



# Audit of Financial Statements 2018-19

Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC and Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund

Date: July 2019

- The Auditor General intends to issue an **unqualified audit report** on the financial statements of RCT CBC, however there are some issues to report to you as those charged with governance prior to their approval.
- The Auditor General intends to issue an **unqualified audit report** on the financial statements of RCT Pension Fund. There are no significant issues to report to you prior to their approval.
- A **more detailed report** on the issues identified during our audits, including recommendations for improvement, will be reported to the Audit Committee in September.

# Auditor General's responsibilities

- **Responsibility**
  - The Auditor General is responsible for providing an opinion on whether the financial statements give a true and fair view.
  - We adopt a concept of materiality, and are not giving absolute assurance.
  - The quantitative materiality figure for RCT CBC is £8.1 million
  - The quantitative materiality figure for RCT Pension Fund is £34.6 million
  - There are also qualitative aspects of the accounts that are material, including the senior staff remuneration disclosures

# Audit Position

- **Status of the audits**

- The Accounts were received on the 31 May 2019 (2 weeks earlier than the statutory deadline)
- The audits were largely completed by 18 July 2019, approximately 1 month earlier than 2017-18 and nearly 2 months earlier than 2016-17.
- The Council has met the requirements of the new early closure and audit deadlines 2 years earlier than the statutory requirement.
- Once this report has been received and your financial statements signed, the AGW will give his opinion and certificate, as included in the financial statements presented on this agenda.

# Issues arising from the audit – Uncorrected misstatement

There is **one uncorrected misstatement**.

- As in previous years, finance staff discussed with us their intention **not to consolidate all their joint committee figures** into RCT CBC's accounts, on the basis that these figures would not be material individually or collectively. We can confirm that this is the case, and consequently will have no impact upon our audit opinion. The Joint Committees not consolidated are Glamorgan Archives; Vale, Valleys and Cardiff Regional Adoption Collaborative; Coychurch Crematorium and Llwydcoed Crematorium. The total expenditure for these Committees was £1.3 million, total income was £1.6 million and balance sheet figures of £5.9 million.

# Issues Arising from the Audit – Corrected misstatements

**There were 2 material misstatements** identified that have been amended and need to be brought to your attention, these were:

- As a result of the **McCloud pension legal case**, there is a probable additional cost payable to the Pension Fund. This has been estimated at £20 million, and increases the overall Pension Fund liability to £609 million (£612 million 2017-18). This has no impact upon the usable reserves of the Council and will be considered as part of future Pension Fund valuations.
- The **depreciation on Infrastructure assets** was originally overstated by £11.4 million and correspondingly the Net Book Value understated. This was the result of an manual error rather than an inherent system weakness. Again there is no impact upon the usable reserves of the Council.

# Issues Arising from the Audit – Corrected misstatements

- There were also a **number of non material misstatements that have been corrected by management**. These were not significant and are included in the financial statements within the report of the Director of Finance and Digital Services.
- These and any other findings will be discussed with officers and be included in our more detailed Final Accounts report that will be presented to the Audit Committee in September.

# 2019-20 and Future Years

## Earlier Statutory deadlines:

- For 2018-19 the Council prepared draft financial statements by 31 May 2019 and we are already meeting the 2020/21 timetable at the Council.

<b>Annual financial statements</b>	<b>Financial statements signed by the responsible finance officer (Section 151 Officer)</b>	<b>Financial statements approved by the Council and published (with the signed audit certificate or an explanation for its absence)</b>
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



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
COUNCIL**

**31<sup>st</sup> JULY 2019**

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR RHONDDA CYNON TAF CBC AND THE  
RHONDDA CYNON TAF PENSION FUND 2018/19**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND DIGITAL SERVICES**

**AUTHOR:** Barrie Davies (01443) 424026

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report ensures that the Authority complies with the legal requirements relating to the production of a “Statement of Accounts” for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 with regard to Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC and the Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:

- (a) Approve and note the Statement of Accounts of Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC (Appendix 1), and associated Letter of Representation (Appendix 2).
- (b) Approve and note the Statement of Accounts for Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund (Appendix 3), and associated Letter of Representation (Appendix 4).
- (c) Approve and note the audited final out-turn position for the Council with regard to the financial year 2018/2019 and the level of General Fund Balances (paragraph 7.4); and

- (d) Note the considerations and comments of the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019 Audit Committee as required by the Local Government Measure (paragraphs 10.1 and 10.2).

### **3.0 STATUTORY APPROVAL PROCESS**

- 3.1 The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations require that Council approve the **audited** Statement of Accounts by the 15<sup>th</sup> September.
- 3.2 The regulations require the Responsible Financial Officer to certify unaudited accounts by the 15<sup>th</sup> June following financial year end. This Council complied with the regulations in this respect and the unaudited accounts of both the Council and the Pension Fund were certified by myself, earlier than required by the statutory deadline, on the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019.
- 3.3 The Authority has administrative responsibility for the production of the Annual Return for Llwydcoed Crematorium Joint Committee which has been audited and was approved by the relevant Joint Committee on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019.
- 3.4 The Authority also has administrative responsibility for the production of the Statement of Accounts for the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee which has been audited and was approved by the relevant Joint Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

### **4.0 ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT (WALES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2018**

- 4.1 As stated in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 above, the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 require the Responsible Financial Officer to certify unaudited accounts by 15<sup>th</sup> June following financial year end and Councils approve their **audited** Statement of Accounts by the 15<sup>th</sup> September.
- 4.2 The Accounts and Audit (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 require Local Authorities to produce and publish Statements of Accounts earlier. The table below details the earlier deadlines:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Draft Statement of Accounts certification</b>	<b>Audited Statement of Accounts publication</b>
2017/18	30 <sup>th</sup> June	30 <sup>th</sup> September
2018/19	15 <sup>th</sup> June	15 <sup>th</sup> September
2019/20	15 <sup>th</sup> June	15 <sup>th</sup> September
2020/21	31 <sup>st</sup> May	31 <sup>st</sup> July

As can be seen from the table, the revised regulations require officers to produce the draft Statement of Accounts one month earlier and to publish audited accounts two months earlier in 2020/21 compared to 2017/18.

- 4.3 To enable officers to meet the earlier closure requirements, a timetable has been prepared as follows:

Financial Year	Draft Statement of Accounts certification		Audited Statement of Accounts publication	
	Regulations	RCT CBC	Regulations	RCT CBC
2017/18	30 <sup>th</sup> June	31 <sup>st</sup> May	30 <sup>th</sup> Sept	19 <sup>th</sup> Sept
2018/19	15 <sup>th</sup> June	31 <sup>st</sup> May	15 <sup>th</sup> Sept	31 <sup>st</sup> July
2019/20	15 <sup>th</sup> June	31 <sup>st</sup> May	15 <sup>th</sup> Sept	31 <sup>st</sup> July
2020/21	31 <sup>st</sup> May	31 <sup>st</sup> May	31 <sup>st</sup> July	31 <sup>st</sup> July

- 4.4 Members will note that since the 2017/18 Statement of Accounts, draft accounts have been certified by 31<sup>st</sup> May. This is three years ahead of the regulations.
- 4.5 Approval of the Statement of Accounts by Council on the 31<sup>st</sup> July for 2018/19 is two years earlier than required by regulations.

## **5.0 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

- 5.1 The approval of this year's accounts in advance of 15<sup>th</sup> September provides Members with the continued assurance that the Council operates within the statutory requirements and builds further upon the robust financial management arrangements which the Council has in place.
- 5.2 The 2018/19 Statements of Account for Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC and Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund are attached at Appendices 1 and 3. These accounts are "final" and the external audit process has been completed in line with statutory timescales.

## **6.0 LETTER OF REPRESENTATION**

- 6.1 It is normal practice for the Wales Audit Office to request that the Responsible Finance Officer provides a "Letter of Representation", which highlights material issues relating to the completeness and/or accuracy of the information included in their financial statements and could, therefore, influence his audit opinion. This is to ensure that the accounts properly reflect financial standing and is consistent with the approach taken by the Wales Audit Office in prior years.
- 6.2 The draft Letters of Representation for this Authority and the Pension Fund, which have been prepared after full consultation with the Council's Senior Leadership Team, are provided at Appendices 2 and 4.

## **7.0 OUT-TURN UPDATE, GENERAL FUND BALANCES & EARMARKED RESERVES**

- 7.1 The unaudited outturn for 2018/19 was presented to the Cabinet on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019, within the Council Performance report. Within this report, the variance against the revenue budget was an overspend of £0.222M, resulting in the General Fund balances reducing from £10.720M to £10.498M.
- 7.2 During the intervening period, the external audit process has taken place resulting in a number of amendments to the Statement of Accounts. As detailed in the presentation to those charged with governance, the auditor identified a number of misstatements within the Financial Statements, which have been corrected in the version presented to Council for approval. There is also one planned and non-material misstatement relating to non-consolidation of Joint Committees which has not been corrected. None of the misstatements impact upon General Fund balances.
- 7.3 In line with the 2019/20 Revenue Budget Strategy report presented to Council on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019, it is my view, as Section 151 Officer, that £10M represents the minimum level of General Fund Balances the Council should maintain to ensure financial flexibility and stability going forward.
- 7.4 The level of balances maintained by the Council at the end of financial year 2018/2019 are detailed below :

### **General Fund Balances**

	<b>£M</b>
General Fund Balances as at 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2018	(10.720)
2018/2019 Net Overspend reported to Cabinet 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	0.222
Audited General Fund Balances as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2019	(10.498)

- 7.5 It is pleasing to note that the Council continues to maintain balances above what I consider to be the minimum level as we progress with the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and given the present financial challenges.

### **Earmarked Reserves**

- 7.6 At the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019, revenue stream funding earmarked reserves amounted to £41.867M. These are detailed within the Statement of Accounts (note 13.2 to the accounts).
- 7.7 For Members information, I provide some detail on a number of these below.

Revenue Grant Reserves IFRS (£3.9M) – this represents accounting for grants entries necessary to comply with International Financial Reporting Standards (it is not distributable).

Financial Management and Human Resources Risk Management (£13.6M) – this represents a risk based judgement as to financial risks into the future and protects the annual revenue budget from foreseeable volatility (e.g. economic downturn) and risk assessed future liabilities.

Prior Year Commitments (£5.9M) – represents monies allowed for carry forward from one year to another as a result of budgeted / committed spend not actually being incurred before the 31<sup>st</sup> March (as reported in the Council's quarterly Performance Reports).

Revenue Budget Strategy 2019/20 (£1.5M) – this reflects the money released from earmark reserves as funding for the 2019/20 budget, as approved by Council (6<sup>th</sup> March 2019).

Medium Term Financial Planning and Service Transformation (£3.3M) – this represents transitional funding to support medium term financial and service planning requirements.

Investment / Infrastructure (£6.5M) – this represents funding for the costs of maintaining and enhancing infrastructure across the County Borough.

Invest to Save (£3.1M) – funding identified (pump priming) to support invest to save initiatives as and when they arise.

- 7.8 In addition to the above, there are specific reserves relating to Capital Funding, Insurance and Treasury Management.

Capital Developments (£52.7M) – this relates to funding needed to balance the existing 3 year capital programme. This Council's capital funding strategy is to maximise the use of capital resources in the first instance, retaining revenue funding for latter years, thereby providing greater future year flexibility if necessary. Included here are the resources identified but not yet expended in respect of the additional capital investment agreed during 2018/19 (aligned to Corporate Plan Investment Priorities).

Insurance Reserve (£8.6M) – funding identified as needed for financing the Council's insurance liabilities over the medium term.

Treasury Management (£2.5M) – funding for known and potential future pressures upon the Capital Financing budget.

## **8.0 INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING (ISA) 260**

- 8.1 The External Auditor is required, under ISA260, to report to "those charged with governance", to communicate relevant matters relating to the audit of the financial statements. This is to be provided to those charged with governance, as distinct from management, before an opinion is given on the financial statements.

8.2 The auditor, in his presentation, draws attention to two issues relating to corrected misstatements with regard to the financial statements of Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC:

- As a result of the McCloud pension legal case, there is a probable additional cost payable to the Pension Fund. This has been estimated at £20 million, and increases the overall Pension Fund liability to £609 million (£612 million 2017-18). This has no impact upon the usable reserves of the Council and will be considered as part of future Pension Fund valuations.
- The depreciation on Infrastructure assets was originally overstated by £11.4 million and correspondingly the Net Book Value understated. This was the result of a manual error rather than an inherent system weakness. Again there is no impact upon the usable reserves of the Council.

8.3 With regards to the Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund Statement of Accounts, the auditor has no significant issues to report.

8.4 The Wales Audit Office intend to issue an unqualified auditor's report on the financial statements of both Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC and Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund.

## **9.0 UNCORRECTED MISSTATEMENT**

9.1 The ISA260 presentation identifies an area where the draft accounts were misstated. This relates to the decision not to consolidate non-material Joint Committee accounts into the Council's Statement of Accounts. This position was agreed prior to the drafting of the 2018/19 Statement of Accounts.

## **10.0 LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEASURE REQUIREMENTS**

10.1 The Statutory Guidance from the Local Government Measure 2011 was published in June 2012 which provided clarity on the role of Audit Committees in the approval process of a Council's Statement of Accounts. The relevant excerpt is shown below.

### ***Financial statements***

*9.21 Before their approval by the authority, the audit committee should consider and comment on the authority's certified draft financial statements. They will want to see to what extent the statements take cognisance of audit reports during the year, and changes in accounting policy and internal control mechanisms. Audit committees may approve the financial statements themselves where local authorities have delegated that power to them under*

*regulation 9 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations (Wales) 2005 (as amended).\**

*\* The Statutory Guidance referred to above references regulation 9 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations (Wales) 2005 (as amended). However, this has now been replaced by regulation 10 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations (Wales) 2014. Welsh Government have advised that references to the 2005 regulations in subordinate legislation and statutory guidance will be replaced with the 2014 regulation references in due course.*

10.2 Audit Committee considered the accounts on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and concluded that there were no issues that would prevent Council from approving the Statement of Accounts.

## **11.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 The report provides the legal requirements for the approval of the Council's Statement of Accounts in accordance with the Accounts and Audit (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018. As a result, no Equality Impact Assessment is required for the purposes of this report.

## **12.0 CONSULTATION**

12.1 There are no consultation requirements emanating from the recommendations set out in the report.

12.2 Following approval of this report by Council, Wales Audit Office will produce a "Management Letter" for consideration by Audit Committee. This will detail how Council Officers and Wales Audit Office will work together to ensure continuous improvement in the quality of the Statement of Accounts and their continued timely completion in accordance with the timescales of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018.

## **13.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

13.1 The financial results / implications within this report have been reported to Cabinet on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019. The Council's financial performance will continue to be monitored within quarterly Performance Reports during 2019/20. Such reports are presented to Cabinet and are also subject to scrutiny by the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee.

13.2 There are no additional financial implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

## **14.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

14.1 The report ensures the Council complies with the Accounts and Audit (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 and in doing so is in line with the

CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom.

**15.0 LINKS TO CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT**

- 15.1 This report evidences the progress made in delivering the Council's Corporate Plan – '*The Way Ahead*' in particular through supporting the 'Living Within Our Means' theme by evidencing robust financial management.
- 15.2 The report also supports the Well-being of Future Generations Act in particular 'a globally responsible Wales' through responsible management of the Council's financial resources.

**16.0 CONCLUSION**

- 16.1 The certification of the draft Statement of Accounts by 31<sup>st</sup> May demonstrates the continued effective financial management arrangements at this Council.
- 16.2 The completion of the external audit and sign off of the 2018/19 final accounts represents further assurance as to the Council's general financial standing.
- 16.3 The maintenance of General Fund Balances above what I consider to be the minimum level is encouraging, particularly given the continuing financial pressures the Council is working under.

**Other information:**

**Audit Committee 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

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# Statement of Accounts 2018/19



**Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council****Statement of Accounts 2018/19**

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## Narrative Report

### 1. Introduction

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council was established on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1996 as a result of the reorganisation of Local Government in Wales under the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994.

Rhondda Cynon Taf is the third largest Council in Wales with a population of 239,127 (2017 mid year estimate), serving an area in the South Wales Valleys covering 424 square kilometres, stretching from the Brecon Beacons National Park in the north to the Capital City of Cardiff in the south.

The accounts for 2018/19 have been prepared in accordance with:

- Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19 based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).
- Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended).

The accounts set out on pages 1 to 132 comply with the above.

### 2. Impact of Current Economic Climate

The economic climate continues to be a significant challenge for this and all other local authorities. In his letter of 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017 to local authorities providing details of the 2018/19 local government revenue and capital settlements, the then Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services (Alun Davies AM) announced an increase in the average funding for local authorities in Wales for the year 2018/19, with a modest increase for Rhondda Cynon Taf of 0.5%. Council officers and Members continue to take their fiduciary duty extremely seriously and this has been demonstrated by the setting of prudent, equitable and fair budgets. The financial results and position demonstrated in this Statement of Accounts reflect sound financial stewardship despite continuing financial pressures.

Given the continuing financial pressures the Council is working under, it remains the view of the Section 151 Officer that the Council should hold a minimum of £10m as General Fund Balances (i.e. its working balance). This level is set given the context of the need for continued strong financial management that is felt to be essential to ensure that the Council maintains financial flexibility and stability going forward. This is reflected in the Balance Sheet which demonstrates Council Fund Balances of £10.498m.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018, full Council received a [report](#) of the potential impact of Brexit, in particular the impact of a no deal Brexit upon the Council. This addressed the following key local government issues:

- Laws regulating Local Government Services;
- A new constitutional settlement;
- Regeneration and other funding sourced from the EU;
- Workforce;
- Public health and protection and local regulation; and
- Goods and services.

Council officers continue to liaise with Welsh Government, the Welsh Local Government Association, partners, third party suppliers and contractors to ensure we understand the risks associated with Brexit and the impact upon Council services and local communities.

### **3. Medium Term Financial Plan 2018/19 to 2021/22**

As reported to Cabinet on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018, the Council has set out assumptions within its [Medium Term Financial Plan 2018/19 to 2021/22](#). The Medium Term Financial Plan is the cornerstone of good governance and is an enabler of service delivery and service improvement within the constraints of available resources. The Public Sector continues to face a prolonged period of real term reductions in funding levels with national forecasts pointing to challenging times for services across local government. This is coupled with increasing demand and costs associated with many services, in particular Social Care Services.

Locally, this Council has demonstrated its ability and willingness to invest in services, linked to our Corporate Plan priorities, in order to meet the changing needs of our people and communities. Significant additional investment of £30.29m agreed by Members during 2018/19 is providing real improvements across many areas including highways, parks and leisure facilities.

Whilst investment through the use of one-off funds has been very positive, the Council recognises that it must still address base budget shortfalls and take appropriate decisions to balance its ongoing revenue budget into the medium term.

The Council continues to focus on an estimated budget gap over the medium term and has successfully implemented a strategy of early identification and delivery of base budget reducing measures in-year. This has enabled the Council to deliver financial savings early and to replenish the Medium Term Financial Planning and Service Transformation Reserve which has been used proactively as part of the budget strategy for a number of years.

The updated [Medium Term Financial Plan](#) was reported to Cabinet on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019 covering the period from 2019/20 through to 2022/23.

### **4. The Council's Corporate Plan 2016-2020**

For 2018/19 [The Council's Corporate Plan 2016-2020](#) was the key strategic plan, focusing on 3 priorities:

- Economy – Building a strong economy.
- People – Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone.
- Place – Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work.

In order to meet these priorities, 4 key principles have been set:

- Providing essential services well - In the coming years, there will be less money available and the Council will have to make sure the money is spent where the need is greatest.

- Helping people and communities help themselves - Giving people and communities the support they need to manage their community assets and have more control over the services in their community.
- Building a sustainable County Borough, supporting initiatives that stimulate economic growth and create jobs within the Borough.
- Living within our means – Our priorities need to focus on minimising running costs without affecting front line services. Financially, the Council has to make difficult decisions in order to manage the budget and ensure value for money for our residents.



The [Council's Corporate Performance Report 2019/20](#) was reported to Cabinet on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019, recommending its approval by Council on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019. It outlines the progress made on our 2018/19 priorities and sets out the 2019/20 priority plans for ECONOMY, PEOPLE and PLACE.

Each quarter, during 2018/19, Cabinet received an update of progress made against the agreed Corporate Plan priorities to confirm whether they were satisfied with the progress made and, following this, the updates were reported to the Council's Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee for review and challenge. The [Council Performance Report for Quarter 4](#) as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 was reported to Cabinet on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

The Council's Corporate Plan priorities were also formally adopted as the Council's Well-being objectives at a meeting of Cabinet on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017, [Well-being of future Generations Act - the Council's Wellbeing Objectives](#).

In September 2017 Cabinet agreed that the Council will focus on five workstreams to improve the essential services provided:

- Digitalisation - in line with the Council's Digital Plan approved by Cabinet on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017:
  - Working with residents to improve their digital skills and access to technology to empower more people to interact digitally with the Council; and
  - Enabling more of the Council's workforce to be agile to help further boost productivity and reduce the need for office space.

- Commercialisation - creating the conditions within the Council in terms of capacity and capability to widen opportunities to trade with external organisations.
- Early Intervention and Prevention - investing in preventative services to support the delivery of savings in the medium term, in particular:
  - The creation of community hubs to bring similar services together and create economies of scale in terms of staffing and building costs, which will enable the Council to continue to provide a comprehensive range of services within key communities; and
  - Introducing new approaches that support resilient families who will not require statutory intervention and also a new approach to reducing the number of victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- Independence - modernising and reshaping services to ensure independence is promoted for vulnerable residents; this includes building extra care facilities and linking into community hub provision.
- Efficient and Effective Organisation - challenging on-going service delivery and driving out further efficiencies through bringing together similar back-office functions, reducing administration costs and also the size of the property portfolio.

In addition to these modernisation changes, the Council has committed to a strategic capital investment programme, a number of which will link in with and complement the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal:

- Highways and Transportation Infrastructure;
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme;
- New Housing e.g. independent living and bringing empty properties back into use;
- Community Assets e.g. community hubs, parks and playgrounds, leisure centres and library facilities; and
- Town Centre and Economic Regeneration projects e.g. Llys Cadwyn (Taff Vale Development).

The Council is also a key partner in the Cwm Taf Public Services Board. Its purpose is to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in this area by strengthening joint working and published its first well-being plan in May 2018.

The Cwm Taf Well-being Objectives are:

- Thriving Communities;
- Healthy People;
- Strong Economy; and
- Tackling Loneliness and Isolation.

The objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan and the Cwm Taf Well-being Plan will help the Council and Cwm Taf Public Services Board to contribute to the seven national Well-being goals, as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act:

- A globally responsible Wales;
- A prosperous Wales;
- A resilient Wales;
- A healthier Wales;
- A more equal Wales;
- A Wales of cohesive communities; and
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language.

## 5. Explanation of Core Financial Statements

The Statement of Accounts that follow this Narrative Report contains the following Core Financial Statements:

- **Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRS)** – analyses the movement in usable and unusable reserves.
- **Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CI&ES)** – reflects income and expenditure in accordance with IFRS and is analysed into service areas which reflect the way in which services operate and performance is managed.
- **Balance Sheet** – reflects all assets, liabilities and reserves of the Council as at the end of the financial year.
- **Cash Flow Statement** – analyses the movement in cash and cash equivalents for the year.

The Annual Governance Statement is included within the Statement of Accounts. This statement details the Council's governance arrangements and reviews its effectiveness.

In the financial statements for 2018/19, two joint committees are consolidated:

- Central South Consortium Joint Education Service (CSCJES); and
- Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRCD).

## 6. Revenue Income and Expenditure 2018/19

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement provides an analysis of the Council's gross revenue expenditure and income in accordance with IFRS.

The broad objectives of [The Council's 2018/2019 Revenue Budget Strategy](#) were to:

- Support the delivery of our key strategic priorities, particularly around the need to build a strong economy, promote people's independence and create a County Borough where people are proud to live and work.

- Retain the support of the Wales Audit Office for the approach the Council has adopted to securing strong financial management.
- Continue with the delivery of our key services and protect as many local jobs as possible even with diminishing financial resources.
- Take a responsible attitude towards agreeing the level of the Council Tax.

During the year the Council monitored performance across the following service areas:

- **Education & Inclusion Services** - Providing School Achievement Services, Service Transformation and Education Information Systems, Support for Additional Learning Needs, Education Other than at School, Attendance and Wellbeing Service, Nursery and Early Years, Music Service and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools – comprising School Planning & Reorganisation, Catering and Asset Management.
- **Community & Children's Services** - Providing Community Care Services, Community Housing Services, Health and Social Care, Children's Services, Public Health & Protection, Leisure, Parks & Countryside, Heritage & Visitor Attractions, Libraries, Adult Education and Translation Services.
- **Corporate & Frontline Services** - Providing the frontline services of Highways Management, Transportation, Strategic Projects, Street Cleansing, Highways Maintenance, Waste Services, Fleet Maintenance, Customer Care, Housing Benefit and Council Tax administration together with key support services of Finance, ICT, Corporate Estates Management and Procurement.
- **Chief Executive's Division** - Providing the authority wide functions of Human Resources, Cabinet Office & Public Relations, Legal & Democratic Services and Regeneration & Planning Services.

The following table details each of the service groups' actual net expenditure and budget during 2018/19. Further details can be found on the Council's website within the [Council Performance Report](#). This represents the net revenue expenditure of the Council in line with the statutory provisions that need to be taken into account when setting local taxes.

The variance against budget contributes to the movement on the Council Fund Balance:

Service Group	Budget	Spend	Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Education & Inclusion Services	175,531	175,454	(77)
Community & Children's Services	149,494	150,946	1,452
Chief Executive's Division	12,530	12,539	9
Corporate & Frontline Services	63,795	63,886	91
Authority Wide Budgets	70,250	70,137	(113)
<b>Total</b>	<b>471,600</b>	<b>472,962</b>	<b>1,362</b>
Supporting Sustainable Social Services Grant	0	0	(1,140)
<b>Total</b>	<b>471,600</b>	<b>472,962</b>	<b>222</b>

	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Council Fund Reserves as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018</b>	<b>10,720</b>
Revenue Budget Out-turn (Variance as above)	(222)
<b>Council Fund Reserves as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019</b>	<b>10,498</b>

Expenditure on services amounted to £751m and this can be analysed over the following expenditure categories:

<b>Type of Expenditure</b>	<b>£'m</b>	<b>%</b>
Employees	335	45
Premises	28	4
Transport	19	3
Supplies and Services	81	11
Payments to Third Parties	113	15
Transfer Payments	101	13
Capital Charges	70	9
Other Operating Costs (e.g. Support Services)	4	0
<b>Total Gross Expenditure</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>100</b>

Income during the year totalled £769m and came from the following sources:

<b>Income Analysis</b>	<b>£'m</b>	<b>%</b>
<u>Direct Service Income</u>		
Specific Grants	158	21
Sales, Fees & Charges	41	5
Other Income	34	4
<b>Sub-Total Direct Service Income</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>30</b>
<u>Other Income</u>		
Council Tax	130	17
Non-Domestic Rates	76	10
Non-Ringfenced Government Grants	289	38
Capital Grants and Contributions	40	5
Other	1	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>100</b>

## **7. Capital Expenditure and Income 2018/19**

During the year the Council incurred £121.1m of capital expenditure, as summarised below:

<b>Group</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Corporate Initiatives	1,378
Corporate & Frontline Services	34,185
Chief Executive's Division	26,299
Education & Inclusion Services	49,468
Community & Children's Services	9,819
<b>Total</b>	<b>121,149</b>

The type of capital expenditure incurred during the year is summarised below:

<b>Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Tangible Long-Term Assets	108,447
Intangible Long-Term Assets	1,738
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	10,964
<b>Total</b>	<b>121,149</b>

This expenditure was financed as follows:

<b>Capital Financing</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Revenue Funding	35,184
Capital Receipts	412
Capital Development Fund	7,357
Borrowing	45,117
Grants	31,638
Third Party Contributions	1,441
<b>Total</b>	<b>121,149</b>

Significant expenditure was incurred on:

- Llys Cadwyn Development;
- Highways Improvements;
- Structures;
- Transportation Infrastructure;
- Tonypandy Community School Modernisation (Ysgol Nantgwyn);
- Tonyrefail Community School Modernisation; and
- Porth Community School Modernisation.

## **8. Senior Management Restructure**

At the Cabinet meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019, Members agreed a revised senior management structure (following completion of the necessary staff consultation process). The effect of the revision will be to change the reporting structure of the Council from:

- Education and Inclusion Services;
- Community and Children's Services;
- Chief Executive's Division;
- Corporate and Frontline Services; and
- Authority Wide Budgets;

to the following for 2019/20:

- Education and Inclusion Services;
- Community and Children's Services;
- Chief Executive's Division;
- Prosperity, Development and Frontline Services; and
- Authority Wide Budgets.

Further information on the revisions is set out in Section 9.

## 9. Summary of Future Capital and Revenue Plans

The priorities included within the Council's Corporate Plan need to be underpinned by robust financial management. Forward looking financial and service planning arrangements are critical in ensuring the Council's priorities are affordable and lead the work to become more efficient, transform services and deliver investment priorities.

Capital and revenue budgets are approved annually by full Council. The Capital Programme is approved for a rolling 3-year period and updated annually. Revenue budgets are set annually in line with the Welsh Government settlement announcements.

A summary of the Capital Programme 2019-2022 agreed by Council in March 2019 is as follows:

Group Expenditure	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Chief Executive's Division	44,335	10,717	6,128	<b>61,180</b>
Corporate & Frontline Services	38,417	11,899	8,733	<b>59,049</b>
Corporate Initiatives	1,721	850	850	<b>3,421</b>
Education & Inclusion Services	26,199	5,289	5,046	<b>36,534</b>
Community & Children's Services	8,018	2,800	2,200	<b>13,018</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>118,690</b>	<b>31,555</b>	<b>22,957</b>	<b>173,202</b>

As noted in Section 8, revisions to the Council's senior management structure has resulted in the realignment of functions that come within each Group. The realigned functions are as follows:

- **Chief Executive** - Providing the authority wide functions of Human Resources; Democratic Services & Communications; Legal Services; the frontline services of Customer Care, Housing Benefit & Council Tax administration; and key support services of Finance, ICT & Digital Services, Corporate Estates Management and Procurement.
- **Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services** - Providing the frontline services of Highways; Transport; Strategic Projects; Streetcare Services (including Waste and Street Cleansing); together with Regeneration and Planning Services and Housing Strategy.
- **Education & Inclusion Services** - Providing support services to schools; Access and Inclusion; School Admissions and Governance; Attendance and Wellbeing; 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools; Asset and Data Management; Catering Services; and school improvement support and challenge in partnership with the Central South Consortium.
- **Community & Children's Services** - Providing Adult Services (Community Care Services and Health & Social Care Services); Children's Services; Community Housing Services; Public Health & Protection; Leisure, Countryside & Cultural Services (including Theatres); Visitor Attractions & Heritage; Community Learning Services; Libraries; Welsh Language Services; Youth Engagement & Participation and Employment Programmes.

In line with the realignment of functions, the updated Capital Programme, from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019, is as follows:

Group Expenditure	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Chief Executive	2,628	1,750	1,750	6,128
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services	81,755	21,696	13,941	117,392
Education & Inclusion Services	26,199	5,289	5,046	36,534
Community & Children's Services	8,108	2,820	2,220	13,148
<b>Total</b>	<b>118,690</b>	<b>31,555</b>	<b>22,957</b>	<b>173,202</b>

Estimated resources required to fund the future Capital Programme are:

Estimated Resources Required to Fund Capital Programme	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Supported Borrowing	6,906	6,906	6,906	20,718
Unsupported Borrowing	37,047	7,932	4,000	48,979
Capital Grants	25,054	5,451	4,202	34,707
Third Party Contributions	5,702	247	0	5,949
General Fund Capital Resources	11,925	4,826	4,826	21,577
Revenue Contributions	32,056	6,193	3,023	41,272
<b>Total</b>	<b>118,690</b>	<b>31,555</b>	<b>22,957</b>	<b>173,202</b>

As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019, major capital commitments over the next three years (per the Capital Programme 2019-2022) include the following schemes:

Scheme	£'000
Disabled Facilities Grants/Adaptations (DFGs)	12,000
Llys Cadwyn (Taff Vale Development)	28,872
Fleet Vehicles	9,140
Highways Improvements	19,572
Structures	6,494
Transportation Infrastructure	11,914
Waste Strategy	5,867
Asbestos Remediation Work	6,100
Schools Modernisation Rhondda and Tonyrefail	10,191

A summary of the Council's revenue budget for 2019/20 (agreed in March 2019) is outlined below:

Service Area	£'000
Authority Wide	68,804
Individual Schools Budget	151,519
Community & Children's Services	156,973
Corporate & Frontline Services and Chief Executive's Division	78,521
Education & Inclusion Services	27,652
<b>Total</b>	<b>483,469</b>

The updated 2019/20 Revenue Budget, in line with the realignment of functions referred to earlier, is as follows:

<b>Service Area</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Authority Wide	67,852
Individual Schools Budget	151,606
Community & Children's Services	153,498
Chief Executive's Division	25,812
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services	56,809
Education & Inclusion Services	27,892
<b>Total</b>	<b>483,469</b>

## 10. Borrowing Arrangements and Sources of Funds

Each year, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003 and the Prudential Code, the Council is required to set limits in relation to borrowing and to set various other prudential and treasury indicators.

The limits set at the start of the financial year were as follows:

<b>Authorised borrowing limit</b>	£502.0m
<b>Interest Rate Exposure – Borrowing</b>	<b>Range</b>
Limits on total % of borrowing at fixed interest rates	45% - 100%
Limits on total % of borrowing at variable interest rates	0% - 55%
<b>Interest Rate Exposure – Investments</b>	<b>Range</b>
Limits on total % of investments at fixed interest rates	0% - 25%
Limits on total % of investments at variable interest rates	75% - 100%

The Council's borrowing totals £333.5m, of which £248.5m is long-term and £85.0m is short-term. This external borrowing is from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) £170.7m and £162.8m from market loans and other sources.

The Council is required to prepare a Treasury Management Strategy for the forthcoming year. The Council's Treasury Management Practices allow the Council to raise funds from a variety of sources, including the PWLB and the money market. The Section 151 Officer is authorised to take the most appropriate form of borrowing from approved sources within the overall borrowing limits set by Council.

## 11. Pensions Assets and Liabilities

As a result of International Accounting Standard (IAS) 19 "Employee Benefits", local authorities are required to account for pensions liabilities in respect of the cost of decisions made up to the Balance Sheet date. Please refer to notes 14.4 and 32.0 to the Core Financial Statements for further details. The effect of IAS 19 upon the reserves of the Council is as follows:

	<b>£'000</b>
Net Assets excluding Pensions Reserve	804,684
Net Assets as per Balance Sheet	196,046

## **12. Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRCD)**

On 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016, the ten Council Leaders in South East Wales, the First Minister, the Welsh Government Minister for Finance and Government Business, the Secretary of State for Wales and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury signed the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, an agreement between the UK Government, the Welsh Government and the ten leaders to develop and manage £1.2 billion investment in the Cardiff Capital Region's infrastructure through a 20-year Investment Fund. A Special Purpose Vehicle company, CSC Foundry Ltd, has been established by the 10 partner authorities in order to implement and contract with IQE Silicon Compounds Ltd to deliver the CSC (Compound Semi Conductor) project. For 2018/19 the Joint Committee accounts of CCRCD (which includes the subsidiary company CSC Foundry Ltd) have been consolidated into the Council's accounts based upon the population figures as specified in the Joint Working Agreement approved by Council on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017. The Draft Joint Working Agreement Business Plan (Cardiff Capital Region Strategic Business Plan) was approved by Council on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

## Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

### The Council's Responsibilities

The Council is required:

- To make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to ensure one of its Officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Council, that Officer is the Director of Finance & Digital Services.
- To manage its affairs to ensure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- Approve the Statement of Accounts.

I confirm that these accounts were approved by Council on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cllr. Steve Powderhill**

#### Presiding Officer

Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC  
Pavillions  
Cambrian Park  
Clydach Vale  
Tonypany  
CF40 2XX

### The Director of Finance & Digital Services' Responsibilities

The Director is responsible for the preparation of the Council's Statement of Accounts which, in terms of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom, is required to present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council at the accounting date and its income and expenditure for the year.

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Director has:

- Selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently.
- Made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent.
- Complied with the code.

The Director has also throughout the financial year:

- Maintained proper accounting records that were kept up to date.
- Taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

## **Certificate of the Director of Finance & Digital Services on the Accounts of Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC for 2018/19**

I certify that the accounts present a true and fair view of the financial position of Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 and its income and expenditure for the year.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Barrie Davies**

**Director of Finance & Digital Services**

Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC

Bronwydd House

Porth

CF39 9DL

## **Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRS)**

This Statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into “usable reserves” (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and “unusable reserves”. The Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure line shows the economic cost of providing the Council’s services on an International Financial Reporting Standards basis, 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 for Council Tax setting. The Net Increase/(Decrease) before transfers to Earmarked Reserves line shows the statutory Council Fund Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from Earmarked Reserves undertaken by the Council.

### Movement in Reserves Statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018

	Council Fund Balance	Earmarked Reserves: Capital, Treasury & Insurance	Earmarked Reserves: Other Revenue Related	Delegated Schools Reserve	Usable Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied Account	MGCC Insurance Reserve	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Reserves of the Council
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Notes:</b>	13.1	13.2	13.2		13.3	13.4			14.0	
<b>Balance at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017</b>	10,720	62,778	63,153	2,130	1,443	8,572	144	<b>148,940</b>	57,324	<b>206,264</b>
<b>Movement in reserves during 2017/18:</b>										
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(5,457)	3,720	(55)	0	0	0	0	<b>(1,792)</b>	(17,508)	<b>(19,300)</b>
<b>Adjustments between accounting basis and funding under regulations:</b>										
<b>Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account:</b>										
<b>Reversal of items debited/credited to CI&amp;ES:</b>										
Charges for depreciation and impairment of long-term assets	40,629	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>40,629</b>	(40,629)	<b>0</b>
Revaluation losses on property, plant & equipment	8,159	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>8,159</b>	(8,159)	<b>0</b>
Amortisation of intangible assets	1,266	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1,266</b>	(1,266)	<b>0</b>
Movement in the Donated Assets Account	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	<b>0</b>
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	9,182	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>9,182</b>	(9,182)	<b>0</b>
<i>Continued Overleaf...</i>										

Amounts of long-term assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CI&ES	938	0	0	0	725	0	0	1,663	(1,663)	0
<b>Insertion of items not debited/ credited to CI&amp;ES:</b>										
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	(11,054)	0	0	0	0	0	0	(11,054)	11,054	0
Capital expenditure charged against the Council Fund Balances	(29,797)	0	0	0	0	0	0	(29,797)	29,797	0
<b>Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account:</b>										
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to CI&ES	(34,152)	0	0	0	0	34,152	0	0	0	0
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account	0	0	0	0	0	(35,328)	0	(35,328)	35,328	0
<b>Adjustments involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:</b>										
Transfer of sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CI&ES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	0	0	0	(1,068)	0	0	(1,068)	1,068	0
Transfer from Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash	0	0	0	0	27	0	0	27	(27)	0
<b>Adjustments involving the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account:</b>										
Amount by which finance costs charged to the CI&ES are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(63)	0	0	0	0	0	0	(63)	63	0
<b>Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve:</b>										
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the CI&ES	56,650	0	314	0	0	0	0	56,964	(56,964)	0
<b>Continued Overleaf...</b>										

Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(36,180)	0	(160)	0	0	0	0	0	(36,340)	36,340	0
<b>Adjustment involving the Unequal Pay Back Pay Adjustment Account:</b>											
Amount by which amounts charged for equal pay claims to the CI&ES are different from the cost of settlements chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(98)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(98)	98	0
<b>Adjustment involving the Accumulated Absences Account:</b>											
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CI&ES on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	776	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	776	(776)	0
<b>Other adjustments include:</b>											
Adjustment between the Capital Adjustment Account and the Revaluation Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation of long-term asset revaluation gains	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Net increase or (decrease) before transfers to Earmarked Reserves</b>	799	3,720	99	0	(316)	(1,176)	0	3,126	(22,426)	(19,300)	
<b>Transfers to or from Earmarked Reserves</b>	(799)	(1,402)	905	1,267	0	0	29	0	0	0	
<b>Increase or (decrease) in the year</b>	0	2,318	1,004	1,267	(316)	(1,176)	29	3,126	(22,426)	(19,300)	
<b>Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018</b>	<b>10,720</b>	<b>65,096</b>	<b>64,157</b>	<b>3,397</b>	<b>1,127</b>	<b>7,396</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>152,066</b>	<b>34,898</b>	<b>186,964</b>	

### Movement in Reserves Statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019

	Council Fund Balance	Earmarked Reserves: Capital, Treasury & Insurance	Earmarked Reserves: Other Revenue Related	Delegated Schools Reserve	Usable Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied Account	MGCC Insurance Reserve	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Reserves of the Council
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Notes:</b>	13.1	13.2	13.2		13.3	13.4			14.0	
<b>Balance at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018</b>	10,720	65,096	64,157	3,397	1,127	7,396	173	152,066	34,898	186,964
<b>Movement in reserves during 2018/19:</b>										
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(44,370)	0	2,439	0	0	0	0	(41,931)	51,013	9,082
<b>Adjustments between accounting basis and funding under regulations:</b>										
<b>Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account:</b>										
<b>Reversal of items debited/credited to CI&amp;ES:</b>										
Charges for depreciation and impairment of long-term assets	46,285	0	0	0	0	0	0	46,285	(46,285)	0
Revaluation losses on property, plant & equipment	15,619	0	0	0	0	0	0	15,619	(15,619)	0
Movement in the market value of Investment Properties	(873)	0	0	0	0	0	0	(873)	873	0
Amortisation of intangible assets	1,388	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,388	(1,388)	0
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	10,964	0	(1,941)	0	0	0	0	9,023	(9,023)	0
<i>Continued Overleaf...</i>										

Amounts of long-term assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CI&ES	2,715	0	0	0	2,626	0	0	5,341	(5,341)	0
<b>Insertion of items not debited/ credited to CI&amp;ES:</b>										
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	(11,529)	0	0	0	0	0	0	(11,529)	11,529	0
Capital expenditure charged against the Council Fund Balances	(42,541)	0	0	0	0	0	0	(42,541)	42,541	0
<b>Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account:</b>										
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to CI&ES	(42,649)	0	0	0	0	42,649	0	0	0	0
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account	0	0	0	0	0	(33,079)	0	(33,079)	33,079	0
<b>Adjustments involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:</b>										
Transfer of sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CI&ES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	0	0	0	(412)	0	0	(412)	412	0
Transfer from Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	(2)	0
<b>Adjustments involving the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account:</b>										
Amount by which finance costs charged to the CI&ES are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(83)	0	0	0	0	0	0	(83)	83	0
<b>Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve:</b>										
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the CI&ES	81,060	0	279	0	0	0	0	81,339	(81,339)	0
<i>Continued Overleaf...</i>										

Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(39,430)	0	(126)	0	0	0	0	(39,556)	39,556	0
<b>Adjustment involving the Unequal Pay Back Pay Adjustment Account:</b>										
Amount by which amounts charged for equal pay claims to the CI&ES are different	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Adjustment involving the Accumulated Absences Account:</b>										
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CI&ES on an accruals basis	(1,267)	0	(13)	0	0	0	0	(1,280)	1,280	0
<b>Other adjustments include:</b>										
Adjustment between the Capital Adjustment Account and the Revaluation Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation of long-term asset revaluation gains	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Net increase or (decrease) before transfers to Earmarked Reserves</b>	(24,711)	0	638	0	2,216	9,570	0	(12,287)	21,369	9,082
<b>Transfers to or from Earmarked Reserves</b>	24,489	(1,389)	(22,928)	(390)	0	0	218	0	0	0
<b>Increase or (decrease) in the year</b>	(222)	(1,389)	(22,290)	(390)	2,216	9,570	218	(12,287)	21,369	9,082
<b>Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019</b>	<b>10,498</b>	<b>63,707</b>	<b>41,867</b>	<b>3,007</b>	<b>3,343</b>	<b>16,966</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>139,779</b>	<b>56,267</b>	<b>196,046</b>

## **Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CI&ES)**

This Statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. Councils raise taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations, this may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

## Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019

2017/18				2018/19			
Gross Exp	Gross Income	Net Exp		Note:	Gross Exp	Gross Income	Net Exp
£'000	£'000	£'000			£'000	£'000	£'000
102,702	(26,136)	76,566	Corporate & Frontline Services		130,760	(24,434)	106,326
17,648	(4,174)	13,474	Chief Executive's Division		27,048	(4,919)	22,129
235,758	(46,042)	189,716	Education & Inclusion Services		253,787	(47,799)	205,988
237,981	(86,948)	151,033	Community & Children's Services		233,547	(75,417)	158,130
103,932	(79,537)	24,395	Authority Wide Budgets		104,030	(75,952)	28,078
5,968	(5,794)	174	Joint Committees		2,178	(4,683)	(2,505)
<b>703,989</b>	<b>(248,631)</b>	<b>455,358</b>	<b>Cost of Services</b>		<b>751,350</b>	<b>(233,204)</b>	<b>518,146</b>
			<b>Other Operating Expenditure</b>				
18,192	0	18,192	Precepts	28.3	19,626	0	19,626
11,685	0	11,685	Levies	28.3	11,802	0	11,802
938	0	938	(Gains) or Losses on Disposal of Non-Current Assets		2,716	0	2,716
			<b>Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure</b>				
9,760	0	9,760	Interest Payable and Similar Charges	7.2	10,369	0	10,369
14,590	(1)	14,589	Net Interest on Net Defined Liability (Asset)	32.2	15,381	0	15,381
0	(117)	(117)	Interest Receivable and Similar Income	7.2	0	(1,191)	(1,191)
			<b>Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income</b>				
0	(123,802)	(123,802)	Council Tax Income	26.0	0	(130,542)	(130,542)
0	(76,412)	(76,412)	NDR Distribution	25.0	0	(75,620)	(75,620)
0	(279,035)	(279,035)	Non-Ringfenced Government Grants		0	(288,556)	(288,556)
0	(29,364)	(29,364)	Capital Grants and Contributions		0	(40,339)	(40,339)
0	0	0	Corporation Tax - Joint Committees		87	0	87
<b>759,154</b>	<b>(757,362)</b>	<b>1,792</b>	<b>(Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>		<b>811,331</b>	<b>(769,452)</b>	<b>41,879</b>
7,493	(2,171)	5,322	(Surplus) or Deficit on Revaluation of Property, Plant & Equipment Assets		4,163	(10,120)	(5,957)
0	12,186	12,186	Remeasurement of the Net Defined Benefit Liability		0	(45,004)	(45,004)
<b>7,493</b>	<b>10,015</b>	<b>17,508</b>	<b>Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>		<b>4,163</b>	<b>(55,124)</b>	<b>(50,961)</b>
<b>766,647</b>	<b>(747,347)</b>	<b>19,300</b>	<b>Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>		<b>815,494</b>	<b>(824,576)</b>	<b>(9,082)</b>

## Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows the value of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council at the financial year end. The net assets (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Council. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves are usable reserves, i.e. those reserves that the Council may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use. The second category of reserves are those that the Council is not able to use to provide services. This category of reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example, the Revaluation Reserve) and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement section 'Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'.

Balance Sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019

31/03/18				31/03/19	
£'000			Note:	£'000	£'000
	<b>Long-Term Assets</b>	Property, Plant & Equipment:	6.0		
576,234		Other Land & Buildings		603,087	
431,638		Infrastructure		439,111	
8,263		Vehicles, Plant & Equipment		7,107	
3,677		Community Assets		4,850	
64,050		Assets Under Construction		76,473	
145		Heritage Assets		145	
0		Investment Properties		3,805	
2,962		Long-Term Intangible Assets		3,312	
4,750		Long-Term Investments	7.1	4,500	
2,989		Investment in Subsidiaries		3,013	
1,259		Long-Term Debtors		803	
<b>1,095,967</b>		<b>TOTAL LONG-TERM ASSETS</b>			
	<b>Current Assets</b>	Short-Term Investments	7.1	26,083	
14,591		Assets Held for Sale		3,060	
3,179		Short-Term Intangible Assets		279	
498		Inventories		728	
627		Short-Term Debtors	8.0	69,234	
53,397		Cash and Cash Equivalents	9.0	8,361	
7,382					
<b>79,674</b>	<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>				<b>107,745</b>
	<b>Current Liabilities</b>	Cash and Cash Equivalents	9.0	(11,535)	
(14,352)		Short-Term Borrowing	7.1	(84,987)	
(78,926)		Other Short-Term Liabilities		(279)	
(388)		Short-Term Provisions	11.0	(2,193)	
(2,120)		Short-Term Creditors	10.0	(94,483)	
(78,244)					
<b>(174,030)</b>	<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				<b>(193,477)</b>
	<b>Long-Term Liabilities</b>	Long-Term Creditors		(4,738)	
(6,433)		Long-Term Provisions	11.0	(1,822)	
(1,950)		Long-Term Borrowing	7.1	(248,518)	
(193,889)		Other Long-Term Liabilities	12.0	(609,227)	
(612,252)		Donated Asset Account		(123)	
(123)					
<b>(814,647)</b>	<b>TOTAL LONG-TERM LIABILITIES</b>				<b>(864,428)</b>
<b>186,964</b>	<b>NET ASSETS</b>				<b>196,046</b>

Continued Overleaf...

10,720	<b>Usable Reserves</b>	Council Fund Balance	13.1	10,498	
		Earmarked Reserves:	13.2		
65,096		Capital, Treasury and Insurance Reserves	13.2	63,707	
64,157		Other Revenue Related Reserves	13.2	41,867	
3,397		Delegated Schools Reserve		3,007	
1,127		Usable Capital Receipts Reserve	13.3	3,343	
7,396		Capital Grant Unapplied Account	13.4	16,966	
173		MGCC Insurance Reserve		391	
<b>152,066</b>			<b>TOTAL USABLE RESERVES</b>		
172,236	<b>Unusable Reserves</b>	Revaluation Reserve	14.1	171,042	
6		Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve		3	
485,926		Capital Adjustment Account	14.2	503,909	
(5,656)		Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	14.3	(5,573)	
(611,858)		Pensions Reserve	14.4	(608,638)	
(5,756)		Short-Term Accumulating Compensated Absence Account		(4,476)	
<b>34,898</b>		<b>TOTAL UNUSABLE RESERVES</b>			<b>56,267</b>
<b>186,964</b>		<b>TOTAL RESERVES</b>			<b>196,046</b>

## Cash Flow Statement

The Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Council during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Council generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities. The amount of net cash flows arising from operating activities is a key indicator of the extent to which the operations of the Council are funded by way of taxation and grant income or from the recipients of services provided by the Council. Investing activities represent the extent to which cash outflows have been made for resources which are intended to contribute to the Council's future service delivery. Cash flows arising from financing activities are useful in predicting claims on future cash flows by providers of capital (i.e. borrowing) to the Council.

## Cash Flow Statement 2018/19

2017/18			2018/19	
£'000		<i>Note:</i>	£'000	£'000
1,792	Net (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services		41,879	
(72,628)	Adjustments to Net (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services for Non-Cash Movements	15.0	(115,449)	
30,089	Adjustments for Items Included in the Net (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services that are Investing and Financing Activities	16.0	42,965	
<b>(40,747)</b>	<b>Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>			<b>(30,605)</b>
74,452	Investing Activities	18.0	87,718	
(40,982)	Financing Activities	19.0	(60,909)	26,809
<b>(7,277)</b>	<b>Net Increase or Decrease in Cash or Cash Equivalents</b>			<b>(3,796)</b>
14,247	Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Reporting Period	9.0		6,970
<b>6,970</b>	<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of the Reporting Period</b>	9.0		<b>3,174</b>

## **Expenditure and Funding Analysis**

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis brings together the Council's performance reported on the basis of expenditure measured under proper accounting practices with statutorily defined charges to the Council Fund.

Proper accounting practices measure the resources that have been generated and consumed in the year including such things as the use of property (depreciation) and the value of pension benefits earned by the employees. Statutory provisions determine how much of the Council's expenditure needs to be met from council tax each year.

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis;

- shows for each of the Council's services a comparison of the net resources applied and the net charge against council tax, and
- provides an opportunity to explain significant differences between the two.

This analysis promotes accountability and stewardship by providing a direct link with the annual decision making process of the Council and its budget i.e. the Council Fund. It follows the performance framework of the Council.

**Expenditure and Funding Analysis Statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018**

	2017/18		
	Income and Expenditure Chargeable to the Council Fund	Adjustments Between Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure for the Equivalent Amounts for CI&ES
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Corporate & Frontline Services	60,807	15,759	76,566
Chief Executive's Division	11,881	1,593	13,474
Education & Lifelong Learning Services	178,078	11,638	189,716
Community & Childrens Services	138,233	12,800	151,033
Authority Wide Budgets	69,941	(45,546)	24,395
Joint Committees	0	174	174
<b>Cost of Services</b>	<b>458,940</b>	<b>(3,582)</b>	<b>455,358</b>
<b>Other Income and Expenditure</b>	<b>(458,940)</b>	<b>5,374</b>	<b>(453,566)</b>
<b>(Surplus) or Deficit</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,792</b>	<b>1,792</b>
Opening Council Fund at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2017	(10,720)		
Less (Surplus) Deficit on Council Fund in Year	0		
<b>Closing Council Fund at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018</b>	<b>(10,720)</b>		

**Expenditure and Funding Analysis Statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019**

	2018/19		
	Income and Expenditure Chargeable to the Council Fund	Adjustments Between Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure for the Equivalent Amounts for CI&ES
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Corporate & Frontline Services	63,886	42,441	106,327
Chief Executive's Division	12,540	9,589	22,129
Education & Inclusion Services	175,454	30,534	205,988
Community & Childrens Services	149,807	8,321	158,128
Authority Wide Budgets	70,137	(42,058)	28,079
Joint Committees	0	(2,505)	(2,505)
<b>Cost of Services</b>	<b>471,824</b>	<b>46,322</b>	<b>518,146</b>
<b>Other Income and Expenditure</b>	<b>(471,602)</b>	<b>(4,665)</b>	<b>(476,267)</b>
<b>(Surplus) or Deficit</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>41,657</b>	<b>41,879</b>
Opening Council Fund at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2018	(10,720)		
Less (Surplus) Deficit on Council Fund in Year	222		
<b>Closing Council Fund at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019</b>	<b>(10,498)</b>		

## Notes to the Core Financial Statements

### 1.0 Significant Accounting Policies

#### 1.1 Accruals of Expenditure and Income

The accounts of the Council have been prepared on an accrual of income and expenditure basis in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting. This ensures activity is accounted for in the year that it takes place not when cash payments are made or received.

Revenue from the sale of goods or services is recognised when the Council transfers the significant risks and rewards of goods, or provides the services to the purchaser, and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Council.

Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed. Where the Balance Sheet date falls between supplies receipt and consumption, where significant, they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.

Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.

Interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows determined by the contract. Statutory adjustments relating to interest are reflected in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Capital transactions are also recorded on an accrual basis, as prescribed by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting.

#### 1.2 Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and Cash Equivalents are sums of money available for immediate use by the Council. Such items are deemed to be cash balances held in the Council's bank accounts (less unpresented cheques), any overdrawn bank balance and petty cash balances.

Short-term investments are not deemed to be cash and cash equivalents as these are not readily available without incurring penalties.

#### 1.3 Contingent Liabilities

A contingent liability is a possible item of expenditure that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the organisation's control.

Such contingent liabilities are not reflected in Provisions in the Balance Sheet as it may not be probable that an outflow of resources will be required or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably.

Material contingent liabilities are disclosed in Notes to the Core Financial Statements.

#### **1.4 Employee Benefits**

All costs relating to employee benefits are accounted for on an accruals basis.

##### **Termination Benefits**

These are amounts payable by the Council as a result of a decision to terminate an employee's employment before the normal retirement date, or an employee's decision to accept voluntary redundancy. Such costs are charged on an accruals basis to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

When terminations involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the Council Fund to be charged with the amount payable by the Council. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, appropriations are required to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional entries for pension enhancements and replace them with amounts paid and payable.

##### **Pensions**

The Council participates in two separate pension schemes that meet the needs of employees in particular services:

Teachers - This is an unfunded scheme administered by Teachers' Pensions on behalf of the Department of Education. Contribution rates are set on the basis of a notional fund. Whilst this is a Defined Benefit Scheme, Teachers' Pensions is unable to identify the Council's share of the underlying assets and liabilities and accordingly, the Council has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a Defined Contribution Scheme.

Other employees - Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC administer a fund on behalf of employees under the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations, under which contribution rates are set by the Fund's actuary based on triennial actuarial valuations. Under the regulations, contribution rates are set in order to lead to full funding of the overall liability of the Fund over time. The Local Government Scheme is accounted for as a Defined Benefit Scheme.

- The liabilities of the Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc., and projections of earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate of 2.4% in 2018/19 (2.6% in 2017/18).

- The assets of the pension fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:

Quoted Securities	–	Current Bid Price
Unitised Securities	–	Current Bid Price
Property	–	Market Value

- The change in the net pensions liability is analysed as follows:
  - 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 plus administration expenses.
  - 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.
  - Interest Cost – the expected increase in the present value of liabilities during the year as they move one year closer to being paid – debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure section of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
  - Expected Return On Assets – the annual investment return on the fund assets attributable to the Council based on an average of the expected long-term return – credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure section of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
  - Actuarial Gains and Losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their financial, demographic or experience assumptions – debited or credited to the Pensions Reserve.
  - Contributions Paid to the Pension Fund – cash paid as employer's contributions to the Pension Fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

### **Discretionary Benefits**

The Council is able to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirements. Any such liabilities arising are accrued in the year of decision to make the award.

## **Accumulated Absence**

The Council accrues for staff holidays earned but not taken at each year-end. The Welsh Government has issued regulations to mitigate the impact of this charge upon Councils. This Council has taken advantage of the regulations and charged the additional costs to the Short-Term Accumulating Compensated Absence Account in Unusable Reserves.

### **1.5 Events after the Reporting Period**

Events after the reporting period are those both favourable and unfavourable that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

The financial statements are authorised for issue in accordance with the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended). Regulations state the Statement of Accounts shall be authorised for issue when certified by the Responsible Finance Officer. Regulations require certification of unaudited accounts takes place by 15<sup>th</sup> June following financial year-end.

Regulations require the audited Statement of Accounts to be published by 15<sup>th</sup> September. The published Statement of Accounts shall reflect events after the reporting period up to the date the accounts were authorised for issue. This is the date the Responsible Finance Officer re-certifies the accounts.

Two types of events can be identified;

- a) those that provide evidence of conditions existing at the end of the reporting period (adjusting events that shall be recognised in the financial statements);
- b) those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period (non-adjusting events that are not reflected in accounting statements but, where material, disclosure is made in the Notes to the Core Financial Statements).

### **1.6 Financial Instruments**

Financial Instruments consist of Financial Liabilities and Financial Assets.

#### **Financial Liabilities**

Financial Liabilities are carried at amortised cost. Annual charges to 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. Where a loan has a single rate of interest over its term, it results in the amount presented in the Balance Sheet being the outstanding principal repayable, and the interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable in the loan agreement. Where loans have a rate that is lower in the initial years, the effective interest rate charge to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement “smooths” the interest rate differential. The difference between the effective interest rate charge and actual interest paid is adjusted in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

For most borrowings, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable and the interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement.

Gains (discounts) and losses (premiums) on the repurchase or early settlement of borrowing are credited/debited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year of repurchase/settlement. However, where repurchase/early settlement is deemed to be a modification of existing instruments, the discounts/premiums are incorporated into the value of the instrument and written down to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement over the life of the loan via an adjustment to the effective interest rate.

Where premiums or discounts have been applied to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, regulations allow the impact on the Council Fund Balance to be spread over future years equal to the life of the replaced or replacement loan.

### **Financial Assets**

Financial Assets are classified based on a classification and measurement approach that reflects the business model for holding the financial assets and their cashflow characteristics. There are three main classes of financial assets measured at:

- Amortised cost;
- Fair value through profit or loss; and
- Fair value through other comprehensive income.

Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC's business model is to hold investments to collect contractual cashflows. Financial assets are therefore classified as amortised cost.

Loans and Receivables are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently carried at amortised cost. Interest Receivable and Similar Income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is based upon the carrying amount of the asset multiplied by the effective interest rate for the instrument. This means that the value in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal plus any accrued income, and the income recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is based upon the rate quoted in the loan agreement.

Interest that is due but unpaid at year-end is categorised in the Balance Sheet as a current asset or liability. This is the case even if the financial asset or liability it relates to is a long-term instrument.

With the introduction of IFRS9 Financial Instruments in 2018/19 there needs to be a calculation for an "expected credit loss" on financial assets held at amortised costs, either on a 12 month or lifetime basis. Impairment losses are calculated to reflect the expectation that the future cashflows might not take place because the borrower could default on their obligations. Where risk has significantly increased since an asset was originally recognised, losses are assessed on a lifetime basis. Where risk has not increased significantly or remains low, losses are assessed on the basis of 12 month expected losses.

## 1.7 Intangible Assets

Intangible assets are those Long-Term Assets that do not have physical substance but are identifiable by the access to future economic benefits that are controlled by the Council through custody or legal rights.

Software and Licences are capitalised at cost and are amortised over their economic lives, which are reviewed at the end of each reporting period and revised if necessary.

An asset is tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the asset may be impaired. Any losses are posted to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Any gain or loss arising on the disposal or abandonment of an intangible asset is reflected in the Other Operating Expenditure section in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where expenditure on intangible assets qualifies as capital expenditure for statutory purposes, amortisation, impairment losses and disposal gains and losses are not permitted to have an effect upon Council Fund Balances and are reversed in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

## 1.8 Leases

Whether a lease is finance or operating depends upon the substance of the transaction rather than the legal form.

Leases are reviewed at inception and classed as finance or operating by reviewing arrangements such as:

- Transfer of ownership at the end of lease contract.
- Option to purchase asset at a price lower than fair value.
- Lease term is for a major part of the economic life of the asset.
- Present value of minimum lease payments amounts to at least substantially all of the fair value of leased asset.
- Leased assets are of a specialised nature and only the lessee can use them without major modifications.

Leases of land and buildings are considered separately for the purpose of lease classification.

### **Finance Leases**

A finance lease is one which transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an asset to the lessee.

Where the Council is lessee, an asset and liability is recognised at lease inception. The asset is subsequently depreciated and revalued as though it were the legal property of the Council. The liability reduces as lease payments are made.

Where the Council is lessor, the lease payment receivable is recognised as a repayment of principal with the interest element of the payment being recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. No asset is recognised.

### **Operating Leases**

An operating lease is deemed to be any lease other than a Finance Lease.

Where the Council is lessee, lease payments are recognised as an expense in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on a straight-line basis unless another systematic basis is more representative of the benefits received.

Where the Council is lessor, the income should be recognised on a straight-line basis unless another systematic basis is more representative of the benefits received. Other Land & Buildings leased out under an operating lease will be subject to depreciation in the same manner as other assets within the same category.

## **1.9 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. Depreciation is charged on a straight-line basis on most tangible assets with a finite useful life, excluding non-depreciable land. Asset lives have been identified on an individual basis.

### **1.9.1 Recognition**

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment is capitalised on an accruals basis, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Council, and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. The Council operates a £10k de-minimis policy for recognising such expenditure as capital. Expenditure on assets not owned by the Council, but where continuing benefit is received, is also capitalised on an accruals basis. Although capitalised, this expenditure is amortised in the year it is incurred.

The Council operates a de-minimis policy for recording assets in the asset register. De-minimis levels are in place as follows:

<b>Asset Type</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Land & Buildings	20
Vehicles	10
Plant & Equipment	10
Infrastructure	20
Community Assets	Nil

## 1.9.2 Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

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

The Council does not capitalise borrowing costs.

The cost of assets acquired other than by purchase is deemed to be its fair value, unless the acquisition does not have commercial substance (i.e. it will not lead to a variation in the cash flows of the Council). In the latter case, where an asset is acquired via an exchange, the cost of the acquisition is the carrying amount of the asset given up by the Council.

Tangible Long-Term assets are valued on the basis recommended by CIPFA and in accordance with the Statement of Asset Valuation Principles and Guidance Notes issued by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). Property, Plant and Equipment assets are generally valued on the basis of existing use value (EUUV) which is deemed to be "current value". Specialist items (e.g. schools) are valued on a depreciated replacement cost basis (DRC). This method of valuation calculates the cost of constructing modern equivalent buildings and structures, depreciating them to account for the age and future economic life. This cost calculation is known as Modern Equivalent Valuation (MEV). Investment properties are generally valued on the basis of open market value (OMV). Infrastructure assets are included at historic cost, and adjusted to reflect depreciation. Adopted roads, built by private developers, are deemed to have zero historical cost to the Council and therefore are not recognised in the Statement of Accounts.

Where assets are not in use but do not meet the criteria for Assets Held for Sale, then they are classed as Surplus Assets within the Property, Plant and Equipment and Other Land and Building categories. Surplus Assets are valued at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received between willing market participants. The highest and best use of the asset needs to be considered. Inputs to the valuation techniques in respect of these assets are categorised as the following hierarchy levels:

Level 1 – quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Council can access at the measurement date.

Level 2 – inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability. For example, market conditions; recent sale prices.

Level 3 – unobservable inputs, for example, assumptions about rent growth; discount rates, etc.

Fair value measurement differentiates between measurements that are recurring i.e. at the end of each period, for example surplus assets and those that are non-recurring measured on particular circumstances, for example assets held for sale.

In the accounts there are approximately 134 Surplus Assets with a recurring fair value of £2.6m. Most of the assets are valued at level 2 inputs, with the exception of one asset which has been valued at £800k using level 3 inputs. For this asset an adjustment has been made to the level 2 inputs to take into account the condition of the asset.

Community assets are valued on an historic cost basis. These have no determinable useful life and are assets that the Council intend to hold in perpetuity. Examples of community assets are parks and memorials.

Assets under Construction are valued at historic cost until they become operational. When they are brought into use they are revalued on the relevant basis.

Heritage Assets are recognised as such if they are material non-operational assets that are held purely for cultural or knowledge gaining purposes. These assets are recognised at cost or market value, are reviewed for impairment but not depreciated.

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

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at current value are revalued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their current value at the year-end, but as a minimum every five years. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. Exceptionally, gains might be credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement where they arise from the reversal of a loss previously charged to a service.

Where decreases in value are identified, they are accounted for 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<sup>st</sup> April 2007 only, the date of its formal implementation. Gains arising before that date have been consolidated into the Capital Adjustment Account.

### **1.9.3 Impairment**

Assets are assessed throughout the year 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 the accumulated gains).
- Where there is no balance in the Revaluation Reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

#### 1.9.4 Depreciation

Depreciation is charged on a straight-line basis on most property, plant and equipment. All asset lives have been identified on an individual basis.

Exceptions are made for:

- Heritage Assets.
- Assets without a determinable finite useful life such as freehold land.
- Assets that are not yet available for use i.e. assets under construction and assets held for sale.

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

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

Depreciation is calculated in the year of acquisition and not in the year of disposal.

#### 1.9.5 Disposals and 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. These assets are measured at the lower of the value they had when it was agreed they would be sold and fair value less costs to sell.

The valuation in the balance sheet can be split as follows:

	<b>£'000</b>
Fair value	672
Carrying value	2,388
<b>Total value in Balance Sheet</b>	<b>3,060</b>

The non-recurring fair value is measured using level 2 in the input hierarchy (refer to note 1.9.2 for explanation of levels). 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 previous losses recognised in the (Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services. Depreciation is not charged on Assets Held for Sale. If assets no longer meet the criteria to be classified as Assets Held for Sale, they are reclassified back to long-term assets and valued at the lower of their carrying amount before they were classified as held for sale (adjusted for depreciation, amortisation or revaluations), 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. The criteria for recognising assets as being held for sale are:

- Available for immediate sale in present condition.
- Sale highly probable.
- Actively marketed.
- Sale completion expected within 12 months.

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 section in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals (if any) are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal). Any revaluation gains accumulated for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10k are categorised as capital receipts. Receipts are required to be credited to the Usable Capital Receipts Reserve, and can then 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 Usable Capital Receipts 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, as the cost of long-term assets is fully provided for under separate arrangements for capital financing. Amounts are appropriated to the Capital Adjustment Account from the Council Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

## **1.10 Reserves**

The Council sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. Reserves are created by appropriating amounts out of the Council Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service in that year. To ensure this is not a charge against the Council Fund Balance, the expenditure is funded via an adjustment in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Certain reserves are kept to manage the accounting processes for long-term assets, financial instruments, retirement and employee benefits and do not represent usable resources for the Council.

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

This is expenditure incurred during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provisions but does not result in the creation of a Long-Term Asset. It is charged as expenditure to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year. Where the Council funds such expenditure from capital resources, a transfer in the Movement in Reserves Statement to the Council Fund Balance from the Capital Adjustment Account then reverses out the amounts charged so that there is no impact on the level of Council Tax.

### **1.12 Government Grants and Other Contributions**

Government grants and other contributions relating to capital and revenue expenditure shall be accounted for on an accruals basis and recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when there is reasonable assurance that;

- the conditions for their receipt have been/will be complied with; and
- the grant or contribution will be received.

Monies advanced where there is no reasonable assurance of the above two criteria are held as creditors in the Balance Sheet.

Revenue grants are credited to the relevant service and capital grants are credited to the Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income section of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where a revenue grant has been recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but not yet used to fund expenditure, it is set aside as an Earmarked Reserve.

Where a capital grant has been recognised as income but not yet used to finance capital expenditure, it is credited to Capital Grants Unapplied via the Movement in Reserves Statement. Subsequently, when the funds are used, the grant is transferred from Capital Grant Unapplied Account to Capital Adjustment Account.

Where a claim has yet to be signed off by the Wales Audit Office, Balance Sheet values in relation to grants are included on an unaudited draft claim basis.

### **1.13 Charges to Revenue for Long-Term Assets**

Services are debited with the following items to record the cost of holding Long-Term Assets during the year:

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

The Council is not required to raise Council Tax to fund depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisation. Therefore these charges to the Comprehensive

Income and Expenditure Statement are reversed in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

#### **1.14 Minimum Revenue Provision/Provision for the Repayment of Debt**

The Local Government Act 2003 requires each local authority to set aside a Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for debt redemption. In accordance with the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 the Council's accounting treatment is as follows:

**Supported Borrowing:** The MRP on supported borrowing is written off on a straight line basis over 40 years, linked (broadly) to the lives of the Council's assets.

**Unsupported Borrowing:** MRP is charged to the Council Fund Balance as follows:

- Charge in equal instalments (or to match the benefits derived) over the life of the asset created (asset life must be applied for any expenditure capitalised under a Capitalisation Direction);
- Annuity method;
- Charge in accordance with the depreciation of the asset; or
- An alternative appropriate method permitted by the guidance.

**Finance Leases:** In accordance with MRP guidance issued by the Welsh Government, MRP for finance leases, represents the principal element of repayments made by the Council (refer to Lease policies).

#### **1.15 Provisions**

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

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.

#### **1.16 Interests in Companies and Other Entities**

The Council has interests in companies and other entities which are required to be included in the financial statements.

Amgen Cymru Ltd. and Amgen Rhondda Ltd. meet the criteria of subsidiaries and are represented within Long-Term Assets in the Balance Sheet of the financial statements.

Capita Glamorgan Consultancy Ltd. meets the criteria of an associated company.

Due to materiality, Group financial statements have not been produced. The accounts for Amgen Cymru Ltd., Amgen Rhondda Ltd. and Capita Glamorgan Consultancy Ltd. will be available separately once audited.

The Council participates in various Joint Committee arrangements. In line with materiality considerations, only two of these Joint Committees, Central South Consortium Joint Education Service (CSCJES) and Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRCD), have been included within the Council's financial statements. The consolidation has been done on a line-by-line basis, calculated using a reasonable apportionment methodology.

## **2.0 Accounting Standards Issued, Not Adopted**

Standards that have been issued but not yet adopted, which may require disclosure in 2018/19 accounts, are anticipated to be listed in Appendix C of the 2019/20 Code when it is published. In the interim potentially relevant standards include:

- Amendments to IAS 40 Investment Property: Transfers of Investment Property;
- Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2014 - 2016 Cycle;
- IFRIC 22 Foreign Currency Transactions and Advance Consideration;
- IFRIC 23 Uncertainty over Income Tax Treatments; and
- Amendments to IFRS 9 Financial Instruments: Prepayment Features with Negative Compensation.

It is not anticipated that the above amendments will have a material impact on the Council's Statement of Accounts.

## **3.0 Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies**

In applying the Accounting Policies set out in note 1.0, the Council has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions and those involving uncertainty about future events. The critical judgements made in the Statement of Accounts are:

### **3.1 Grants and Contribution Conditions**

Judgements are made in terms of conditions attached to both capital and revenue grants. Grants are recognised as income when received/receivable. Unless there are assumptions that conditions of the grant are breached, a return obligation is not recognised. As a result, capital grants received, with no expected return obligation are reflected in the Capital Grants Unapplied Account until they are used to fund the Capital Programme. Similarly, revenue grants received with no expected return obligation that are to be used to fund future years' expenditure are reflected in Earmarked Reserves in the Balance Sheet.

### **3.2 Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled Schools**

The Code confirms that the accounting treatment of local authority maintained schools in England and Wales depends on the balance of control. For voluntary aided schools any long-term assets that are not owned by the Council but by another legal body, such as the Diocese, are not to be shown on the Balance Sheet.

The Balance Sheet includes land at St Margaret's Catholic School and playing fields at both St John Baptist Church in Wales High School and Cardinal Newman Comprehensive School, as ownership lies with the Council. When reviewing the existing criteria, the Council does not consider it has any voluntary controlled schools.

### **4.0 Assumptions Made About the Future and Other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty**

This Statement of Accounts contains estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the Council about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because assets and liabilities cannot always be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates. The items in the Council's Balance Sheet at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

#### **4.1 Pensions Liability (including McCloud Judgement, Cost Management process and GMP equalisation and indexation)**

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

The effects on the net pension liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured. However, the assumptions interact in complex ways. During 2018/19, AON Hewitt advised that the funded proportion of the Council's net pension liability had decreased by £2.6m due to estimates being corrected as a result of experience and decreased by £94.9m attributable to updating of financial assumptions. Refer to note 32.0 for further details.

The Court of Appeal found that the transitional protection arrangements put in place when firefighters' and judges' pension schemes were reformed were age discriminatory. This potentially could have implications for other public sector schemes that were reformed around the same time (including the LGPS) and could potentially lead to members deemed to be discriminated against being compensated. The Supreme Court denied the Government's application for permission to appeal this judgement on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

The matter will now be referred back to the Employment Tribunal for a remedy hearing. Once a Tribunal makes a finding on remedy, compensation will be awarded and the schemes amended as appropriate.

For 2018/19 an estimate has been made in the accounts for the impact of the Supreme Court decision. The pension liability has been increased by £19.63m, with a corresponding appropriation to the Pension Reserve in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Legislation requires HM Treasury and the Scheme Advisory Board (SAB) to undertake periodic valuations to monitor the cost of the LGPS to ensure it remains sustainable and affordable. This is referred to as the “Cost Management Process”. HM Treasury and the SAB had paused their reviews following the McCloud judgement in the Court of Appeal. The Cost Management Process will recommence taking into account the remedy and any scheme amendments. No allowance has been made in the disclosures for the outcome of this process.

The pension liability in the Balance Sheet does not include the potential impact of GMP equalisation and indexation, beyond indexation for members reaching State Pension Age before 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018. On 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018, the High Court ruled in the case of Lloyds bank that equalisation for the effect of unequal Guaranteed Minimum Pensions (GMPs) is required. The ruling confirmed that trustees have a duty “to equalise benefits for men and women”. HM Treasury have stated that “public sector schemes already have a method to equalise GMP benefits, which is why we will not have to change our method as a result of this judgement”.

### **4.3 Insurance Provision**

The Council makes provision for all claims received (but not yet paid) according to the “reserve” value attached to that claim. The reserve value represents the most likely value to settle the claim, not taking into account probability of settlement. Reserve values are provided by the Council’s in-house insurance team, claims handlers and loss adjusters depending on the claim type and estimated value of the claim. Motor and property claims are provided for at 100% of the reserve value. Liability claims are provided for at a percentage based on the length of time a claim remains unresolved. This reflects that not all claims received are paid. Some are successfully repudiated. Refer to note 11.0 for further details.

The risks attached to misstatement are that existing claims will change in value (increase or decrease) or be successfully repudiated. An earmarked reserve is established to meet the additional costs relating to the impact of these potential changes in estimates. The earmarked reserve also funds claims or incidents that have occurred but claims are yet to be received. Refer to note 13.2 for further details.

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

External valuers undertake formal valuations within a maximum of a 5 year rolling programme to ensure that assets in the Balance Sheet are represented at “current value”. Valuations are undertaken in accordance with guidance issued by the Royal

Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). Within the computation of the current value valuation, assumptions are made upon the useful lives of assets which could be subject to change in future years.

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

The audited Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Director of Finance & Digital Services, as Chief Finance Officer, on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or notes. Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information.

**6.0 Property, Plant and Equipment****6.1 Movements on Balances****Movements in 2018/19:**

	Other Land & Buildings	Infrastructure	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community Assets	Assets Under Construction	Total Property, Plant and Equipment
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Cost or Valuation</b>						
At 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2018	660,332	609,290	36,805	4,420	60,938	<b>1,371,785</b>
Joint Committees Opening Balance	0	0	0	0	3,112	<b>3,112</b>
Additions	40,703	19,239	5,399	0	45,549	<b>110,890</b>
Revaluation Increases/ (Decreases) Recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	8,174	0	0	0	0	<b>8,174</b>
Revaluation Increases/ (Decreases) Recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(15,361)	0	0	0	0	<b>(15,361)</b>
Derecognition – Disposals	(6,011)	0	(2,168)	0	0	<b>(8,179)</b>
Derecognition – Other	0	0	(2,454)	0	0	<b>(2,454)</b>
Assets Reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	(1,765)	0	0	0	0	<b>(1,765)</b>
Other Reclassifications	28,869	0	0	1,278	(33,126)	<b>(2,979)</b>
Other Movements in Cost or Valuation	18					<b>18</b>
<b>At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019</b>	<b>714,959</b>	<b>628,529</b>	<b>37,582</b>	<b>5,698</b>	<b>76,473</b>	<b>1,463,241</b>

*Continued Overleaf...*

<b>Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment</b>						
At 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2018	(84,098)	(177,652)	(28,542)	(743)	0	<b>(291,035)</b>
Joint Committees Opening Balance	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Depreciation Charge	(13,333)	(11,523)	(4,018)	0	0	<b>(28,874)</b>
Depreciation Written Out of the Revaluation Reserve	2,474	0	0	0	0	<b>2,474</b>
Depreciation Written Out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Service	851	0	0	0	0	<b>851</b>
Impairment (Losses)/Reversals Recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	(4,370)	0	0	0	0	<b>(4,370)</b>
Impairment (Losses)/Reversals Recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(15,678)	(243)	(2,454)	0	0	<b>(18,375)</b>
Derecognition – Disposals	1,456	0	2,085	0	0	<b>3,541</b>
Derecognition – Other	0	0	2,454	0	0	<b>2,454</b>
Assets Reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	691	0	0	0	0	<b>691</b>
Other Reclassifications	153	0	0	(105)	0	<b>48</b>
Other Movements in Cost or Valuation	(18)	0	0	0	0	<b>(18)</b>
<b>At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019</b>	<b>(111,872)</b>	<b>(189,418)</b>	<b>(30,475)</b>	<b>(848)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(332,613)</b>
<b>Net Book Value:</b>						
<b>At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019</b>	<b>603,087</b>	<b>439,111</b>	<b>7,107</b>	<b>4,850</b>	<b>76,473</b>	<b>1,130,628</b>
<b>At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018</b>	<b>576,234</b>	<b>431,638</b>	<b>8,263</b>	<b>3,677</b>	<b>64,050</b>	<b>1,083,862</b>

## 6.2 Capital Commitments

At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 the Council has entered into a number of contracts for the construction or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment in 2018/19 and future years, budgeted to cost £35.1m. Similar commitments at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 were £74.5m.

The material contract values as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 are:

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Treorchy Comprehensive School	3,578
Tonyrefail Community School	5,116
Llys Cadwyn (Taff Vale Development)	26,366
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,060</b>

## 6.3 Revaluations

The Council carries out a rolling programme that ensures that all Property, Plant and Equipment required to be measured at current value is revalued at least every 5 years. Valuations are carried out by the Council's appointed valuer. Valuations of land and buildings are carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. Valuations of vehicles, plant and equipment are based on current prices where there is an active second-hand market or latest list prices adjusted for the condition of the asset.

The significant assumptions applied in estimating the current values are:

- Valuations include the cost of construction on a modern equivalent basis.
- The cost has been depreciated to account for the age and future economic life of the buildings.
- Valuations are subject to the prospect and viability of the continuance of the occupation and use of the property.

## 7.0 Financial Instruments

### 7.1 Categories of Financial Instruments

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

<b>Assets</b>	<b>Long-Term</b>		<b>Current</b>	
	<b>31/03/18</b>	<b>31/03/19</b>	<b>31/03/18</b>	<b>31/03/19</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Investments: Loans and Receivables	4,750	4,500	14,591	26,083
Debtors: Financial Assets Carried at Contract Amounts	1,259	803	53,397	69,234
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,009</b>	<b>5,303</b>	<b>67,988</b>	<b>95,317</b>

Liabilities	Long-Term		Current	
	31/03/18	31/03/19	31/03/18	31/03/19
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Borrowings: Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost	193,889	248,518	78,926	84,987
Finance Lease Liabilities	385	384	1	1
Creditors: Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost	0	0	11,565	13,733
<b>Total</b>	<b>194,274</b>	<b>248,902</b>	<b>90,492</b>	<b>98,721</b>

There are no expected credit loss calculations for the financial assets. The value of creditors in the table relates to invoices authorised for payment by the Council but remaining unpaid at year-end. This balance is included within the Balance Sheet heading *Short-Term Creditors*.

## 7.2 Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

	2017/18			2018/19		
	Financial Liabilities Measured at Amortised Cost	Financial Assets: Loans and Receivables	Total	Financial Liabilities Measured at Amortised Cost	Financial Assets: Loans and Receivables	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Interest Expense	9,760	0	9,760	10,369	0	10,369
Impairment Losses	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Expense in (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>	<b>9,760</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9,760</b>	<b>10,369</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,369</b>
Interest Income	0	(117)	(117)	0	(1,191)	(1,191)
Interest Income Accrued on Impaired Financial Assets	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Income in (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(117)</b>	<b>(117)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(1,191)</b>	<b>(1,191)</b>
<b>Net (Gain)/Loss for the Year</b>	<b>9,760</b>	<b>(117)</b>	<b>9,643</b>	<b>10,369</b>	<b>(1,191)</b>	<b>9,178</b>

## 7.3 Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities

Financial liabilities, financial assets (represented by loans and receivables) and long-term debtors and creditors are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost. Their fair value can be assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that will take place over the remaining term of the instruments, using the following assumptions:

- Loans borrowed by the Council have been valued by discounting the contractual cashflows over the whole life of the instrument at the appropriate market rate for Local Authority loans.
- No early repayment or impairment is recognised.
- Where a financial instrument will mature in the next 12 months, carrying amount is assumed to approximate to fair value.
- The fair value of trade and other receivables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.
- Short-term debtors and creditors are carried at cost as this is a fair approximation of their value.

The fair values calculated are as follows:

	31/03/18		31/03/19	
	Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Fair Value
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
PWLB Debt	111,060	173,225	170,720	232,859
Market Debt	85,539	136,001	85,523	134,713
Local Authority Debt	76,078	76,078	77,187	77,187
Other Debt	138	138	75	75
Finance Lease	386	386	385	385
Trade Creditors	11,565	11,565	13,733	13,733
<b>Total</b>	<b>284,766</b>	<b>397,393</b>	<b>347,623</b>	<b>458,952</b>

	31/03/18		31/03/19	
	Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Fair Value
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Loans and Receivables	19,336	19,341	30,573	30,583

The fair values for PWLB debt and market debt have been calculated using level 2 in the fair value hierarchy. Please see note 1.9.2 in the accounting policies for the explanation of these levels.

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

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

##### **Key Risks**

- Credit Risk – the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the Council.
- Liquidity Risk – the possibility that the Council might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments.
- Refinancing and Maturity Risk – the possibility that the Council may be required to renew a financial instrument on maturity at less favourable interest rates or terms.
- Market Risk – the possibility that financial loss might arise for the Council as a result of changes in such measures as interest rates and stock market movements.

## **7.5 Overall Procedures for Managing Risk**

The Council's overall risk management procedures focus on the unpredictability of the financial markets and implementing restrictions to minimise these risks. The procedures for risk management are defined in the Local Government Act 2003 and the associated regulations. These require the Council to comply with the CIPFA Prudential Code, the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and Investment Guidance issued through the Act. This Council complies with these requirements by:

- Formally adopting the requirements of the Code of Practice.
- By adopting a Treasury Management Policy Statement and Treasury Management Clauses being incorporated into Financial Procedure Rules.
- Approving annually in advance Prudential and Treasury Indicators for the following three years.
- Approving an Investment Strategy for the forthcoming year setting out criteria for both investing and selecting investment counterparties in compliance with guidance from the Welsh Government.
- Approving a Capital Strategy report which provides a high level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of Council services along with an overview of the associated risk, its management and the implications for future financial sustainability.

These are required to be reported and approved before the start of the year to which they relate. The Treasury Management Strategy outlines the detailed approach to managing risk in relation to the Council's financial instrument exposure. Actual performance is reported in a mid-year review to Members, in addition to a full year review and also included within quarterly performance reports.

Policies are implemented by a corporate Treasury Management team. The Council maintains written principles for overall risk management, as well as written policies covering specific areas, such as interest rate risk, credit risk and the investment of surplus cash through Treasury Management Practices (TMPs). The TMPs are a requirement of the Code of Practice and are reviewed periodically.

The Treasury Management Strategy and Capital Strategy are available on the Council's website.

## **7.6 Credit Risk**

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

This risk is minimised through the Investment Strategy, which requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet identified minimum credit criteria. Such criteria include credit ratings assigned by credit ratings agencies. The Investment Strategy also imposes a maximum amount and duration to be invested with a financial institution. The Council undertakes appropriate due diligence and puts in place appropriate security arrangements when lending to organisations. There are also other criteria and controls in place regarding counterparty selection, further details of which can be found in the approved Treasury Management Strategy.

The following analysis summarises the Council's potential maximum exposure to credit risk. The default rates give details of the Council's experience of its customer collection levels.

	31/03/19	Historical Experience of Default	Adjustment for Market Conditions at 31/03/19	Estimated Maximum Exposure to Default at 31/03/19	Estimated Maximum Exposure to Default at 31/03/18
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(a*c)	
	£'000	%	%	£'000	£'000
Deposits with Government Departments & Local Authorities	30,583	0	0	0	0
Trade Debtors	11,119	0.56	0.56	62	64

The 0.56% Historical Experience of Default represents debt written off in 2018/19 expressed as a percentage of invoices raised during that year. This percentage is not the basis of the Bad Debt Provision, which is calculated using various percentages designed to reflect the risk of debts of various ages not being collectable, as opposed to the far lower rate of actual write-offs for the year.

Investments with the Debt Management Office and other Government backed public bodies have the rating applicable to Government borrowing.

The Council does not generally allow credit for its trade debtors. However, £3.6m of the £11.1m balance is debt greater than 30 days old. This debt can be analysed as follows:

	31/03/18	31/03/19
	£'000	£'000
Less than 3 months	908	1,309
3 – 6 months	793	374
6 months to 1 year	254	529
More than 1 year	1,288	1,355
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,243</b>	<b>3,567</b>

## 7.7 Liquidity Risk

The Council manages its liquidity position through effective cash flow management procedures.

The Council has ready access to borrowings from the money markets to cover any day-to-day cash flow need, and whilst the PWLB provides access to longer-term funds, it also acts as a lender of last resort to Councils (although it will not provide funding to a Council whose actions are unlawful). The Council is also required to produce a balanced budget in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, which ensures sufficient monies are raised to cover annual expenditure. There is therefore no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments.

## 7.8 Refinancing and Maturity Risk

The Council maintains a significant debt and investment portfolio. Whilst the cash flow procedures above are considered against the refinancing risk procedures, longer-term risk to the Council relates to managing the exposure to replacing financial instruments as they mature. This risk relates to both the maturing of longer-term financial liabilities and longer-term financial assets.

The approved prudential indicator limits for the maturity structure of debt and the limits set on investments placed for greater than one year in duration are the key parameters used to address this risk. The Council approved treasury and investment strategies address the main risks and the Corporate Treasury Management Strategy and Capital Strategy team manage operational risks within approved parameters.

This includes;

- monitoring the maturity profile of financial liabilities and amending the profile through either new borrowing or the rescheduling of existing debt; and
- monitoring the maturity profile of investments to ensure sufficient liquidity is available for the Council's day-to-day cash flow needs, and the spread of longer term investments provide stability of maturities and returns in relation to the longer term cash flow needs.

The maturity analysis of the principal value of the Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC element of financial liabilities is as follows:

	<b>31/03/18</b>	<b>31/03/19</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Less than 1 year	76,133	79,451
Between 1 and 2 years	6	2,376
Between 2 and 5 years	2	7,674
Between 5 and 10 years	552	38,840
More than 10 years	194,627	203,316
<b>Total</b>	<b>271,320</b>	<b>331,657</b>

The maturity analysis of financial assets is as follows:

	<b>31/03/18</b>	<b>31/03/19</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Maturity greater than one year	4,750	4,500
Maturity less than one year	14,586	26,073
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,336</b>	<b>30,573</b>

Trade Debtors are not included in the table above.

## 7.9 Market Risk

### Interest Rate Risk

The Council is exposed to interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments. Movements in interest rates have a complex impact upon the Council, depending how variable and fixed rates move across differing financial instrument periods.

The Council has a number of strategies for managing interest rate risk. The Annual Treasury Management Strategy draws together the Council's prudential indicators and its expected treasury operations, including an expectation of interest rate movements. The Corporate Treasury Management Strategy and Capital Strategy team, together with the appointed Treasury Management Advisors, monitor market and forecast interest rates within the year to adjust the Council's exposures appropriately.

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

	<b>£'000</b>
Increase in interest payable on variable rate borrowings	1
Increase in interest receivable on variable rate investments	N/A
<b>Impact on Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</b>	<b>1</b>
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate borrowing liabilities (no impact on CI&ES)	33,504

The approximate impact of a 1% fall in interest rates would also be as above.

## 8.0 Short-Term Debtors

An analysis of Short-Term Debtors in the Balance Sheet is as follows:

<b>31/03/18</b>		<b>31/03/19</b>
<b>£'000</b>		<b>£'000</b>
25,748	Central Government Bodies	36,853
4,453	Other Local Authorities	1,286
4,329	NHS Bodies	7,754
1257	Public Corporations and Trading Funds	16
17,610	Other Entities and Individuals	23,325
<b>53,397</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>69,234</b>

### Debtors for Local Taxation

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

<b>2017/18</b>		<b>2018/19</b>
<b>£'000</b>		<b>£'000</b>
2,792	Less than 1 year	2,990
1,175	1 year to 2 years	1,116
632	2 years to 3 years	723
405	3 years to 4 years	428
276	4 years to 5 years	287
871	More than 5 years	845
<b>6,151</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>6,389</b>

## 9.0 Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Cash and Cash Equivalents are made up of the following elements:

<b>31/03/18</b>		<b>31/03/19</b>
<b>£'000</b>		<b>£'000</b>
7,382	Cash Held by the Council	8,361
(14,352)	Bank Current Accounts	(11,535)
<b>(6,970)</b>	<b>Total Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>(3,174)</b>

Short-term cash surpluses are invested in line with the investment strategy and are represented in the Balance Sheet as "Short-Term Investments". Bank Current Accounts represent the position of the bank account as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 adjusted for unrepresented cheques.

## 10.0 Short-Term Creditors

An analysis of Short-Term Creditors in the Balance Sheet is as follows:

<b>31/03/18</b>		<b>31/03/19</b>
<b>£'000</b>		<b>£'000</b>
(8,487)	Central Government Bodies	(9,741)
(10,173)	Other Local Authorities	(21,219)
(1,692)	NHS Bodies	(4,667)
(11)	Public Corporations and Trading Funds	(151)
(57,881)	Other Entities and Individuals	(58,705)
<b>(78,244)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>(94,483)</b>

## 11.0 Provisions

Provisions are amounts set aside for specific future costs, which are likely to be incurred, but the amount or timing of which cannot be determined accurately. Provisions for bad debts are shown as a deduction from debtors.

Movements in provisions during the year were:

Short-Term Provision	Land Purchases and Part 1 Claims	Insurance Claims	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Balance at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018</b>	<b>(540)</b>	<b>(1,580)</b>	<b>(2,120)</b>
Additional provisions made in 2018/19	0	(1,659)	<b>(1,659)</b>
Amounts used in 2018/19	6	1,252	<b>1,258</b>
Unused amounts reversed in 2018/19	0	328	<b>328</b>
<b>Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019</b>	<b>(534)</b>	<b>(1,659)</b>	<b>(2,193)</b>

Long-Term Provision	Insurance Claims	Joint Committees	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Balance at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018</b>	<b>(1,666)</b>	<b>(284)</b>	<b>(1,950)</b>
Additional provisions made in 2018/19	(2,568)	0	<b>(2,568)</b>
Amounts used in 2018/19	1,673	132	<b>1,805</b>
Unused amounts reversed in 2018/19	891	0	<b>891</b>
<b>Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019</b>	<b>(1,670)</b>	<b>(152)</b>	<b>(1,822)</b>

## 12.0 Other Long-Term Liabilities

An analysis of Other Long-Term Liabilities is given in the following table:

31/03/18		31/03/19
£'000		£'000
(611,858)	Pension Liability (IAS19)	(608,638)
(394)	Other	(589)
<b>(612,252)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>(609,227)</b>

## 13.0 Usable Reserves

31/03/18			31/03/19
£'000			£'000
10,720	Council Fund Balance	13.1	10,498
65,096	Capital, Treasury and Insurance Reserves	13.2	63,707
64,157	Other Revenue Related Reserves	13.2	41,867
3,397	Delegated Schools Reserve		3,007
1,127	Usable Capital Receipts Reserve	13.3	3,343
7,396	Capital Grant Unapplied Account	13.4	16,966
173	MGCC Insurance Reserve		391
<b>152,066</b>	<b>Total Usable Reserves</b>		<b>139,779</b>

### 13.1 Council Fund Balance

Council Fund Balances are accumulated working balances and relate to general fund services. These exclude “ring-fenced” Council services such as Delegated Schools.

Movements in the Council Fund Balance during 2018/19 were:

	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018</b>	<b>10,720</b>
Revenue Budget Outturn	(222)
<b>Balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019</b>	<b>10,498</b>

### 13.2 Earmarked Reserves

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the Council Fund Balances in earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from earmarked reserves to meet Council Fund expenditure in 2018/19. All earmarked reserves are deemed to be revenue reserves.

#### Capital, Treasury and Insurance Reserves

Reserve	Purpose	Balance at	Transfers	Transfers	Balance at
		31/03/18	Out	In	31/03/19
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Capital Developments</b>	Resources set-aside from revenue budget, earmarked to fund the Council's approved 3-year capital programme.	<b>53,700</b>	(28,607)	27,562	<b>52,655</b>
<b>Treasury Management Reserve</b>	Funding for known and potential future pressures upon the Capital Financing budget.	<b>2,465</b>	0	0	<b>2,465</b>
<b>Insurance Reserve</b>	To provide for estimated costs of incidents that have occurred during the policy year but have not yet resulted in a claim being received.	<b>8,931</b>	(1,000)	656	<b>8,587</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>65,096</b>	<b>(29,607)</b>	<b>28,218</b>	<b>63,707</b>

**Other Revenue Related Reserves**

Reserve	Purpose	Balance at	Transfers	Transfers	Balance at
		31/03/18	Out	In	31/03/19
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Revenue Budget Strategy 2018/19</b>	Medium Term Financial Planning & Service Transformation (transitional funding) to be released to fund the 2018/19 budget.	1,022	(1,022)	0	0
<b>Revenue Budget Strategy 2019/20</b>	Medium Term Financial Planning & Service Transformation (transitional funding) to be released to fund the 2019/20 budget.	0	0	1,537	1,537
<b>Joint Committee Reserve</b>	Reflects the Council's share of General and Earmarked Reserves of the Joint Committees in which it has an interest.	123	0	638	761
<b>Revenue Grant Reserves (IFRS)</b>	Carry forward of Revenue Grants not yet applied to spend - required accounting treatment to comply with International Financial Reporting Standards.	3,021	(3,021)	3,856	3,856
<b>Financial Management and Human Resources Risk Management</b>	Resources set aside as cover for future liabilities relating to various risks identified and being managed.	29,766	(26,792)	10,662	13,636
<b>Investment / Infrastructure</b>	To fund current and future costs of maintaining and enhancing infrastructure across the County Borough	6,855	(6,855)	6,534	6,534
<b>Prior Year Commitments</b>	Carry forward of existing funding to finance projects for which commitments have already been made in the prior year.	11,957	(9,256)	3,187	5,888
<b>Medium Term Financial Planning and Service Transformation</b>	Resources set aside as transitional (one-off) funding to support the Council's medium-term financial and service planning requirements.	4,665	(1,537)	175	3,303
<b>Other Specific Reserves</b>	Represents a number of reserves held for specific and identified purposes.	3,692	(900)	504	3,296
<b>Invest to Save</b>	Funding identified (pump priming) to support Invest to Save opportunities as and when they arise.	3,056	0	0	3,056
<b>Total</b>		<b>64,157</b>	<b>(49,383)</b>	<b>27,093</b>	<b>41,867</b>

**13.3 Usable Capital Receipts Reserve**

The Usable Capital Receipts Reserve is the proportion of capital receipts that may be used to finance capital expenditure.

The movements on the reserve are as follows:

<b>2017/18</b>		<b>2018/19</b>
<b>£'000</b>		<b>£'000</b>
<b>1,443</b>	<b>Balance as at 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>1,127</b>
	Receipts during the year:	
725	Sale of assets	2,626
22	Mortgage repayments	0
5	Repayment of discount (Right to Buys)	2
	Application during the year:	
(1,068)	Financing of capital expenditure	(412)
<b>1,127</b>	<b>Balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>3,343</b>

**13.4 Capital Grant Unapplied Account**

The Capital Grant Unapplied Account consists of Capital Grants and Contributions received and credited to Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but not yet applied to fund capital expenditure. It represents resources available to fund future capital expenditure. It is assumed that the conditions of grants held within this account will be met.

<b>2017/18</b>		<b>2018/19</b>
<b>£'000</b>		<b>£'000</b>
<b>8,572</b>	<b>Balance at 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>7,396</b>
34,152	Grants received	42,649
(35,328)	Grants utilised to fund capital expenditure	(33,079)
<b>7,396</b>	<b>Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>16,966</b>

**14.0 Unusable Reserves**

These are reserves established as a result of various regulations to ensure costs chargeable to Council Tax are appropriate. They do not represent resources available for the general use of the Council.

<b>31/03/18</b>			<b>31/03/19</b>
<b>£'000</b>			<b>£'000</b>
172,236	Revaluation Reserve	14.1	171,042
6	Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve		3
485,926	Capital Adjustment Account	14.2	503,909
(5,656)	Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	14.3	(5,573)
(611,858)	Pensions Reserve	14.4	(608,638)
(5,756)	Short-Term Accumulating Compensated Absence Account		(4,476)
<b>34,898</b>	<b>Total Unusable Reserves</b>		<b>56,267</b>

#### 14.1 Revaluation Reserve

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

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

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

<b>2017/18</b>		<b>2018/19</b>	
<b>£'000</b>		<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
<b>196,695</b>	<b>Balance at 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>172,236</b>	
13,583	Upward revaluation of assets	12,617	
(18,905)	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(6,659)	
<b>191,373</b>	<b>Surplus or Deficit on revaluation of Long-Term Assets not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>		<b>178,194</b>
(13,013)	Adjustment between the Capital Adjustment Account and the Revaluation Reserve	0	
(4,781)	Difference between Current Value Depreciation and Historical Cost Depreciation	(4,672)	
(1,343)	Accumulated Gains on Assets sold or scrapped	(2,480)	
<b>(19,137)</b>	<b>Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account</b>		<b>(7,152)</b>
<b>172,236</b>	<b>Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>		<b>171,042</b>

## **14.2 Capital Adjustment Account**

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

This account also contains revaluation gains accumulated on Property, Plant and Equipment before 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007, the date that the Revaluation Reserve was created to hold such gains.

2017/18		2018/19	
		£'000	£'000
450,463	<b>Balance at 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	485,926	
	Reversal of items relating to Capital Expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
(40,629)	Charges for depreciation and impairment of Long-Term Assets*	(46,285)	
(8,159)	Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	(15,619)	
0	Movement in the market value of Investment Properties	873	
(1,266)	Amortisation of Intangible Assets	(1,388)	
(9,182)	Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute	(9,023)	
(1,663)	Amounts of Long-Term Assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(5,341)	
19,137	Adjusted items written out of the Revaluation Reserve	7,152	
<b>408,701</b>	<b>Net written out amount of the cost of Long-Term Assets consumed in the year</b>		<b>416,295</b>
	Capital Financing Applied in the Year:		
1,068	Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new Capital Expenditure	412	
34,152	Capital Grants and Contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital financing	30,181	
1,176	Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	2,951	
11,054	Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the Council Fund	11,529	
29,797	Capital Expenditure charged against the Council Fund	42,541	
(22)	Private mortgage repayments	0	
<b>77,225</b>			<b>87,614</b>
<b>485,926</b>	<b>Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>		<b>503,909</b>

\* Charges for depreciation and impairment of long-term assets include credits representing reversal of accumulated depreciation and impairment, and debits representing in year changes.

### 14.3 Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

The Financial Instruments Adjustment Account represents the accumulated difference between the financing costs included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the accumulated financing costs required in accordance with regulations to be charged to the Council Fund Balance. As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 there was a credit balance of £5.6m (credit balance of £5.7m as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018).

### 14.4 Pensions Reserve

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

<b>2017/18</b>		<b>2018/19</b>
<b>£'000</b>		<b>£'000</b>
<b>(579,048)</b>	<b>Balance at 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>(611,858)</b>
(12,186)	Actuarial gains or (losses) on Pensions Assets and Liabilities	45,004
(56,964)	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(81,340)
36,340	Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	39,556
<b>(611,858)</b>	<b>Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>(608,638)</b>

### **15.0 Cash Flow Statement – Adjustments to Net (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services for Non-Cash Movements**

<b>2017/18</b>		<b>2018/19</b>
<b>£'000</b>		<b>£'000</b>
(48,788)	Depreciation and Impairment	(61,904)
(1,266)	Amortisation	(1,388)
(3,565)	(Increase)/Decrease in Creditors	(13,613)
2,086	Increase/(Decrease) in Debtors	15,381
(98)	Increase/(Decrease) in Stock	101
(20,624)	Movement in Pension Liability	(41,784)
(59)	Contribution to Provisions	55
(776)	Short-Term Accumulated Absence Accrual	1,280
(1,663)	Carrying amount of Long-Term Assets and Assets Held For Sale, sold or derecognised	(5,341)
2,125	Other non-cash items charged to the Net (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(8,236)
<b>(72,628)</b>	<b>Adjustments to Net (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services for Non-Cash Movements</b>	<b>(115,449)</b>

### **16.0 Cash Flow Statement - Adjustments for Items Included in the Net (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services that are Investing and Financing Activities**

<b>2017/18</b>		<b>2018/19</b>
<b>£'000</b>		<b>£'000</b>
725	Proceeds from the sale of Property, Plant & Equipment, Investment Property and Intangible Assets	2,626
29,364	Any other items for which the cash effects are investing or financing cash flows	40,339
<b>30,089</b>		<b>42,965</b>

### **17.0 Cash Flow Statement – Interest within Operating Activities**

The following table details interest received and interest paid included within 'Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities' on the Cash Flow Statement.

<b>2017/18</b>		<b>2018/19</b>
<b>£'000</b>		<b>£'000</b>
(117)	Interest received	(1,191)
9,760	Interest paid	10,369
<b>9,643</b>	<b>Interest within Operating Activities</b>	<b>9,178</b>

**18.0 Cash Flow Statement - Investing Activities**

2017/18		2018/19
£'000		£'000
103,738	Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment, Investment Property and Intangible Assets	119,441
4,603	Purchase and Redemption of Short-Term and Long-Term Investments	11,242
(725)	Proceeds from the sale of Property, Plant and Equipment, Investment Property and Intangible Assets	(2,626)
(33,164)	Other receipts from Investing Activities	(40,339)
<b>74,452</b>	<b>Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>	<b>87,718</b>

**19.0 Cash Flow Statement - Financing Activities**

2017/18		2018/19
£'000		£'000
(402,660)	Cash receipts of Short and Long-Term Borrowing	(229,870)
1	Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liabilities relating to Finance Leases	1
361,677	Repayments of Short and Long-Term Borrowing	168,960
<b>(40,982)</b>	<b>Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities</b>	<b>(60,909)</b>

**20.0 Notes to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis****20.1 Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis 2017/18**

Adjustments from Council Fund to Arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments	Other Differences	Total Adjustments
	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s
Corporate & Frontline Services	10,641	1,069	4,049	15,759
Chief Executive's Division	(47)	377	1,263	1,593
Education & Lifelong Learning Services	11,080	1,907	(1,349)	11,638
Community & Childrens Services	11,292	2,526	(1,018)	12,800
Authority Wide Budgets	(19,387)	2	(26,161)	(45,546)
Joint Committees	0	0	174	174
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>13,579</b>	<b>5,881</b>	<b>(23,042)</b>	<b>(3,582)</b>
Other income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(24,625)	14,589	15,410	5,374
<b>Difference between Council Fund (surplus) or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>	<b>(11,046)</b>	<b>20,470</b>	<b>(7,632)</b>	<b>1,792</b>

**Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis 2018/19**

Adjustments from General Fund to Arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes £'000s	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments £'000s	Other Differences £'000s	Total Adjustments £'000s
Corporate & Frontline Services	3,576	22,876	15,989	42,441
Chief Executive Division	7,262	290	2,037	9,589
Education & Inclusion Services	28,356	1,192	986	30,534
Community & Childrens Services	7,828	1,890	(1,397)	8,321
Authority Wide Budgets	(30,072)	2	(11,988)	(42,058)
Joint Committees	0	0	(2,505)	(2,505)
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>16,950</b>	<b>26,250</b>	<b>3,122</b>	<b>46,322</b>
Other income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(37,570)	15,380	17,525	(4,665)
<b>Difference between General Fund (surplus) or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>	<b>(20,620)</b>	<b>41,630</b>	<b>20,647</b>	<b>41,657</b>

Details of the total adjustments above are within the Movement in Reserves Statement.

**20.2 Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature**

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

Expenditure	2017/18	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
Employee Benefits Expenses	318,965	350,581
Other Services Expenses	336,512	343,922
Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	63,102	72,315
Interest Payments	9,760	10,369
Precepts and Levies	29,877	31,428
Loss on the Disposal of Assets	938	2,716
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>759,154</b>	<b>811,331</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Fees, Charges and Other Service Income	(248,631)	(233,204)
Interest and Investment Income	(117)	(1,191)
Income from Council Tax and NNDR	(200,215)	(206,162)
Gain on the Disposal of Assets	0	0
Government Grants and Contributions	(308,399)	(328,895)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(757,362)</b>	<b>(769,452)</b>
<b>(Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>	<b>1,792</b>	<b>41,879</b>

## 21.0 Members' Allowances

The Local Authorities (Allowances for Members of County and County Borough Councils and National Parks Authorities) (Wales) Regulations 2002, require authorities to make public their schemes for Members' allowances and to disclose annually amounts paid to each Member under such schemes.

During the year the Council paid the following amounts in respect of basic allowances, special responsibility allowances and dependent care allowances to 75 Members (excluding employer's national insurance contributions, employer's pension contribution and other associated costs).

	2017/18	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
Allowances	1,285	1,310
Expenses	12	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,297</b>	<b>1,321</b>

Details of all remuneration and allowances paid annually by the Council to each Councillor and Co-opted Member will be published on the Council's website following the end of each financial year.

## 22.0 Officers' Remuneration

Statutory guidance issued by Welsh Ministers recommends the use of pay multipliers as a means of measuring the relationship between pay rates across the workforce and that of senior managers, as included within the Hutton 'Review of Fair Pay in the Public Sector' (2010).

Rhondda Cynon Taf's remuneration ratio is 1:8 with the median earnings being £18,246. This is the ratio between the Chief Executive's pay and the median earnings of the workforce within the Council, including employees of Central South Consortium and Voluntary Aided Schools, using current pay levels.

Under the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended), local authorities must disclose in their accounts the number of employees whose remuneration in the year fell in each bracket of a scale in multiples of £5,000 commencing at £60,000 (excluding employer pension contributions). The disclosure includes redundancy payments.

During 2018/19 the average number of employees paid per month by the Council was 9,943 (10,213 2017/18), paying total remuneration of £227m (excluding employer's national insurance and pension contributions) (£220m 2017/18). Within this, the following remuneration payments were made within the categories specified:

Remuneration Band	2017/18	2018/19		
	No. of Employees	No. of Employees		
	Total	At 31/03/19	Left in Year	Total
£60,000 - £64,999	62	60	5	65
£65,000 - £69,999	25	24	2	26
£70,000 - £74,999	11	4	0	4
£75,000 - £79,999	8	11	1	12
£80,000 - £84,999	0	2	1	3
£85,000 - £89,999	8	5	0	5
£90,000 - £94,999	3	2	0	2
£95,000 - £99,999	0	3	0	3
£100,000 - £104,999	1	0	0	0
£105,000 - £109,999	0	0	0	0
£110,000 - £114,999	1	0	0	0
£115,000 - £119,999	1	0	0	0
£120,000 - £124,999	0	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>121</b>

Officers employed by Voluntary Aided Schools have been excluded.

Salary costs for Joint Committees are not included in the above note, but can be found in the relevant Joint Committee Statement of Accounts. However, a percentage of Joint Committee salaries has been consolidated into the Net Cost of Services within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The above table excludes specific Senior Officers, disclosed in the following table.

The following table sets out the remuneration for specific Senior Officers whose salary is less than £150k but greater than £60k. There are no Senior Officers whose salary is greater than £150k. Employer pension contributions are included.

Post Holder Information  (Post Title)	2017/18			2018/19						
	Total Remuneration	Employer's Pension Contributions	Total Remuneration Including Employer's Pension Contributions	Salary	Taxable Benefits in Kind	Compensation for Loss of Employment		Total Remuneration	Employer's Pension Contributions	Total Remuneration Including Employer's Pension Contributions
						Redundancy	Early Access Costs			
	£'000			£'000						
Chief Executive	145	36	181	147	0	0	0	147	38	185
Group Director, Community & Children's Services (Deputy Chief Executive wef 11/03/19)	116	29	145	118	0	0	0	118	30	148
Group Director Corporate & Frontline Services (Deputy Chief Executive) to 10/03/19	116	29	145	111	0	0	0	111	29	140
Group Director, Prosperity, Development & Frontline wef 11/03/19	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	6	2	8
Director - Highways & Streetcare to 10/03/19	87	21	108	83	1	0	0	84	21	105
Temporary Director of Education & Lifelong Learning to 31/08/18	87	0	87	37	0	0	0	37	0	37
Director of Education & Inclusion Services wef 01/09/18	0	0	0	52	0	0	0	52	13	65
Director of Human Resources to 30/11/17	38	9	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Director of Human Resources wef 01/12/17	31	8	39	96	0	0	0	96	24	120

*Continued Overleaf...*

Director of Finance & Digital Services wef 11/03/19	0	0	<b>0</b>	6	0	0	0	<b>6</b>	1	<b>7</b>
Director of Legal & Democratic Services (left 31/03/19)	94	23	<b>117</b>	96	0	0	0	<b>96</b>	25	<b>121</b>
Director of Legal & Democratic Services (left 31/03/19) - Returning Officer	6	0	<b>6</b>	1	0	0	0	<b>1</b>	0	<b>1</b>
Director of Regeneration & Planning *	89	22	<b>111</b>	95	0	37	201	<b>333</b>	24	<b>357</b>
Director of Corporate Estates & Procurement (left 31/03/19)	94	23	<b>117</b>	102	0	40	47	<b>189</b>	25	<b>214</b>
Service Director - Public Health & Protection to 30/11/17	50	13	<b>63</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	<b>0</b>
Director of Public Health, Protection & Community Services wef 01/12/17	29	7	<b>36</b>	88	0	0	0	<b>88</b>	23	<b>111</b>
Service Director – Cabinet Office & Public Relations	66	17	<b>83</b>	68	0	0	0	<b>68</b>	17	<b>85</b>

\* left 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019

The table above represents the Senior Leadership Team for Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC. Disclosure of Senior Officer remuneration of Joint Committees are included in the relevant Joint Committee Statement of Accounts.

### 23.0 Severance Costs

This note provides details of the cost of severance to the Council in respect of employees who have left the employment of the Council during the financial year (costs do not reflect the value of the severance received by the individual as it includes pension strain). All costs incurred are in line with the Council's relevant and applicable schemes of termination and as required under relevant Pension Fund Regulations where applicable, with each decision being based upon and supported by a business case.

The number and costs (in bandings) of compulsory and other terminations are set out in the table below

Severance Cost Band	Number of Compulsory Terminations		Number of Other Terminations		Total Number of Terminations		Total Cost of Severance	
	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19	£'000	
£	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19
£0 - £20,000	18	29	186	344	204	373	1,212	2,316
£20,001 - £40,000	2	8	40	63	42	71	1,215	1,982
£40,001 - £60,000	2	3	11	21	13	24	677	1,148
£60,001 - £80,000	1	4	4	16	5	20	329	1,379
£80,001 - £100,000	1	4	6	7	7	11	647	981
£100,001 - £150,000	1	2	7	11	8	13	940	1,578
£150,001 - £200,000	0	0	4	0	4	0	666	0
£200,001 - £250,000	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	239
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>5,686</b>	<b>9,623</b>

During 2018/19, the Council saved annual payroll costs of £8,060k (£3,823k 2017/18) through Voluntary Redundancy and Voluntary Early Retirement.

Severance Costs for Joint Committees are not included in the above note, but can be found in the relevant Joint Committee Statement of Accounts. However, a percentage of Joint Committee severance costs has been consolidated into the Net Cost of Services within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

### 24.0 External Audit Costs

The estimated costs to the Council for financial year 2018/19 in relation to the audit of the Statement of Accounts for certification of grant claims, statutory inspections and other services provided by the Council's external auditors are set out in the table below:

	2017/18	2018/19
	Actual	Estimated
	£'000	£'000
<b>Fees Payable to the Auditor General for Wales</b>		
External audit services carried out by the Statutory Auditor for the year	250	240
Local Government Measure Work	94	94
Certification of Grant Claims and Returns for the year	66	65
<b>Total</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>399</b>

## 25.0 Non-Domestic Rates

The level of Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) is based on a “multiplier” set nationally by the Welsh Government, multiplied by the rateable value of a particular property. This calculation will give the property a rate liability for the year. The multiplier for 2018/19 was 51.4p (49.9p for 2017/18). The total rateable value as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 was £129.4m (£129.3m as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018).

The Council is responsible for collecting the business rates in its area and pays the proceeds into the NDR pool administered by the Welsh Government. The Welsh Government redistributes total collections back to local authorities on the basis of a fixed amount per head of population. Total NDR collected from ratepayers in respect of 2018/19 rates is £50.2m (£48.8m in 2017/18). The contribution back to the Council from the pool in the year amounted to £75.6m (£76.4m in 2017/18) and the amount payable to the pool amounts to £49.8m (£49.4m in 2017/18). As the Council acts as an agent collecting income on behalf of the Welsh Government, the income collected is not recognised as income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

## 26.0 Council Tax

Council Tax income derives from charges raised according to the value of residential properties. Charges are calculated by taking the amount of income required for Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales and the Community Councils for the year, and dividing this amount by the Council Tax base.

The Council Tax base for 2018/19 was calculated to be £75,668.01 (compared with £74,978.22 for 2017/18). This represents the anticipated yield for every £1 of Council Tax levied.

The base is calculated by placing properties in ten bands (A\*-I). After allowing for discounts and exemptions, these are then converted to the equivalent number of Band D properties, using the appropriate multiplier as below:

Band	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
No. of Properties	216	38,147	21,535	14,503	8,238	6,110	3,104	1,075	181	31
Multiplier	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	1	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9	21/9

The resultant number of Band D properties is reduced by a percentage to reflect anticipated non-collection. The target collection rate for 2018/19 was 97.5%.

An analysis of the net proceeds from Council Tax is shown as follows:

Council Tax Analysis	2017/18	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
Council Tax Collectable	123,802	130,542
<b>Net Proceeds from Council Tax</b>	<b>123,802</b>	<b>130,542</b>
Less Payable:		
Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales	(16,363)	(17,670)
Community Councils	(1,829)	(1,956)
<b>Total</b>	<b>105,610</b>	<b>110,916</b>

## 27.0 Grant Income

The following grants, contributions and donations were credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2018/19:

### 27.1 Credited to Services

A number of grants and contributions have been recognised as income within Net Cost of Services. This income amounts to £194m in 2018/19 (in 2017/18 these grants and contributions amounted to £202m).

### 27.2 Capital Grants Receipts in Advance

All Capital Grants received have been recognised as income within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

## 28.0 Related Parties

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

## 28.1 Welsh Government

The Welsh Government is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Council operates, provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties (e.g. Council Tax bills). Transactions between the Council and Welsh Government are as follows:

	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Non-Ringfenced Government Grants	(279,035)	(288,556)
Capital Grants and Contributions	(26,697)	(33,137)
Credited to Services	(141,431)	(138,633)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(447,163)</b>	<b>(460,326)</b>

## 28.2 Chief Officers and Members

### Members of the Council

Under the Code of Conduct incorporated in the Council's Constitution, Members are required to record in the Register of Members Interests any financial and other personal interests, together with any gift, hospitality, material benefit or advantage. The Register is open to inspection by the public and is available on an individual Member basis on the Council website.

Members of the Council are nominated to serve on numerous outside bodies some of which either receive funding from the Council or issue levies and precepts to be paid by the Council. When sitting on these bodies Members are expected to act independently and not to represent the views of the County Borough Council. Membership details are available from the Service Director Cabinet Office and Public Relations, The Pavilions, Clydach Vale.

During 2018/19 there were no Members identified as having a controlling interest in any company commissioned to supply works or services to the Council of any material value. However, Members have identified interests with organisations with which the Council has had financial transactions during 2018/19. The value of these transactions amounted to payments of £1,117k (£1,398k in 2017/18), of which £3k was outstanding at year end (£9k in 2017/18), and receipts of £210k (£185k in 2017/18), of which £5k was outstanding at year end (£37k in 2017/18).

The Council has transactions with a Construction Company that has recently been awarded contracts to carry out work on Council owned properties. A Member of the Council declared that a relative is an Electrical and Project Manager within this company. Payments to the company amount to £3,118k with no payments outstanding at year end and receipts of £4k, of which no receipts were outstanding. The Member did not take part in any discussion, decision or administration relating to the services.

### **Chief Officers (Senior Leadership Team)**

Under the Employees' Code of Conduct, Officers are required to declare potential conflicts of interest arising from employment arrangements together with gifts or hospitality and offers thereof and, under Section 117 of the 1972 Local Government Act, contractual arrangements where there is a conflict of interest. Most professional bodies also have codes of professional conduct to which members of those bodies are expected to adhere.

During 2018/19, the Council had transactions with a company that provides specialist support to people with disabilities. A member of the Senior Leadership Team of the Council declared that a relative is one of the trustees of the company. Payments to the company amount to £3,795k (£1,127k in 2017/18) with no payments outstanding at year end (nil in 2017/18) and receipts of £172k (£178k in 2017/18), of which no receipts were outstanding (£2k in 2017/18). The Officer did not take part in any discussion, decision or administration relating to the services.

There were no other transactions of material value.

### **28.3 Precepts and Levies**

Details of precepts collected on behalf of other organisations are provided in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

An analysis of precepts is given in the following table:

	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales	16,363	17,670
Community Councils	1,829	1,956
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,192</b>	<b>19,626</b>

An analysis of levies is given in the following table:

	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
South Wales Fire and Rescue Service	11,033	11,166
Coroner	440	427
Brecon Beacons National Park	48	45
Glamorgan Archives Joint Committee	164	164
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,685</b>	<b>11,802</b>

### **28.4 Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund**

The Director of Finance & Digital Services is also the responsible Finance Officer to the Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund. The Council charged the Pension Fund an amount of £1.6m (£1.6m in 2017/18) in respect of administration and support during financial year 2018/19. The amount owed

from the Council to the Pension Fund as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 is nil (nil as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018).

## **28.5 Associated and Subsidiary Companies**

The Council has an interest in three companies: namely; Amgen Cymru Ltd., Amgen Rhondda Ltd. and Capita Glamorgan Consultancy Ltd. Officers of the Council are directors of Amgen Cymru Ltd and Amgen Rhondda Ltd. During 2018/19 the following related party transactions took place with these companies.

### **Amgen Cymru Ltd.**

The Council paid Amgen Cymru £8,702k (£7,199k in 2017/18) in respect of waste management and waste disposal charges, with £637k (£560k in 2017/18) due to the company at the year-end.

Amgen Cymru paid the Council £853k (£487k in 2017/18) in respect of goods and services, with £151k (£164k in 2017/18) due to the Council at the year-end.

### **Amgen Rhondda Ltd.**

The Council paid Amgen Rhondda £175k (£175k in 2017/18) in respect of site management fees, with nil (nil in 2017/18) outstanding at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

### **Capita Glamorgan Consultancy Ltd.**

Capita Glamorgan Consultancy Ltd is a Joint Venture between Capita Symonds and Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Councils. The Council owns 27.93% of the shares of the company and holds voting rights to this value on the Board.

During 2018/19, the Council was charged £2,651k (£1,404k in 2017/18) in respect of goods, services and capital works. The balance owed to Capita Glamorgan Consultancy Ltd at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 was £673k (£347k in 2017/18).

Capita Glamorgan Consultancy Ltd paid the Council £0.6k (£1.9k in 2017/18) in respect of goods and services, with nil (nil in 2017/18) due to the Council at the year-end.

## **28.6 Joint Committees**

The Council participates in the following Joint Committees.

### **Glamorgan Archives Joint Committee**

The Glamorgan Record Office is managed and administered by the Glamorgan Archives Joint Committee under powers conferred by the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994. The Joint Committee has 16 members in total. There are 4 Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC Members on the Joint Committee.

During 2018/19, the Council contributed to the Joint Committee an amount of £164k (£164k in 2017/18). This was calculated proportionately based upon population.

### **Llwydcoed Crematorium**

Llwydcoed Crematorium is subject to the control of a Joint Committee of Members from Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC and Merthyr Tydfil CBC.

During 2018/19, the Council charged Llwydcoed Crematorium £39k (£32k in 2017/18) in respect of central establishment charges. As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 the Council held cash balances relating to the Crematorium of £2,116k (£1,586k in 2017/18).

### **Education School Improvement Service (ESIS)**

ESIS became non-operational from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012 and was administered by a Joint Committee comprising Bridgend, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Councils.

Exit agreement negotiations are ongoing.

### **Central South Consortium Joint Education Service (CSCJES)**

The Central South Consortium Joint Education Service provides a range of school improvement services within the local authority areas of Bridgend, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and the Vale of Glamorgan.

The Council consolidates 27.29% of the assets, liabilities and transactions of CSCJES into its financial statements.

During 2018/19, the Council received income of £273k from CSCJES (received income of £118k in 2017/18) in respect of advisory and training services, along with grants of £19,991k (£19,114k in 2017/18), and charged CSCJES £122k (£118k in 2017/18) in respect of central establishment charges. The Council also paid CSEC expenditure of £1,097k (£1,060k in 2017/18). As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 the Council owed cash balances of £21,224k relating to CSCJES (the Council owed cash balances to CSCJES of £12,275k as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018). As part of the Joint Committee consolidation process, offsetting transactions and balances are removed from the accounts to ensure individual values are not overstated. CSCJES distributes grants to participating authorities on behalf of Welsh Government.

### **Coychurch Crematorium**

Coychurch Crematorium is owned and operated by a Joint Committee on behalf of Bridgend CBC, the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC.

At year-end there were no balances outstanding between the Council and Coychurch Crematorium.

## **Vale, Valleys and Cardiff Regional Adoption Collaborative (VVC)**

The Vale, Valleys and Cardiff Regional Adoption Collaborative (VVC) became operational on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015 and is administered by the Vale of Glamorgan Council. It is comprised of the adoption services of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, Merthyr Tydfil CBC and Cardiff City and County Council. It is one of five regional Collaboratives which form part of the National Adoption Service in Wales (NAS).

During 2018/19, the Council contributed £540k to the Vale, Valleys and Cardiff Regional Adoption Collaborative (£460k in 2017/18).

## **Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRCD)**

On 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016, the ten Council Leaders in South East Wales, the First Minister, the Welsh Government Minister for Finance and Government Business, the Secretary of State for Wales and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury signed the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, an agreement between the UK Government, the Welsh Government and the ten leaders to develop and manage £1.2 billion investment in the Cardiff Capital Region's infrastructure through a 20-year Investment Fund.

The Council consolidates 15.77% of the assets, liabilities and transactions of CCRCD into its financial statements.

During 2018/19, the Council contributed £1,941k to CCRCD (£3,817k in 2017/18).

## **28.7 Partnership Agreement**

### **Biogen Tomorrow's Valley Food Waste Plant**

The Biogen Food Waste Plant became fully operational on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2015. The 3 local authorities who form the Hub (Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, Merthyr CBC and Newport City Council) send a combined annual contracted guaranteed minimum tonnage of 13,500 tonnes to be treated at the facility. In 2018/19 a total amount of £955k (£958k in 2017/18) associated costs have been incurred by the parties, with Welsh Government contributing £124k (£124k in 2017/18) of grant funding.

## **28.8 Other Related Parties**

### **Trivallis**

Trivallis is one of Wales' largest registered social landlords providing homes for thousands of families in Rhondda Cynon Taf. There are 3 Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC Members and 1 officer on the board of Trivallis.

During 2018/19, the Council paid Trivallis £1,072k (£1,201k in 2017/18) and received income of £1,191k (£1,235k in 2017/18). At year-end, Trivallis owed £101k to the Council (£116k in 2017/18).

In line with the Council's agreed Investment Strategy, following appropriate due diligence and subject to appropriate and acceptable security arrangements being put in place, the Council entered into a commercially agreed loan arrangement with Trivallis, for an amount of £5,250k. As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 £4,750k was outstanding.

## 29.0 Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

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

	2017/18	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	411,081	435,595
<b>Capital Investment:</b>		
Property, Plant & Equipment	88,033	108,447
Intangible Assets	1,267	1,738
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute	12,461	10,964
	<b>101,761</b>	<b>121,149</b>
<b>Sources of Finance:</b>		
Capital Receipts	(1,068)	(412)
Government Grants and Other Contributions	(35,328)	(33,079)
	<b>(36,396)</b>	<b>(33,491)</b>
<b>Sums Set Aside from Revenue:</b>		
Direct Revenue Contributions	(29,797)	(42,541)
Minimum Revenue Payment	(11,054)	(11,529)
	<b>(40,851)</b>	<b>(54,070)</b>
<b>Closing Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>435,595</b>	<b>469,183</b>
<b>Explanation of Movements in Year</b>		
Increase/(Decrease) in underlying need to borrowing supported by government financial assistance)	13	(174)
Increase in underlying need to borrowing (unsupported by government financial assistance)	24,502	33,763
Finance Leases	(1)	(1)
<b>Increase/(Decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>24,514</b>	<b>33,588</b>

### 30.0 Leases

The following disclosures relate to the Council as a lessee.

#### 30.1 Finance Leases

The Council has a number of properties arranged 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:

	31/03/18	31/03/19
	£'000	£'000
Other Land and Buildings	136	128

These assets are part of the Council's impairment review.

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

	31/03/18	31/03/19
	£'000	£'000
Finance Lease Liabilities:		
Current	1	1
Long-Term	385	384
Finance costs payable in future years	1,254	1,232
<b>Minimum Lease Payments</b>	<b>1,640</b>	<b>1,617</b>

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

	Minimum Lease Payments		Finance Lease Liabilities	
	31/03/18	31/03/19	31/03/18	31/03/19
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Less than 1 year	23	23	1	1
1 to 5 years	113	90	4	3
Greater than 5 years	1,504	1,504	381	381
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,640</b>	<b>1,617</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>385</b>

The Council also acts as a lessor for 8 vehicles:

	31/03/18	31/03/19
	£'000	£'000
Finance Lease Receivables:		
Current	120	128
Long-Term	286	157
Finance costs receivable in future years	61	33
<b>Minimum Lease Receivables</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>318</b>

	Minimum Lease Receivables		Finance Lease Assets	
	31/03/18	31/03/19	31/03/18	31/03/19
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Less than 1 year	147	148	120	128
1 to 5 years	320	170	286	157
Greater than 5 years	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>285</b>

### 30.2 Operating Leases

The future minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable operating leases in future years are demonstrated in the table below. Examples of such assets utilised under operating lease arrangements are photocopiers and printers.

	31/03/18			31/03/19		
	Other Land & Buildings	Vehicles, Plant & Equip.	Totals	Other Land & Buildings	Vehicles, Plant & Equip.	Totals
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Not later than 1 year	612	1,195	1,807	403	768	1,171
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	2,002	1,369	3,371	1,295	1,297	2,592
Later than 5 years	8,253	566	8,819	7,224	590	7,814
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,867</b>	<b>3,130</b>	<b>13,997</b>	<b>8,922</b>	<b>2,655</b>	<b>11,577</b>

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

	31/03/18	31/03/19
	£'000	£'000
Minimum Lease Payments	2,362	1,949

### 30.3 Sub-Leases

The Council has sub-let office accommodation at Valleys Innovation Centre. Non-cancellable sub-lease payments of £81k per annum are expected to be received until expiry of the lease agreement, as shown in the table below:

	2017/18	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
Less than 1 year	60	81
1 to 5 years	59	12
Greater than 5 years	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>93</b>

### **31.0 Impairment Losses**

During 2018/19, the Council has recognised an impairment loss of £30.9m (a loss of £20.5m in 2017/18) in relation to its Long-Term Assets. This impairment charge is included within the Long-Term Asset note 6.1, which also includes reversal of impairment from previous years.

### **32.0 Retirement Benefits - Defined Benefit Schemes**

#### **32.1 Participation in Pension Schemes**

As part of their terms and conditions Members and Officers are offered retirement benefits by the Council. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until retirement, the Council has a commitment to make these payments. The liability for these payments needs to be accounted for at the time the future entitlement is earned.

The Council participates in two pension schemes:

- Teachers - Please refer to note 33.0.
- Other Employees and Members - The Local Government Pension Scheme administered by Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC. This is a funded defined benefit career average scheme. The Council and participants pay contributions into the fund calculated at a level intended to balance the pensions liabilities with investment assets. The pension costs that are charged to the Council's accounts are defined by IAS 19 "Employee Benefits".

The CSCJES Joint Committee charges pension costs to their accounts in line with IAS 19. The Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC share of these entries is consolidated into the main accounts, and disclosed in the following notes.

#### **32.2 Transactions Relating to Post-Employment Benefits**

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

	2017/18	2018/19		
		RCT	Joint Comm's	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:</b>				
Cost of Services:				
Current Service Cost	41,259	43,580	252	43,832
Past Service Cost	1,117	22,100	26	22,126
Consolidation Adjustment	(1)	0	1	1
<i>Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure:</i>				
Net Interest Expense	14,589	15,380	1	15,381
<b>Total Post Employment Benefit charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>	<b>56,964</b>	<b>81,060</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>81,340</b>
<b>Remeasurement of the Net Defined Benefit Liability Comprising:</b>				
Return on Plan Assets (Excluding the Amount Included in the Net Interest Expense)	(24,290)	(75,430)	(471)	(75,901)
Actuarial (Gains) and Losses Arising on Liabilities - Demographic Assumptions	0	(66,990)	(267)	(67,257)
Actuarial (Gains) and Losses Arising on Liabilities - Financial Assumptions	28,607	95,140	398	95,538
Actuarial (Gains) and Losses Arising on Liabilities - Experience	8,062	2,610	10	2,620
Net Increase in Liabilities from Disposals/Aquisitions on Liabilities - Experience	(193)	0	0	0
Consolidation Adjustment	0	0	(4)	(4)
<b>Total Post Employment Benefit charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</b>	<b>69,150</b>	<b>36,390</b>	<b>(54)</b>	<b>36,336</b>
<b>Movement in Reserves Statement:</b>				
Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit for the Provision of Services for post employment benefits in accordance with the code	(56,964)	(81,060)	(280)	(81,340)
Actual amount charged against the Council Fund Balance for pensions in the year:				
Employers' contributions payable to scheme	36,340	39,430	126	39,556

The total remeasurement of the Net Defined Benefit Liability recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 is a gain of £45.0m (£12.2m loss in 2017/18).

The cumulative amount of actuarial gains and losses recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 is a loss of £98.0m.

### 32.3 Reconciliation of Present Value of the Scheme Liabilities

	2017/18	2018/19		
		RCT	Joint Comm's	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Balance at 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>1,564,560</b>	<b>1,637,370</b>	<b>6,752</b>	<b>1,644,122</b>
Current Service Cost	41,259	43,580	252	43,832
Interest Cost on Defined Obligation	40,172	42,040	168	42,208
Contributions by scheme participants	8,282	8,480	73	8,553
<b><i>Remeasurement (Gains) and Losses</i></b>				
Actuarial (Gains) and Losses Arising on Liabilities - Demographic Assumptions	0	(66,990)	(267)	(67,257)
Actuarial (Gains) and Losses Arising on Liabilities - Financial Assumptions	28,607	95,140	398	95,538
Actuarial (Gains) and Losses Arising on Liabilities - Experience	8,062	2,610	10	2,620
Benefits paid	(47,920)	(50,010)	(193)	(50,203)
Past service costs	1,117	22,100	26	22,126
Consolidation Adjustment	(17)	0	(245)	(245)
<b>Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>1,644,122</b>	<b>1,734,320</b>	<b>6,974</b>	<b>1,741,294</b>

**32.4 Reconciliation of Fair Value of the Scheme Assets**

	2017/18	2018/19		
		RCT	Joint Comm's	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Balance at 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>985,512</b>	<b>1,025,610</b>	<b>6,654</b>	<b>1,032,264</b>
Interest Income	25,583	26,660	167	26,827
<b><i>Remeasurement (Gains) and Losses:</i></b>				
The Return on Plan Assets, Excluding the Amount Included in the Net Interest Expense	24,290	75,430	471	75,901
Employer contributions	36,340	39,430	126	39,556
Contributions by scheme participants	8,282	8,480	73	8,553
Benefits paid	(47,920)	(50,010)	(193)	(50,203)
Net Increase in Assets from Disposals/Aquisitions	193	0	0	0
Consolidation Adjustment	(16)	0	(242)	(242)
<b>Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>1,032,264</b>	<b>1,125,600</b>	<b>7,056</b>	<b>1,132,656</b>

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

Expected returns on equity investments reflect long-term real rates of return experienced in the respective markets. The actual return on scheme assets in the year was a gain of £102.71m (£49.87m gain in 2017/18).

**32.5 Scheme History**

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
	Inc Joint Comm's				
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Present Value of the Defined Obligation	(1,399,724)	(1,349,822)	(1,564,560)	(1,644,122)	(1,741,294)
Fair Value of Plan Assets	811,839	834,277	985,512	1,032,264	1,132,656
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(587,885)</b>	<b>(515,545)</b>	<b>(579,048)</b>	<b>(611,858)</b>	<b>(608,638)</b>

The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the Council has in the long run to pay post employment (retirement) benefits. The total liability of £609m has a substantial impact on the Net Worth of the Council as recorded in the Balance Sheet. However, statutory arrangements for funding the deficit mean that the financial position of the Council is not impacted upon. The deficit on the local government scheme will be made good in line with actuarial assumptions.

### 32.6 Local Government Pension Scheme Assets

As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018, the Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund Assets used in IAS19 calculations comprised of:

<b>Fair Value of Scheme Assets</b>		
	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
UK Equities	657,668	345,524
Overseas Equities	1,775,137	1,726,196
UK Fixed Interest Gilts	274,407	407,756
UK Corporate Bonds	276,825	336,260
Overseas Government Bonds	2,735	25,109
Overseas Corporate Bonds	29,407	36,166
Property	175,043	221,127
Cash and Net Current Assets	61,066	113,635
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,252,288</b>	<b>3,211,773</b>

### 32.7 Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

#### **Roll-forward of Assets**

The valuation results from the last full valuation of the Fund (or results at the previous accounting date as appropriate) are adjusted to the accounting year-end allowing for:

- Investment returns, and
- Cash-flows including investment returns on those cashflows.

The asset value at the start of the accounting period is accumulated with the Fund investment return over the accounting period. Net cashflows are assumed to be paid half way through the period and accrue half of the Fund investment return over the period.

#### **Roll-forward of Liabilities**

The valuation results from the last full valuation of the Fund (or results at the previous accounting date as appropriate) are adjusted to allow for the later calculation date (by adding interest to the liabilities) and make allowance for changes in liabilities due to:

- The accrual of new benefits and the discharge of liabilities from the payment of benefits.
- The financial and demographic assumptions adopted at the year-end.
- The impact of any known experience affecting the liabilities, such as the impact of actual pension increases on pensions in payment and deferred benefits.
- If applicable, the impact of events which result in a change in the liability such as past service costs, settlements and curtailments.

The full valuation was based on funded benefits and the principal assumptions used by the actuary have been:

	31/03/18	31/03/19
Long-Term Expected Rate of Return on Assets in the Scheme (in line with the discount rate)	4.5%	4.5%
Mortality assumptions:		
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners:		
Men	22.9	22.2
Women	25.0	24.1
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners:		
Men	25.1	23.9
Women	27.3	25.9
Rate of inflation (RPI)	3.2%	3.3%
Rate of inflation (CPI)	2.1%	2.2%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.35%	3.45%
Rate of increase in pensions	2.1%	2.2%
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	2.6%	2.4%
Take-up of option to convert annual pension into retirement lump sum:		
Post-2010 Service	80%	80%
Pre-2010 Service	80%	80%

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. The sensitivity analysis below have been determined based on reasonably possible changes of the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period and assumes for each change that the assumption analysed changes while all the other assumptions remain constant.

	RCT		Joint Committes		Total	
	Increase in Assumption	Decrease in Assumption	Increase in Assumption	Decrease in Assumption	Increase in Assumption	Decrease in Assumption
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Longevity (Increase or Decrease in 1 Year)	55,080	(54,490)	225	(223)	55,305	(54,713)
Rate of Increase in Salaries (Increase or Decrease by 0.1%)	6,910	(6,840)	32	(32)	6,942	(6,872)
Rate of Increase in Pensions (Increase or Decrease by 0.1%)	25,520	(25,100)	106	(105)	25,626	(25,205)
Rate for Discounting Scheme Liabilities (Increase or Decrease by 0.1%)	(31,880)	32,490	(136)	139	(32,016)	32,629

### **32.8 Contributions for the Accounting Period ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

The Employer's regular contributions to the Fund for the accounting period 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 are estimated to be £38.2m. In addition, "strain on fund" contributions may be required.

Further information can be found in the Pension Fund Annual Report, which is available on request from the Director of Finance & Digital Services, Bronwydd House, Porth, Rhondda, CF39 9DL.

### **33.0 Retirement Benefits - Defined Contribution Schemes**

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

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

In 2018/19, the Council paid £12.9m to Teachers' Pensions in respect of teachers' retirement benefits, representing 16.48% of pensionable pay. The figures for 2017/18 were £12.8m, also representing 16.48% of pensionable pay. In addition, the Council is responsible for all pension payments relating to added years that it has awarded, together with related increases. In 2018/19 these amounted to £822k (£838k in 2017/18).

The Council is responsible for the costs of any additional benefits awarded upon early retirement outside of the terms of the teachers' scheme. These costs are accounted for on a defined benefit basis.

### **34.0 Contingent Liabilities**

#### **34.1 Insurance**

The Council is liable for insurance claims made against it in respect of certain events. A provision is made in respect of claims received as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. There is a further contingent liability in respect of events which will have occurred but which have not resulted in a claim being made as at the date of the accounts. The "statute of limitation" sets out the timescale by which a claim will have to be made in respect of such past events. An earmarked reserve has been set up to provide towards the costs of these incidents.

Due to the volume and differing circumstances of each potential claim it is impractical to provide an estimate of the possible financial effect. Similarly, it is impractical to provide an indication of uncertainties relating to the amount and timing of such liabilities.

Insurance claims are also referenced in note 4.3.

### **34.2 Municipal Mutual Insurance Ltd.**

The former authorities of Rhondda Borough Council, Cynon Valley Borough Council, Taff Ely Borough Council and Mid Glamorgan County Council are creditors of Municipal Mutual Insurance Ltd. (MMI). MMI ceased to write new insurance business from 30<sup>th</sup> September 1992 and a Scheme of Arrangement was put in place in January 1994. The scheme was set up to ensure an orderly run off of claims in the event of MMI not being solvent. As creditors of MMI, the Council is legally bound by the Scheme and in November 2012, the scheme was triggered.

Future claim settlements by MMI will be made at a level of 75% with the funding of the remaining 25% being met from the former authorities' funds. Correspondence from the scheme administrator states that it is not possible to guarantee that the initial and second levy, paid in February 2014 and May 2016, will be sufficient but they are the best estimates given the current position. The scheme requires the administrator to review the Levy at least once a year. Given the uncertainty regarding how sufficient the initial clawback will be, a contingent liability exists as the Council could be subject to further clawback dependent upon the resources of MMI, the insurer.

### **35.0 Trust Funds**

The Council acts as sole trustees for various charities. Separate accounts are maintained for these. Net assets as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 are shown as follows and are not included in the Council's Balance Sheet. The 2018/19 figures are draft, subject to audit (the Wales Audit Office for Welsh Church Act, the Regional Internal Audit Service for the other funds).

	Description	31/03/18	31/03/19
		£'000	£'000
Education & Miscellaneous	Various funds established for educational and community benefits	251	259
Rhondda Cynon Taf Charity for the Visually Impaired	Fund established for the benefit of visually impaired citizens	76	45
Welsh Church Act Fund	Fund established under the Welsh Church Act for various charitable aims within the counties of Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil and Bridgend	12,253	12,720

## RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2018/19

#### 1. **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The Council's [Corporate Plan 2016 - 2020](#) sets the overall direction for the Authority describing the vision, purpose and priorities to be delivered.

1.2 The Council's agreed Vision, purpose and priorities are:

- Vision - For a County Borough that has high aspirations, is confident and promotes opportunity for all.
- Purpose - To provide strong community leadership and effective services for the people of Rhondda Cynon Taf to enable them to fulfil their potential and prosper.
- Priorities:
  - Economy - Building a strong economy;
  - People - Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone; and
  - Place - Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work.

1.3 Underpinning the above priorities is the cross-cutting theme of 'Living Within Our Means' that focusses on robust financial management arrangements to ensure the Council maintains its financial stability and makes the best use of scarce resources.

1.4 This Annual Governance Statement sets out for the community, service users, tax payers and other stakeholders the Council's governance arrangements together with a review of their effectiveness in managing risks of failure in delivering Corporate Plan priorities.

#### 2. **SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY**

2.1 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

2.2 In discharging this overall responsibility, the Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs and facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, which includes the arrangements for the management of risk.

- 2.3 The Council, in compiling the Annual Governance Statement, has adopted the *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016)* developed by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE). In doing so, the Annual Governance Statement meets the Council's legal duty as set out in the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014, as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018.
- 2.4 The Council's Annual Governance Statement aims to provide an accurate representation of the governance arrangements in place for financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

### 3. **THE PURPOSE OF THE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK**

- 3.1 The governance framework comprises the systems, processes and cultural values by which the Council is directed and controlled, and the activities through which it accounts to, engages with and leads the community. It enables the Council to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate, cost-effective services.
- 3.2 For Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, governance is about ensuring that the Council does the right things, in the right way, for the right people, in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner.
- 3.3 The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage the risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve aims and objectives, and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.
- 3.4 The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Council's priorities, to evaluate the likelihood and impact of those risks materialising, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.
- 3.5 The governance framework outlined below has been in place at Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 (and up to the date of approval of the 2018/19 Statement of Accounts).

#### 4. **THE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK**

- 4.1 The Council has a range of governance arrangements in place, in line with the *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016)*, many of which are set out within its [Constitution](#). Table 1 provides examples of the key systems, processes and documents that were in place during 2018/19.

Table 1 – Examples of the key elements of the Council’s governance arrangements

<b>Good Governance Principles</b>	<b>Examples of key systems, processes and documents in place within the Council</b>
Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rule of law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Elected Councillor and Officer Codes of Conduct</a> - setting out the standards of behaviour to be followed based on the principles of integrity, honesty, impartiality and objectivity.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Rules of Procedure</a> - covering Council, Open Government, Access to Information, Budget and Policy Framework, Executive, Overview and Scrutiny, Officer Employment and Contract and Financial Procedure Rules. The rules set out arrangements to be followed by elected Councillors and Officers when conducting the Council’s business with the aim of publicly demonstrating accountability and openness.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Standards Committee</a> - the role of which includes, amongst other things, promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by elected Councillors.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Whistle-blowing Policy</a> - promoting the highest possible standards of service and setting out how workers can bring information about a wrongdoing to the attention of the Council.</li> <li>• Anti-fraud, Bribery &amp; Corruption Strategy.</li> <li>• Gifts and hospitality Policy.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Comments, Compliments and Complaints</a> - setting out how the Council handles and responds to feedback (complaints, compliments and comments).</li> <li>• Officer Guide.</li> </ul>
Ensuring Openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <a href="#">Publication Scheme</a> that aims to advise citizens how to request public information the Authority holds.</li> <li>• Clear and open <a href="#">Corporate &amp; Service Specific Privacy Notices</a>.</li> <li>• Forward plans for Committee meetings together with the matters to be considered, where appropriate.</li> </ul>

<b>Good Governance Principles</b>	<b>Examples of key systems, processes and documents in place within the Council</b>
Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance Management Framework.</li> <li>• Corporate Plan and Service Delivery Plans.</li> <li>• Quarterly Performance Report (including Risk Register updates).</li> <li>• Risk Management Strategy.</li> <li>• Annual Revenue Budget Strategy and three year Capital Programme.</li> </ul>
Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium Term Financial Plan.</li> <li>• Scrutiny Committees.</li> </ul>
Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporate and Service Self-Evaluation process.</li> <li>• Corporate Plan.</li> <li>• Programme of elected Councillor and Officer training and development.</li> <li>• Workforce Plan 2017-22.</li> <li>• Schemes of Delegation.</li> </ul>
Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporate and Service Self-Evaluation process.</li> <li>• Risk Management Strategy.</li> <li>• Service Delivery Planning.</li> <li>• Quarterly Performance Report (including Risk Register updates).</li> <li>• Corporate Performance Report (i.e. year-end annual report).</li> <li>• Audit Committee and an Internal Audit function.</li> <li>• Information Management Plan (including General Data Protection Regulation).</li> <li>• Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules and Contract and Financial Procedure Rules.</li> <li>• Medium Term Financial Plan.</li> </ul>
Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting protocols and calendars (including forward looking work programmes, for example, for Cabinet and Scrutiny Committees).</li> <li>• Statement of Accounts.</li> <li>• Annual Governance Statement.</li> <li>• Production of Annual Reports on key areas of business e.g. Corporate Parenting, Annual Equality Report.</li> <li>• Internal Audit external assessment and Charter.</li> <li>• Pension Fund Committee.</li> </ul>

- 4.2 The *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016)* supports the principle for local authorities to develop and maintain an up-to-date local code of governance. In previous years, the Council did not have a standalone 'code' and instead referred to policies and documents listed within its Constitution as evidence of appropriate arrangements. However, following the proposal for improvement in last year's Annual Governance Statement, a draft Local Code of Corporate Governance has now been developed and will be reported to the Council's Audit Committee at its meeting on [29<sup>th</sup> April 2019](#).

## 5. **REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS**

- 5.1 The Council has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, an assessment of its governance framework including the system of internal control.
- 5.2 The exercise has entailed reviewing the activities in place around the Council's main governance arrangements, discussing governance arrangements with senior officers across services and taking account of the findings from the Council's corporate assessment and external auditor reports.
- 5.3 The findings and proposals for improvement have been reviewed and challenged by the Council's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and Audit Committee, and have been set out in line with the *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016)*.

#### 5.4 PROGRESS MADE TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENT REPORTED IN THE 2017/18 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

5.4.1 The 2017/18 Annual Governance Statement identified 9 proposals for improvement. An update on progress was reported to the Council's Audit Committee on [17<sup>th</sup> December 2018](#) and following consideration the Committee **RESOLVED**: *'That the progress made to implement the recommendations was satisfactory'*.

5.4.2 For completeness, the status of each proposal for improvement has been provided as follows:

Core Principle / Area	Issue Identified	Recommendation	Responsible Officer & Timescale	Status / Update
<b>The Governance Framework</b>	The Council's governance arrangements comprise a number of codes and documents and are not brought together to form a local code of governance as set out in the national framework.	In line with the national framework, the Council should document and publish its arrangements within a local code of governance, following review and approval by elected Councillors.	Service Director – Performance and Improvement  Qtr 2 2018/19  Revised Timescale: Qtr 4 2018/19	<b>Implemented.</b>  Refer to paragraph 4.2 of the Annual Governance Statement.
<b>Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law</b>	A number of actions were taken to raise awareness of policies and strategies within the Council; however, no information is collected around the extent of understanding.	Policies and Strategies - undertake engagement within the Council to assess the level of awareness and understanding of the Whistle-blowing Policy, Anti-fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy, Gifts and Hospitality Policy and induction arrangements.	Head of Organisational Development  Qtr 3 2018/19	<b>Implemented.</b>  Refer to paragraph 5.5.8 of the Annual Governance Statement.

Core Principle / Area	Issue Identified	Recommendation	Responsible Officer & Timescale	Status / Update
<p><b>Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law</b></p>	<p>Complaints and Comments - no regular analysis is produced and provided to Services to support performance management arrangements, for example, the number and type of complaints, and recurring themes.</p>	<p>Comments, compliments and complaints (non-social services) – introduce arrangements to enable regular complaint analysis to be provided to Services.</p> <p>Complaints and Comments - no update is produced on a periodic basis to summarise the non-social services related complaints and concerns received and action taken.</p>	<p>Head of Legal - Corporate And Democratic Services</p> <p>Qtr 2 2018/19</p>	<p><b>In Progress</b></p> <p>Refer to paragraphs 5.5.14 to 5.5.15 of the Annual Governance Statement.</p>
<p><b>Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits</b></p>	<p>Draft Corporate Plan priority action plans were not subject to pre-scrutiny in 2017/18.</p>	<p>Draft Corporate Plan priority action plans for 2018/19 should be subject to pre-scrutiny to assess, amongst other things, the basis of performance indicator targets and whether the actions included will help to deliver defined outcomes.</p>	<p>Service Director – Performance &amp; Improvement and Performance Manager</p> <p>Qtr 1 2018/19</p>	<p><b>Implemented.</b></p> <p>Refer to paragraph 5.7.2 of the Annual Governance Statement.</p>

Core Principle / Area	Issue Identified	Recommendation	Responsible Officer & Timescale	Status / Update
<b>Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and individuals within it</b>	Although evaluation forms are in place to gauge the value of training and development activities, feedback is limited.	In view of the limited level of training feedback provided, engage with attendees to identify alternative methods of obtaining feedback to ensure that training resources provide maximum benefit.	Head of Organisational Development  Qtr 1 2018/19 onwards	<b>Implemented.</b>  Post-training feedback requests continue to be sent electronically to attendees of training events (and feedback analysed) together with face-to-face dialogue with Council officers – this will be an on-going process.
<b>Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management</b>	The Council's risk management processes were reviewed in 2017/18 and improvements introduced to further strengthen arrangements. However, the Risk Management Strategy document was not reviewed / updated.	Review the Council's Risk Management Strategy document to assess whether it remains fit for purpose. Where revisions are deemed required, these should be reported to elected Councillors for review and sign off before being re-published.	Head of Internal Audit and Procurement Development Programmes  Qtr 3 2018/19	<b>Implemented.</b>  Refer to paragraph 5.10.1 of the Annual Governance Statement.

Core Principle / Area	Issue Identified	Recommendation	Responsible Officer & Timescale	Status / Update
<b>Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management</b>	Audit Committee – no self-assessment has been undertaken against the standards set out in the CIPFA document 'Audit Committees: Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police - 2013 Edition'. This has been delayed due to awaiting receipt of updated guidance.	The Council's Audit Committee, in consultation with the Head of Internal Audit, should undertake a self-assessment against the Standards as set out in the CIPFA document 'Audit Committees: Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police. 2018 Edition'.	Head of Internal Audit and Procurement Development Programmes  Revised Timescale: Qtr 4 2018/19	<b>Implemented.</b>  Refer to paragraph 5.10.11 of the Annual Governance Statement.
	The Council's Financial Procedure Rules document has not been reviewed for 2 years.	Review, and where required, update the Council's Financial Procedure Rules and report revisions to elected Councillors for consideration / approval.	Service Director – Performance & Improvement -Qtr 2 2018/19	<b>In progress</b> Refer to paragraph 5.10.17 of the Annual Governance Statement.
<b>Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability</b>	The Annual Governance Statement is not a stand-alone document on the Council's website.	To increase the prominence / awareness of the Annual Governance Statement, this should be a stand-alone document on the Council's website.	Head of Internal Audit and Procurement Development Programmes  Qtr 2 2018/19	<b>Implemented.</b>  Refer to paragraph 5.11.4 of the Annual Governance Statement.

5.4.3 Based on the year-end update, it is considered that, overall, good progress has been made to implement the 9 proposals for improvement reported in 2017/18 i.e. 7 implemented and 2 currently 'in-progress'. The 2 proposals for improvement currently 'in-progress' will be carried forward for full implementation in 2019/20.

## 5.5 BEHAVING WITH INTEGRITY, DEMONSTRATING STRONG COMMITMENT TO ETHICAL VALUES AND RESPECTING THE RULE OF LAW

### Behaving with integrity

#### Elected Members<sup>1</sup>

- 5.5.1 The Council's Scrutiny Committee meeting minutes were examined to determine whether proceedings were conducted in line with the Council's Code of Conduct. This identified that all Minutes showed that declarations of interest were sought and declarations were made by elected Councillors, where appropriate.

#### The Standards Committee

- 5.5.2 A Standards Committee was in place during the year to promote, maintain and oversee high standards of conduct by elected Members. It is noted that the Terms of Reference for the Standards Committee is included within the Council's Constitution.
- 5.5.3 During 2018/19 the Standards Committee had a work-plan in place, met on 4 occasions and produced an Annual Report for 2018/19 that was reported to and agreed by the Committee at its meeting held on [22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019](#).
- 5.5.4 In addition, the conduct of 1 elected Member as reported to the Standards Committee for investigation during 2018/19 and was considered at its meeting held on [22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018](#). Following consideration of the evidence provided and the statements of witnesses, the Committee found that whilst there was a basis to the complaint, no further action was required.

#### Council employees

- 5.5.5 All officers who started employment within the Council were provided with a local induction and an Individual Performance Review process was in place to support the personal development of officers. The overall arrangements were managed by the Council's Human Resources Service and it was noted that a progress update was reported to the SLT to ensure reviews were being undertaken on a timely basis.

#### Arrangements in place to tackle potential misappropriation

- 5.5.6 In the event that an officer decides to operate outside of the intended terms and conditions of employment, arrangements were in place for officers to "blow the whistle" through the Council's [Whistleblowing Policy & Procedure](#).
- 5.5.7 In addition to the Whistleblowing arrangements, there were arrangements in place to tackle potential [fraud, bribery and corruption](#).

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<sup>1</sup> Elected Members – also referred to as elected Councillors

5.5.8 The Audit Committee has overall responsibility for overseeing the governance arrangements in place in respect of whistleblowing and tackling potential fraud, bribery and corruption. Key reports received by Audit Committee during the year in respect of these arrangements were:

- [5<sup>th</sup> November 2018](#)

*Anti-Fraud, Bribery & Corruption Interim Update, including an overview of the National Fraud Initiative*

This report provided Audit Committee with an interim update of activities carried out in relation to the prevention, detection and investigation of potential fraud during 2018/19. In addition, an overview of the National Fraud Initiative was delivered.

- [4<sup>th</sup> February 2019](#)

*Staff Survey 2018*

This report provided Members with the outcomes of the staff survey undertaken between November 2018 and December 2018 (feedback results based on 1,141 participants out of 5,994 non-school based staff – a 19% participation rate). The survey aimed to assess general awareness of the Council's whistleblowing and anti-fraud arrangements, and the report made the following recommendations:

- ACTION 1

Remind staff of the importance of feeling empowered to report any suspicions that they may have (because 16.6% of respondents fed back they did not feel empowered to speak up when they spot an urgent problem and 13.7% fed back they were 'not sure').

- ACTION 2

Re-assure staff that they will not be the subject of any repercussions if they come forward and "blow the whistle" on a colleague (because 41.4% of respondents fed back they did not feel confident that they would not be subject to repercussions from the Council if they reported a concern).

- ACTION 3

Devise a simplified communication for staff that summarises the Council's whistleblowing and anti-fraud arrangements. Also, recommunicate to staff where full copies of the Policies can be found (because 41.6% of respondents fed back they did not know of any policies to guide them if they felt they spotted a problem e.g. Whistleblowing Policy, Anti-fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy).

5.5.9 Whilst Audit Committee accepted the recommendations set out in the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019 Report, the Committee were keen for Officers to analyse the feedback further with the aim of assessing whether particular themes or

concerns from staff were prevalent within specific service areas of the Council. To address this, an additional action was agreed:

- ACTION 4  
Review the detailed feedback received from the survey and use this to target resources in areas identified that could improve the arrangements further.
- 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019  
Two reports were presented to the Committee (in relation to governance arrangements):
  - Whistleblowing Annual Report 2018/19; and
  - Anti-Fraud, Bribery & Corruption Annual Report 2018/19.

Both reports set out the governance arrangements in place in respect of tackling potential misappropriation and summarised the work delivered during the 2018/19 financial year. The reports also included a forward plan of targeted activity for 2019/20 that was consistent with the outcomes of the staff consultation exercise undertaken between November 2018 - December 2018 and the feedback received from Audit Committee at its meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

- 5.5.10 Based on the activities undertaken to oversee the areas of whistleblowing and anti-fraud together with the work delivered to investigate, tackle and help prevent such occurrences materialising, it is concluded that the overall arrangements in place are sufficient.
- 5.5.11 Gifts and Hospitality Policy - the Council has a Gifts and Hospitality Policy and arrangements were in place, via registers, to record gifts and hospitality in line with the Policy.

### Comments, Compliments and Complaints

#### *Social Services*

- 5.5.12 A report was presented to Cabinet at its meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018 setting out an overview of the Council's statutory Social Services complaints procedure for the period April 2017 and March 2018. The report provided a summary of all complaints and compliments received, and concluded by identifying occasions where lessons learnt exercises had resulted in changes to relevant procedures / protocols.
- 5.5.13 The Report noted that a total of 162 complaints were received requiring a response at stage one and this represented a decrease of 20 complaints when compared to the previous year. Of the 162 stage one complaints received, 3 progressed to stage two with 1 complaint being received directly at stage 2 of the process. The report stated that, overall, the number of

complaints received was comparatively low when compared to the number of people that come into contact with Social Services annually.

#### *Non-social services comments, compliments and complaints*

- 5.5.14 The absence of an annual report that summarises all non-social services comments, compliments and complaints was identified as an area for improvement within last year's Annual Governance Statement.
- 5.5.15 During 2018/19, work took place to centralise resources in respect of all comments, compliments and complaints into one team. The Council now has a central team that manages all such correspondence and this covers non-social services and social services. It is noted that arrangements were also put in place to enable information to be analysed and reported on.

### **Demonstrating a strong commitment to ethical values**

#### Elected Members

- 5.5.16 Further to the Local Government Elections in May 2017, all elected Members received induction training on the Member's Code of Conduct that supports the principle of ethical values. However, it is noted that no refresher training in respect of the Code of Conduct has been delivered since this time (see 5.9.14).

#### The Council's supply chains

- 5.5.17 The Welsh Government has issued a voluntary 'Code of Practice: Ethical Employment in Supply Chains'. The Code of Practice aims to support the development of more ethical supply chains to deliver contracts for the Welsh public sector and third sector organisations in receipt of public funds. Work has taken place during 2018/19 to formalise the necessary arrangements that will enable the Council to demonstrate conformance with the 12 Principles contained within the Code. As a result of the work delivered during 2018/19, an updated Ethical Procurement Strategy will be reported to scrutiny during the 2019/20 Municipal Year. Once the Strategy has been approved, there will be a requirement to produce a report for scrutiny each year.

### **Respecting the rule of law**

- 5.5.18 The Chief Executive (as Head of Paid Service) led the Council's officers and chaired the SLT. The SLT comprises, in addition to other key posts, the statutory roles of Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer.
- 5.5.19 With effect from 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019, the Council appointed a new Chief Finance Officer following the previous Chief Finance Officer leaving the Council. The new appointment was approved by full Council on [6<sup>th</sup> March 2019](#).
- 5.5.20 With specific regard to the Chief Finance Officer position within the Council during 2018/19, the role complied with the principles outlined in the CIPFA

document '[The Role of Chief Finance Officer](#)' because the Chief Finance Officer:

- *Was a key member of the Leadership Team, helping it to develop and implement strategy and to resource and deliver the organisation's strategic objectives sustainably and in the public interest;*
- *Was actively involved in, and able to bring influence to bear on, all material business decisions to ensure immediate and longer term implications, opportunities and risks are fully considered, and alignment with the organisation's financial strategy; and*
- *Leads the promotion and delivery by the whole organisation of good financial management so that public money is safeguarded at all times and used appropriately, economically, efficiently and effectively.*

*To deliver these responsibilities the Chief Financial Officer:*

- *Led and directed a finance function that was resourced to be fit for purpose; and*
- *Is professionally qualified and suitably experienced.*

## PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- 5.5.21 Staff survey - using the staff survey results (around whistle-blowing and anti-fraud, bribery and corruption), deliver a targeted programme of awareness raising to those service areas identified as requiring support (paragraph 5.5.9).
- 5.5.22 Non-social services comments, compliments and complaints - annual reporting arrangements should be put in place to report details to the relevant scrutiny committee of non-social services comments, compliments and complaints received (with the first report covering the period April 2018 to March 2019). (paragraphs 5.5.14 and 5.5.15).

## 5.6 ENSURING OPENNESS AND COMPREHENSIVE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

### Openness

#### A commitment to openness

##### *General Data Protection Regulation*

5.6.1 The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018. The Council took steps to demonstrate accountability and transparency when handling and processing personal and sensitive information that it holds in respect of individuals by:

- Putting in place an updated Data Protection Policy and designating the post of Data Protection Officer to an existing member of staff (as approved by Cabinet on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018). In addition, a new Data Protection web-page was launched.
- Formally recording the lawful basis upon which data / information is processed within suites of documents called Data Protection Registers.
- Establishing 'Privacy Notices' that are available on the Council's website setting out how it intends to use information and how it will deliver its services and statutory responsibilities.

5.6.2 It is considered that the publication of this information supports the Council in complying with the GDPR and demonstrates openness and transparency when dealing with its customers.

##### *Freedom of Information*

5.6.3 The Council operated a Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 publication scheme in accordance with legislative requirements. During 2018/19 the Council received 1,144 FOI/Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) requests. Response statistics and any complaints investigated by the Information Commissioner's Office concerning FOI/EIR requests are reported through the Information Management Board's quarterly meeting highlight reports and allows the Board to maintain an overview of the Council's compliance with the relevant legislation.

5.6.4 The Council's website provided information on the [Freedom of Information Act 2000](#) and a [Publication Scheme](#) was in place to advise citizens how to request public information the Council holds.

#### Openness – Forward work programmes

5.6.5 The Council had in place a forward plan of Committee meetings together with the matters to be considered, where appropriate:

- The [23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018](#) Council meeting agreed and published a calendar of meetings for the 2018/19 municipal year for Cabinet, Council, Licensing Committee, Audit Committee and the Planning & Development Committee, in line with its Constitution;
- Cabinet published its work programme on [21<sup>st</sup> June 2018](#) for the 2018/19 municipal year and refreshed this on three occasions: [20<sup>th</sup> September 2018](#), [18<sup>th</sup> December 2018](#), [19<sup>th</sup> March 2019](#); and
- Scrutiny Committees agreed work programmes and these were publicly available on a stand-alone [Scrutiny Work Programme](#) page on the Council's website, in line with a proposal for improvement made by the Wales Audit Office previously.

5.6.6 Committee Work Programmes are an important tool for Members to assist them in viewing items that are coming forward to Committees and for other Committees to utilise to prevent duplication of work and assist with pre-scrutiny. Work Programmes also assist members of the public to engage in the democratic process of the Council. It is noted that some work programmes have been more weighted in terms of the number of reports being presented at individual committees and whilst aiming to deliver more qualitative information, in some cases this has resulted in work programmes covering too broad a range of topics.

#### Decision making and scrutiny of decisions made

5.6.7 Cabinet is a key decision making body within the Council. From a review of reports presented to Cabinet during 2018/19:

- All reports were in the required format;
- A total of 106 reports were presented, 94 of which were made publicly available and 12 were excluded from the press / public on the grounds that the items of business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information, for example, commercially sensitive information; and
- For all decisions made by Cabinet during the year, 'Decision Notices' were published on the Council's website and did not become effective (i.e. implementable) until the expiry of the required 'call-in' period.
- Since April 2018, two Cabinet decisions were called in:
  - Development of Community Hubs as outlined within a report to the [19<sup>th</sup> April 2018](#) Cabinet meeting.
    - The 'call-in' was considered by a special meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on [30<sup>th</sup> April 2018](#) in which elected Member concerns were addressed and following consideration the Committee resolved that "*the matter not be referred back to*

*the Cabinet for reconsideration and the decision taken on 19 April take effect....”*

- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme - Proposals to Reorganise Primary Schools, Secondary Schools and Sixth Form Provision in the Greater Pontypridd Area as outlined within a report to Cabinet on the [21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019](#).
  - The ‘call-in’ was considered by a special meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on the [3rd April 2019](#) and 2 ‘call-in’ forms were received in relation to this decision. Following consideration of the concerns highlighted within both ‘call-in’ forms, the Committee resolved that the matter not be referred back to the Cabinet for reconsideration and the decision taken on the 21<sup>st</sup> March would take effect.

5.6.8 Decisions taken by designated officers in 2018/19, called Delegated Decisions, were published on the Council’s [website](#). A total of 33 Delegated Decisions were published, none were called in and did not become effective (i.e. implementable) until the expiry of the required ‘call-in’ period.

#### **Engagement with residents / stakeholders**

5.6.9 The Council set out its commitment to engage with residents and stakeholders in its ‘Corporate Plan 2016 – 2020’ to help achieve the outcome of ‘more involved and resilient communities’.

5.6.10 This commitment is supported through a dedicated [Consultation page](#) on the Council’s website and a wider commitment by the Council to engagement via the [Public Services Board](#).

5.6.11 During the year, the Council undertook a variety of consultation exercises, some in partnership with other public sector organisations. The results of consultation activity and engagement with local community groups have been included within reports to Cabinet, where relevant, to inform decision making.

5.6.12 From reviewing a sample of consultation reports produced during 2018/19, a broad range of communication methods were on offer to encourage stakeholders to express their views.

#### **PROPOSAL FOR IMPROVEMENT**

5.6.13 As part of developing scrutiny work programmes for 2019/20 (paragraph 5.6.6):

- More focus should be given to streamlining areas / themes for review to allow for a more outcome based style of reporting; and

- More clearly link Committees' Terms of Reference to reports / areas to be scrutinised (with consideration being given for this to be undertaken as a pilot exercise initially).

## 5.7 DEFINING OUTCOMES IN TERMS OF SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

5.7.1 The 'Corporate Plan – 2016 – 2020' sets out the Council's priorities and outcomes to be delivered, and arrangements were in place during the year to test if these continued to be relevant:

- The key actions to be delivered, as identified by the 2018/19 Service Self Assessments and operational Service Delivery Plans, complemented the priorities set out within the Council's Corporate Plan; and
- Corporate Plan priority updates were published during the year and reviewed and scrutinised by Cabinet and the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee.

5.7.2 A review of the three Corporate Plan action plans in place for 2018/19 identified:

- Draft action plans at the start of the year were subject to pre-scrutiny by the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee ([at its meeting on the 4th July 2018](#)). Although performance indicator targets were reviewed as part of this process, it is considered that a more in depth review of specific targets would further assist Scrutiny Committees in overseeing performance.
- Actions had regard to the Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG Act) sustainable development principle, for example:
  - Economy – continuing to collaborate with business and local communities to ensure that town centres benefit from growth (for example, supporting the redevelopment of the former Boot Hotel, Aberdare);
  - People – an on-going programme of investment in new accommodation, extracare, to help improve outcomes for those individuals who need support to live independently and prevent problems from occurring or getting worse; and
  - Place – a long term programme of investment in the Council's infrastructure to help support sustainable service delivery.
- Progress reports were presented to Cabinet and the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee on a quarterly basis during the year that included an agreed set of actions and suite of performance indicators (including benchmarking information where available) and an analysis of targets set.

5.7.3 There was clear evidence that the Council is focussing its resources to support the delivery of its Corporate Plan priorities, both from a Medium Term Financial Planning and Investment perspective, as set out below.,  
Medium Term Financial Plan

5.7.4 The Council's latest [Medium Term Financial Plan](#) covering the period 2018/19 to 2021/22 was reported to Cabinet at its meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018 and set out:

- 2018/19 Revenue Budget (£471.6M) - 84% of the revenue budget was allocated to Corporate Plan priorities and the remaining 16% allocated to Authority Wide Costs, Other Services To The Public, Regulatory Public Services and Core Support; and
- 2018/19 to 2020/21 Capital Programme (£180.248M) – 98% of capital resources allocated to corporate plan priorities. The remaining 2% was allocated to Regulatory Public Services, Authority Wide Costs and Core ICT Systems Support.

#### Investment

5.7.5 Additional investment was approved by Council during the year to further support the delivery of Corporate Plan priorities: on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018 amounting to £23.450M and on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019 amounting to £6.740M.

5.7.6 It was noted that the opportunity to deliver additional investment was as a result of assessing the Council's earmark reserves and identify one-off resources that could be released.

#### PROPOSAL FOR IMPROVEMENT

5.7.7 In addition to the pre-scrutiny of Corporate Plan action plans, coordinate the delivery of a more in depth review of specific targets by Scrutiny Committee(s) as part of effectively scrutinising the Council's performance (paragraph 5.7.2).

## 5.8. DETERMINING THE INTERVENTIONS NECESSARY TO OPTIMISE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE INTENDED OUTCOMES

### Determining and planning interventions

- 5.8.1 The Council's decision making arrangements during 2018/19 were based on written reports in an agreed format, having regard to financial, legal and consultation matters, and alignment with the WFG Act (this includes, for example, Council and Cabinet reports).
- 5.8.2 A review of a sample of Cabinet reports during year showed that the suite of information used to inform decisions was comprehensive.
- 5.8.3 Of the approaches or interventions used by the Council during the year, overall, these are making a positive contribution to the delivery of outcomes in line with Corporate Plan priorities. Examples of key interventions are set out below.

### Cabinet and the SLT

- 5.8.4 The Cabinet and SLT jointly planned the work programme of items to be reported during the year and required timescales, with this informing the pace of progress and outcomes being delivered. This has included:
- Economy Priority – progressing the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Band A Schools projects that has created new schools and more first class learning environments during the year: Porth Community Schools, Ysgol Nantgwyn and Cwmaman Primary School;
  - People Priority – continued delivery of the Resilient Families Service providing accessible family support and preventing problems from escalating; and
  - Place Priority – commencing the delivery of community hubs to help build resilient communities that provide a range of citizen based services in one or a number of closely located buildings in priority neighbourhoods

### Scrutiny Committees

- 5.8.5 Scrutiny Committees have undertaken discrete work that has supported changes to service provision. An outline of some of the work is included below with full details of the work being available through the [Scrutiny Annual Report](#) (subject to approval by Council)

#### Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

- Undertook a number of pre-scrutiny reviews in respect of the School Attendance Strategy and [Play Sufficiency Audit](#), assisting Cabinet in taking forward their decisions.

- The Committee also contributed to the consultation process in respect of [21st Century School proposals](#).

#### Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee

- The Committee were consulted as part of the Council's 2019/20 Revenue Budget Strategy consultation process. As part of the Committee's engagement and looking ahead, the Committee have requested involvement in helping to shape consultation questions for future budget consultation activity.

#### Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee

- Following a Notice of Motion at Council the Committee took forward a working group in respect of Voluntary Snow Wardens. This resulted in 4 recommendations taken forward to Cabinet on the [18<sup>th</sup> October, 2018](#). This resulted in the launch of the 'Your Neighbours Need You' campaign on the Council website to support the wider work of the Council to prepare for the potential of severe weather during the winter period. Click here to view the full [campaign](#).

#### Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- The Committee was involved in the Electoral Arrangements by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales Review with the Committee recommending to Full Council that the proposals be subject to a period of stakeholder engagement to properly reflect the views of local Members and stakeholders prior to further consideration by Full Council. This was reported to full Council on the [24<sup>th</sup> October 2018](#). The Committee are also taking forward scrutiny of the Notice of Motion presented to Council in respect of Low Carbon Vehicles, utilising the Future Generations Toolkit to support decision making in the context of the WFG Act.

#### Health & Well-Being Scrutiny Committee

- Completion of the review of 'EMI nursing bed provision in Rhondda Cynon Taf' that resulted in 2 recommendations being reported to and endorsed by Cabinet on the [19<sup>th</sup> March, 2019](#).
- The Committee also undertook Pre-scrutiny of the Draft Empty Homes Strategy prior to consideration by Cabinet on the [21<sup>st</sup> November, 2018](#).

#### Quarterly Performance Report

- 5.8.6 Performance Reports provided updates on financial performance; progress against Corporate Plan priorities (including performance indicators and investment); staffing including sickness absence; and strategic risks, and provided electronic links to more detailed information.

5.8.7 With specific regard to financial performance, Corporate Plan priority and strategic risk up dates, exceptions were highlighted, explained and the corrective action to be taken included within reports. There was evidence of scrutiny challenge around financial and performance results and requesting further information to be included within reports to aid the reader's understanding.

### **Optimising achievement of intended outcomes**

5.8.8 On [28th September 2017](#) Cabinet agreed a way forward to deliver Corporate Plan priorities in a climate of further funding reductions by investing in Rhondda Cynon Taf's future and by improving and delivering essential services in a different way. This involved the creation of 5 work-streams to invest in to improve essential services: Digitalisation, Commercialisation, Early Intervention and Prevention, Independence and Efficient and Effective Organisation.

5.8.9 Work was undertaken during 2018/19 in the 5 work-streams, for example, making more services available on-line, delivering services that focus on early intervention and prevention and independence such as the Resilient Families Service and StayWell@Home Service and also continuing to deliver at least £6Million of efficiency savings per year to support an Efficient and Effective Organisation.

5.8.10 The on-going relevance of the 5 work-streams were tested as part of the Council's 2019/20 Revenue Budget Strategy Consultation arrangements and respondents feedback is set out below.

	Yes (%)	No (%)	DK (%)
Digitalisation	64	24	12
Early Intervention and Prevention	87	7	6
Commercialisation	60	24	16
Efficiency	78	11	11
Independence	78	12	11

## **5.9 DEVELOPING THE ENTITY'S CAPACITY, INCLUDING THE CAPABILITY OF ITS LEADERSHIP AND THE INDIVIDUALS WITHIN IT**

### **Developing the entity's capacity**

5.9.1 The Council has continued to undertake a 'corporate self-assessment' and complete 'individual service self-evaluations' to assess the Organisation's current position and areas for improvement, the latter being incorporated into service planning processes.

5.9.2 The above self-evaluation and planning arrangements, supported by the 2018/19 Revenue Budget Strategy and an on-going programme of investment, continues to evidence that the Council is developing its capacity in priority areas albeit in the context of reducing funding levels for the Council

as a whole. This work is evidenced within the Council's latest published Performance Report (as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018) and examples are set out below.

- Investment in digitisation to enable agile working and support further improvement in productivity, work / life balance and utilisation of space within Council buildings. It was noted that agile working is currently in place within Adult Services and the Public Health and Protection Service, and a programme of roll-out to other service areas began in 2018/19. It was also noted that a progress update on the Council's work to deliver its Digital Strategy was reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on [5th February 2019](#).
- A focus on further improving staff attendance through targeting areas with high levels of sickness. The Council's publishes its sickness information on a quarterly basis; the latest position as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 showed a slightly improving trend: 4.18% at December 2018 compared to 4.34% in December 2017. The Council's Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee (24<sup>th</sup> September 2018) also considered sickness absence in terms of the work being undertaken to support individuals attendance at work.
- Investment in apprentice and graduate jobs in professions the Council has identified need to be developed. During 2018/19, 25 apprentices and 13 graduates were appointed covering areas such as engineering (civil / electrical / mechanical), IT, Digital Services and Accounting.

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

- 5.9.3 Part 3(i) of the Council's Constitution, 'Responsibilities for Functions', sets out the responsibilities of the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet and designated employees of SLT (Section 3A) and is kept under on-going review.

#### Developing the capabilities of elected Members

- 5.9.4 Following the local government elections in May 2017, a programme of training commenced for Elected Members to ensure they were equipped with the appropriate skills, knowledge and support to fulfil their roles.
- 5.9.5 This work was built upon during 2018/19 through the availability of Member Personal Development Reviews (PDRs) which identified individual training needs. Training has been complemented through the use of sessions arranged in advance of meetings of Full Council where elected Members received information on a range of topics including General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), Universal Credit, Safeguarding and also individual service updates e.g. Civil Parking Enforcement.
- 5.9.6 Through the use of the PDRs, bespoke training packages have been delivered to Members. In addition, following enquiries from Members in

respect of their roles, policies are being created to support members going forward, for example, the development of a [lone working policy](#). It is considered that this positive position can be built upon and other key training provided to elected Members, for example, Code of Conduct refresher training and an overview of the Council's budgets / finance training.

- 5.9.7 To provide further support and access to information, all elected Members have been provided with an iPad or similar device of their choice to assist them in undertaking their roles. Devices are now also being provided to the Council's Co-opted Members and has enabled the continued rollout of the 'Modern.Gov' system that allows access to Council papers electronically. An update on the support provision to elected Members was reported to the Democratic Services Committee on the [19th March 2019](#).
- 5.9.8 The rollout of Modern.Gov across the Council has been positive to date. Whilst it is too early to establish the full effect of its implementation so far, there have been some requests from Members for additional information to be made available through the Modern.Gov system and also for the amount of hard copy information provided to be reduced.
- 5.9.9 To further enhance the roll out of the paper-light approach, the development of training and the use of technology by Members, the [Democratic Services Committee](#) at its [19th March 2019](#) meeting endorsed the development of a Members Portal. The Portal is recognised as a form of good practice through the Members Charter and will be an area on the website for Elected Members to access which will allow them an area to potentially report problems; submit questions / Notices of Motion to Council; submit scrutiny Call Ins; submit Research requests; provision of useful contact details for officers / external organisations; and E-learning.
- 5.9.10 The Council has a good track record of providing Members with support and development opportunities, and this can be evidenced by its success in attaining and retaining the Members Charter over the past decade<sup>2</sup>. The Charter includes all aspects of elected Member support including constitutional arrangements, a strategic and practical framework for Member development, services and facilities. The Charter is intended to raise the amount and standard of support to elected Members in Wales. To continue to demonstrate the Council's commitment to Member development, preparations are in progress for the Council's Charter to be reviewed in 2019.

### Member Survey

- 5.9.11 In accordance with s6(2) of the Local Government (Wales) Measure, 2011 Member views have been sought on their preference for starting times of meetings. As agreed by the [Democratic Services Committee](#), this survey also provided provision to allow all Members the opportunity to comment on the

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<sup>2</sup> Members Charter - The Council received its first award in 2007, an Advanced Charter in 2010 and the 'Good Practice and Innovation Award for Member Support and Development' in 2014, as a result of support made available to Members through the Occupational Health Unit.

provision of support available to them when undertaking their roles. The survey ran from the 1<sup>st</sup> April to the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2019 through the consultation hub and the results will be analysed and report to the Democratic Services Committee in 2019/20.

#### Developing the capabilities of employees

- 5.9.12 The Council has a Workforce Plan 2017-22, which was approved by Cabinet on [15th February 2018](#). The plan has set priorities that align to the Council's Corporate Plan in terms of developing a flexible and agile workforce that shares organisational knowledge; recruiting and retaining the best talent to create a diverse workforce; leadership and management development; enabling a high performing, engaged and committed workforce; and supporting health and wellbeing to maximise attendance.
- 5.9.13 Staff development has been supported through induction sessions, Leadership and Middle Management Development Programmes, Manager Briefings, 'Joint Cabinet and Senior Officer meetings' and a range of operational training such as health and safety, information management and dignity at work. This was supported by a Training Compendium that brought together all training available within the Council.

#### PROPOSAL FOR IMPROVEMENT

- 5.9.14 Build on the programme of training and support in place for elected Members to ensure other key themes are delivered / refreshed (for example, Code of Conduct refresher training, overview of the Council's budgets / finance training). (Paragraph 5.9.6).

### 5.10 **MANAGING RISKS AND PERFORMANCE THROUGH ROBUST INTERNAL CONTROL AND STRONG PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

#### **Managing risk**

- 5.10.1 The Council's Risk Management Strategy was updated, reported to and endorsed by the Council's Audit Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018, and sets out the overall purpose and framework for risk management within the organisation.
- 5.10.2 In setting the overall Risk Management framework, the Strategy provides the Council's definition of risk and also identifies two specific 'thresholds' put in place to make it clear how risk management should be applied at different levels of the Council's business and is set out below.

#### Strategic Risks

- 5.10.3 Risks the Council faces when delivering its Corporate Plan priorities.

5.10.4 The Council's strategic risks are set out in the Strategic Risk Register. The Strategic Risk Register was updated on a quarterly basis during 2018/19 and reported and scrutinised as part of the Council's quarterly Performance Report. A copy of the most recent risk register, as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018, can be viewed by clicking [here](#). There is evidence to demonstrate the Strategic Risk Register is reviewed on an on-going basis, in line with the agreed Strategy:

- New risks were incorporated into the register during the year i.e. to recognise the shift in emphasis of delivering services on a regional footprint and also the potential impact of Brexit; and
- Risk Scores revised to take account of up-to-date information, for example, reflecting the progress the Council made to ensure appropriate arrangements were in place to comply with the new GDPR legislation and also reflecting the increased availability of services on-line.

### Operational Risks

5.10.5 Risks associated with the delivery of service objectives are set out within Service Delivery Plans. These risks are monitored by Service Delivery Plan owners as part of the operational management of services.

5.10.6 In addition to the above, to assist Management in applying consistent risk management arrangements, a Risk Management Toolkit is in place.

### **Managing performance**

5.10.7 The Council continues to strengthen its performance management arrangements through Service Self-Assessment / Service Delivery Planning 'challenge sessions' with the Chief Executive and designated Cabinet Member. The outcome of this work is supporting an overall improvement in the content of the documents via more clearly defined outcomes and measures being set. Steps have also been taken to introduce revised and proportionate individual performance management arrangements to all staff.

### **Scrutiny**

5.10.8 In relation to Scrutiny, the Wales Audit Office reported the findings in 2018/19 of a review of the Council's Scrutiny arrangements called 'Fit for the Future'. The report and the action plan containing the Council's response to the recommendations were reported the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on [22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018](#). Following consideration of the report, the Committee instructed the Director of Communications and Interim Head of Democratic Services to review the current scrutiny arrangements in respect of their robustness and produce a report for consideration.

## Robust internal control

5.10.9 The membership and meeting frequency of the Council's Audit Committee (7 meetings) during 2018/19 was in line with the Council's Constitution and legal requirements.

5.10.10 The Council's Head of Internal Audit presented the Internal Audit Annual Report 2018/19 to Audit Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019 setting out the work delivered by Internal Audit over this period. Based on the information provided to Audit Committee during the year, it concluded that '*...the overall system of internal control within the Council operated effectively during 2018/19 with a small number of areas identified for improvement*

5.10.11 At its meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019, the Audit Committee also received the first Annual Report from its Chairperson. The report provided a summary of the work that the Committee undertook during 2018/19, and incorporated a self-assessment against the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) publication 'Audit Committees - Practical Guidance for Local Authorities & Police 2018 Edition'. The report concluded:

*'Our work-plan for this financial year has been balanced and the change in approach in respect of widening the items on each agenda has enabled the scope of information that is reported to us to be broadened. In addition to this, a wider range of Officers have presented reports to us during the year and this has helped us to deliver our Terms of Reference in a more robust way through gaining a better understanding and assurance by asking more detailed questions to Officers with specific areas of expertise.*

*I believe that we have discharged the responsibilities placed upon us, the recommendations that have arisen from the self-assessment will help further improve our arrangements and effectiveness. If any skills gaps are identified, then we will need to consider how these can be addressed in a pragmatic way that best improves the overall work of the Committee.'*

5.10.12 During the year, Cabinet at its meeting on [21st June 2018](#) endorsed a recommendation for the Council's Internal Audit Service to join an existing Regional Internal Audit Shared Service, led by the Vale of Glamorgan Council. The necessary governance arrangements were put in place to enable the transfer to take place effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.

## Managing data

5.10.13 An Information Management Plan is in place that sets out the framework, including legal requirements, for information management within the Council.

5.10.14 A review of the arrangements in place during 2018/19 identified they were in line with the agreed governance structure:

- The role of Data Protection Officer was formally designated, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation;

- An Information Management Board was in operation, Chaired by the Council's Senior Information Risk Officer, with the Board being supported by an Information Management Working Group;
- Information was available on the Council's website in respect of Data Protection and Freedom of Information; and
- The Council continued to secure its annual accreditation to the Public Service Network (PSN) in September 2018 i.e. The 'PSN' is the Council's connection to the wider public sector network (Council to Council, Council to Government e.g. Department for Work and Pensions) to enable the Council to communicate and share data securely across all public bodies.

5.10.15 It was noted that alongside the above activity, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) investigated 11 referrals in respect of the Council during 2018/19 (10 self-referrals and 1 external). The ICO made recommendations to mitigate against further reoccurrences and these have been implemented by the Council. In addition, 2 separate complaints were made to the ICO by members of the public in respect of Subject Access Requests the outcomes of which were:

- 1 case where the ICO found that the Council acted appropriately; and
- 1 case where the ICO made a recommendation and the Council complied within the statutory timeframe.

#### Public Services Ombudsman for Wales

5.10.16 It was noted that 7 referrals<sup>3</sup> were considered through the Council's Complaints and Concerns Procedure; the outcomes from which were that no further action was deemed necessary.

#### **Strong public financial management**

5.10.17 The Council has publicly demonstrated its commitment to strong and responsible financial planning and management, and has supported this through the delivery of sound financial performance during a period of reducing budgets. This is because:

- A key cross-cutting principle within the Council's Corporate Plan is '*Living within our means*', in effect setting out the importance of sound financial planning and management within the organisation;
- The Council has a suite of protocols supporting strong financial planning and management, for example, 'Budget and Policy Framework

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<sup>3</sup> Referrals – referrals are where members of the public complain to the Ombudsman without exhausting the local authority's complaints procedure first. The Ombudsman therefore refers these back to the local authority to be considered in line with their complaints procedure

Procedure Rules' and the 'Financial Procedure Rules'. In the case of the 'Financial Procedure Rules', it was noted that the document is in the process of being updated and this will be completed in 2019/20;

- The Council set a Revenue Budget in 2018/19 after taking account of a significant budget gap, with savings being delivered from areas that did not affect frontline services. The Council also continued to take a responsible approach to Council Tax increases, having regard to residents feedback as part of the revenue budget consultation process, and set a 3.3% Council Tax increase (excluding Community Council precepts and excluding the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales Precept, both of which are outside of the Council's control) which was the lowest increase across Wales;
- Financial performance results were publicly reported every three months during the year and scrutinised by elected Councillors;
- The Council kept its finances under on-going review throughout 2018/19 and was able to release resources from earmark reserves (as referred to in 5.7.5) to support additional one-off investment in Corporate Plan priorities. It is noted that the release of one-off funding as a result of early identification of savings or from assessing the Council's specific reserves has been a consistent approach in enabling significant additional investment in recent years;
- The Council is financially stable as a result of it: maintaining General Reserve balances at the minimum level (as assessed by the Council's Chief Finance Officer); having a track record over a number of years of setting and delivering balanced revenue budgets; and having 'clean bills of health' on its year end accounts when audited by the Wales Audit Office;
- The Council complied with new legislative requirements, for example, the reporting of a Capital Strategy as from April 2019 ([27th March 2019](#) full Council meeting) and is making sound preparations, ahead of schedule, to meet the requirements of legislation for local authorities in Wales to prepare their draft Statement of Accounts earlier and for the external audit of these to also be completed earlier; and
- The Council had sound medium term financial planning arrangements that robustly forecasted future spending and funding levels, and published an update during the year.

#### PROPOSAL FOR IMPROVEMENT

- 5.10.18 Complete the update process of the Financial Procedure Rules and report to the relevant Committee(s) for review and if deemed appropriate, approval (with an approved version incorporated into the Council's Constitution). (Paragraph 5.10.17)

## 5.11 IMPLEMENTING GOOD PRACTICES IN TRANSPARENCY, REPORTING, AND AUDIT TO DELIVER EFFECTIVE ACCOUNTABILITY

### Implementing good practice in transparency and reporting

5.11.1 The Council has implemented an open and consistent approach to reporting its business, as set out in earlier sections of this Annual Governance Statement, with the aim of helping to ensure information is understandable to stakeholders and that they have the opportunity to challenge the Council's performance, plans and decisions.

5.11.2 A review of a sample of information reported to Council, Cabinet, Scrutiny Committees and Audit Committee has revealed that:

- Annual Reports and Plans are reported publicly, providing an overview of performance either on a Council wide basis or in relation to specific areas of business, for example:
  - The Council's audited Statement of Accounts 2017/18 reported and approved by Council on [19<sup>th</sup> September 2018](#) in line with the statutory timeframe;
  - The Corporate Performance Report setting out an assessment of the Council's performance for 2017/18 and plans for 2018/19, these being reported to Council on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018. The Wales Audit Office has a statutory duty to review the Council's arrangements in this area and issued a 'certificate of compliance' in November 2018; and
  - Annual Reports / Plans presented to Cabinet: [Cwm Taf Carer's Annual Report 2017/18](#), [Corporate Parenting Board - Annual Report](#), [National Adoption Service Annual Report](#) and [Annual Equality Report](#).
- The minutes of meetings confirm that designated officers attended Committee meetings to orally present reports and answer questions, and a number of occasions were noted where updates were delivered via presentations.

### Cabinet Attendance at Scrutiny

5.11.3 At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018, the Committee agreed for a process whereby Cabinet Members and their respective Chief Officers attend the relevant Scrutiny Committee(s) to present information in respect of their portfolios. This process is intended to enhance the level of dialogue and information currently provided to Scrutiny Committees and a number of updates were noted as being provided during 2018/19.

- 5.11.4 In order to increase the prominence / awareness of the Annual Governance Statement, arrangements have been put in place whereby a designated '[Governance](#)' section has been developed on the Council's website. A standalone copy of the most recent (i.e. 2017/18) Annual Governance statement is available and once approved the 2018/19 Annual Governance Statement will also be published on Governance Section of the Council's website. It is noted that the Governance Section of the Council website also includes information in relation to: The Council's Constitution; Risk Management; Whistleblowing; Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption; Audit Committee; Corporate Feedback Scheme; The Council's External Regulators; and Working with others.

### **Assurance and effective accountability**

#### Internal Audit

- 5.11.5 The Council's Internal Audit Service had an Internal Audit Charter for the 2018/19 financial year that was approved by Audit Committee on [30<sup>th</sup> April 2018](#) and sets out the Service's position within the organisation, for example, its authority to access records, personnel and physical properties relevant to the performance engagements. From a review of Audit Committee reports during the year, the Internal Audit Service was delivered in line with the requirements set out in the Charter.
- 5.11.6 In addition to this, the Head of Internal Audit's Annual Report 2018/19 confirmed overall conformance to the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

#### Wales Audit Office recommendations

- 5.11.7 The Council has a process in place for agreeing and monitoring the implementation of recommendations / proposals for improvement made by the Wales Audit Office. It was noted that Wales Audit Reports were reported to Cabinet, [Audit Committee](#) and the [Overview and Scrutiny Committee](#) during the year, with the responsibilities / the role of each Committee set out in covering reports.

## 5.12 OTHER KEY GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

### Amgen Cymru Ltd

- 5.12.1 Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC holds 100% of the voting rights of Amgen Cymru Ltd., who in turn hold 100% of the voting rights of Amgen Rhondda. The Council also holds 100% of the allotted preference shares in Amgen Rhondda Ltd. The principal activities of Amgen Cymru is to provide waste management services and waste disposal facilities. Amgen Rhondda is responsible for the stewardship of the Nant y Gwyddon landfill site.
- 5.12.2 The directors of the companies are responsible for ensuring there are sound governance arrangements including a robust system of internal control.
- 5.12.3 The Council removed the “arms length” status of the companies during 2009/10, therefore many of the aspects of the Council’s governance arrangements such as policies, processes and controls apply to the companies.
- 5.12.4 During 2018/19 there have been no significant governance issues that have been identified by the Amgen Company directors, internal auditors or external auditors.

### Pension Fund

- 5.12.5 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council is the Administering Authority for the Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund. Whilst the governance arrangements detailed in this statement apply equally to the Council’s responsibilities to the Pension Fund there are further specific requirements for Pension Funds which are detailed in a number of key documents:

- Governance Statement of Compliance which indicates the Fund’s position against the Government’s best practice standards;
- Governance Policy Statement which provides an overview of the management structure, decision making and employer engagement;
- Communication Policy Statement which details the communication and information services to participating employers and scheme members;
- Pension Fund Administration Strategy which seeks to improve efficiency in the delivery of agreed standards of quality and to ensure compliance with statutory requirements;
- Investment Strategy Statement which details how Fund investments are managed; and
- Funding Strategy Statement which provides a summary of how we will fund our pension liabilities.

- 5.12.6 All of these documents can be found at the following link:  
[www.rctpensions.org.uk](http://www.rctpensions.org.uk)

- 5.12.7 The Public Service Pensions Act 2013 introduced a number of changes to public service pension schemes, including some significant changes for the

governance of such schemes. In accordance with the Act, the Council established a Local Pension Board to assist Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council in its role of Administering Authority ('Scheme Manager') in:

- Securing compliance with the Principal Regulations and any other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the LGPS;
- Securing compliance with the requirements imposed in relation to the LGPS by the Pensions Regulator; and
- Ensuring the effective and efficient governance and administration of the LGPS by the Scheme Manager.

5.12.8 The Pension Board is made up of two employer representatives and two member representatives.

5.12.9 In 2016/17 the Council established a formal Pension Fund Committee (subject to the provisions of Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972) to oversee its responsibilities with regard to the administration of the RCT Pension Fund. The Pension Fund Committee consists of 5 elected members and is politically balanced.

5.12.10 The Committee is responsible for the strategic management of the RCT Pension Fund with all operational matters continuing to be delegated to the Council's Chief Finance Officer (as the Section 151 Officer or in his absence the Deputy Section 151 Officer) who are supported by an Investment and Administration Advisory Panel with appropriate officer, independent advisor and professional support.

5.12.11 The Pension Fund Committee met 4 times during the Municipal Year 2018/19.

5.12.12 In early 2017, a Joint Governance Committee (JGC) was established in accordance with an inter-authority agreement, responsible for oversight of the Wales Pension Partnership (WPP) investment pooling collaboration of the eight LGPS funds in Wales. The eight Welsh Pension Fund Committee Chairs or their nominated deputy (elected member) attend the JGC and are supported by an officer working group. In January 2018, the WPP appointed an 'Operator' to establish and run a collective investment vehicle for the sole use of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) funds in Wales.

A summary of the pooling objectives of the WPP are:

- Generate consistent net of fee excess returns;
- Diversify manager risk;
- Reduce average manager fees;
- Achieve tax efficiency by reclaiming withholding tax on dividends (for non-UK equity sub-funds);
- Meet the Government deadlines by establishing one sub fund submission to the FCA; and
- Equitably share the costs of transitioning into sub-funds.

## 6. **OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S ARRANGEMENTS**

6.1 Based on the assessment undertaken, it is considered that the Council's governance arrangements were fit for purpose and publicly demonstrated how the Council's work and resources have contributed to the delivery of Corporate Plan priorities and outcomes. This overall conclusion is supported by:

- Sound arrangements to support elected Councillors and Officers to effectively discharge their responsibilities.
- Processes in place to:
  - Promote probity and a zero tolerance culture in respect of fraud, bribery and corruption, and also publicly reporting on the Council's performance in such areas; and
  - Support officers and elected Members to maintain high standards of conduct when undertaking business on behalf of the Council.
- Having structured arrangements in place that informed the delivery of Corporate Plan priorities (via approved action plans) and internal and external monitoring and reporting processes that held the Council to account for its performance – these arrangements being underpinned by robust financial planning and management.
- An open approach to engaging with stakeholders and planning and delivering services, a number of which being in partnership with others.
- A medium term approach to financial planning that helped inform strategic decision making and prioritisation of resources through on-going real term reductions in funding.
- The Council having a track record of implementing Annual Governance Statement recommendations in previous years.

6.2 Notwithstanding this overall position, the assessment has identified areas where improvements are deemed necessary to further reinforce the effectiveness of the Council's current arrangements. These are set out in Section 7.

## 7. PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENT

7.1 Further to completing the assessment of the Council's governance arrangements, Table 2 summarises the proposals for improvement.

Table 2 – Proposals for Improvement

<b>Core Principle / Area</b>	<b>Paragraph No.</b>	<b>Issue Identified</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Timescale for Implementation</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>
<b>Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law</b>	5.5.21	The staff survey identified the need for further work to be undertaken across the Council to raise awareness of whistle-blowing and anti-fraud arrangements and provide staff with reassurance that they can report issues without repercussions.	Using the staff survey results (around whistle-blowing and anti-fraud, bribery and corruption), deliver a targeted programme of awareness raising to service areas identified as requiring support and advice.	November 2019	Head of Organisation Development
	5.5.22	Comments, compliments and complaints (non-social services) – no overall update is reported for review and challenge by the relevant Scrutiny Committee as part of supporting service planning and improvement.  Work commenced in 2018/19 – to be carried forward into 2019/20.	Non-social services comments, compliments and complaints - annual reporting arrangements should be put in place to report details to the relevant scrutiny committee of non-social services comments, compliments and complaints received (with the first report covering the period April 2018 to March 2019).	October 2019	Service Director – ICT and Digital Services

<b>Core Principle / Area</b>	<b>Paragraph No.</b>	<b>Issue Identified</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Timescale for Implementation</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>
<b>Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement</b>	5.6.13	Whilst the focus within scrutiny committee work programmes is improving, a wide range of topics are included that can impact on the capacity of Committees / Working Groups to review all areas in detail and thereafter assess the extent that Terms of Reference are being delivered.	As part of developing scrutiny work programmes for 2019/20: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More focus should be given to streamlining areas / themes for review to allow for a more outcome based style of reporting; and</li> <li>• More clearly link Committees' Terms of Reference to reports / areas to be scrutinised (with consideration being given for this to be undertaken as a pilot exercise initially).</li> </ul>	September 2019	Service Director – Democratic Services and Communications
<b>Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits</b>	5.7.7	Although performance indicator targets are reviewed as part of the wider pre-scrutiny of Corporate Plan action plans, no in depth work is undertaken on specific targets to better inform Scrutiny Committees in fulfilling their role.	In addition to the pre-scrutiny of Corporate Plan action plans, coordinate the delivery of a more in depth review of specific targets by Scrutiny Committee(s) as part of effectively scrutinising the Council's performance.	September 2019	Service Director – Finance and Improvement Services
<b>Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and individuals within it</b>	5.9.14	Elected Members - refresh the programme of training available to continue to effectively support elected Members in the discharge of their responsibilities.	Build on the programme of training and support in place for elected Members to ensure other key themes are delivered / refreshed (for example, Code of Conduct refresher training, overview of the Council's budgets / finance training).	From July 2019	Service Director – Democratic Services and Communications

Core Principle / Area	Paragraph No.	Issue Identified	Recommendation	Timescale for Implementation	Responsible Officer
<b>Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management</b>	5.10.18	<p>Although the review of the Council's Financial Procedure Rules has commenced, the exercise has not yet been completed.</p> <p>Work commenced in 2018/19 – to be carried forward into 2019/20.</p>	<p>Complete the update process of the Financial Procedure Rules and report to the relevant Committee(s) for review and if deemed appropriate, approval (with an approved version incorporated into the Council's Constitution).</p>	October 2019	Head of Procurement Delivery

7.2 The Council's SLT has accepted the proposals for improvement and is committed to their implementation during 2019/20. The SLT has also confirmed that an update on progress will be reported to the Council's Audit Committee during the year to enable Councillors to review and scrutinise the extent of progress being made.

Leader: A. Morgan

Chief Executive: [Signature]

\*\*\*\*\*

## **The independent auditor's report of the Auditor General for Wales to the Members of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council**

### **Report on the audit of the financial statements**

#### **Opinion**

I have audited the financial statements of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2019 under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's (RCTCBC) financial statements comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

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 2018-19 based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs)

In my opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of RCTCBC as at 31 March 2019 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 in 2018-19.

#### **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 RCTCBC 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 RCTCBC'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.

## **Report on other requirements**

### **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 2018-19;
- 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 the Council 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:

- proper 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 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 and the Auditor General for Wales' Code of Audit Practice.

## **Responsibilities**

### **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 17], the responsible financial officer is responsible for the

reparation of the statement of accounts, 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 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](http://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  
[Date]

24 Cathedral Road  
Cardiff  
CF11 9LJ

## Glossary of Terms

### Accrual

An accrual is a sum shown in the accounts representing income or expenditure relating to the accounting period, which had not actually been received or paid as at the date of the Balance Sheet.

### Actuary

An actuary is an individual or organisation that calculates insurance premiums and liabilities and pension obligations.

### Amortisation

Charges to revenue for the estimated reduction in the value of an intangible asset.

### Audit

An audit is an independent examination of activities.

### Budget

A budget (or estimate) is a plan of income and spending, based upon which Council Tax is set. Actual expenditure is subsequently monitored against this plan.

### Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditure is spending on long-term assets. These are assets that will be used for several years in the provision of services and are items such as buildings, equipment and vehicles.

### Capital Receipt

Capital receipts are proceeds from the sale of long-term assets such as land or buildings.

### CCRC – Cardiff Capital Region City Deal

The Cardiff Capital Region within the City Deal is comprised of 10 local authorities; Blaenau Gwent; Bridgend; Caerphilly; Cardiff; Merthyr Tydfil; Monmouthshire; Newport; Rhondda Cynon Taf; Torfaen; and the Vale of Glamorgan.

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

CIPFA is responsible for issuing financial guidance to public bodies.

### Creditor

A creditor is an organisation/individual owed money by the Council at the end of the financial year for goods/services received.

### Current Assets

These are short-term assets that are available for the Council to use in the following accounting period.

### Current Liabilities

These are short-term liabilities that are due for payment by the Council in the following accounting period.

**Debtor**

A debtor is an organisation/individual who owes the Council money at the end of the financial year for goods/services received.

**Debt Management Office (DMO)**

The DMO is an Executive Agency of Her Majesty's Treasury. Its responsibilities include debt and cash management for the UK Government, lending to Local Authorities and managing certain public sector funds.

**Defined Benefit Scheme**

A defined benefit pension scheme is one that bases retirement benefits upon Career Average Re-valued Earnings.

**Defined Contribution Scheme**

A defined contribution scheme is a type of retirement plan in which the amount of the employer's annual contribution is specified. Benefits are based on the amounts credited to these accounts (through employer contributions and, if applicable, employee contributions) plus any investment earnings. Only employer contributions to the account are guaranteed, not the future benefits.

**Delegated Schools**

A delegated school is one managed independently by its Governing Body. The funds of these schools are held outside of the Council Fund balances.

**Depreciated Historic Cost (DHC)**

Depreciated Historic Cost is obtained by recording the purchase price of an asset and reducing the value over its useful economic life.

**Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC)**

DRC is an estimation of the market value for existing use plus current gross replacement costs less allowances for deterioration.

**Depreciation**

Depreciation is the estimated loss in value of tangible long-term assets that are presented in the Balance Sheet.

**Earmarked Reserves**

These are reserves set aside for a specific purpose.

**Fair Value Hierarchy**

Level 1 – Assets and liabilities at level 1 are those where fair values are derived from unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2 – Assets and liabilities at level 2 are those where quoted market prices are not available.

Level 3 – Assets and liabilities at level 3 are those with valuations derived from unobservable inputs, for example, assumptions about rent growth; discount rates, etc.

**Financial Year**

This is the accounting period. For local authorities it starts on 1<sup>st</sup> April and finishes on 31<sup>st</sup> March of the following year.

**Impairment**

Impairment occurs when the value of a long-term asset falls below the value it is currently held at in the Balance Sheet and Asset Register.

**International Accounting Standard (IAS)**

Financial Regulations to be followed as set by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

**International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)**

International Financial Reporting Standards are produced by the IASB (International Accounting Standards Board) with the aim of ensuring consistency within the countries adopting the standards.

**Inventories**

Inventories are raw materials purchased for day-to-day use. The value of these items that have not been used at the end of the financial year are shown as current assets in the Balance Sheet.

**Leasing**

This is a method of financing expenditure by paying the owner to use property or equipment for a number of years.

**Lessee**

User or renter of the leased asset or property. In case of capital leases, the lessee is also the 'debtor' to the lessor.

**Lessor**

Owner or the title holder of the leased asset or property. The lessor is also the lender and secured party in case of capital leases and operating leases.

**Liability**

A liability is an obligation to transfer economic benefits as a result of past transactions or events.

**Long-Term Asset**

These are assets that are used in the provision of services (usually for more than one year).

**Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)**

MRP is a charge against revenue resources representing a repayment of debt. It is a method of paying for Capital Expenditure which was funded by borrowing.

**Modern Equivalent Valuation (MEV)**

Modern Equivalent Valuation is a method of valuation that calculates the cost of constructing modern equivalent buildings and structures, depreciating them to account for the age and future economic life.

**Non-Domestic Rates (NDR)**

The NDR, or Business Rate, is the charge to occupiers of business premises. NDR is set by central government and is a percentage of rateable values. The percentage is the same throughout Wales. The total collected is split between individual authorities in proportion to their adult populations.

**Net Realisable Value**

The selling price of an asset, reduced by the relevant (direct) cost of selling it.

**Non-Recurring Fair Values**

These relate to assets that are measured at fair value due to particular circumstances. The assets which meet the criteria for assets held for sale are valued at the lower of non-recurring value less cost to sell, and its carrying value.

**Operating Leases**

These are leases where risks of ownership of the asset remain with the owner.

**Post Balance Sheet Events**

Post Balance Sheet items are those that arise after the Balance Sheet date. These are items that did not exist at the time the Balance Sheet was prepared but should be disclosed if they are relevant to the understanding of the accounts.

**Precepts**

This is the amount paid to a non-rating body (for example a community council).

**Prior Year Adjustment**

Material adjustments applicable to prior years arising from changes in accounting policies or from the correction of material errors.

**Projected Unit Method**

An actuarial method of calculating the liabilities of a pension scheme which allows for projected future increases in pensionable pay up to retirement or date of leaving service.

**Provision**

A provision is an obligation to transfer economic benefits as a result of past events where a reliable estimate can be made of the obligation, but the amount or timing of which cannot yet be determined accurately.

**Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)**

This is a Government agency that provides loans to local authorities for periods between 1 and 50 years.

**Recurring Fair Value**

These relate to assets that are measured at the end of each accounting period, within the rolling programme of valuations.

**Related Party**

A related party exists where there is control or influence by one party over another.

**Strain on Funds**

When an employee retires early and is immediately paid a pension, without actuarial reduction, the lost contribution income and interest cost arising from the associated earlier increased cash flow is referred to as pension strain cost. The pension strain cost is determined by actuarial calculation.

**Sub Lease**

A sub-lease is a lease between a tenant who already holds a lease to a commercial space or property and someone (the sub-lessee) who wants to use part or all of the tenant's space. The tenant is deemed to be a sub-lessor.

**Trust Fund**

Trust funds hold money on behalf of an individual or organisation. Trustees administer the funds for the owners.

**Voluntary Aided School**

Voluntary aided schools are mainly religious or faith schools, although anyone can apply for a place. The governing body employs the staff and sets admissions criteria. School land and buildings are normally owned by a charitable foundation, often a religious organisation, and the governing body contributes to building and maintenance costs.

**Voluntary Controlled School**

Voluntary controlled schools are similar to voluntary aided schools, but are run by the local authority. The local authority employs the school's staff and sets the admissions criteria. School land and buildings are normally owned by a charity, often a religious organisation, which also appoints some of the members of the governing body.

**Welsh Government (WG)**

The Welsh Government is the devolved Government for Wales. The Welsh Government consists of the First Minister, Welsh Ministers, the Counsel General and Deputy Ministers. They are supported by Civil Servants who work across devolved areas of public life such as health, education and the environment.

## Appendix 2

Date/Dyddiad:  
31<sup>st</sup> July 2019

Please ask for/Gofynnwch am:  
Barrie Davies  
(01443) 424026

Auditor General for Wales  
24 Cathedral Road  
Cardiff  
CF11 9LJ

Dear Adrian,

### **Representations regarding the 2018/19 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council 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 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 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.

In addition we have completed the questionnaires (Appendix A) provided to us regarding;

- ISA240 The auditor's responsibilities relating to fraud in an audit of financial statements
- ISA250 Consideration of laws and regulations in an audit of financial statements
- ISA550 Related parties

### **Management Representations**

#### **Responsibilities:**

We have fulfilled our responsibilities for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with legislative requirements and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19; in particular the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance therewith.

We have fulfilled our responsibilities for 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:
  - 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
  - unrestricted access to 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 RCTCBC 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; and
- 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.

## ***Judicial Reviews***

*In view of the continuing challenging financial climate and the potential need for the Council to make further difficult decisions around future service provision, there*

*is a heightened risk that service reconfiguration decisions could be subject to legal challenge.*

### ***Deprivation of Liberty***

*The Council is currently in the process of seeking the necessary court of protection authorisations in cases where the liberty of individuals, lacking mental capacity to consent, has been/is being deprived to safeguard their welfare. These applications may be subject to legal challenge and also challenges may emanate from individuals (or their representatives) who consider that their liberty is being/has been deprived unnecessarily or without the appropriate authorisations being in place (including past periods where liberty has been deprived). Dealing with these potential claims and possible inquests may well incur significant costs and could also result in awards of damages being made against the Council.*

### ***"Village Green" Applications***

*As a "Registration Body", the Council has received a number of "Village Green" applications where the potential use of areas of land is being challenged. These challenges may result in non-statutory public enquiries.*

### ***Minimum Wage for Sleep-In Care Arrangements***

*There is ongoing litigation, external to the council, in respect of the rate of pay applicable to sleep-in payments. Following the decision of the court of appeal, the current situation is that National Minimum Wage only applies to those hours where the care worker is awake for the purpose of working. The Supreme Court has granted permission for Unison to appeal this decision.*

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. A summary of these items is set out below:

There is one uncorrected misstatement. As part of Wales Audit Office's planning, finance staff discussed their intention not to consolidate all their joint committee figures into RCTCBC's accounts. This was on the basis that none of the joint committees' figures would be material individually or collectively. It was confirmed by Wales Audit Office that this is the case, and consequently will have no impact upon their audit opinion. The Joint Committees not consolidated are:

- Glamorgan Archives, Vale, Valleys and Cardiff Regional Adoption Collaborative, Coychurch Crematorium and Llwydcoed Crematorium
- The gross expenditure for these Committees was £1.3 million, gross income was £1.6 million and net assets figures of £5.9 million.

There are a number of misstatements that have been corrected by management. In Wales Audit Office's view only two of these were significant enough to report to Council prior to sign off of the accounts:

- As a result of the McCloud pension legal case, there is a probable additional cost payable to the Pension Fund. This has been estimated at £20 million, and increases the overall Pension Fund liability to £609 million (£612 million 2017-18). This has no impact upon the usable reserves of the Council and will be considered as part of future Pension Fund valuations.
- The depreciation on Infrastructure assets was originally overstated by £11.4 million and correspondingly the Net Book Value understated. This was the result of a manual error rather than an inherent system weakness. Again there is no impact upon the usable reserves of the Council.

### **Representations by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough 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 RCTCBC on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019.

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

Director of Finance & Digital Services  
(S.151 Officer)

Leading Member

Date

Date

## **Appendix 1**

### **Matters in relation to fraud**

International Standard for Auditing (UK and Ireland) 240 covers auditors responsibilities relating to fraud in an audit of financial statements.

The primary responsibility to prevent and detect fraud rests with both management and 'those charged with governance', which for the Council is the Full Council. Management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, should ensure there is a strong emphasis on fraud prevention and deterrence and create a culture of honest and ethical behaviour, reinforced by active oversight by those charged with governance.

As external auditors, we are responsible for obtaining reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement due to fraud or error. We are required to maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit, considering the potential for management override of controls.

### **What are we required to do?**

As part of our risk assessment procedures we are required to consider the risks of material misstatement due to fraud. This includes understanding the arrangements management has put in place in respect of fraud risks. The ISA views fraud as either:

- the intentional misappropriation of assets (cash, property, etc); or
- the intentional manipulation or misstatement of the financial statements.

We also need to understand how those charged with governance exercises oversight of management's processes. We are also required to make enquiries of both management and those charged with governance as to their knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud, for identifying and responding to the risks of fraud and the internal controls established to mitigate them.

Enquiries of management - in relation to fraud	
Question	2018-19 Response
<p>1. What is management's assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated due to fraud and what are the principal reasons?</p>	<p>Good governance flows from a shared ethos and culture, as well as from systems and structures. As a public body, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council expects all representatives (i.e. Members and Officers) to conduct their duties with the highest levels of honesty and integrity. Policies underpin the culture in place.</p> <p>The Council has a series of codes, protocols and policies in place, and support and training is provided in these areas to help ensure elected Members and Officers understand what is required. The documents include:</p> <p><b>Codes and Protocols</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members' Code of Conduct</li> <li>• Protocol Standard of Conduct to be followed by Members</li> <li>• Officers' Code of Conduct</li> <li>• Protocol for Member/Officer Relations</li> </ul> <p><b>Policies &amp; Procedures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial Procedure Rules</li> <li>• Contract Procedure Rules</li> <li>• Financial Management of Schools</li> <li>• Human Resources policies</li> <li>• Anti-Fraud, Bribery &amp; Corruption Strategy</li> <li>• Whistleblowing Policy</li> <li>• Gifts and Hospitality Policy</li> </ul> <p>Where Members and/or Officers do not undertake their duties in accordance with the expected standards then governance arrangements are in place within the Council to manage this process in an equitable, fair and transparent manner.</p> <p>Taking all of the above into account, our assessment of the risk of fraud arising and having a material impact on the financial statements is considered to be low.</p>
<p>2. What processes are employed to identify and respond to the risks of fraud more generally and specific risks of misstatement in the financial statements?</p>	<p>The Council has a number of governance arrangements in place that help in the prevention and detection of fraudulent and/or improper activities. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial &amp; Contract Procedure Rules</li> <li>• Systems of Internal Control</li> <li>• Recruitment Policies</li> <li>• Whistleblowing arrangements for workers to use if and when required.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local procedures within departments, for example, authorisation arrangements and quality assurance processes</li> <li>• An independent Internal Audit Service</li> <li>• An independent Corporate Fraud Team</li> <li>• Combining with Others to Prevent and Fight Fraud <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Participation in the National Fraud Initiative for example</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The Anti-Fraud, Bribery &amp; Corruption Strategy provides a clear path for raising concerns and facilitating ‘tip-offs’, and the fraud response arrangements outlined enables such information or allegations to be properly dealt with and reported.</p> <p>The Council's Whistleblowing Policy also gives advice on how to raise a concern, as well as providing information on the safeguards and support that are available to those who raise concerns.</p> <p>Given the governance arrangements in place, management can give assurance that the risk of material misstatements is low.</p>
<p>3. What arrangements are in place to report fraud issues and risks to the Audit Committee?</p>	<p>Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council is resolute in its determination to maintain its reputation as a Council that will not tolerate fraud, bribery, corruption or abuse of position for personal gain, wherever it may be found in any area of Council activity.</p> <p><b><u>Arrangements in place to report fraud issues</u></b></p> <p><u>Whistleblowing</u></p> <p>A copy of the Council's Whistleblowing Policy &amp; Procedure was reported to the Council's Audit Committee at its meeting held on the <u>31<sup>st</sup> October 2016</u>.</p> <p>The purpose of the Policy is to provide a means by which complaints of malpractice or wrongdoing can be raised by those who feel that other avenues for raising such issues are inappropriate. The Policy confirms that so far as possible, those raising concerns under the Policy will be treated confidentially.</p> <p>Workers are encouraged to report any concerns they have via the Council's <u>Whistleblowing webpage</u>.</p> <p><u>Anti-Fraud, Bribery &amp; Corruption Strategy</u></p> <p>The purpose of the Strategy is to communicate the Council's main principles for countering fraud, bribery and corruption. It sets out the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council's zero tolerance approach against fraud, bribery &amp; corruption;</li> <li>• Reporting avenues for suspected irregularities;</li> <li>• Resources that are in place to support a counter fraud, bribery &amp; corruption culture; and</li> <li>• Governance arrangements in respect of reporting to Audit Committee.</li> </ul>

In the Council's [Report It](#) section of the website, instructions for those who wish to raise anti-fraud, bribery or corruption concerns are provided along with the means to complete an on-line form.

**Arrangements in place to report to Audit Committee:**

During the year, work continued that aimed to gain a better view of staff awareness and understanding of the Council's whistle-blowing and anti-fraud arrangements (i.e. conducting a staff survey and reporting the results to Audit Committee on [4<sup>th</sup> February 2019](#)). In addition, on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019 the Audit Committee were presented with updates on [anti-fraud](#) and [whistle-blowing](#) work undertaken during 2018/19, together with the [Internal Audit Annual Report](#) which includes areas for improvement. This helps to ensure the Council continues to operate within an effective anti-fraud culture across the organisation, with resilient preventative measures capable of identifying and addressing new threats.

Please refer to the response to question 5 'Enquiries of management - in relation to fraud' for the full description in respect of reporting to Audit Committee.

<p>4. How has management communicated expectations of ethical governance and standards of conduct and behaviour to all relevant parties, and when?</p>	<p><b><u>Elected Councillors</u></b>  Following the Local Government elections held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017, all elected Councillors were provided with an induction and an on-going programme of support that included an overview of the Council’s Code of Conduct.</p> <p>Every elected Councillor has signed up to his/her individual Role Description, a copy of which is retained by the Council’s Democratic Services division.</p> <p>The Council’s Scrutiny Committee meeting minutes were examined to determine whether proceedings were conducted in line with the Council’s Code of Conduct. Declarations of interest were sought and declarations were made by elected Councillors, as a standard agenda item, where appropriate. In addition, a Standards Committee was in place during 2018/19 and there was one complaint in respect of the conduct of elected Councillors. Following consideration of all the evidence presented the Committee resolved that whilst there was a basis to the complaint against the Member no further action was required (<a href="#">Standards Committee Annual Report 2018/19</a>).</p> <p><b><u>Council Employees</u></b>  The Council has a number of recruitment and selection Policies in place that help to ensure that new recruits have the integrity and ethical values of the organisation and also the competencies to undertake the duties required of them.</p> <p>Employees have contracts of employment and competency based job descriptions which set out grade, roles and responsibilities. The Human Resources Service oversees terms and conditions of employment, and the Council have a suite of policies and procedures that are available on the internal Intranet for officers to access.</p> <p>Each new recruit is provided with the ‘Basic Rules – A Guide for Employees’ booklet that gives each employee information in relation to (amongst other things) expected behaviour, use of social media, appearance and attendance. The expectations of each employee are set out from the outset.</p>
<p>5. Are you aware of any instances of actual, suspected or alleged fraud within the audited body since 1 April 2018?</p>	<p>To support transparency and openness, the Council’s arrangements during 2018/19 included:</p> <p><b><u>Whistle-blowing arrangements</u></b>  A new Regulation came into force during April 2017 which placed a requirement upon the Council to report annually on whistle-blowing disclosures. The Regulation required the Council to publish the annual report on our website or by other means appropriate for bringing the report to the attention of the public. For Rhondda Cynon Taf, this requirement was met via a report to Audit Committee on <a href="#">25th March 2019</a></p> <p>During the year, 9 referrals were made via the Council’s whistle-blowing arrangements, all were investigated and the outcomes from which were:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 referrals were not founded and therefore no further action was taken; and</li> <li>• 5 referrals were founded and action was taken.</li> </ul> <p><u>Anti-fraud, Bribery &amp; Corruption arrangements</u></p> <p>During the year, 583 referrals were made via the Council’s anti-fraud, bribery &amp; corruption arrangements. The majority, 94%, were in relation to suspected fraud against the benefit / income support system and were accordingly passported to the Department for Work and Pensions Fraud and Error Service for further investigation.</p> <p>The Council included a payslip insert to all employees in May 2018 providing information on how Council employees could report any suspicions regarding Anti-fraud, Bribery and Corruption.</p> <p>An annual report was presented to the Council’s Audit Committee on <a href="#">25th March 2019</a> setting out an update of activities carried out in relation to the prevention, detection and investigation of potential fraud during 2018/19, together with the associated outcomes. The report included a forward plan of targeted activity for 2019/20, to ensure the Council continues to operate within an effective anti-fraud culture across the organisation, with resilient preventive measures capable of identifying and addressing new threats.</p>
<p>6. Are you aware of any fraud within the service organisation since 1 April 2018?</p>	<p>Please refer to the response to question 5, above.</p>

**Enquiries of those charged with governance – in relation to fraud**

<b>Question</b>	<b>2018-19 Response</b>
1. How does the Full Council exercise oversight of management's processes for identifying and responding to the risks of fraud within the audited body and the internal control that management has established to mitigate those risks?	<p>Full Council has ensured that the Audit Committee's Terms of Reference are comprehensive and compliant with the Local Government Measure 2011.</p> <p>Audit Committee has a detailed <a href="#">work plan</a> for each Municipal Year that helps them ensure they meet their Terms of Reference.</p> <p>The Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement are reported to full Council, alongside the external auditor's report, for consideration and if appropriate, approval.</p> <p>The Wales Audit Office reports its Annual Improvement Report to full Council setting out, amongst other things, the results of its work undertaken within the Authority in the previous financial year. Further to review by Council, this report is scrutinised by the Council's overview and scrutiny arrangements to monitor progress.</p>
2. Are you aware of any instances of actual, suspected or alleged fraud with the audited body since 1 April 2018?	Please refer to response within "Enquiries of Management" section, Question 5.

## **Appendix 2**

### **Matters in relation to laws and regulations**

International Standard for Auditing (UK and Ireland) 250 covers auditors responsibilities to consider the impact of laws and regulations in an audit of financial statements.

Management, with the oversight of those charged with governance (Full Council), is responsible for ensuring that the Council's operations are conducted in accordance with laws and regulations, including compliance with those that determine the reported amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

As external auditors, we are responsible for obtaining reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement due to fraud or error, taking into account the appropriate legal and regulatory framework. The ISA distinguishes two different categories of laws and regulations:

- laws and regulations that have a direct effect on determining material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements;
- other laws and regulations where compliance may be fundamental to the continuance of operations, or to avoid material penalties.

### **What are we required to do?**

As part of our risk assessment procedures we are required to make inquiries of management and the Full Council as to whether the Council is in compliance with relevant laws and regulations. Where we become aware of information of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance we need to gain an understanding of the non-compliance and the possible effect on the financial statements.

<b>Enquiries of management – in relation to laws and regulations</b>	
<b>Question</b>	<b>2018-19 Response</b>
1. How have you gained assurance that all relevant laws and regulations have been complied with?	The accounts are prepared in accordance with the Accounts & Audit Regulations. Initial feedback from the WAO audit indicates compliance
2. Have there been any instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations since 1 April 2018, or earlier with an ongoing impact on the 2018-19 financial statements?	There are no instances of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations. Full Council receives assurance on this from the appointed External Auditor
3. Are there any potential litigations or claims that would affect the financial statements?	Any potential litigations and/or claims are accounted for in accordance with the Code of Practice and where appropriate, disclosed in the letter of representation.
4. Have there been any reports from other regulatory bodies, such as HM Revenues and Customs which indicate non-compliance?	No.
5. Are you aware of any non-compliance with laws and regulations within service organisation since 1 April 2018?	No.

**Enquiries of those charged with governance – in relation to laws and regulations**

<b>Question</b>	<b>2018-19 Response</b>
1. How does the Full Council, in its role as those charged with governance, obtain assurance that all relevant laws and regulations have been complied with?	Full Council appoints the Audit Committee and sets its Terms of Reference.  Full Council ratifies the appointment of the Section 151 Officer and the Council's Monitoring Officer, whose roles are defined by statute and referenced within the Constitution.  Full Council receives assurance from the appointed External Auditor.
2. Are you aware of any instances of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations?	There are no instances of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations. Full Council receives assurance on this from the appointed External Auditor

## **Appendix 3**

### **Matters in relation to related parties**

International Standard for Auditing (UK and Ireland) 550 covers auditors responsibilities relating to related party relationships and transactions.

The nature of related party relationships and transactions may, in some circumstances, give rise to higher risks of material misstatement of the financial statements than transactions with unrelated parties.

Because related parties are not independent of each other, many financial reporting frameworks establish specific accounting and disclosure requirements for related party relationships, transactions and balances to enable users of the financial statements to understand their nature and actual or potential effects on the financial statements. An understanding of the entity's related party relationships and transactions is relevant to the auditor's evaluation of whether one or more fraud risk factors are present as required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 240, because fraud may be more easily committed through related parties.

### **What are we required to do?**

As part of our risk assessment procedures, we are required to perform audit procedures to identify, assess and respond to the risks of material misstatement arising from the entity's failure to appropriately account for or disclose related party relationships, transactions or balances in accordance with the requirements of the framework.

**Enquiries of management – in relation to related parties**

Question	2018-19 Response
<p>1. Confirm that you have disclosed to the auditor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the identity of any related parties, including changes from the prior period;</li> <li>• the nature of the relationships with these related parties;</li> <li>• details of any transactions with these related parties entered into during the period, including the type and purpose of the transactions.</li> </ul>	<p>Related party transactions are disclosed within the notes to the statement of accounts in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting</p>
<p>2. What controls are in place to identify, authorise, approve, account for and disclose related party transactions and relationships?</p>	<p>Governance arrangements are in place to ensure that a Register of Members Interests is in place and also that Declarations of Interest at each committee are asked for as a standard agenda item.</p> <p>Within the Annual Statement of Accounts of the Council, there is a requirement for the disclosure of “Related Party Transactions”. This relates to payments made to, or income received from, any organisation in which a Member or Chief Officer (who sits on the Senior Leadership Team) of the Council has an interest, financial or otherwise.</p> <p>Additional Controls in place include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gifts &amp; Hospitality Policy</li> <li>• Contract Procedure Rules</li> <li>• The Anti-Fraud, Bribery &amp; Corruption Strategy</li> </ul>

## Enquiries of the those charged with governance – in relation to related parties

Question	2018-19 Response
1. How does the Full Council, in its role as those charged with governance, exercise oversight of management's processes to identify, authorise, approve, account for and disclose related party transactions and relationships?	<p>Governance arrangements are in place to ensure that a Register of Members Interests is in place and also that Declarations of Interest at each committee are asked for as a standard agenda item.</p> <p>Within the Annual Statement of Accounts of the Council, there is a requirement for the disclosure of "Related Party Transactions". This relates to payments made to, or income received from, any organisation in which a Member or Chief Officer (who sits on the Senior Leadership Team) of the Council has an interest, financial or otherwise.</p> <p>Additional Controls in place include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gifts &amp; Hospitality Policy</li><li>• Contract Procedure Rules</li><li>• The Anti-Fraud, Bribery &amp; Corruption Strategy</li></ul>

# **Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund Statement of Accounts**

**2018/19**

## Pension Fund Accounts

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## **Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund Accounts**

### **Introduction**

The Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund was established with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 1996, upon the reorganisation of Local Government in Wales under the Local Government Pension Scheme (Local Government Reorganisation in Wales) Regulations, 1995. The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) is open to all employees in Local Government apart from teachers, who have their own scheme. It is also open to employees of other organisations that have been accepted into the Fund.

The Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund provides pension benefits for employees of Rhondda Cynon Taf, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils, together with employees from around 40 other bodies. Organisations participating in the Fund include:

- Scheduled bodies, which are local authorities and similar bodies whose staff are automatically entitled to be members of the Fund.
- Admitted bodies, which are other organisations that participate in the Fund under an admission agreement between the Fund and the relevant organisation. Admitted bodies include voluntary, charitable and similar bodies or private contractors undertaking a local authority function following outsourcing to the private sector.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2018/19 which is based upon International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as amended for the UK public sector. A more detailed Pension Fund Annual Report is available on request from the Director of Finance and Digital Services.

The scheme is governed by the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 and administered in accordance with the following secondary legislation:

- The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (as amended);
- The Local Government Pension Scheme (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014 (as amended); and
- The Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016.

### **Fund Administration and Investments**

Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, as administering authority has responsibility for the interpretation of pension legislation, the creation and maintenance of records, the calculation and payment of benefits and the provision of information to employees, employers and other relevant bodies.

The Pension Fund Committee is responsible for the strategic management of the Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund in accordance with its Terms of Reference.

The Director of Finance and Digital Services (in their capacity as S151 officer) supported by an Investment and Administration Advisory Panel, has delegated responsibility for all day to day operational matters.

The Pension Fund Investment and Administration Advisory Panel, is chaired by the Director of Finance and Digital Services, consists of two independent Investment Advisors and other Senior Finance Officers.

The Panel meets quarterly to consider both administration and investment issues and determine policy in light of market movements and to question and challenge the Investment Managers on their activities and performance. At the Net Assets Statement date there were four Investment Managers and the operator of the Wales Pension Partnership (WPP) carrying out the day-to-day investment management of the Fund's assets:

- Baillie Gifford (Global Equities);
- BlackRock (Passive Equities);
- BMO Global Asset Management (Bonds);
- CBRE (Property); and
- Link (Operator of the WPP).

The Pensions Board was established in accordance with the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 to assist Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC as 'scheme manager' in achieving effective and efficient governance and administration of the Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund.

### **Wales Pension Partnership (WPP)**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017 Council approved the establishment of a Joint Governance Committee to oversee the pooling of the investments of the eight Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) funds in Wales. The link to the report can be found here: [All Wales Pension Fund Investment pooling-joint Governance Committee and Inter Authority Agreement.](#)

Link Fund Solutions Ltd (Link) have established an Authorised Contractual scheme (ACS) (a tax efficient UK collective investment vehicle) on behalf of the WPP. The ACS will have sub-funds in a range of asset classes that will meet the needs of the LGPS funds in Wales, to allow them to execute their differing asset allocation strategies. The LGPS funds will retain full control over strategic asset allocation decisions.

Positive progress has been made by the WPP in the establishment of the first two sub funds for the collective investing of assets. The prospectus for Global High Alpha Equities, comprising 2 sub funds with differing risk / return characteristics, was approved by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) (July 2018), and transition into these sub funds was completed during January 2019. The proposals for the second sub fund for UK and European Equities was agreed by the Joint Governance Committee in September 2018 and has recently been approved by the FCA. The third phase relates to Fixed Interest with options in the process of being reviewed.

## **Statement of Responsibilities for the Pension Fund Accounts**

### **Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's Responsibilities**

The Council is required:

- To make arrangements for the proper administration of the Pension Fund's financial affairs and to ensure one of its Officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In the Council, that Officer is the Director of Finance and Digital Services.
- To manage the Pension Fund's affairs to ensure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- To approve the Pension Fund Accounts.

I confirm that these accounts were approved by Council on:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cllr. Steve Powderhill**

#### **Presiding Officer**

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council  
The Pavilions, Cambrian Park  
Clydach Vale  
Tonypany  
CF40 2XX

### **The Director of Finance and Digital Services' Responsibilities**

The Director is responsible for the preparation of the Pension Fund Accounts which, in terms of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom, is required to present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Pension Fund at the accounting date and its income and expenditure for the year.

In preparing the Pension Fund Accounts, the Director has:

- Selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently.
- Made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent.
- Complied with the code.

The Director has also throughout the financial year:

- Maintained proper accounting records that were kept up to date.
- Taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**Certificate of the Director of Finance and Digital Services on the Accounts of Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund for 2018/19**

I certify that the accounts present a true and fair view of the financial position of Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 and its income and expenditure for the year.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Barrie Davies**

**Director of Finance and Digital Services**

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Bronwydd House

Porth

CF39 9DL

**Fund Account**

2017/18			2018/19	
£'000		Note:	£'000	£'000
	<b>Contributions</b>			
(93,945)	Employer contributions	14.0	(98,732)	
(26,052)	Member contributions	14.0	(26,779)	
<b>(119,997)</b>				<b>(125,511)</b>
	<b>Transfers in from other Pension Funds</b>			
(17,545)	Group transfers in from other schemes or funds		(3,433)	
(4,246)	Individual transfers from other schemes or funds		(1,872)	
				<b>(5,305)</b>
(2,960)	<b>Other income</b>		(5,141)	
				<b>(5,141)</b>
<b>(144,748)</b>				<b>(135,957)</b>
	<b>Benefits</b>			
100,162	Pensions	14.0	105,653	
16,736	Commutation of pensions and lump sum retirement benefits	14.0	20,068	
2,846	Lump sum death benefits	14.0	2,972	
<b>119,744</b>				<b>128,693</b>
	<b>Payments to and on account of leavers</b>			
221	Refunds to members leaving scheme or fund		305	
37	Payments for members joining state scheme or fund		9	
1,088	Group transfers to other schemes or funds	18.0	5,168	
6,680	Individual transfers to other schemes or funds		9,111	
<b>8,026</b>				<b>14,593</b>
<b>127,770</b>				<b>143,286</b>
(16,978)	Net (addition)/withdrawals from dealings with members		7,329	
				<b>7,329</b>
10,779	Management expenses	15.0	11,039	
				<b>11,039</b>
<b>(6,199)</b>	<b>Net (additions)/withdrawals including fund management expenses</b>			<b>18,368</b>
	<b>Investment income</b>			
(36,566)	Dividends from equities		(34,687)	
(20,128)	Income from bonds		(24,111)	
(2,944)	Income from pooled investment vehicles		(2,168)	
(6,541)	Income from pooled property investments		(5,942)	
(41)	Interest on cash deposits		(160)	
<b>(66,220)</b>				<b>(67,068)</b>
			<b>Continued Overleaf...</b>	

(135,030)	<b>(Profits) and losses on disposal of investments and changes in the value of investments</b>		(204,694)	
				<b>(204,694)</b>
886	<b>Taxes on income</b>		853	
				<b>853</b>
<b>(200,364)</b>	<b>Net returns on investments</b>			<b>(270,909)</b>
<b>(206,563)</b>	<b>Net (increase)/decrease in net assets available for benefits during the year</b>			<b>(252,541)</b>
<b>(2,999,531)</b>	<b>Opening net assets</b>			<b>(3,206,094)</b>
<b>(3,206,094)</b>	<b>Closing net assets</b>			<b>(3,458,635)</b>

**Net Assets Statement**

31/03/2018			31/03/2019	
£'000		Note:	£'000	£'000
	<b>Investment Assets</b>	8.0		
1,973,190	Equities		676,076	
581,747	Bonds		843,928	
117,649	Pooled investment vehicles - open ended investment companies		273,082	
276,219	Pooled investment vehicles - managed funds		1,363,745	
167,831	Pooled property investments		260,851	
<b>3,116,636</b>				<b>3,417,682</b>
<b>80,192</b>	<b>Cash Deposits</b>			<b>29,911</b>
	<b>Other Investment Balances</b>			
6,331	Accrued interest		7,229	
7,093	Investment debtors		6,323	
1,871	Tax recoverable		1,887	
<b>15,295</b>				<b>15,439</b>
<b>3,212,123</b>				<b>3,463,032</b>
	<b>Investment Liabilities</b>			
<b>(8,498)</b>	Investment creditors			<b>(3,991)</b>
<b>0</b>	Derivative contracts			<b>(2,397)</b>
<b>3,203,625</b>	<b>Net Investment Assets</b>			<b>3,456,644</b>
	<b>Current Assets</b>			
5,750	Contributions due from employers and employees	16.0	6,116	
479	Other current assets		458	
<b>6,229</b>				<b>6,574</b>
	<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
<b>(3,760)</b>	Current liabilities			<b>(4,583)</b>
<b>3,206,094</b>	<b>Net assets of the scheme available to fund benefits at period end</b>			<b>3,458,635</b>

*The accounts summarise the transactions of the scheme and deal with the net assets at the disposal of the trustees. They do not take into account obligations to pay pensions and benefits which fall due after the end of the scheme year.*

*A summary of the actuarial position of the scheme, which takes account of these obligations, is included in note 7. These accounts should be read in conjunction with the Actuarial Valuation Report.*

## **Notes to the Accounts**

### **1.0 Significant Accounting Policies**

#### **1.1 Accruals of Expenditure and Income**

Where material, accruals are made for employee and employer contributions, investment income, benefits paid, administration costs, investment management fees and advisors fees. Transfer values are accounted for on a cash basis, with the exception of material group transfers, which are accounted for during the year of effective date of transfer or the year in which the actuary values the transfer, if later.

#### **1.2 Investment Valuation of Financial Instruments**

In terms of "Fair Value", all investments have quoted prices in active markets, with the exception of Pooled Investment Vehicles managed by the WPP and Pooled Property Funds.

Listed securities are valued in accordance with IAS 39 – Financial Instruments, using bid prices as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 obtained from recognised Stock Exchanges.

Fixed interest securities are valued "clean", excluding accrued interest. Sterling valuations of securities denominated in foreign currencies are based on closing exchange rates as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

Pooled Investment Vehicles managed by the WPP are valued using net asset values provided by Link, the WPP operator. These are reported at the closing single price.

Pooled Property Funds are valued by Fund Managers using reliable valuation techniques to determine Fair Value. Property valuations are represented by unit prices, based on underlying independent professional valuations. No assets require significant judgements or assumptions to determine Fair Value.

#### **1.3 Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs)**

Scheme members may elect to make additional voluntary pension contributions from their salaries. These AVCs are not included in the Pension Fund accounts in accordance with regulation 5(2)(b) of the Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016.

The amount of AVCs paid by members during the year amounted to £1,230k (£1,245k in 2017/18) and the market value of separately invested AVCs at the Balance Sheet date was £8,169k (£7,604k in 2017/18). There are two AVC providers.

#### **1.4 Acquisition and Disposal Costs**

Transaction costs incurred in acquiring or disposing of investments are included as part of the purchase cost or netted off against sales proceeds, as appropriate.

Transaction costs include fees, commissions and duties. Transaction costs incurred during 2018/19 amounted to £1.74m (£0.7m in 2017/18).

In addition to the direct costs disclosed above, indirect costs are incurred through the bid-offer spread on investments within pooled investment vehicles. The amount of indirect costs is not separately provided to the scheme.

## **1.5 Taxation**

As a registered public service scheme the Pension Fund is exempt from UK income tax and capital gains tax. Overseas investment income incurs withholding tax in the country of origin unless exemption is granted.

Irrecoverable tax is accounted for as an expense in the Fund Account, with any recoverable tax shown as an asset in the Net Assets Statement.

There is a small liability to income tax on refunds of contributions and compounded pensions (small pensions converted into lump sums). These amounts are paid to HMRC on a quarterly basis.

VAT is recoverable on all activities, so the accounts are shown exclusive of VAT.

## **1.6 Derivatives**

The Fund uses derivative financial instruments to manage exposure to specific risks arising from its investment activities. The Fund does not hold derivatives for speculative purposes. The use of derivatives is managed in line with the investment agreement between the Fund and Investment Manager. Derivatives are held on the Net Asset Statement as assets or liabilities dependant upon the position as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

## **1.7 Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and Cash Equivalents are sums of money available for immediate use by the Pension Fund. Such items are deemed to be cash balances held in the Pension Fund's bank accounts and any overdrawn bank balances.

Short-term investments are deemed to be cash and cash equivalents. These funds are invested on a short term basis by Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC until it is required to meet its liabilities, or to transfer surplus cash to the Investment Managers for reinvestment.

## **1.8 Contingent Liabilities**

A contingent liability is a possible item of expenditure that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the organisation's control.

Such contingent liabilities are not reflected in the Net Assets Statement as it may not be probable that an outflow of resources will be required or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably.

## **2.0 Accounting Standards Issued but not Adopted**

Standards that have been issued but not yet adopted, which may require disclosure in 2018/19 accounts, are anticipated to be listed in Appendix C of the 2019/20 Code when it is published. In the interim potentially relevant standards include:

- Amendments to IAS 40 Investment Property: Transfers of Investment Property;
- Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2014-2016 Cycle;
- IFRIC 22 Foreign Currency Transactions and Advance Consideration;
- IFRIC 23 Uncertainty over Income Tax Treatments; and
- Amendments to IFRS 9 Financial Instruments: Prepayment Features with Negative Compensation.

## **3.0 Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies**

The Fund's liability is calculated every three years by the appointed actuary. The methodology used is in line with accepted guidelines and in accordance with IAS19. Assumptions underpinning the valuations are agreed with the actuary. The estimate is subject to significant variances based on changes to the underlying assumptions.

## **4.0 Assumptions Made about the Future and other major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty**

The Pension Fund accounts contain estimated figures based on assumptions made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other factors. As balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual costs could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Uncertainties</b>	<b>Effect if actual results differ from assumptions</b>
Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits	Estimations of the liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries increase, changes in mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. The actuary provides the Fund with advice	The effects on the net pension liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured. For instance, an increase in the discount rate assumption would result in a decrease in the pension liability. An increase in assumed earnings inflation or assumed life expectancy would

	regarding the assumptions to be used.	increase the value of the liabilities.
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The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits does not include the potential impact of the McCloud judgement. Refer to Note 7 for further details.

## **5.0 Material Items of Income and Expenditure**

The Pension Fund transitioned assets in its high alpha equity mandates into the WPP collective investment vehicle during January 2019. Net profits realised in this transition amounted to £358.15m.

## **6.0 Events after the Reporting Date**

The audited Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Director of Financial and Digital Services, as Chief Finance Officer, on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or notes.

## **7.0 Actuarial Position**

The Fund's Actuary, AON Hewitt carried out an actuarial valuation of the Fund as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 in compliance with Regulation 36 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2013. Actuarial valuations take place on a triennial basis with a number of key assumptions being made.

The methodology to calculate the Pension Fund liability reflects assumptions and estimates depending on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected return on Pension Fund assets.

Where a valuation reveals a deficiency (or surplus), employer contribution rates are adjusted to seek restoration of a 100% funding ratio. The recovery period for each employer is set by the Administering Authority in consultation with the Actuary.

The funding policy of the Scheme is to ensure that:

- Employer contribution rates are kept as nearly constant as possible and at reasonable cost to the employers and taxpayers.
- Sufficient resources are available to meet all liabilities as they fall due.
- Employers' liabilities are managed effectively by seeking regular actuarial advice.
- Income from investments is maximised within reasonable risk parameters.

The results of the 2013 and 2016 valuations are shown in the table below:

	31/03/2016	31/03/2013
	£'m	£'m
Funding Target	3,064	2,665
Market Value of Assets	2,485	2,080
Funding Deficit	579	585
Funding Ratio	81%	78%

The aggregate employer future service contribution rate is 17.1% of pensionable pay. To restore the funding ratio to 100% using a recovery period of 22 years the aggregate employer contribution rate is calculated to be 24.3%.

Contribution rates payable by each scheme employer will vary depending on their particular circumstances. Some employers will also phase in contribution increases over a maximum period of 3 years. Further details are available in the actuarial report.

Contribution rates have been calculated using the Projected Unit Method for most employers. The Attained Age Method has been used for some employers who do not permit new employees to join the Fund. The key assumptions made are listed in the following table:

Assumption	2016 Valuation	2013 Valuation
	% p.a.	% p.a.
Average in service discount rate	4.5%	5.6%
Average left service discount rate	4.5%	5.6%
RPI inflation	3.1%	3.3%
CPI inflation	2.0%	2.4%
Pensionable Pay increases	3.25%	3.9%
Post-retirement mortality assumption - base table	SAPS Normal tables with scaling factors Men 100% Women 100%	SAPS Normal tables with scaling factors Men 100% Women 95%
Post-retirement mortality assumption - future improvements	CMI 2014 core projections with long-term improvement rate of 1.5% pa	CMI 2012 core projections with long-term improvement rate of 1.5% pa

In addition to the triennial funding valuation, the Fund's actuary also undertakes a valuation of the Pension Fund liabilities, on an IAS 19 basis, every year using the same base data as the funding valuation rolled forward to the current financial year, taking account of changes in membership numbers and updating assumptions to the current year. This valuation is not carried out on the same basis as that used for setting Fund contribution rates and the Fund accounts do not take account of liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits in the future.

In order to assess the value of the benefits on this basis, the actuary has updated the actuarial assumptions (set out below) from those used for funding purposes. The actuary has also used valued ill health and death benefits in line with IAS 19. The CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting also requires the disclosure of the relationship between the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits and the net assets.

	<b>Value as at 31/03/2016</b>	<b>Value as at 31/03/2013</b>
	<b>£'m</b>	<b>£'m</b>
Fair Value of net assets	2485.4	2079.3
Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits	3470.8	3200.4
Surplus / (deficit) in the Fund as measured for IAS 26 purposes	(985.4)	(1,121.1)

As noted above, the liabilities above are calculated on an IAS 19 basis and therefore will differ from the results of the 2016 triennial funding valuation because IAS 19 stipulates a discount rate rather than a rate which reflects market rates.

The above table, the Fund Account and Net Assets Statement does not include the potential impact of:

- McCloud judgement;
- Cost management process; and
- GMP equalisation and indexation, beyond indexation for members reaching State Pension Age before 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

Legislation requires HM Treasury and the Scheme Advisory Board (SAB) to undertake periodic valuations to monitor the cost of the LGPS to ensure it remains sustainable and affordable. This is referred to as the "Cost Management Process". HM Treasury and the SAB have paused their reviews following the "McCloud" judgement in the Court of Appeal which found that the transitional protection arrangements put in place when firefighters' and judges' pension schemes were reformed were age discriminatory. This is expected to have implications for other public sector schemes that were reformed around the same time (including the LGPS) and could potentially lead to members deemed to be discriminated against being compensated. The Supreme Court denied the Government's application for permission to appeal this judgement on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

The matter will now be referred back to the Employment Tribunal for a remedy hearing. Once a Tribunal makes a finding on remedy, compensation will be awarded and the schemes amended as appropriate.

The Government Actuary's Department (GAD) has assessed the potential impact of the McCloud judgement. GAD has estimated that liabilities could rise by 3.2% of the active membership of the Fund. For the Rhondda Cynon Taf Fund, the additional liability is estimated to be £42,140.7M.

The cost management process will recommence taking into account the remedy and any scheme amendments. No allowance has been made in the disclosures for the outcome of this process.

On 26th October 2018, the High Court ruled in the case of Lloyds Bank that equalisation for the effect of unequal Guaranteed Minimum Pensions (GMPs) is required. The ruling confirmed that trustees have a duty “to equalise benefits for men and women”. HM Treasury have stated that “public sector schemes already have a method to equalise GMP benefits, which is why we will not have to change our method as a result of this judgement”.

## 8.0 Analysis of Investments at Fair Value

	2017/18		2018/19	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Equities</b>				
UK	473,325		279,594	
Overseas	1,499,865		396,482	
		<b>1,973,190</b>		<b>676,076</b>
<b>Bonds</b>				
UK	552,838		767,811	
Overseas	28,909		76,117	
		<b>581,747</b>		<b>843,928</b>
<b>Pooled funds</b>				
UK	156,755		19,189	
WPP Global Equities	0		1,363,745	
Overseas - other	237,113		253,893	
		<b>393,868</b>		<b>1,636,827</b>
<b>Pooled funds - property</b>				
UK – other	165,342		260,292	
Overseas - other	2,489		559	
		<b>167,831</b>		<b>260,851</b>
<b>Total long-term investments</b>		<b>3,116,636</b>		<b>3,417,682</b>

The Fund has not participated in any stock lending arrangements during the year but did agree to do so in the future.

All investments held are quoted investments with the exception of property, which is valued at Fair Value and no assets reclassified. Carrying values of assets held in the Net Assets Statement are the same as the Fair Values shown above.

The Pension Fund holds derivative contracts which are valued as a liability in the Net Asset Statement as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

All investments above are deemed to be Financial Instruments designated “Fair Value through Profit and Loss”. All investment income, profits/losses on disposals of investments, and changes in the value of investments recognised in the Fund Account arise from Financial Instruments designated “Fair Value through Profit and Loss”, with the exception of interest on cash deposits. Cash deposits are deemed to be Financial Instruments designated “Loans and Receivables”.

Quoted equities and cash are classed as fair value hierarchy level 1. Bonds, pooled property, pooled investments within the WPP and derivative contracts are classified as fair value hierarchy level 2.

## 9.0 Fund Manager Asset Allocation

The market values of investments held by the Fund Managers employed by the Fund are detailed in the following table:

Fund Manager	Market Value		Proportion of Fund	
	31/03/2018	31/03/2019	31/03/2018	31/03/2019
	£'000	£'000	%	%
Baillie Gifford (Global Equities)	734,706	799,135	22.9	23.2
Baillie Gifford (High Alpha Equities)	748,744	0	23.4	0.0
Newton (High Alpha Equities)	502,347	0	15.7	0.0
Invesco (UK Equities)	137,544	0	4.3	0.0
BlackRock (UK Equities)	139,837	0	4.4	0.0
BlackRock (Passive Equities)	138,755	153,809	4.3	4.4
BMOGAM (Bonds)	589,971	857,306	18.4	24.8
CBRE (Property)	174,860	263,792	5.4	7.6
Link (Operator of WPP)	0	1,363,745	0.0	39.5
Internally Managed	36,861	18,857	1.2	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,203,625</b>	<b>3,456,644</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

No single investment accounted for more than 5% of the Fund’s assets.

The market value of investments shown in this table includes short-term investments such as cash balances and money deposits, and so differs from the total of long-term investments only, as shown in note 8.0.

Investment risk is mitigated by employing a number of fund managers to diversify manager risk, with mandates covering a variety of assets including equities, bonds and property. Managers must maintain a diversified portfolio of investments and comply with the LGPS investment regulations, and any additional restrictions within their mandates. The underlying investments are further diversified by country and industry sector.

Each manager’s performance is monitored quarterly against a target linked to an asset allocation benchmark, effectively constraining managers from deviating significantly from the intended approach, while still permitting some flexibility to enhance returns.

## 10.0 Geographical Spread of the Fund

The Fund Managers invest in shares in a number of countries. The table below shows the value of stocks and shares held by the Fund Managers as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019:

Area	£'000	%
UK Equities	298,783	8.7%
European Equities	173,961	5.0%
US and Canadian Equities	266,310	7.7%
Japanese Equities	11,988	0.3%
Pacific Equities	79,312	2.3%
Other International Equities	118,804	3.4%
Global Pooled Equities	1,363,745	39.5%
Bonds	843,928	24.4%
Property	260,851	7.6%
Cash & Equivalents	38,962	1.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,456,644</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 11.0 Contingent Liabilities

There is a contingent liability of £836k (£555k in 2017/18) in respect of refundable contributions for leavers who have not yet claimed refunds.

## 12.0 Reconciliation of Investment Asset Valuation

A reconciliation of the opening and closing investment valuations is given below:

	Market Value 01/04/18	Purchases	Sales at Historic Book Cost	Change in Market Value	Market Value 31/03/19
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Bonds	581,747	596,804	(346,770)	12,147	843,928
Equities	1,973,190	285,107	(1,126,241)	(455,980)	676,076
Pooled Investments	393,868	1,295,035	(87,646)	35,570	1,636,827
Pooled Property	167,831	93,809	(9,530)	8,741	260,851
	<b>3,116,636</b>	<b>2,270,755</b>	<b>(1,570,187)</b>	<b>(399,522)</b>	<b>3,417,682</b>
Cash Deposits	80,192			604,216	27,514
Investment Debtors	15,295				15,440
Investment Creditors	(8,498)				(3,992)
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,203,625</b>			<b>204,694</b>	<b>3,456,644</b>

Comparative note for 2017/2018:

	<b>Market Value 01/04/17</b>	<b>Purchases</b>	<b>Sales at Historic Book Cost</b>	<b>Change in Market Value</b>	<b>Market Value 31/03/18</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Bonds	566,144	575,712	(540,066)	(20,043)	581,747
Equities	1,823,693	399,348	(247,229)	(2,622)	1,973,190
Pooled Investments	361,590	27,061	(428)	5,645	393,868
Pooled Property	169,498	9,134	(21,846)	11,045	167,831
	<b>2,920,925</b>	<b>1,011,255</b>	<b>(809,569)</b>	<b>(5,975)</b>	<b>3,116,636</b>
Cash Deposits	63,023			141,005	80,192
Investment Debtors	19,972				15,295
Investment Creditors	(10,220)				(8,498)
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,993,700</b>			<b>135,030</b>	<b>3,203,625</b>

### 13.0 Profits and Losses on Investments

	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Profit on sales	176,900	657,501
Loss on sales	(35,942)	(51,788)
<b>Net profit / (loss) on sales</b>	<b>140,958</b>	<b>605,713</b>
Change in market value	(5,928)	(401,019)
<b>Net increase/ (decrease) in value</b>	<b>135,030</b>	<b>204,694</b>

### 14.0 Contributions Receivable and Benefits Payable

Contributions received and benefits paid are shown in the table below:

<b>Type of Body</b>	<b>Member Contributions</b>		<b>Employer Contributions</b>		<b>Pensions, Lump Sums and Death Benefits</b>	
	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Administering	8,197	8,480	33,402	35,181	31,034	35,904
Admitted	3,442	3,518	13,907	15,078	13,776	13,706
Scheduled	14,413	14,781	46,636	48,473	74,934	79,083
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,052</b>	<b>26,779</b>	<b>93,945</b>	<b>98,732</b>	<b>119,744</b>	<b>128,693</b>

Included in employer contributions are £9,790k of deficit funding contributions (£9,649k in 2017/18). There are no augmented contributions.

## 15.0 Management Expenses

The management expenses borne by the Fund in 2018/19 are set out below:

	2017/18	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
Administrative Costs	1,828	1,839
Investment Management Expenses	8,642	8,973
Oversight and Governance Costs	309	227
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,779</b>	<b>11,039</b>

Investment management expenses represent 0.26% (0.27% in 2017/18) of the value of the Pension Fund as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

2018/19 Audit Fees of £39k are included in Oversight and Governance Costs (£39k in 2017/18).

The investment management expenses borne by the Fund in 2018/19 are set out below:

	2017/18	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
Management Fees	6,265	6,843
Performance Related Fees	1,452	0
Custody Fees	201	390
Transaction Costs	724	1,740
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,642</b>	<b>8,973</b>

In addition to these costs, indirect costs are incurred. These are reflected in the net asset value (NAV) of the pooled units. Transition costs of moving from the segregated high alpha equity managers into the WPP during January 2019 amounted to £5,443k, reflected in the NAV.

Included in the management expenses above, is the cost of the Fund's involvement in the WPP collective investment pooling arrangement, as set out below:

	2017/18	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
<b>WPP Oversight and Governance Costs</b>		
Set up Costs	78	33
Host Authority Costs	0	20
<b>WPP Investment Management Expenses</b>		
Fund Manager Fees	0	733
Custody Fees	0	114
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>900</b>

## 16.0 Transactions with Related Parties

In the course of fulfilling its role as Administering Authority to the Fund, Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC provided services to the Fund for which it charged £1.5m (£1.6m in 2017/18). These costs are mainly in respect of those staff employed in ensuring that the pension service is delivered.

At the year-end, contributions outstanding from the Employing Bodies in the Fund amounted to £6.1m (£5.8m in 2017/18), of which £4.7m related to employer contributions and £1.4m to employee contributions.

There are members of the Pension Fund Investment and Administration Panel, the Pensions Board and the Pension Fund Committee who are also members of the Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund.

The administration of the Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund is a function of full Council, with responsibility for day to day decisions being delegated to the Group Director, Corporate and Frontline Services up to 10<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and from 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019, delegated to the Director of Finance and Digital Services. As such, the postholders are required to declare any interests with related parties. The disclosure can be found in the Statement of Accounts of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

The Committee Members and Senior Officers that advise the Committee are required to declare their interest at each meeting.

Officer remuneration and Members allowances can be found in the Statement of Accounts of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

## 17.0 Membership of the Fund

Fund membership at 31<sup>st</sup> March is as follows:

	2018	2019
Active Employers	49	49
Contributors	24,109	23,329
Pensioners	16,609	17,025
Dependants	2,653	2,679
Deferred Beneficiaries	25,956	27,104

## 18.0 Group Transfers

The Fund transferred £5.2m to Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Pension Fund in respect of regional regulatory joint working.

## 19.0 Nature and Extent of Risks Arising From Financial Instruments

A financial instrument is defined as any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability (or equity instrument) of another entity. There are three main ways in which the Pension Fund is exposed to risk from financial instruments:

- Credit Risk;
- Liquidity Risk; and
- Market Risk.

The overall objective is to minimise the risk of a reduction in the value of the Fund, and to maximise the opportunity for gains within reasonable risk parameters.

The Funding Strategy Statement identifies key risks to the Pension Fund together with the countermeasures undertaken to mitigate the risks.

### 19.1 Credit Risk

Credit risk is the possibility that a counterparty will fail to discharge its obligation to the Pension Fund, causing a financial loss. Counterparties considered are banks and financial institutions with whom investments are placed, employers within the Fund and Investment Managers. The risk of counterparties failing to discharge obligations is managed in a number of ways:

- Counterparties for cash investments made by the Administering Authority must meet the strict credit criteria set out in the Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC Treasury Management Strategy.
- Participating employers may be required to provide a bond to cover the risk to the Fund should they be unable to meet their pension contribution obligations.
- Investment Managers manage funds that are held in the name of the Pension Fund, not in the name of the Investment Managers. In the event of the Investment Manager being unable to fulfil their obligations the Fund's investments will not be considered part of their asset portfolio.

The Pension Fund has had no experience of counterparty default in the last five years. Cash deposits held by the Administering Authority for the Pension Fund as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 amounted to £12.6m with the institutions shown in the table below:

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Balance at 31/03/19 £'000</b>	<b>Maturity Date</b>
Shropshire Council	4,840	01/04/2019
London Borough of Sutton	4,000	02/04/2019
Debt Management Office	1,830	02/04/2019
City of Coventry	1,920	03/04/2019
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,590</b>	

## 19.2 Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Pension Fund will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. This risk is managed by:

- Maintaining a robust cash flow monitoring and forecasting model.
- Ensuring that the Pension Fund has access to cash in the short and medium-term to pay pensions by managing cash flow from money-market investments.
- Taking actuarial advice to set employer contribution rates at triennial valuations in order to meet the long-term funding requirements to pay pensions and other commitments.

The Administering Authority has immediate access to internally managed Pension Fund cash balances held with its own bank, Barclays. The Authority also invests Pension Fund cash in short-term deposits with the Debt Management Office or other UK public bodies for periods normally less than 3 months.

## 19.3 Market Risk

Market risk is the risk of a loss in the value of investment assets from movements in investment markets e.g. asset prices, interest rates and currency exchange rates. This risk is managed by ensuring that the Fund invests in a broad range of assets diversified by Investment Manager, asset class and geographical region.

Following analysis of historic data, Pensions & Investment Research Consultants (PIRC), the Fund's pension performance analytics company, have provided a view of potential market movements for the 2019/20 financial year. The possible impact of movements in each asset type is shown in the following table:

Asset type	31/03/19 Value	Change %	Value on increase	Value on decrease
	£'000		£'000	£'000
Core Equity Mandate	952,944	9.8	1,046,333	859,555
Global Equity Mandate	1,363,745	9.8	1,497,392	1,230,098
Bond Mandate	857,306	5.5	904,458	810,154
Property Mandate	263,792	2.5	270,387	257,197
Internal Mandate	18,857	0.3	18,914	18,800

PIRC also advised that the potential market movement for the Fund as a whole, could be 7.4%. The possible impact is shown below:

	31/03/19 Value	Change %	Value on increase	Value on decrease
	£'000		£'000	£'000
Fund Asset Total	3,456,644	7.4	3,712,436	3,200,852

The Fund's interest rate risk is monitored regularly with the advice of the Administering Authority's treasury advisors. Interest rates changes can affect Fund income and asset values.

Assuming that all other variables, particularly exchange rates, remain unchanged, a movement in interest rates of 1% for the 2019/20 financial year would have the following effect:

Asset type	31/03/19	Value on	Value on
	Value	increase	decrease
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Bond securities	843,928	852,367	835,489
Cash deposits & balances	38,962	39,352	38,572
<b>Total</b>	<b>882,890</b>	<b>891,719</b>	<b>874,061</b>

Currency risk is the risk to income and investment asset values from changes in exchange rates. The Fund is exposed to this risk from non-sterling denominated investments in a range of assets.

A movement in currency exchange rates of 8.8% would have the following effect:

Asset type	31/03/19	Value on	Value on
	Value	increase	decrease
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Overseas Equities	650,375	707,608	593,142
Overseas Bonds	76,117	82,815	69,419
Overseas Pooled Property	559	608	510
<b>Total</b>	<b>727,051</b>	<b>791,031</b>	<b>663,071</b>

## **The independent auditor's report of the Auditor General for Wales to the Members of Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund Accounts**

### **Report on the audit of the financial statements**

#### **Opinion**

I have audited the financial statements of Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund for the year ended 31 March 2019 under Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund financial statements comprise the Fund Account, the Net Asset Statement and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

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 2018-19 based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs)

In my opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund as at 31 March 2019 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom in 2018-19.

#### **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 Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund 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 Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

## **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.

## **Report on other requirements**

### **Opinion on other matters**

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

- the information contained in the Introduction for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

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

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

- proper 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 Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 and the Auditor General for Wales' Code of Audit Practice.

## **Responsibilities**

### **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 4], the responsible financial officer is responsible for the preparation of the statement of accounts, 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 Pension Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless 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](http://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  
[Date]

24 Cathedral Road  
Cardiff  
CF11 9LJ

## Glossary of Terms

### **Accrual**

An accrual is a sum shown in the accounts representing income or expenditure relating to the accounting period, which had not actually been received or paid as at the date of the net asset statement.

### **Active/Passive Management**

Active management is the traditional form of investment management involving a series of individual investment decisions that seek to maximise returns by exploiting price inefficiencies i.e. 'beat the market'.

Passive management is a low cost alternative where managers normally hold stocks in line with a published index, such as the FTSE All-Share, not seeking to outperform but to keep pace with the index being tracked.

### **Actuary**

An actuary is an individual or organisation that calculates insurance premiums and liabilities and pension obligations.

### **Actuarial Gains and Losses**

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

### **Admitted Body**

An organisation, whose staff can become members of the Fund by virtue of an admission agreement made between the Council and the organisation. It enables contractors who take on the Council's services with employees transferring, to offer those staff continued membership of the Fund.

### **Asset Allocation**

Apportionment of investment funds among categories of assets, such as Bonds, Equities, Cash and Property. Asset allocation affects both risk and return.

### **Attained Age Method**

An Actuarial method of calculating a contribution rate to the Pension Fund. It calculates the present value of the benefits estimated to accrue to members over their expected remaining membership, expressed as a percentage of their expected future pensionable pay.

### **Audit**

An audit is an independent examination of activities.

### **Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Sums of money available for immediate use and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours.

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

CIPFA is responsible for issuing financial guidance to public bodies.

**Contingent Liabilities or Assets**

These are amounts potentially due to or from individuals or organisations which may arise in the future but which at this time cannot be determined accurately and for which provision has not been made in the Pension Fund's accounts.

**Creditor**

A creditor is an organisation/individual owed money by the Pension Fund at the end of the financial year for goods/services received.

**Custodian**

Bank or other financial institution that keeps custody of stock certificates and other assets of a client, collects dividends and tax refunds due and settles any purchases and sales.

**Current Assets**

These are short-term assets that are available for the Pension Fund to use in the following accounting period.

**Current Liabilities**

These are short-term liabilities that are due for payment by the Pension Fund in the following accounting period.

**Debtor**

A debtor is an organisation/individual who owes the Pension Fund money at the end of the financial year for goods/services received.

**Debt Management Office (DMO)**

The DMO is an Executive Agency of Her Majesty's Treasury. Its responsibilities include debt and cash management for the UK Government, lending to Local Authorities and managing certain public sector funds.

**Defined Benefit Scheme (Pensions)**

This is a pension or other retirement benefit scheme other than a defined benefit contribution scheme. Usually, the scheme rules define the benefits independently of the contributions payable and the benefits are not directly related to the investments of the scheme. The scheme may be funded or unfunded (including notionally funded).

**Defined Contribution Scheme (Pensions)**

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

**Derivatives**

A derivative instrument is a contract whose value is based on the performance of an underlying financial asset, index, or other investment.

**Employer Contribution Rates**

The percentage of the salary of employees that employers pay as a contribution towards the employees' pension.

**Equities**

Ordinary shares in UK and overseas companies traded on a recognised stock exchange. Shareholders have an interest in the profits of the company and may normally vote at shareholders' meetings.

**Fair Value Hierarchy**

Level 1 – Assets and liabilities at level 1 are those where fair values are derived from unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2 – Assets and liabilities at level 2 are those where quoted market prices are not available.

Level 3 – Inputs not based on observable market data. The values of investment in private equity are based on valuations provided by the general partners to the private equity funds. If the company's year end does not coincide with the Pension Fund's year end, the valuation is updated with regard to the calls and distributions made between the Private Equity Fund's audited account date and the Pension Fund's year end.

**Financial Assets**

Financial assets are cash, equity instruments within another entity e.g. shares, or a contractual right to receive cash or another asset from another entity e.g. debtors, or exchange financial assets or financial liabilities under favourable conditions e.g. derivatives.

**Financial Year**

This is the accounting period. For local authorities it starts on 1<sup>st</sup> April and finishes on 31<sup>st</sup> March of the following year.

**Fixed Interest Securities/Bonds**

Investments, especially in government stocks, with a guaranteed rate of interest. Conventional bonds have fixed rates, whilst Index Linked vary with inflation. They represent loans repayable at a stated future date and which can be traded on a stock exchange in the meantime.

**Fund of Funds**

A pooled fund that invests in other pooled funds. They are able to move money between the best funds in the industry and thereby aim to lower stakeholder risk with greater diversification than is offered by a single fund.

**GMP**

Guaranteed Minimum Pension.

**Impairment**

Impairment occurs when the value of a long-term asset falls below the value it is currently held at in the Fund Account.

**International Accounting Standard (IAS)**

Financial Regulations to be followed as set by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

**International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)**

International Financial Reporting Standards are produced by the IASB (International Accounting Standards Board) with the aim of ensuring consistency within the countries adopting the standards.

**Liability**

A liability is an obligation to transfer economic benefits as a result of past transactions or events.

**Pooled Funds**

Pooled investment vehicles issue units to a range of investors. Unit's prices move in response to changes in the value of the underlying portfolio and investors do not own directly the assets in the fund. The main types are: unit trusts, open-ended investment companies (OEICs), insurance linked vehicles and investment trusts.

**Portfolio**

A collective term for all the investments held in a fund, market or sector. A segregated portfolio is a portfolio of investments of a specific type held directly in the name of the investor e.g. Global Bonds, or a specific market e.g. UK Equities, Far East Equities.

**Prior Year Adjustment**

Material adjustments applicable to prior years arising from changes in accounting policies or from the correction of material errors.

**Provision**

A provision is an obligation to transfer economic benefits as a result of past events where a reliable estimate can be made of the obligation, but the amount or timing of which cannot yet be determined accurately.

**Related Party**

A related party exists where there is control or influence by one party over another.

**Return**

The total gain from holding an investment, including both income and any increase or decrease in market value. Returns over periods longer than a year are usually expressed as an average annual return.

**Scheme Employers**

Local authorities and bodies specified in the LGPS Regulations, whose employees are entitled automatically to be members of the Fund and Admission Bodies including voluntary, charitable and similar bodies, carrying out work of a public nature, whose staff can become members of the Fund by virtue of an admission agreement with the Council.

**Scheduled Bodies**

An organisation that has the right to become a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme under the scheme regulations. Such an organisation does not need to be admitted, as its right to membership is automatic.

**Unrealised Gains/Losses**

The increase or decrease in the market value of investments held by the Pension Fund since the date of their purchase. Note: values throughout these accounts are presented rounded to whole numbers. Totals in supporting tables and notes may not appear to cast, cross-cast, or exactly match to the core statements or other tables due to rounding differences.

**Strain on Funds**

When an employee retires early and is immediately paid a pension, without actuarial reduction, the lost contribution income and interest cost arising from the associated earlier increased cash flow is referred to as pension strain cost. The pension strain cost is determined by actuarial calculation.

Date/Dyddiad:  
31<sup>st</sup> July 2019

Please ask for/Gofynnwch am:  
Barrie Davies  
(01443) 424026

Auditor General for Wales  
24 Cathedral Road  
Cardiff  
CF11 9LJ

Dear Adrian,

**Representations regarding the 2018/19 Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund  
Financial Statements**

This letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of the Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund (the Pension Fund) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 for the purpose of expressing an opinion on their truth and fairness.

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.

In addition we have completed the questionnaires (Appendix A) provided to us regarding;

- ISA240 The auditor's responsibilities relating to fraud in an audit of financial statements
- ISA250 Consideration of laws and regulations in an audit of financial statements
- ISA550 Related parties

**Management Representations**

**Responsibilities:**

We have fulfilled our responsibilities for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with legislative requirements and the CIPFA Code of Practice on

Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19; in particular the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance therewith.

We have fulfilled our responsibilities for 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:
  - 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
  - unrestricted access to 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 the Pension Fund 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;
    - details of any concerns raised or comments made by regulators about the Pension Fund, its fund managers and any assets/liabilities; and
    - 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. The Pension Fund holds the title for the investment assets recognised at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

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 those charged with governance being Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council as administrating authority for the Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund:**

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 Members of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019.

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

Director of Finance & Digital Services  
(S.151 Officer)

Leading Member

Date

Date

## **Appendix 1**

### **Matters in relation to fraud**

International Standard for Auditing (UK and Ireland) 240 covers auditors responsibilities relating to fraud in an audit of financial statements.

The primary responsibility to prevent and detect fraud rests with both management and 'those charged with governance', which for the Pension Fund is the Full Council. Management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, should ensure there is a strong emphasis on fraud prevention and deterrence and create a culture of honest and ethical behaviour, reinforced by active oversight by those charged with governance.

As external auditors, we are responsible for obtaining reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement due to fraud or error. We are required to maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit, considering the potential for management override of controls.

### **What are we required to do?**

As part of our risk assessment procedures we are required to consider the risks of material misstatement due to fraud. This includes understanding the arrangements management has put in place in respect of fraud risks. The ISA views fraud as either:

- the intentional misappropriation of assets (cash, property, etc); or
- the intentional manipulation or misstatement of the financial statements.

We also need to understand how those charged with governance exercises oversight of management's processes. We are also required to make enquiries of both management and those charged with governance as to their knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud, for identifying and responding to the risks of fraud and the internal controls established to mitigate them.

## Enquiries of management - in relation to fraud

Question	2018-19 Response
<p>1. What is management's assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated due to fraud and what are the principal reasons?</p>	<p>As "Scheme Manager" for the Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund, the controls applied in Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC also apply to the administration of the Pension Fund.</p> <p>Good governance flows from a shared ethos and culture, as well as from systems and structures. As a public body, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council expects all representatives (i.e. Members and Officers) to conduct their duties with the highest levels of honesty and integrity. Policies underpin the culture in place.</p> <p>The Council has a series of codes, protocols and policies in place with support and training provided in these areas to help ensure elected Members and Officers understand what is required. The documents include:</p> <p><b>Codes and Protocols</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members' Code of Conduct</li> <li>• Protocol Standard of Conduct to be followed by Members</li> <li>• Officers' Code of Conduct</li> <li>• Protocol for Member/Officer Relations</li> </ul> <p><b>Policies &amp; Procedures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial Procedure Rules</li> <li>• Contract Procedure Rules</li> <li>• Financial Management of Schools</li> <li>• Human Resources policies</li> <li>• Anti-Fraud, Bribery &amp; Corruption Strategy</li> <li>• Whistleblowing Policy</li> <li>• Gifts and Hospitality Policy</li> </ul> <p>Where Members and/or Officers do not undertake their duties in accordance with the expected standards then governance arrangements are in place within the Council to manage this process in an equitable, fair and transparent manner.</p> <p>Taking all of the above into account, our assessment of the risk of fraud arising and having a material impact on the financial statements is considered to be low.</p>
<p>2. What processes are employed to identify and respond to the risks of fraud more generally and specific risks of misstatement in the financial statements?</p>	<p>The Council has a number of governance arrangements in place that help in the prevention and detection of fraudulent and/or improper activities. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial &amp; Contract Procedure Rules</li> <li>• Systems of Internal Control</li> </ul>

## Enquiries of management - in relation to fraud

Question	2018-19 Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment Policies</li> <li>• Whistleblowing arrangements for workers to use if and when required.</li> <li>• Local procedures within departments, for example, authorisation arrangements and quality assurance processes</li> <li>• An independent Internal Audit Service</li> <li>• An independent Corporate Fraud Team</li> <li>• Combining with Others to Prevent and Fight Fraud                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Participation in the National Fraud Initiative for example</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The Anti-Fraud, Bribery &amp; Corruption Strategy provides a clear path for raising concerns and facilitating 'tip-offs', and the fraud response arrangements outlined enables such information or allegations to be properly dealt with.</p> <p>The Council's Whistleblowing Policy also gives advice on how to raise a concern, as well as providing information on the safeguards and support that are available to those who raise concerns.</p> <p>Given the governance arrangements in place, management can give assurance that there are no material misstatements.</p>
3. What arrangements are in place to report fraud issues and risks to the Audit Committee?	<p>Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council is resolute in its determination to maintain its reputation as a Council that will not tolerate fraud, bribery, corruption or abuse of position for personal gain, wherever it may be found in any area of Council activity.</p> <p><b><u>Arrangements in place to report fraud issues</u></b></p> <p><u>Whistleblowing</u></p> <p>A copy of the Council's Whistleblowing Policy &amp; Procedure was reported to the Council's Audit Committee at its meeting held on the <u>31<sup>st</sup> October 2016</u>.</p> <p>The purpose of the Policy is to provide a means by which complaints of malpractice or wrongdoing can be raised by those who feel that other avenues for raising such issues are inappropriate. The Policy confirms that so far as possible, those raising concerns under the Policy will be treated confidentially.</p> <p>Workers are encouraged to report any concerns they have via the Council's <u>Whistleblowing webpage</u>.</p>

Enquiries of management - in relation to fraud	
Question	2018-19 Response
	<p><u>Anti-Fraud, Bribery &amp; Corruption Strategy</u>  The purpose of the Strategy is to communicate the Council's main principles for countering fraud, bribery and corruption. It sets out the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council's zero tolerance approach against fraud, bribery &amp; corruption;</li> <li>• Reporting avenues for suspected irregularities;</li> <li>• Resources that are in place to support a counter fraud, bribery &amp; corruption culture; and</li> <li>• Governance arrangements in respect of reporting to Audit Committee.</li> </ul> <p>In the Council's <u>Report It</u> section of the website, instructions for those who wish to raise anti-fraud, bribery or corruption concerns are provided along with the means to complete an on-line form.</p> <p><b><u>Arrangements in place to report to Audit Committee:</u></b>  During the year, work continued that aimed to gain a better view of staff awareness and understanding of the Council's whistle-blowing and anti-fraud arrangements (i.e. conducting a staff survey and reporting the results to Audit Committee on <u>4<sup>th</sup> February 2019</u>). In addition, on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019 the Audit Committee were presented with updates on <u>anti-fraud</u> and <u>whistle-blowing</u> work undertaken during 2018/19, together with a <u>Forward Plan / areas for improvement for 2019/20</u>. This helps to ensure the Council continues to operate within an effective anti-fraud culture across the organisation, with resilient preventative measures capable of identifying and addressing new threats.</p> <p>Please refer to the response to question 5 'Enquiries of management - in relation to fraud' for the full description in respect of reporting to Audit Committee</p> <p>The Pension Fund has its own governance structure which includes the Council's Audit Committee and also details that the Pensions Board may report directly to the Pensions Regulator in the event of non compliance with the Code of Practice or in the event of breaches. A diagram showing the links between each forum/body within the governance structure can be found at this link. <u>Governance Structure</u></p>
4. How has management communicated expectations of ethical governance and standards	<p><b><u>Elected Councillors</u></b>  Following the Local Government elections held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017, all elected Councillors were provided with an induction and an on-going programme of support that included an overview of the Council's Code of Conduct.</p>

Enquiries of management - in relation to fraud	
Question	2018-19 Response
<p>of conduct and behaviour to all relevant parties, and when?</p>	<p>Every elected Councillor has signed up to his/her individual Role Description which is published on the Council's website and inserted into the Constitution.</p> <p>The Council's Scrutiny Committee meeting minutes were examined to determine whether proceedings were conducted in line with the Council's Code of Conduct. Declarations of interest were sought and declarations were made by elected Councillors, as a standard agenda item, where appropriate. In addition, a Standards Committee was in place during 2018/19 and there was one complaint in respect of the conduct of elected Councillors. Following consideration of all the evidence presented the Committee resolved that whilst there was a basis to the complaint against the Member no further action was required (<u>Standards Committee Annual Report 2018/19</u>).</p> <p><b><u>Pensions Board</u></b></p> <p>The Pensions Board has its own Terms of Reference which details the expectation that Board members comply with the Seven Principles of Public Life and also provides information on the legal duty of members to disclose conflicts of interest.</p> <p><u>Pensions Board Terms of Reference</u></p> <p><b><u>Council Employees</u></b></p> <p>The Council has a number of recruitment and selection Policies in place that help to ensure that new recruits have the integrity and ethical values of the organisation and also the competencies to undertake the duties required of them.</p> <p>Employees have contracts of employment and competency based job descriptions which set out grade, roles and responsibilities. The Human Resources Service oversees terms and conditions of employment, and the Council have a suite of policies and procedures that are available on the internal Intranet for officers to access.</p> <p>Each new recruit is provided with the 'Basic Rules – A Guide for Employees' booklet that gives each employee information in relation to (amongst other things) expected behaviour, use of social media, appearance and attendance. The expectations of each employee are set out from the outset.</p>
<p>5. Are you aware of any instances of actual, suspected or alleged fraud</p>	<p>To support transparency and openness, the Council's arrangements during 2018/19 included:</p>

## Enquiries of management - in relation to fraud

Question	2018-19 Response
<p>within the audited body since 1 April 2018?</p>	<p><u>Whistle-blowing arrangements</u></p> <p>A new Regulation came into force during April 2017 which placed a requirement upon the Council to report annually on whistle-blowing disclosures. The Regulation required the Council to publish the annual report on our website or by other means appropriate for bringing the report to the attention of the public. For Rhondda Cynon Taf, this requirement was met via a report to Audit Committee on <u>25th March 2019</u></p> <p>During the year, 9 referrals were made via the Council's whistle-blowing arrangements, all were investigated and the outcomes from which were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 referrals were not founded and therefore no further action was taken; and</li> <li>• 5 referrals were founded and action was taken.</li> </ul> <p><u>Anti-fraud, Bribery &amp; Corruption arrangements</u></p> <p>During the year, 583 referrals were made via the Council's anti-fraud, bribery &amp; corruption arrangements. The majority, 94%, were in relation to suspected fraud against the benefit / income support system and were accordingly passported to the Department for Work and Pensions Fraud and Error Service for further investigation.</p> <p>The Council included a payslip insert to all employees in May 2018 providing information on how Council employees could report any suspicions regarding Anti-fraud, Bribery and Corruption.</p> <p>An annual report was presented to the Council's Audit Committee on <u>25th March 2019</u> setting out an update of activities carried out in relation to the prevention, detection and investigation of potential fraud during 2018/19, together with the associated outcomes. The report included a forward plan of targeted activity for 2019/20, to ensure the Council continues to operate within an effective anti-fraud culture across the organisation, with resilient preventive measures capable of identifying and addressing new threats.</p>
<p>6. Are you aware of any fraud within the service organisation since 1 April 2018?</p>	<p>Please refer to the response to question 5, above.</p>

Enquiries of those charged with governance – in relation to fraud	
Question	2018-19 Response
1. How does the Full Council, exercise oversight of management's processes for identifying and responding to the risks of fraud within the audited body and the internal control that management has established to mitigate those risks?	<p>Full Council has ensured that the Audit Committee's Terms of Reference are comprehensive and compliant with the Local Government Measure 2011.</p> <p>Audit Committee has a detailed <u>work plan</u> for each Municipal Year that helps them ensure they meet their Terms of Reference.</p> <p>The Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund Accounts and Annual Governance Statement are reported to full Council, alongside the external auditor's report, for consideration and if appropriate, approval.</p>
2. Are you aware of any instances of actual, suspected or alleged fraud with the audited body since 1 April 2018?	Please refer to response within "Enquiries of Management" section, Question 5.

## **Appendix 2**

### **Matters in relation to laws and regulations**

International Standard for Auditing (UK and Ireland) 250 covers auditors responsibilities to consider the impact of laws and regulations in an audit of financial statements.

Management, with the oversight of those charged with governance the Full Council, is responsible for ensuring that the Pension Fund's operations are conducted in accordance with laws and regulations, including compliance with those that determine the reported amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

As external auditors, we are responsible for obtaining reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement due to fraud or error, taking into account the appropriate legal and regulatory framework. The ISA distinguishes two different categories of laws and regulations:

- laws and regulations that have a direct effect on determining material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements;
- other laws and regulations where compliance may be fundamental to the continuance of operations, or to avoid material penalties.

### **What are we required to do?**

As part of our risk assessment procedures we are required to make inquiries of management and the Full Council as to whether the Pension Fund is in compliance with relevant laws and regulations. Where we become aware of information of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance we need to gain an understanding of the non-compliance and the possible effect on the financial statements.

<b>Enquiries of management – in relation to laws and regulations</b>	
<b>Question</b>	<b>2018-19 Response</b>
1. How have you gained assurance that all relevant laws and regulations have been complied with?	The accounts are prepared in accordance with the Accounts & Audit Regulations and Pensions Statement of Recommended Practice. In addition, the Pension Fund has undertaken an assessment of its compliance with the Pensions Regulator Code of Practice.
2. Have there been any instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations since 1 April 2018, or earlier with an ongoing impact on the 2018-19 financial statements?	There are no instances of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations. Full Council receives assurance on this from the appointed External Auditor
3. Are there any potential litigations or claims that would affect the financial statements?	Any potential litigations and/or claims are accounted for in accordance with the Code of Practice and where appropriate, disclosed in the letter of representation.
4. Have there been any reports from other regulatory bodies, such as HM Revenues and Customs which indicate non-compliance?	No.
5. Are you aware of any non-compliance with laws and regulations within service organisation since 1 April 2018?	No.

Enquiries of those charged with governance – in relation to laws and regulations	
Question	2018-19 Response
1. How does the Full Council, in its role as those charged with governance, obtain assurance that all relevant laws and regulations have been complied with?	<p>Full Council appoints the Audit Committee and sets its Terms of Reference.</p> <p>Full Council ratifies the appointment of the Section 151 Officer and the Council's Monitoring Officer, whose roles are defined by statute and referenced within the Constitution.</p> <p>Full Council receives assurance from the appointed External Auditor.</p> <p>Also refer to the reporting arrangements on the governance structure as detailed below:  <u>Governance Structure</u></p>
2. Are you aware of any instances of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations?	There are no instances of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations. Full Council receives assurance on this from the appointed External Auditor

## **Appendix 3**

### **Matters in relation to related parties**

International Standard for Auditing (UK and Ireland) 550 covers auditors responsibilities relating to related party relationships and transactions.

The nature of related party relationships and transactions may, in some circumstances, give rise to higher risks of material misstatement of the financial statements than transactions with unrelated parties.

Because related parties are not independent of each other, many financial reporting frameworks establish specific accounting and disclosure requirements for related party relationships, transactions and balances to enable users of the financial statements to understand their nature and actual or potential effects on the financial statements. An understanding of the entity's related party relationships and transactions is relevant to the auditor's evaluation of whether one or more fraud risk factors are present as required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 240, because fraud may be more easily committed through related parties.

### **What are we required to do?**

As part of our risk assessment procedures, we are required to perform audit procedures to identify, assess and respond to the risks of material misstatement arising from the entity's failure to appropriately account for or disclose related party relationships, transactions or balances in accordance with the requirements of the framework.

Enquiries of management – in relation to related parties	
Question	2018-19 Response
<p>1. Confirm that you have disclosed to the auditor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the identity of any related parties, including changes from the prior period;</li> <li>• the nature of the relationships with these related parties;</li> <li>• details of any transactions with these related parties entered into during the period, including the type and purpose of the transactions.</li> </ul>	<p>Related party transactions are disclosed within the notes to the statement of accounts in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting</p>
<p>2. What controls are in place to identify, authorise, approve, account for and disclose related party transactions and relationships?</p>	<p>Governance arrangements are in place to ensure that a Register of Members Interests is in place and also that Declarations of Interest at each committee are asked for as a standard agenda item.</p> <p>Within the Annual Statement of Accounts of the Council, there is a requirement for the disclosure of “Related Party Transactions”. This relates to payments made to, or income received from, any organisation in which a Member or Chief Officer (who sits on the Senior Leadership Team) of the Council has an interest, financial or otherwise.</p> <p>Additional Controls in place include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gifts &amp; Hospitality Policy</li> <li>• Contract Procedure Rules</li> <li>• The Anti-Fraud, Bribery &amp; Corruption Strategy</li> </ul>

## Enquiries of the those charged with governance – in relation to related parties

Question	2018-19 Response
1. How does the Full Council, in its role as those charged with governance, exercise oversight of management's processes to identify, authorise, approve, account for and disclose related party transactions and relationships?	<p>Governance arrangements are in place to ensure that a Register of Members Interests is in place for elected members and also that Declarations of Interest at each committee, panel and board are asked for as a standard agenda item.</p> <p>Within the Annual Statement of Accounts of the Council, there is a requirement for the disclosure of "Related Party Transactions". This relates to payments made to, or income received from, any organisation in which a Member or Chief Officer (who sits on the Senior Leadership Team) of the Council has an interest, financial or otherwise.</p> <p>Additional Controls in place include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gifts &amp; Hospitality Policy</li><li>• Contract Procedure Rules</li><li>• The Anti-Fraud, Bribery &amp; Corruption Strategy</li></ul>