Note	£000	£000	£000	£000
NON-CURRENT ASSETS					
Property, Plant & Equipment					
Council dwellings		207,735		210,912	
Other land and buildings		323,217		276,057	
Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment		14,622		15,918	
Surplus assets		8,934		9,009	
Infrastructure assets		153,463		151,232	
Community assets		4,721		4,721	
Assets under construction		10,364		7,633	
Total Property, Plant & Equipment	1		723,056		675,482
Investment properties and Agricultural Estate			29,064		28,508
Intangible assets			57		110
Long term investments			0		0
Long term debtors			2,387		2,211
NON-CURRENT ASSETS TOTAL			754,564		706,311
CURRENT ASSETS					
Inventories		940		1,075	
Short term debtors (net of impairment provision)		36,116		36,642	
Short term investments		0		0	
Cash and cash equivalents		32,361		7,173	
Assets held for sale		1,517		4,243	
Current tax asset		213		5	
CURRENT ASSETS TOTAL			71,147		49,138
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Borrowing repayable on demand or within 12 months		(58,084)		(14,377)	
Short term creditors		(29,513)		(32,836)	
Provision for accumulated absences		(1,776)		(2,651)	
Deferred liabilities		(541)		(565)	
Grants receipts in advance		(2,512)		(1,528)	
Provisions		(609)		(418)	
Current Tax Liability		213		0	
CURRENT LIABILITIES TOTAL			(92,822)		(52,375)
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Long term creditors		(1,342)		(240)	
Long term borrowing		(253,672)		(250,998)	
Deferred liabilities		(4,846)		(5,386)	
Provisions		(2,131)		(994)	
Other long term liabilities		(352,215)		(395,050)	
Grants receipts in advance		(1,632)		(2,382)	
Deferred Tax Liability		0		(921)	
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES TOTAL			(615,838)		(655,971)
NET ASSETS			117,051		47,103

GROUP BALANCE SHEET

as at 31st March 2018

	Note	2018 £000	2017 £000	2017 £000
USABLE RESERVES				
Capital receipts reserve		14,094	10,671	
Capital grants unapplied		4,825	4,012	
Council fund		13,486	10,774	
Earmarked reserves		(2,320)	20,525	
Housing revenue account		14,876	1,642	
Profit and Loss Reserve		1,918	178	
USABLE RESERVES TOTAL				
		46,879		47,802
UNUSABLE RESERVES				
Revaluation reserve		107,630	63,283	
Capital adjustment account		319,537	340,435	
Financial instruments adjustment account		(6,452)	(6,814)	
Pensions reserve		(348,865)	(395,050)	
Deferred capital receipts		98	98	
Accumulated absences account		(1,776)	(2,651)	
UNUSABLE RESERVES TOTAL				
		70,172		(699)
TOTAL RESERVES				
		117,051		47,103

GROUP CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the year ended 31st March 2018

	2018		2017	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Net surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services	(25,977)		(52,098)	
Adjustment to surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	62,764		69,026	
Adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	<u>(20,886)</u>		<u>(10,811)</u>	
Net cash flows from operating activities		15,901		6,117
Net cash flows from investing activities	(33,353)		(34,250)	
Net cash flows from financing activities	<u>42,640</u>		<u>10,109</u>	
		9,287		(24,141)
Net increase or decrease in cash and cash equivalents		25,188		(18,024)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		7,173		25,197
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		32,361		7,173

NOTES TO THE GROUP ACCOUNTS

1. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	Flintshire County Council	NEW Homes	NEWYDD	Theatr Clwyd Productions Ltd	Group
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Net Book Value at 31 March 2018					
Council Dwellings	207,735	0	0	0	207,735
Other land and buildings	313,234	9,983	0	0	323,217
Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment	14,577	0	45	0	14,622
Surplus assets	8,934	0	0	0	8,934
Infrastructure assets	153,463	0	0	0	153,463
Community assets	4,721	0	0	0	4,721
Assets under construction	7,512	2,852	0	0	10,364
	710,176	12,835	45	0	723,056

	Flintshire County Council	NEW Homes	NEWYDD	Theatr Clwyd Productions Ltd	Group
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Net Book Value at 31 March 2017					
Council Dwellings	210,912	0	0	0	210,912
Other land and buildings	271,556	4,502	0	0	276,058
Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment	15,918	0	0	0	15,918
Surplus assets	9,008	0	0	0	9,008
Infrastructure assets	151,232	0	0	0	151,232
Community assets	4,721	0	0	0	4,721
Assets under construction	3,789	3,844	0	0	7,633
	667,136	8,346	0	0	675,482

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

I have audited the financial statements of:

- Flintshire County Council; and
- Flintshire County Council's Group.

for the year ended 31 March 2018 under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

Flintshire County Council's financial statements comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, and the Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement, Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

Flintshire County Council Group's financial statements comprise the Group Movement in Reserves Statement, the Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Group Balance Sheet and the Group Cash Flow Statement.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017-18 based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

In my opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of Flintshire County Council and Flintshire County Council Group as at 31 March 2018 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with legislative requirements and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017-18.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing in the UK (ISAs (UK)). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report. I am independent of the [council [and its group] in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require me to report to you where:

- the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the responsible financial officer has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about Flintshire County Council or Flintshire County Council Group's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The responsible financial officer is responsible for the other information in the annual report and accounts. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated later in my report, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by me in the course of performing the audit. If I become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies I consider the implications for my report.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of my audit:

- the information contained in the Narrative Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and the Narrative Report has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017-18;
- The information given in the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and the Annual Governance Statement has been prepared in accordance with guidance.

Matters on which I report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of Flintshire County Council and Flintshire County Council's Group and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, I have not identified material misstatements in the Narrative Report or the Annual Governance Statement.

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters, which I report to you, if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit.

Certificate of completion of audit

I certify that I have completed the audit of the accounts of Flintshire County Council in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 and the Auditor General for Wales' Code of Audit Practice.

Responsibilities of the responsible financial officer for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts set out on page 9, the responsible financial officer is responsible for the preparation of the statement of accounts, Flintshire County Council Group which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the responsible financial officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of statements of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the statement of accounts, the responsible financial officer is responsible for assessing the council's and group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless deemed inappropriate.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Anthony J Barrett

For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales

14 September 2018

Signature

24 Cathedral Road

Cardiff

CF11 9LJ

Date: September 2018

2017/18

Flintshire County Council – Annual Governance Statement

What is Governance?

"Governance is at the heart of public services. It underpins how resources are managed, how decisions are made, how services are delivered and the impact they have, now and in the future. It also infuses how organisations are led and how they interact with the public. Governance needs to be robust but it must also be proportionate. Well-governed organisations are dynamic and take well-managed risks; they are not stagnant and bureaucratic."¹

The governance framework comprises the culture, values, systems and processes by which an organisation is directed and controlled. The framework brings together an underlying set of legislative requirements, good practice principles and management processes.

Flintshire County Council acknowledges its responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of governance. The Council has developed a Local Code of Corporate Governance that defines the principles that underpin the governance of the organisation. The Local Code forms part of the Council Constitution and can be accessed on the Council's website. A summary of the principles upon which it is based can be found later in this document.

The Council's governance framework supports its aim as a modern public body which has the **philosophy** of operating as a social business which refers to it:

- being lean, modern, efficient and effective
- being designed, organised and operated to meet the needs of communities and the customer; and
- working with its partners to achieve the highest possible standards of public service for the well-being of Flintshire as a County.

To meet these aspirations the Council has set the **standards** of:-

- achieving excellence in corporate governance and reputation.
- achieving excellence in performance against both our own targets and against those of high performing peer organisations.
- being modern and flexible, constantly adapting to provide the highest standards of public, customer, and client service and support.
- using its four resources - money, assets, people and information - strategically, effectively and efficiently.
- embracing and operating the leanest, least bureaucratic, efficient and effective business systems and processes.

¹ Wales Audit Office: "Discussion Paper: The governance challenges posed by indirectly provided, publicly funded services in Wales" 2017

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To achieve these standards the Council's **behaviours** are:-

- showing strategic leadership both of the organisation and our partnerships.
- continuously challenging, reviewing, changing and modernising the way we do things.
- being as lean and un-bureaucratic as possible.
- using new technology to its maximum advantage.
- using flexible working to its maximum advantage.

The Council is committed to the **principles** of being:-

- a modern, fair and caring employer.
- fair, equitable and inclusive in its policies and practices.
- conscientious in planning and managing its activities, and making decisions, in a sustainable way.

The Council is committed to specific values and principles in working with its key partners and partnerships. These cover strategic partnerships such as the Public Services Board and with the third sector such as agreeing a set of Voluntary Sector Funding principles.

The Council is the Administering Authority for the Clwyd Pension Fund (the Pension Fund). The governance arrangements detailed in this Annual Governance Statement apply equally to the Council's responsibilities to the Pension Fund.

There are further specific requirements for the Pension Fund which are:

- The Statement of Investment Principles;
- Funding Strategy Statement;
- A full Actuarial Valuation to be carried out every third year.

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What is the Annual Governance Statement?

The Council is required by the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2018 to prepare a statement on internal control. Alongside many authorities in Wales, Flintshire refers to this as the 'Annual Governance Statement'. This is a public document that reports on the extent to which the Council complies with its own code of governance.

In this document the Council:

- acknowledges its responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of governance;
- summarises the key elements of the governance framework and the roles of those responsible for the development and maintenance of the governance environment;
- describes how the Council has monitored and evaluated the effectiveness of its governance arrangements in the year, and on any planned changes in the coming period;
- provides details of how the Council has responded to any issue(s) identified in last year's governance statement;
- reports on any significant governance issues identified from this review and provides a commitment to addressing them.

The annual governance statement reports on the governance framework that has been in place at Flintshire County Council for the financial year 2017/18 and up to the date of approval of the statement of accounts.

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How has the Annual Governance Statement been prepared?

The initial review of the Council's governance framework was carried out by the Corporate Governance Working Group. This group prepared assessment questionnaires for each portfolio Chief Officer and also for some specific governance functions such as finance, human resources and legal. The questionnaires were based on the seven principles that follow in the main part of this document and were assessed to identify any areas for improvement. Questionnaires were also completed by the Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny committees. In addition the Audit Committee undertakes a self assessment, which has also informed this work.

- The preparation and content of this year's governance framework has been considered by the Chief Officer Team, with assurance support from Internal Audit, Audit Committee and External Audit (Wales Audit Office). The governance framework cannot eliminate all risk of failure to meet the targets in our policies, aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.

In preparing the Annual Governance Statement the Council has:

- reviewed the Council's existing governance arrangements against the local Code of Corporate Governance.
- updated the local Code of Corporate Governance where necessary, to reflect changes in the Council's governance arrangements and the requirements of the new CIPFA/Solace 2016 – Guidance Notes for Welsh Authorities.
- assessed the effectiveness of the Council's governance arrangements and highlighted any planned changes in the coming period.

The Chief Officer Team, which is led by the Chief Executive, have also considered the significant governance issues and principles facing the Council. These are evidenced in pages 6-12 of the document. Principles **highlighted in Green** reflect those which the Chief Officers assessed as being applied consistently well across the Council. Principles assessed as needing further improvement are detailed on pages 18-20.

The Council's Audit Committee, provides assurance to the Council on the effectiveness of its governance arrangements, risk management framework and internal control environment. As part of this role the Committee reviews and approves the Annual Governance Statement.

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What are the key principles of the Corporate Governance Framework?

The Council aims to achieve good standard of governance by adhering the seven key principles of the new CIPFA/Solace 2016 – Guidance Notes for Welsh Authorities, which form the basis of the Local Code of Corporate Governance. The seven key principles are:

Principle A	Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law
Principle B	Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement
Principle C	Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits
Principle D	Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes
Principle E	Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it
Principle F	Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management
Principle G	Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability

Principle A

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Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of the law

Sub Principles:

Behaving with Integrity

Demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values

Respecting the rule of law

How we do this:

- **The behaviour and expectations of Officers and Members are set out in the Council's Codes of Conduct, Constitution, and a suite of policies and procedures relating to Officers and Member induction, supervision, training and appraisals and leadership competencies.**
- Case management both for Members and Officers.
- Codes of Conduct for Members and Officers specify the requirements around declarations of interests formally and at the beginning of meetings, gifts and hospitality etc.
- **The Council takes fraud seriously. Key policies are in place to prevent, minimise and manage such occurrences. Policies include:**
 - Whistleblowing Policy
 - Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy
 - Fraud Response Plan
 - Financial and Contract Procedure Rules
- Compliance with policies and protocols e.g. Contract Procedure Rules

- A set of leadership competencies are deployed in each Portfolio and led by each Chief Officer.
- The Council's recruitment policy, training and competencies based appraisal processes underpin personal behaviours with ethical values.
- **Robust policies and procedures are in place, subject to formal approval prior to adoption by formal committees.**
- **All contracts and external service providers, including partnerships are engaged through the robust procurement process and follow the Contract Procedure rules regulations.**
- **Application of the corporate operating model; our way of being organised, working internally to promote high standards of professional performance and ethical behaviour to achieve**

- The Council ensures that statutory officers and other key officers and members fulfil legislative and regulatory requirements through a robust framework which includes: Scheme of delegation; induction, development and training of existing and new requirements; application of standing operating procedures; and engagement of early / external advice where applicable.
- **The full use of the Council powers are optimised by regular challenge and keeping abreast of new legislation to achieve corporate priorities and to benefit citizens, communities and other stakeholders e.g. alternative service models (ADM's)**
- Effective Anti-Fraud and Corruption framework supported by a suite of policies; any breaches are handled in accordance key legislative provision and guidance from appropriate bodies.
- **The Council's Monitoring Officer is responsible for ensuring the Council complies with the law and avoids maladministration. The Council's Constitution promotes high standards of conduct which is monitored by the Standards Committee.**
- Consistent application of risk assessments for both strategic, operational and partnership plans.

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Principle B

Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement

Sub Principles:

Openness

Engaging comprehensively with institutional stakeholders

Engaging stakeholders effectively, including individual citizens and service users

How we do this:

- The Council is committed to having an open culture. This is demonstrated by:
 - Complaints and Compliments Procedure
 - Meetings are conducted in an open environment
 - Council's website
- The most appropriate and effective interventions / courses of action are determined using formal and informal consultation and engagement supported by:
 - Public consultation around the Medium Term, Financial Strategy (MTFS)
 - Consultation principles, e.g. School Modernisation Programme
 - Formal and informal engagement models with employee and communities e.g. alternative delivery models Member workshops
 - County Forum (Town and Community Councils)
 - Engagement with Trade Unions both formally and informally

- The Council effectively engages with stakeholders to ensure successful and sustainable outcomes by:
 - Effective application and delivery of communication strategies to support delivery
 - Targeting communications and effective use of Social Media
 - Formal and Informal meetings with key stakeholder groups
 - Effective stakeholder engagement on strategic issues
 - Service led feedback questionnaires and events
- Effective use of resources and achievement of outcomes is undertaken by the Council both through informal and formal partnerships:
 - Extensive range of partnerships to support the delivery of the Council's strategic priorities, including the Public Services Board
 - Open and productive partnership arrangements supported by an effective governance framework
 - Trust and good relations lead to delivery of intended outcomes e.g. community asset transfers
 - Partner representation at Scrutiny committees

- The achievement of intended outcomes by services is supported by a range of meaningful guidance on consultation engagement and feedback techniques with individual citizens, service users and other stakeholders. This includes:
 - Range of customer channels
 - Undertaking Impact assessments
 - Results from satisfaction surveys to enhance service delivery where applicable
 - Complaints reviewed to assess organisational learning and change
 - Sharing soft intelligence and good practice
 - Committee reports portray all relevant feedback
 - Services are assessed for value for money and opportunities for efficiencies
 - Taking account of the interests of future generations of tax payers and service users
- The Council has appropriate structures in place to encourage public participation governed through the Communication and Social Media Policies. These include:
 - E-newsletters
 - The Council's website
 - Tenants Forums

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Principle C

Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits

Sub Principles:

Defining outcomes

Sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits

How we do this

- **The Council has a clear vision describing the organisation's purpose and intended outcomes which is achieved through:**
 - **Linking of vision and intent to the MTFs which links to the Council Plan, Portfolio Business Plans and other plans and strategies with a focus on priorities for change and improvement**
 - **Organisational objectives are delivered through Programme Boards and political decision making processes**
 - **Service Planning consideration including sustainability of service delivery**
- Risk Management is applied consistently at project, partnership and business plan levels using the corporate performance system (CAMMS) which adheres to the Risk Management Policy and Strategy and ensures consistent application of risk registers and terminology.
- **Risk appetite is also considered whilst developing future scenarios and options with key staff.**
- The development of the County's Well-being Plan and delivery of the Public Services Board's priorities ensure that public services work effectively together to add value.

- The Council takes a longer term view and balances the economic, social and environmental impact of policies, plans etc. along with the wider public interest when taking decisions about service provision. This is supported by a range of governance approaches:
 - **Budget setting of the Capital Programme and MTFs and longer term business planning through the use of effective forecasting models**
 - **Setting longer term objectives regardless of political term**
 - **Delivering defined outcomes**
 - **Multi-disciplinary approach to policy development and wider public interest of economic, social and environment issues e.g. Welfare Reform, Corporate Safeguarding**
 - **Ensuring fair access to services**
 - Procurement strategy defines expectations around economic, social and environment benefits which inform service specifications, tenders and contracts.
 - Communication plans for public and community engagement
 - Clear documented record of route to change

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Principle D

Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes

Sub Principles:

Determining interventions

Planning interventions

Optimising achievement of intended outcomes

How we do this

- Good judgement in making decisions is achieved by ensuring decision makers receive objective and rigorous analysis of information and options to achieve intended outcomes including the related risks. This is achieved by:
 - **Full engagement with members on a longer term basis e.g. MTFS and Business Plans**
 - **Delivery of the MTFS and revenue and capital budget setting process providing options for the public, stakeholders and members to be engaged to consider modifications**
 - Development of forecasting models
 - Active engagement of key decision making in the development of initial ideas, options and potential outcomes and risks e.g. ADM Programme, Gateways
 - **Clear option appraisals detailing impacts, savings and risks to ensure best value is achieved**
 - Budget monitoring for each Portfolio and corporate considerations
 - **Managing expectation for key stakeholders**
 - Other key workforce strategies e.g. digital and procurement
 - Application of Impact Assessments

- The Council has established and implemented robust planning and control cycles covering strategic and business plans, priorities, targets, capacity and impact. This is achieved through:
 - Co-design of service solutions with key stakeholders
 - **Application of risk management principles when working in partnership and collaboratively and the active use of risk registers**
 - Regular monitoring of business planning, efficiency and reliability including feedback on business planning model
- **Service performance is measured through national performance indicators and establishing a range of local indicators, which are regularly monitored, reported and used for benchmarking purposes**
- **Robust and inclusive methodologies are in place to formulate the MTFS which is an integral part of the Council's governance framework and Portfolio Business plans are linked to the Council Plan**

- Resource requirements for the services are identified through the business planning process and detailed within the MTFPs highlighting any shortfall in resources and spending requirements.
- **To ensure the budget process is all-inclusive, taking into account the full cost of the operations over the medium and longer term, regular engagement and ownership of the budget through the Chief Officer Team and consultation with members through workshops and robust scrutiny process is undertaken.**
- Community benefits are achieved through the effective commissioning of services and compliance with Council procedures.
- Consultation and engagement around the content of the MTFS through public and employee events sets the context for residents and employees. In particular relating to ongoing decisions on significant delivery issues or responses to changes in the external environment

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Principle E

Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it

Sub Principles:

Developing the entity's capacity

Developing the capability of the entity's leadership and other individuals

How we do this:

- We review our operations, performance, and use of assets on a regular basis to ensure their continuing effectiveness by:
 - Review of service delivery, performance and risks through team meetings and quarterly formal reporting,
 - Programme boards' development and monitoring
- The Council reviews the sufficiency and appropriates of resource allocation through techniques such as:
 - Benchmarking both internal and external review undertaken to identify improvements in resource allocation, including the use of national and local PIs
 - Internal challenge
- **Benefits of collaborative and partnership working both regionally and nationally to ensure added value is achieved by linking services and organisation priorities to partnership working**
- Develop and maintain the workforce plan to enhance the strategic allocation of resources through the publication of regular workforce data reports and drawing intelligence from supervision and appraisal meetings.
- Future workforce and succession planning is undertaken in each portfolio to identify future workforce capability and progression.

- Effective shared leadership which enables the Council to respond successfully to changing external demands and risks is supported by:
 - a range of management and leadership development programme, run in partnership with Coleg Cambria
 - 'Development workforce' and 'leadership capacity' and 'managing performance' are two of the five priorities within the People Strategy 2016-2019
 - The Leader and the Chief Executive have clearly defined and distinct leadership roles
- Individual and organisational requirements are supported through:
 - Corporate induction for new employees to the Council
 - Inductions for employees in new jobs
 - Continued learning and development for employees identified through the competency based appraisal system and one to one meetings
 - **A comprehensive range of training and development opportunities available, in partnership with Coleg Cambria and professional bodies.**
 - **Feedback and shared learning to the organisations both through reports and interactive sessions such as the 'Academi'**
- **To support and maintain the physical and mental wellbeing of the workforce a range of interventions is provided including: Occupational Health Service, Signposting employees to Care First (independent Counselling support), Management Awareness and Support, internal training and awareness sessions to support stress related absences**

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Principle F

Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management

Sub Principles:

Managing risk

Managing performance

Robust internal control

Managing data

Strong public financial management

How we do this:

- Risk Management is an integral part of all activities and decision making through:
 - **Application of risk management policy and strategy**
 - Use of the Council's Risk Management system, CAMMS
 - Identification of all risks and appropriate mitigations and transitional plans reported to Committees
 - **Clear allocation of management for risk responsibility with oversight by senior management and chief officers**
 - **Assurance by Internal Audit and Audit Committee**

- **Members and senior management are provided with regular reports on service performance against key performance indicators and milestones against intended outcomes**
- **Members are clearly and regularly informed of the financial position and implications including environmental and resource impacts**

- **Internal Audit provide the authority, through the Audit Committee, with an annual independent and objective opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's internal control, risk management, governance arrangements and associated policies.**
- The Council is dedicated to tackling Council detailed within the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy, Fraud Response Plan, and Whistleblowing Policy

- **The Council has effective strategic direction, advice and monitoring of information management with clear policies and procedures on personal data and provides regular training to ensure compliance with these.**
- The Council requires Information Sharing Protocols to be in place in respect for all information shared with other bodies.
- **The quality and accuracy of data used for decision making and performance monitoring is supported by a guidance from a range of professional bodies.**
- **Internal Audit review and audit regularly the quality and accuracy of data used in decision making and performance monitoring.**

- **The authority's financial management arrangements support both the long term achievement of outcome and short term financial performance through the delivery of the MTFS**
- Setting a prudent Minimum Revenue Provision for the repayment of debt
- The integration of all financial management and control is currently being reviewed as part of the finance modernisation project.

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Principle G

Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability

Sub Principles:

Implementing good practice in transparency

How we do this:

- The Council has recently improved the layout and presentation of its reports in order to improve the presentation of key information to decision-makers.
- The Council is mindful of providing the right amount of information to ensure transparency.
- A review of information sharing protocols has been undertaken and new principles adopted.

Implementing good practices in reporting

- **The Council reports at least annually on the achievement and progress of its intended outcomes and financial position. This is delivered through the:**
 - Annual Performance report assessing performance against the Council Plan
 - Annual Statement of Accounts demonstrate how the Council has achieved performance, value for money and the stewardship of its resources
 - Progress against the Well-being Plan
- The Annual Governance Statement is published following robust and rigorous challenge to assess and demonstrate good governance.

Assurance and effective accountability

- Through robust assurance mechanisms the Council can demonstrate effective accountability. These mechanisms include:
 - **Internal Audit undertakes independent reviews to provide an annual assurance opinion of the Council's control, risk management, and governance framework. To allow this Internal Audit has direct access to Chief Officer and members of the Council.**
 - **All agreed actions from Internal Audit reviews are monitored regularly with reports to Chief Officers monthly and each Audit Committee.**
 - **Any 'limited/red' assurance opinion are reported to Audit Committee in full and progress monitored closely**
 - **Peer challenge and inspection from regulatory bodies and external compliance reviews. The outcomes from these inspections are used to inform and improve service delivery**
 - Through effective commissioning and monitoring arrangements and compliance with Council's procedures, the Council gains assurance on risk associated with delivering services through third parties and any transitional risks.
 - Reports are presented to Cabinet and an annual report to Audit Committee of external feedback

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Contributors to an effective Governance Framework

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Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Approves the Corporate Plan (Improvement Plan) – Endorses the Constitution – Approves the policy and financial frameworks
Cabinet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Primary decision making body of the Council – Comprises of the Leader of the Council and Cabinet members who have responsibility for specific portfolios
Audit Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Help raise the profile of internal control, risk management and financial reporting issues within the Council, as well as providing a forum for the discussion of issues raised by internal and external auditors
Standards & Constitution & Democratic Services Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Standards Committee promotes high standards of conduct by elected and co-opted members and monitors the operation of the Members' Code of conduct. – Constitution & Democratic Services Committee considers and proposes changes to the Constitution and the Code of Corporate Governance.
Portfolio Programme Boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Track efficiencies, highlighting risk and mitigating actions to achievement – Consider the robustness of efficiency planning and forecasting and consider resourcing of planned delivery – Plan communication and engagement activity
Overview & Scrutiny Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review and scrutinise the decisions and performance of Council, Cabinet, and Committees – Review and scrutinise the decisions and performance of other public bodies including partnerships – Assists the Council and Cabinet in the development of the Budget and Policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues.
Chief Officers Team & Service Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Set governance standards – Lead and apply governance standards across portfolios – Undertake annual self assessment
Internal Audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provide an annual independent and objective opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of internal control, risk management and governance arrangements – Investigates fraud and irregularity

How does Flintshire Council monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of its governance arrangements?

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The Council annually reviews the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control. The key elements of assurance that inform this governance review are detailed below:

Chief Officers Team	Monitoring Officer	Section 151 Officer	Information Governance	Internal Audit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate oversight and strategic planning Annual Corporate Governance Assessment Implement and monitor regulatory and other governance protocols 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal and regulatory assurance Monitors the operation of the Constitution Ombudsman investigations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proper administration of the Council's financial affairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designated Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) Data Protection procedures Information Security & Records Management procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual opinion report on adequacy of internal controls, risk management and governance arrangements Internal Audit plan and report tracking / performance by Audit Committee Provision of Advice & Consultancy Undertake Investigation and proactive Fraud work
Overview & Scrutiny	Audit Committee	Risk Management	External Audit / Inspections	Counter Fraud
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy review and challenge Overview & scrutiny of topics Corporate & Portfolio Performance & Risk monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-assessment of Audit Committee Review effectiveness of internal and external audit Consider the adequacy of the internal control, risk management and Governance arrangements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk Management Policy and Strategy Quarterly monitoring and reporting of Strategic Risks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial statements audit Thematic & national reviews Other external inspections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anti-Fraud and Corruption & Whistleblowing arrangements Codes of Conduct for Officers and Members Financial and Contract Procedure Rules

2016/17?

The 2016/17 Annual Governance Statement contained 14 key improvement areas as i) Internal Council Governance issues – those derived from the portfolio, Overview and Scrutiny and Audit Committee annual self-assessments that affect the internal governance arrangements of the Council; and,

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ii) Strategic Improvement Plan issues – those that were identified as part of the Improvement Plan for 2016/17 which remain un-mitigated i.e. a 'Red' risk status.

The issues and how they were addressed are below:

Internal Council Governance issues	Risk	Mitigation	Management Comment	Current Status
Views and experiences of citizens, service users and organisations of different backgrounds including reference to future needs are taken into account	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service planning does not take into account service user's needs in the future Legal and or judicial challenges 	Development of an integrated impact assessment approach to inform budget decisions and longer term sustainability of services.	<p>Integrated impact assessments (IAA) now developed and used to inform 2018/19 budget. CAMMS system been updated with IAA for all new efficiency projects; process to be operational from April 2018.</p> <p>Although the Council has policies and procedures to ensure the lawfulness of its decisions the potential for legal and judicial challenges remain an ongoing risk to the authority.</p>	<p>Open</p> <p>Until Integrated Impact Assessment fully embedded.</p>
Identifying and managing risks to the achievement of outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risks are not mitigated during transitional or implementation phases Outcomes are under-achieved 	Consistent application of the Council's risk management approach across all strategic, operational and partnership working.	<p>Risks are well managed during transitional and implementation phases. An implementation template has been developed to track implementations and associated risks.</p> <p>Early indications identify risks are well managed throughout all phases of strategic delivery. Outcomes have been achieved as demonstrated by regular performance monitoring. The Council's Risk Management Policy and Strategy has been</p>	<p>Open</p> <p>Risks managed well in practice and Policy and Strategy been updated; however, not yet consistently embedded.</p>

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Internal Council Governance issues	Risk	Mitigation	Management Comment	Current Status
			reviewed to reflect consistency of approach across all strategic, operational and partnership working.	
Establishing and implementing robust planning and control cycles that cover strategic and operational plans, priorities and targets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misalignment of plans and strategies • Missed opportunities for joint and collaborative working 	Refresh of business plan approach across all portfolios including contributions to key corporate strategies.	Council Plan and other related plans and strategies have been mapped to ensure that there are no inconsistencies or duplication.	<p>Closed</p> <p>Council plan, Well-being Plan, Financial Business Plans all in place. Service and portfolio plans in place for operational services.</p>
Ensuring capacity exists to generate the information required to review service quality regularly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in service quality • Inability to benchmark and compare service quality 	Ensure that service reform, succession and workforce planning takes into account information requirements.	<p>Services review where benchmarking is going to improve information to inform service quality.</p> <p>The Council has corporate membership of APSE Performance Networks providing the opportunity to a high number of services to benchmark.</p>	<p>Open</p> <p>Identified as risk in the 2017/18 AGS questionnaire</p>
Developing and maintaining an effective workforce plan to enhance strategic allocation of resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability of service provision • Ineffective allocation of resources 	<p>Workforce planning for senior levels within each portfolio assessing workforce demographics, changing requirements and market demand.</p> <p>Development of a succession plan, identifying areas of talent and</p>	Comprehensive workforce planning continues to be carried out across the authority. The risk to the sustainability of service provision remains moderate.	<p>Open</p> <p>Identified as risk in 2017/18 AGS questionnaire</p>

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Internal Council Governance issues	Risk	Mitigation	Management Comment	Current Status
		additional support for growth and continued service delivery.		
Effective arrangements for safe collection, storage, use and sharing data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal challenge and fines Personal confidentiality breached 	<p>Provision of clear guidelines, awareness and appropriate training.</p> <p>Oversee and supervision of arrangements by managers.</p>	Policies and procedures remain in place covering all aspects of data protection. These are being reviewed as part of the implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) on 2nd May 2018. From this date the financial penalties increase to 20 million Euros and data subjects can seek compensation. Despite mitigation the risk of legal challenges and fines relating to a breach of data protection remains a real and significant risk for the Council.	<p>Open</p> <p>Insufficient evidence that all is embedded.</p> <p>Supported by Internal Audit report.</p>
Ensure there is effective internal financial management in place	Mis-management of public funds	Financial Procedure Rules (FPR's) and Contract Procedure Rules (CPR's) are in place and regularly reviewed. The Council has an internal audit function who periodically test the Councils internal control and provides an annual report on assurance.	The management controls in place from Internal Audit review and the Financial Procedure Rules are still in place and subject to regular review.	<p>Closed</p> <p>Supported by WAO report.</p>

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Strategic Issues from the 2016/17 Improvement Plan	Risk	Mitigation	Management Comment	Current Status
Fragility and sustainability of the care home sector	Reduced quality of care, increased difficulties with recruitment and retention of staff and reduced capacity in the care home sector.	Refocus specialisms within in-house provision to fit with changing demands. Continue to monitor capacity in the sector.	Regional work with providers to discuss fragility and the impact of admissions into acute hospitals and early discharge has been undertaken. Work with new providers to support their entry into the Flintshire market is ongoing. The Welsh Government cap on day care has increased from £60 to £70 per week with incremental progression to £100 per week over time to support the sector.	Open Although progress has been made the level of risk remains due to the ongoing fragility of the sector.
Council funding for adaptations and home loans will not be sufficient to meet demand	Adaptations are a statutory duty for the Council. Demand in excess of current budgets would create a financial pressure on the capital programme	Monthly management monitoring of budgets and case load. Co-ordination across Council teams to ensure the approach to adaptations makes best use of the available budget.	New commissioning framework is in place to speed up the allocation of work to address the increase in demand for Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) funding. Further process improvements have been identified.	Open The new framework will need to be monitored to ensure value for money. Supported by the Internal Audit report.
Numbers of school places not matching the changing demographics	High teaching ratios, unfilled places and a backlog of maintenance pressures.	Continuation of School Modernisation Programme will reduce unfilled places, reduce backlog maintenance, and remove unwanted fixed costs and infrastructure	Reducing unfilled school places via school organisation change is an ongoing process. School change projects can take between three and five years from inception to delivery before reductions of unfilled places can be realised. This continues to be an ongoing process linked to the School	Open Work is ongoing to meet the national target.

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Strategic Issues from the 2016/17 Improvement Plan	Risk	Mitigation	Management Comment	Current Status
			Modernisation Programme. To supplement this Council working closely with schools to consider innovative ways for reduction in capacity on a school by school basis with the objective of meeting national targets of circa 10% unfilled places in all school sectors.	
Limited funding to address the backlog of known repair and maintenance work in Education and Youth assets	Fabric of Education and Youth buildings will continue to decline leading to an increase in health and safety issues and imbalance between surplus and unfilled places.	Condition surveys continue to identify priorities for investment. Implement County Policy for School re-organisation and modernisation.	The School Modernisation Programme is one of the strategic options to address the repairs and maintenance backlog.	Open Capital business cases for improvement and repair and maintenance projects in schools are considered through the Council's business case process.
Available funding for energy efficient measures may fall short of public demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public frustration and reduced funding may impact upon the Council's reputation Opportunities to reduce household costs and fuel poverty may not be fully realised 	<p>All potential sources of external funding proactively targeted for support.</p> <p>Use made wherever possible of innovative forms of finance.</p> <p>Managing public expectation as far as possible.</p>	There remains more demand for energy efficiency measures than the current level of funding allows.	Open Expectations are being managed as far as possible and other sources of funding are being actively considered.
Funding will not be secured for priority flood alleviation schemes	Flood alleviation schemes will not be delivered leading to increased risks of	Review our approach to funding capital projects	Flintshire's local risk management strategy contains an action to 'identify projects and programmes that are affordable, maximising	Open A service review is

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Strategic Issues from the 2016/17 Improvement Plan	Risk	Mitigation	Management Comment	Current Status
	damage to infrastructure and community disturbance.		capital funding from internal and external sources'.	intended to create a more effective approach / structure that balances the ability to secure funding for flood elevation works with the delivery of statutory duties under the flood and water management act.
The scale of the financial challenge	The Council has insufficient funding to meet its priorities and obligations.	The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and efficiency programme. National negotiations on local government funding.	The impact of the final settlement for Flintshire was a 0.2% decrease in funding. Budget options were considered in two stages with members and agreed in principle by the Council in December 2017. Final budget options were agreed in February 2017.	Open The initial forecast for 2019/20 has been considered by Cabinet in April 2018 and will continue to be closely monitored.

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What are the significant governance and strategic issues identified during 2017/18?

The review of the effectiveness of the Council's governance framework has identified the following significant issues that will need to be addressed during 2018/19. These are categorised as:

- i) Internal Council Governance issues – those derived from the portfolio, Overview and Scrutiny and Audit Committee annual self-assessments that affect the internal governance arrangements of the Council.
- ii) Strategic Council Plan issues – those that have been identified as part of the Council Plan for 2017/18 which remain un-mitigated i.e. a 'Red' risk status.

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i) Internal Council Governance issues	Risk	Mitigation
Communication and Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The views and experiences of citizens, service users and organisations of different background including reference to future needs will not be taken into account in decision making and communication of decisions Lack of effective feedback mechanisms to inform stakeholders how their views have been taken into account: stakeholders remain uninformed and less likely to support service change Lack of structures to encourage public participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embedding of the Integrated Impact Assessment Communication strategies developed and actioned for all major decisions affecting the public Ensure that effective feedback mechanisms are built into communication strategies, taking into account the diversity of communication methods
Capacity to provide effective information to support service decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absence of rounded and robust information to inform decisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review organisational capacity to support information, research and data as a collective
Workforce planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absence of effective workforce planning leads to poor allocation of strategic resources and potential loss or under-utilisation of skills and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of robust workforce planning tools to promote discussion and further planning Support 'build our own' ethos with appropriate

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

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i) Internal Council Governance issues	Risk	Mitigation
	capacity	tools
Appropriate induction processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council's ethos, objectives and ways of working will not be provided to new recruits on a timely basis; new recruits will lack the knowledge, ambition and drive that the Council portrays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of both corporate induction and individual service induction approaches
Training and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absence of employee / organisation requirement mapping to optimise individual's skills and ambition with the objectives and capacity of the organisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review to ensure that all individual and organisational requirements are supported with ongoing training and development opportunities
Risk management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risks are not clearly escalated within the organisation with a clear allocation of responsibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embedding of new escalation protocol as part of the revised Risk Management Policy and Strategy
Performance management: (Identified by Overview and Scrutiny Committee chair)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council's approach to performance management and monitoring is not fully understood; leading to ineffective challenge and scrutiny 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member workshop: understanding the Council's performance management approach and supporting systems
Agreed actions within the Red / limited (4) assurance Internal Audit reports are implemented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to address control and governance issues identified as part of the audit work undertaken 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed actions plan in place to address the findings, including the establishment of an oversight board.
ii) Strategic Issues from the Council Plan	Risk	Mitigation
Supportive Council: Availability of sufficient funding to resource key priorities – with particular reference to Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demand for DFGs and adaptations are not met due to budget availability DFGs are not delivered in a timely manner; under-performance nationally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response to Internal Audit recommendations to improve processes
Supportive Council:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council will not recover income to offset costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early intervention for tenants claiming Universal

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

ii) Strategic Issues from the Council Plan	Risk	Mitigation
Debt levels will rise if tenants are unable to afford to pay their rent or council tax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenants will fall into more categories of debt Potential rise in homelessness presentations 	<p>Credit to tackle rent arrears and encourage payment of rent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid new or escalating arrears to ensure that homelessness is prevented where possible
Supportive Council: Demand outstrips supply for residential and nursing home care bed availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of residential and nursing home care bed availability leading to more hospital stays Increased stress on carers Primary care resources stretched further 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion of Marleyfield to support the medium term development of the nursing sector is ongoing. Re-phasing of Integrated Care Fund capital to fit in with the Council's capital programme has been agreed by Welsh Government Other active workstreams, including the development of resources to support the sector, diagnostic reviews for providers and Care Conferences
Supportive Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge and awareness of safeguarding not sufficiently developed in all portfolios Failure to implement safeguarding training may impact on cases not being recognised at an early stage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of optimisation of using the Council's resources and workforce to support safeguarding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of safeguarding in Corporate Induction Employee training opportunities provided on a regular basis Mentor support provided by senior managers and link officers
Learning Council: Sustainability of funding streams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reductions to Education Improvement Grant and other grants at short notice lead to reduced service delivery, when demand for pupil support is increasing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collective working with Head Federations to consider options and opportunities Internal and external campaigning for a reversal of WG policy
Learning Council: Numbers of school places not matching the changing demographics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unfilled school places do not meet national targets Increased repair and maintenance burden 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School modernisation programme Council and schools work to consider innovative ways for reduction in capacity

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

ii) Strategic Issues from the Council Plan	Risk	Mitigation
Learning Council: Limited funding to address the backlog of known repair and maintenance works in Education & Youth assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inefficient school estate • Surplus places • Poor condition and suitability of school estate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School modernisation programme • Capital business cases submitted through council process
Green Council: Funding will not be secured for priority flood alleviation schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood alleviation works will not be implemented effectively with appropriate funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service review to balance ability to secure funding for flood alleviation works alongside statutory duties
Green Council: Adverse weather conditions on the highway network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road conditions across the Council are adversely affected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resurfacing and permanent patching schemes prioritised for summer period • Timely responses to repair network as defects identified
Service Council: The scale of the financial challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council has insufficient funding to meet its priorities and obligations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and efficiency programme. • National negotiations on local government funding.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Certification

The review provides good overall assurance that Flintshire County Council's arrangements continue to be regarded as fit for purpose in accordance with the governance framework requirements for Local Authorities within Wales.

Opportunities to maintain and develop the Council's governance arrangements have been identified through this review. We pledge our commitment to addressing these issues over the coming year and we will monitor their implementation and operation as part of our next annual review.

Signed on behalf of Flintshire County Council

Colin Everett – Chief Executive

Cllr. Aaron Shotton – Leader of the Council

Flintshire County Council Corporate Governance Framework

Principal Statutory Obligations and Organisational Objectives

Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values & respecting the rule of the Law

Ensuring Openness & Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement

Defining Outcomes in terms of Sustainable Economic, Social & Environmental Benefits

Determining the Interventions to optimise the achievements of the intended outcomes

Developing the Council's capacity, including capability of its leadership & individuals within it

Managing risks & performance through robust internal control & strong financial management

Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting & audit to deliver effective accountability

Assurance Statement

Corporate Governance comprises the systems and processes, cultures and values, by which Flintshire County Council are directed and controlled and through which they account to, engage with and, where appropriate, lead their communities

Public Key Documents: Annual Review / Production

- Annual Governance Statement
- Annual Outturn Finance Report
- Annual Performance Report
- Annual Information Governance Statement
- Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan
- Code of Corporate Governance
- Code of Ethical Practice on Procurement
- Contract Procedure Rules
- Digital Strategy
- Financial Regulations
- Council Plan
- Medium Term Financial Strategy
- Members' Allowance Scheme
- Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report
- People Strategy
- Portfolio Business Plans
- Public Services Board Wellbeing Plan
- Statement of Accounts
- Strategic Equality Plan
- Strategic Risk Register
- Treasury Management Strategy

Key Documents: Ad-hoc Review / Production

- Anti-Fraud Work plan
- Business Continuity Plans
- Communications Principles
- Constitution
- Data Protection Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policies
- HR Policies
- Health & Safety Policies
- Internal/External Audit Protocol
- IT Policies
- Members Code of Conduct
- Officers Code of Conduct
- Procurement Strategy
- Social Media Policy
- Welsh Language Standards
- Whistle Blowing Policy

Contributing Processes Regulatory Monitoring

- Appraisal and Supervision
- Attendance management
- Audit Committee
- Budget Monitoring Reports
- Comments, Complaints and Compliments
- Corporate Governance
- Corporate Health & Safety
- Council (Plan) Governance Framework
- Council Meetings
- Engagement and Consultation
- External Audit
- FCC Web site
- Induction
- Inspectorate Reports
- Internal Audit
- Job Descriptions
- Manager Toolkits
- Member Training
- Monitoring Officer
- Partnership Self Assessments
- Performance Management
- Risk Management
- Scrutiny Framework
- Staff induction
- Your Council newsletter

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Summary of corrections made to the draft financial statements which should be drawn to the attention of the Audit Committee

During the audit the Wales Audit Office identified the following misstatements that have been corrected, but which should be drawn to your attention due to their relevance to your responsibilities over the financial reporting process.

Exhibit 1: summary of corrections made to the draft financial statements

Nature of correction	Reason for correction	Impact
<p>The 'Cash Flow Statement' was amended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Adjustment to surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements' from £58,996,000 to £62,551,000. 'Net cash flows from financing activities' from £42,661,000 to £39,106,000. 	<p>The Cash Flow statement was amended to fully comply with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017-18 (the Code) as non-cash movements were included in error.</p>	<p>Corresponding adjustments were made to the associated sub-totals in the Cash Flow Statement. The changes had no other impact on the Council's financial statements.</p> <p>Presentation disclosure only.</p>
<p>Note 37 'Future Capital Commitments' was amended to include 'Total Commitments' of £14,894,000.</p>	<p>The Council excluded the disclosure of capital commitments, contrary to Code requirements.</p>	<p>The change had no other impact on the Council's financial statements.</p> <p>Presentation disclosure only.</p>
<p>Note 38 'Leasing – Operating Leases – Minimum lease payments due under operating leases in future years – EFS Fleet Contract' was amended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Later than one year and not later than five years' from £13,660,000 to £12,128,000. 'Later than five years' from £0 to £1,532,000. 	<p>The analysis of minimum lease payments for the Essential Fleet Services Contract did not agree with supporting records.</p>	<p>The change had no other impact on the Council's financial statements.</p> <p>Presentation disclosure only.</p>
<p>Note 41 'Pensions – Basis of Estimating assets and Liabilities – Impact of Increase on Defined Benefit Obligation' - 'Longevity (increase/decrease in 1 year)' was amended from £(18,061,000) to £(18,741,000).</p>	<p>The disclosure was amended as the analysis incorrectly excluded unfunded teachers amounts.</p>	<p>The change had no other impact on the Council's financial statements.</p> <p>Presentation disclosure only.</p>

Nature of correction	Reason for correction	Impact
<p>The 'Housing Revenue Account – Income and Expenditure and Movement in Reserves Statement – Income' was amended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Non- dwelling rents' from £1,470,000 to £364,000. • 'Charges for services and facilities' from £0 to £1,058,000. • 'Reimbursement of costs' from £0 to £48,000. 	<p>The analysis of income was miss-classified as it did not agree to supporting records.</p>	<p>The change had no other impact on the Council's financial statements. Presentation disclosure only.</p>
<p>The 'Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – Service Expenditure Analysis – Theatre Clwyd' was amended for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Gross Expenditure' from £7,252,000 to £4,661,000. • 'Gross Income' from £(7,130,000) to £(4,539,000) 	<p>The Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement contained transposition errors that arose from the consolidation process. Theatre Clwyd Productions Company expenditure was incorrectly added to the Flintshire County Council's gross expenditure rather than netting it off the Council's income. The same error was applied to gross income.</p>	<p>Adjustments below the Wales Audit Office reporting threshold were also made to the gross expenditure and income of 'Community and Enterprise' for NEW Homes. Corresponding adjustments were made to the Gross Expenditure and Income for the 'Cost of services'. The error overstated both gross income and gross expenditure by corresponding amounts, which netted off the adjustment having no other impact on the Council's financial statements. Presentation disclosure only.</p>
<p>The 'Group Cash Flow Statement' was amended for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Adjustment to surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements' from £59,406,000 to £62,764,000. • 'Net cash flows from investing activities' from £(37,554,000) to £(33,353,000). • 'Net cash flows from financing activities' from £50,217,000 to £42,640,000. 	<p>The movements in the draft Group Cash Flow Statement did not reconcile to movements in the group accounts.</p>	<p>Corresponding adjustments were made to the associated sub-totals in the Group Cash Flow Statement. The changes had no other impact on the Council's financial statements. Presentation disclosure only.</p>

Auditor General for Wales
Wales Audit Office
24 Cathedral Road
Cardiff
CF11 9LJ

Your Ref/Eich Cyf

Our Ref/Ein Cyf

Date/Dyddiad

12 September 2018

Ask for/Gofynner am

Direct Dial/Rhif Union

Representations regarding the 2017-18 financial statements

This letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements (including that part of the Remuneration Report that is subject to audit) of Flintshire County Council and of its Group for the year ended 31 March 2018 for the purpose of expressing an opinion on their truth and fairness and their proper preparation. We confirm that to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made enquiries as we consider sufficient, we can make the following representations to you.

Management representations

Responsibilities

We have fulfilled our responsibilities for:

- the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with legislative requirements of the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017-18; in particular the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance therewith; and
- the design, implementation, maintenance and review of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error.

Information provided

We have provided you with:

- Full access to:

County Hall, Mold. CH7 6NB
www.flintshire.gov.uk
Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug. CH7 6NB
www.siryfflint.gov.uk

- all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as books of account and supporting documentation, minutes of meetings and other matters;
- additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
- staff from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- The results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
- Our knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects Flintshire County Council and involves:
 - management;
 - employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
 - others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
- Our knowledge of any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, regulators or others.
- Our knowledge of all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.
- The identity of all related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.

Financial statement representations

All transactions, assets and liabilities have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.

Significant assumptions used in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.

Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed.

All events occurring subsequent to the reporting date which require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted for or disclosed.

All known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements have been disclosed to the auditor and accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions.

The effects of uncorrected misstatements identified during the audit are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Representations by Flintshire County Council

We acknowledge that the representations made by management, above, have been discussed with us.

We acknowledge our responsibility for the preparation of true and fair financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. The financial statements were approved by the Flintshire County Council on 12 September 2018.

We confirm that we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to you. We confirm that, as far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which you are unaware.

Signed by:
Gary Ferguson
Corporate Finance Manager
Chief Finance Officer

12 September 2018

Signed by:
Councillor Paul Cunningham
Chair of Flintshire County Council

12 September 2018

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Audit of the Group Financial Statements 2017-18

Wiltshire County Council

Date: September 2018

Overall conclusion

The Auditor General intends issuing an **unqualified audit report** on the 2017-18 group financial statements of Flintshire County Council

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The financial statements were produced to a **good standard** and were supported by detailed and timely working papers.

- A **more detailed report** will follow on the less significant findings and recommendations arising from our audit.

Auditor General's responsibilities

Responsibility

The Auditor General (Appointed Auditor) is responsible for providing an opinion on the financial statements:

- Give a **true and fair view** of the financial position.
- Are **prepared in accordance** with the CIPFA's Code of Practice.

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Materiality

- We adopt a **concept of materiality**, and are not giving absolute assurance.
- Materiality determined as **£4.6 million** for the audit of the group financial statements.

Audit Position and Issues Arising from the Audit

Status of the audit

- Fieldwork completed by 30 August 2018, **one month earlier** than the statutory deadline.
- The Appointed Auditor will give his audit opinion and certificate following approval by the County Council and receipt of the signed Letter of Representation.

Matters arising from the audit

- There are **no uncorrected misstatements**.
- Some **misstatements have been corrected by management** as set out in the Council's covering report.
- **Change in accounting policy** for accruals of income and expenditure.

Issues Arising from the Audit

- There are **no other matters** that we need to report to you.
- We have **mitigated the known threats to the independence of the Auditor General and his staff.**
 - Our audit plan highlighted two members of the audit team had family members employed as teachers at the Council.
 - Neither team member have been involved in any work at the schools or any specific examination of the education service and its payroll transactions.

2018-19 and Future Years

Earlier Statutory deadlines:

Annual financial statements	Financial statements signed by the responsible finance officer (Section 151 Officer)	Financial statements approved by the Council and published (with the signed audit certificate or an explanation for its absence)
2017-18	30 June 2018	30 September 2018
2018-19	15 June 2019	15 September 2019
2019-20	15 June 2020	15 September 2020
2020-21 and thereafter	31 May 2021	31 July 2021

2018-19 and Future Years

The Council is well placed to meet the 2018-19 deadline and should focus on further **developing its early closure arrangements**. In doing so:

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the Wales Audit Office will help **identify new areas for early testing**; and the Council should:

- further **streamline its financial statements**;
- further **strengthen its quality assurance processes**; and
- **review its governance arrangements** of the accounts approval process.

Overall conclusion

- The Council's 2017-18 group financial statements were **produced to a good standard**.
- The Appointed Auditor intends issuing an **unqualified audit report** on the group financial statements.
- A **more detailed report** on the less significant findings arising from our audit will be shared with management.
- The Council should now **focus on further developing its early closure arrangements**.

SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION TO DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2017/18

TABLE 1 - COUNCIL EMPLOYEES

Post Title	Note	Remuneration (excluding Employers Pension Contributions) £	Employers Pension Contributions £
Senior Manager - Learning Engagement		62,216	16,736
PPRU Centre Manager		64,191	10,392
Theatr Clwyd - Executive Director		61,862	16,641
Theatr Clwyd - Artistic Director		65,087	17,508
Total		253,356	

Annualised Pay (where applicable) £

TABLE 2 - POSTS COVERED BY INTERIM / TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS / CONTRACT

Post Title	Note	Cost £
Children's Services Social Worker - Fostering Service		512
Solicitor		47,046
Solicitor		22,273
Solicitor		11,427
Housing Asset Manager		112,678
Senior Maintenance Surveyor		38,184
Contract & Planning Team Leader		11,235
Strategic & Planning Team Leader		10,948
Senior Surveyor		2,354
Senior Surveyor		11,335
Development Lead and Delivery Manager for SHARP		2,400
Trading Standards Officer		19,639
Total		270,392

Theoretical Annual Costs £
63,514
96,116
85,294
85,216
112,678
61,291
60,486
60,486
60,364
62,426
72,000
74,022

Note: Housing Asset Manager employment now ended

Please note: Payments shown are made to the organisations employing these individuals. These payments DO NOT reflect the salaries those individuals have been paid by their respective organisations.

SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION TO DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2017/18

TABLE 3 - PAYMENTS TO CONSULTANTS AND NON-PERMANENT POSTS 2017/18

Portfolio	Description	Actual Cost Incurred £	Theoretical Annual Costs £
P&R	Financial systems related to enable Alternative Delivery Models (P2P Procurement System Configuration)	15,300	108,000
P&R	Project management - Finance Modernisation	6,400	96,000
GOV	Business Systems Architect to enable Alternative Delivery Models (Financial Systems Migration)	16,771	86,794
Total		38,471	

Please note: Payments shown are made to the organisations employing these individuals. These payments DO NOT reflect the salaries those individuals have been paid by their respective organisations.