

2014/15 DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND YEAR END POSITION

1 Purpose

- 1.1 This report sets out the current position in terms of the Statement of Accounts preparation and reports the outturn position in a management style for members' information.

2 Recommendations/for decision

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| 2.1 | Members of the Committee are requested to note the current position in relation to the Statutory Accounts preparation and the outturn. |
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3 The Accounts Approval Process

- 3.1 The statutory code for the production and authorisation of the Accounts is set out within the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 3.2 The Regulations state that the members should only approve the Accounts in September when they have been made aware of the findings of the audit and, hence, can make an informed decision on their accuracy.
- 3.3 The Chief Financial Officer is required to certify the draft Accounts by the 30th June and arrange for them to be published on the Council's website by that date.
- 3.4 Whilst there is no requirement to do so, the guidance to the Accounts and Audit Regulations suggests it would be best practice to give members an early notification of the financial outcome of the previous year and to this end the draft Statement of Accounts is presented as part of this report.

4 2014/15 Year End Position

- 4.1 Whilst not forming part of the Statutory Accounts, the Quarterly Financial Digest sits behind the formal accounts and provides members with a more understandable guide to the financial events which took place in the year for the provision of the Council's services.
- 4.2 The year end position within the Statutory Accounts contains transactions which are required by the Accounting Regulations. These transactions are intended to provide the reader with a complete picture of the Authority's financial affairs during the course of the year, but not all of them impact upon the cost of services to the Council Tax payer.
- 4.3 For this reason it is difficult to reconcile the statutory accounts with the figures included within the Quarterly Financial Digest.
- 4.4 The Digest represents Management Information and is designed to explain in an understandable way the significant financial events which occurred during the year by comparing them with the expected or budgeted equivalent figures.
- 4.5 The Statutory Accounts only present actual expenditure and income, without reference to budgeted levels. Therefore, whilst the accounts present the definitive position on the Authority by way of its financial resources, it does not inform the reader as to whether this was the planned or expected position.
- 4.6 The main financial events of 2014/15 are explained in the Digest but the key issues are highlighted below.

Main Points Contained Within the Digest

- 4.7 The outturn position for the year shown in the Digest is a contribution to balances of £135,703, this was against a budgeted contribution to balances of £101,100.
- 4.8 The actual contribution would have been greater but during 2014/15 the Council agreed to a special use of balances to fund the continuing costs associated with HS2 (£10,000).
- 4.9 The early generation of savings in advance of 2015/16 and higher income associated with revised service provision have contributed to this underspend, although set against this is a shortfall in income from investment interest. The generation of savings has meant that the cost of a number of redundancies that have arisen during the year as part of section restructures could be met from the savings rather than through balances.
- 4.10 In practise the final outturn position is comprised of a number of ups and downs against individual services. The majority of the which were identified early in the year and reported in earlier issues of the Quarterly Digest and so the final outturn underspend is in line to that expected.
- 4.11 Some of the main factors that were reported throughout the year that have contributed to the outturn position were savings/extra income from Office Accommodation rent, Refuse and Recycling reduced vehicle maintenance costs, Housing Benefit and Revenues Collection increased costs income. Factors that went the other way include consultancy / salary / partnership costs associated with IT, IESE and Business Transformation, redundancy costs from the Environment & Health and Planning restructures.
- 4.12 The main service based factors are detailed in the Digest but the key areas are summarised in the table below.

	Actual Outturn £	Predicted Outturn £	
Top 5 Over Budget			
Environment & Health Admin	198,804	53,800	Redundancy costs following restructure.
Core Costs	114,547	78,000	IESE partnership costs, these costs will be offset by savings achieved through the partnership.
Business Transformation	97,684	0	Project and salary costs.
Planning Business Support	90,427	1,500	Redundancy costs following restructure.
Information Technology	50,365	0	Lower income offset by reduced running expenses.
Top 5 Under Budget			
Housing Benefit Administration	(226,374)	(163,600)	Increased administration grant and court costs income received.
Office Accommodation	(191,856)	(159,000)	Increased income from letting of office space and conference
Development Control	(159,944)	(700)	Higher planning fee income
Waterside Theatre	(98,419)	(72,300)	Business rates and other cost savings
Domestic Refuse	(79,759)	0	Savings on salaries and vehicle running costs.

- 4.13 The table below shows the balances position at the year end after taking into account the outturn position. The balance position is higher than the agreed prudent level that should be held, therefore, a report on its use will be presented to Finance and Services Scrutiny Committee.

GENERAL FUND STATEMENT OF BALANCES	BUDGET 2014/15 £'000	ACTUAL 2014/15 £'000	VARIANCE 2014/15 £'000
Brought Forward 1st April	(3,184)	(3,640)	(456)
Less General Underspend	0	(35)	(35)
Planned Contribution to Balances	(101)	(101)	0
Contribution to the HS2 Fund	0	11	11
Net Contribution (to) / from Balances	(101)	(125)	(24)
Working Balance Carried Forward	(3,285)	(3,765)	(480)

Transfers To and From Reserves

- 4.14 During 2014/15, the Council continued to use its earmarked reserves to meet revenue spend and also to provide sufficient funds for the future. In total £2.7 million was transferred out of reserves, whilst £6.3 million was transferred in, making a net increase in reserves of £3.6 million.
- 4.15 The largest use of reserves was from the income investment reserve, where £0.657 million was transferred to the General Fund in order to meet the shortfall on investment interest. Investment interest continues to be lower than expected due to the interest rates remaining unchanged throughout the year. The 2015/16 budgets have been revised to more accurately reflect the anticipated interest for the year so that there is less call on the reserve in the future.
- 4.16 The other sizeable movement was a contribution of £0.500 million from the Property Sinking Fund, which was transferred from revenue to capital to help fund the Swan Pool improvements.
- 4.17 Other movements out were £405,000 from the Planning reserve to fund appeal costs, £401,000 from the Repair and Renewals fund to meet the costs of planned operational building repairs.
- 4.18 There was only one sizeable contribution to reserves and this was £3.450 million of New Homes Bonus into the New Homes Bonus reserve. This gives a year end balance of £7 million, of which £1,113,000 is earmarked for parish initiatives.
- 4.19 Whilst the reserves are showing a net increase for the year, this is solely due to the contribution to the New Homes Bonus. However, this reserve has committed £5 million to the Council's East / West rail contribution (Council 17 July 2013). The commitment is spread over a number of years. Other commitments include £1.5 million to High Speed Broadband project, £0.986 million for the Pembroke Road depot and £0.945 million towards the Swan Pool improvements. Without this contribution in the total amount held in reserves would have risen slightly to £24.3 million.
- 4.20 A review of reserves will be carried out in advance of the 2016/17 budget setting process.
- 4.21 The full list of reserves and provisions is shown in appendix B.

5 Capital Spend and Income

- 5.1 The Council had an approved capital programme for 2014/15 of £24.3 million, of which £13.8 million was for the UCAV (University Campus Aylesbury Vale) facility, £2.0 million for the Swan Pool improvements and £1.5 million for Pembroke Road upgrade.
- 5.2 The actual spend was £15.4 million, of which £7.8 million was for the construction of the UCAV facility. The other area of significant spend was on enabling grants to Housing Associations, which totalled £4.5 million.
- 5.3 The spend was £8.9 million less than expected due to delays relating to the UCAV facility starting later than expected and with the second phase of the Depot alterations, where no agreement has been reached with AVE on which properties are available for development.
- 5.4 The Council is still in the position that it cannot generate vast sums of capital receipts as it has disposed of the majority of its assets. During 2014/15, £6.4 million was received, £2.8 million came from house sales and £3.6 million from the sale of the Circus Fields site and land at Barlow Road, Wendover.
- 5.5 During 2014/15 the Council took out further long term borrowing in order to meet its capital expenditure commitments. One loan, totalling £13.5 million, has been taken out with the PWLB for a period of 36 years. This takes the total borrowing at the end of the year to £28.5 million.
- 5.6 During the year the remaining balance of £2.5 million that was being held with a Fund Manager, Investec, was repaid.

6 Main Points Contained within the Draft Financial Statements

- 6.1 The Statement of Accounts, which will include all the notes and the group position, will be presented for approval to the September Audit Committee at the conclusion of the audit.
- 6.2 The Statement of Accounts is show the group position along side the Council's position. This makes comparison of the two positions easier and, also, helps to reduce the number of pages in the Statement.
- 6.3 The key statements for members' attention are the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) and the Balance Sheet. The CIES contains the same spend and income as contained in the Digest but it is presented in a different way to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP).
- 6.4 There has not been any accounting changes that have been incorporated in the accounts this year.
- 6.5 There were no significant issues that were required to be reflected in this year's accounts. But below are some points for information.
 - i) Icelandic Banks – Heritable Bank, no payments were received during the year, which leaves a balance of £49,603 outstanding against the £1 million deposit.
 - ii) Fixed Assets – the only assets valued at the end of the year were the Community Centres.
- 6.6 With the group account, the year end position is that AVE still owe the Council £32.7 million. This is held in the form of deferred receipts £28.6 million, Hale Leys loan £2.9 million and a debtor of £1.2 million.

- 6.7 During the course of the year the deferred receipts balance reduced by £3,938,903. This was a result of AVE repayments of £362,473 against loan one and a repayment of £3,576,430 against loan 2, which is now fully repaid.
- 6.8 The provisional year end position of the AVE group was that they made a £1.101 million profit. AVE LLP itself made a £628,000 profit and Hale Leys LLP made a £473,000 profit after accounting for an impairment loss. The group profit was after realising a profit of £1.133 million on the sale of investment properties. However, AVE group accounts are prepared under UK Gaap regulations whilst AVDC accounts are prepared under IFRS regulations so the above figures are reflected differently within our accounts.
- 6.9 AVE LLP have declared a dividend of £208,388 for 2014/15, which has yet to be formally approved by the board. Any dividend is split 50/50 between AVDC and Akeman. In previous years AVDC has not received the dividend, it has been converted into a further loan rather than being paid to the Council, in contrast to Akeman who were paid the dividend. Akeman receive the dividend due to the tax position of their investors.

7 Accounting Estimates

- 7.1 In the course of preparing the Accounts, the authority has to use accounting estimates in a number of areas. The areas where accounting estimates are used are typically fixed assets, debtors & creditors, provisions, pensions and council tax accounting.
- 7.2 In order to enable a better understanding of those figures that involve elements of estimation a table has been attached as appendix C.
- 7.3 The table highlights how the methods are assumptions are used and the consequences of the estimate being widely different to the actual position.

8 Reasons for Recommendation

- 8.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations no longer require the formal consideration of the Accounts by the Audit Committee prior to being presented for external audit. However, guidance suggests that it would be best practice to give members an early indication of the financial outcome of the previous year and this is set out in this report.

9 Resource implications

- 9.1 These are covered within the body of the report.

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Background Documents	n/a

Aylesbury Vale District Council

Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended
31 March 2015

SUBJECT TO AUDIT

SUBJECT TO AUDIT

	Page
Explanatory foreword	1 – 5
Statement of responsibilities for the statement of accounts	6
Core financial statements	
• Movement in Reserves Statement	7 – 8
• Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	9
• Balance Sheet	10
• Cash Flow Statement	11
Notes to the core financial statements	12 – 56
Supplementary financial statements	
• Collection Fund	57
Notes to the supplementary financial statements	
• Notes to the Collection Fund	58 - 59
Glossary	60 – 62

SUBJECT TO AUDIT

1. Introduction

I am pleased to be able to present to you the statement of accounts for the year 2014/15.

The statement of accounts is published to present a true and fair view of the financial position and transactions of the Council. Wherever possible it has been written in plain language but inevitably it contains technical terms and a glossary to help explain some of these terms can be found at the back of this publication.

2. Statement of accounts explanations

The statement of accounts comprises:

- ❖ Statement of responsibilities
- ❖ Core financial statements
- ❖ Notes to the core financial statements
- ❖ Supplementary financial statements
- ❖ Notes to the supplementary financial statements
- ❖ Appendices

The objective of each of the accounting statements is:

❖ Statement of responsibilities

Identifies the officer who is responsible for the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs. The purpose is for the chief finance officer to sign a statement that the accounts 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 then ended.

❖ Core financial statements

Movement in reserves statement - shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into (a) *usable reserves* - those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation and (b) *unusable reserves* - those that cannot be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation. The *(surplus)/deficit on the provision of services* line shows the true economic cost of providing the Council's services, more details of which are shown in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement. These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the general fund balance for council tax setting purposes. The *net (increase)/decrease before transfers to earmarked reserves* line shows the statutory general fund balance before any discretionary transfers to/ (from) earmarked reserves undertaken by the Council.

Comprehensive income and expenditure statement - shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from 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.

Balance sheet - shows the values as at the balance sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council. The net assets of the Council (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Council. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves is 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 (for example the capital receipts reserve that may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt). The second category of reserves is unusable reserves, i.e. those reserves 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), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold, and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the movement in reserves statement line *adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations*.

Cash flow statement - 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.

❖ **Notes to the core financial statements**

Provides support to the core financial statements, which informs the reader and gives sufficient information, to present a good understanding of the Council's activities.

❖ **Supplementary financial statements**

Collection fund – this account reflects the statutory requirement for billing authorities to maintain a separate collection fund, which shows the transactions of the Council in relation to non-domestic rates and council tax, and illustrates the way in which these have been distributed.

❖ **Notes to the supplementary financial statements**

Provides support to the supplementary financial statements, which informs the reader and gives sufficient information, to present a good understanding of the Council's activities.

❖ **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – annual governance statement

The annual governance statement is not part of the statement of accounts, but is required to be included alongside it in the same publication, and as such is not covered by (a) the chief finance officer's certification or (b) the external auditor's report.

The objective of this statement is to fulfill the statutory requirement for the Council to conduct an annual review of the effectiveness of its system of internal control.

3. General fund service revenue spending compared with budget

In 2014/15 the district general fund net underspend was £125,000. A summary of the financial position is shown below:

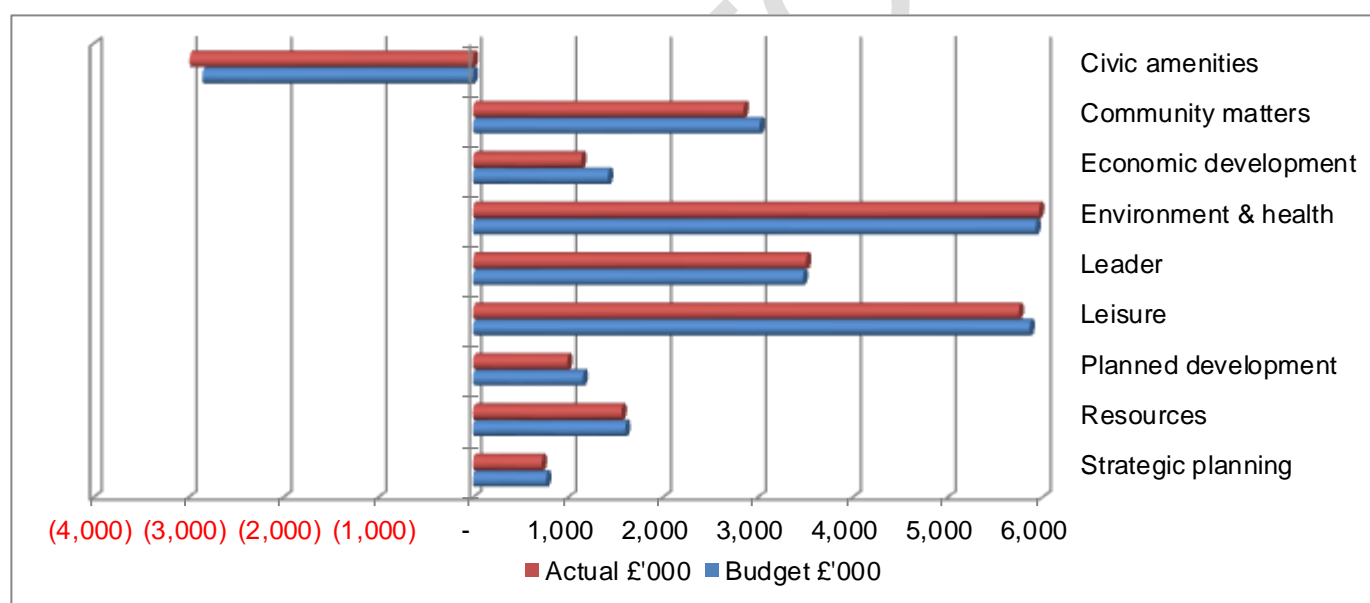
General Fund Revenue	2014/15		General Fund Balances	2014/15	
	Budget	Actual		Budget	Actual
	£000	£000		£000	£000
Expenditure	89,810	93,787	Balance 1st April	(3,184)	(3,640)
Income	(68,859)	(69,608)	Transfer to General Fund	(101)	(101)
Net Cost of Services	20,951	24,179		(3,285)	(3,741)
Cost of Borrowing	1,470	829	Net Balance from Fund	-	(24)
Other Costs	(6,797)	(4,396)	Balance 31st March	(3,285)	(3,765)
Investment Interest	(2,679)	(2,601)			
Income from Grants	(4,067)	(9,157)			
Net Expenditure	8,878	8,854			
Local Taxpayers	(8,979)	(8,979)			
Net Balance	(101)	(125)			

The actual figures presented in the table above significantly vary from the budget for the year due to the year end accounting entries that are required covering IAS19, depreciation, impairment (see 5. Brief note of significant items in the core financial statements), revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute and contributions to and (from) reserves. These entries are not budgeted for as their exact values are not normally known until after the year end and also because they do not impact on the council tax requirement.

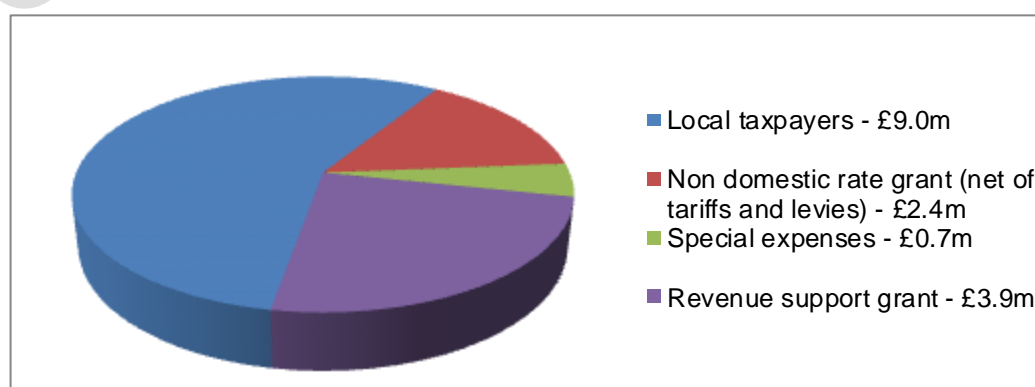
The main areas where variances from budget have been reported through the year in the Quarterly Financial Digest can be summarised as follows:

	Actual Outturn £	Forecast Outturn £	
Top 5 Under Budget			
Housing Benefits Administration	(226,374)	(163,600)	Increased administration grant and costs income
Office Accommodation	(191,856)	(159,000)	Increased income from letting of office space and conference facilities, plus savings in cleaning and business rates
Development Control	(159,944)	(700)	Higher planning fee income
Waterside Theatre	(98,419)	(72,300)	Savings on business rates and other running costs
Domestic Refuse	(79,759)	4,000	Savings on salaries and vehicle running costs
Top 5 Over Budget			
Environment & Health Administration	198,804	53,800	Redundancy costs
Core Costs	114,547	78,000	IESE partnership costs
Business Transformation	97,684	-	- Additional project and salary costs
Planning Business Support	90,427	1,500	Redundancy costs
Information Technology	50,365	-	- Lower income offset by reduced costs

The graph below shows the net spend by portfolio.



The pie chart below shows how the £16.0 million the Council receives from the local taxpayer and from Government is apportioned.



In 2014/15 the Council used £2,733,000 of earmarked reserves in support of revenue spend and transferred £6,304,000 into reserves, £3,450,000 of which was committed but unspent new homes bonus.

4. Capital spending

In 2014/15 the Council spent £8,893,000 on capital projects. The bulk of the expenditure during the year was spent on the works on the University Campus Aylesbury Vale which amounted to £7,762,000 (87%), whilst the refurbishment of Swan Pool accounted for £471,000 (5%). The remaining expenditure, £660,000, covered works on the Canal Society Clubhouse and the purchase of vehicles.

In 2014/15 the Council received non-asset backed capital receipts of £6,436,000, £2,793,000 of which was from house sales as part of the stock transfer agreement. In addition, the Council received £3,643,000 from the sale of Circus Fields and land at Barlow Road. The Council's capital expenditure in 2014/15 was partly financed from two sources, capital reserves and capital receipts. The remainder of the expenditure was funded from long term borrowing. The ability to generate new external resources remains limited.

5. Brief note of significant items in the core financial statements

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2014/15 sets out comprehensive requirements for group accounts. These require Councils to consider all their interests and to prepare a full set of group financial statements when they have material interests in subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures. A review has been undertaken of the Council's relationship with other bodies and it is clear that we should account for interests in Aylesbury Vale Estates LLP (AVE) - where the Council owns a 50% equity share - as a jointly controlled entity and prepare group accounts.

During 2012/13 Hale Leys LLP, a newly created, wholly owned subsidiary of AVE LLP purchased the Hale Leys shopping centre in Aylesbury. AVE LLP's accounts therefore now include their interest in Hale Leys LLP.

The statements are intended to present financial information about the parent (the Council) and the jointly controlled entity (AVE) by bringing together their results in a unified set of accounts. The accounts have been brought together on an equity basis.

During 2014/15, the Council has recognised an impairment loss of £1,362,000 in relation to Waterside public realm, which has been charged to the planning services line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.

6. Brief note explaining significance of any pension liability or asset

Any surplus or deficit on the Council's pension fund is required to be shown within the balance sheet. The effect of the Council's share of the pension fund administered by Bucks County Council has been assessed by the scheme's actuary as at 31 March 2015. The current valuation shows a deficit on the fund of £90,307,000 (£73,064,000 at 31 March 2014) based upon the nationally set criteria. The actual contributions payable by the Council are based upon the actuary's own assumptions in a valuation that is undertaken on a triennial basis. This valuation was last undertaken at 31st March 2013, with the next formal revaluation due as at 31st March 2016. The two valuations are carried out on different bases.

7. Brief note on the current borrowing facilities and capital borrowing

The Council is allowed to borrow providing they can demonstrate that the revenue costs are supportable and that it sets yearly borrowing limits, which have to be agreed by full Council. Aylesbury Vale District Council has, at any point in time, a number of cash requirements. Some services, such as the collection fund, have spare cash to invest whilst others, such as the capital programme, need cash to pay contractors. These cash flows, both positive and negative, are combined and managed in accordance with the approved treasury management strategy and practices. In day to day cash management, no distinction can be made between revenue cash and capital cash. External borrowing arises as a consequence of all the financial transactions of the Council and not simply those arising from capital spending.

8. Summary of sources of funds available to meet capital expenditure plans

The Council meets its capital expenditure plans through the use of capital receipts and contributions externally generated, and some internal revenue contributions. During 2014/15 there was a need to borrow long term as the ability to generate external receipts diminished.

9. An explanation of the impact of the current economic climate on the Council and the services it provides

The Council has carried forward healthy reserves (well above its minimum levels) into 2015/16 and despite continuing to receive a much lower level of formula grant, the Council, supported through a separate additional grant, froze its element of the council tax for 2015/16. This reflected a government policy objective.

As the Council enters into periods of much tighter local government funding, we have put in place a robust medium term financial strategy that sets out our planned savings to enable the budget to be balanced and to deliver affordable council tax levels covering a five year period. This is to ensure that resources will continue to be directed to ensure good quality services are provided to our residents in future.

Andrew Small
Director (with responsibility for finance)
The Gateway
Gatehouse Road
Aylesbury
Bucks HP19 8FF

SUBJECT TO AUDIT

The Council's responsibilities

The Council is required to:

- make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Council, that officer is the Director (with responsibility for finance)(the Director);
- manage its affairs: to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets;
- approve the statement of accounts.

Council approval

The statement of accounts for the year to 31 March 2015 has been prepared and I confirm that these accounts were approved by the audit committee at its meeting on 28 September 2015.

Councillor Timothy Mills
Chairman of Audit Committee
28 September 2015

The Director's responsibilities

The Director is legally and professionally responsible for the preparation of the Council's statement of accounts in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2014/15* - the Code.

In preparing this statement of accounts, I have:

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

The Director has also:

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

Director's certification

I certify that the statement of accounts presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council at the reporting date and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2015.



Andrew Small
Director (with responsibility for finance)
30 June 2015

Movement in Reserves Statement

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 other reserves. The '*surplus/deficit on the provision of services*' line shows the true economic cost of providing the Council's services, more details of which are shown in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement. These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the general fund balance for council tax setting purposes. The '*net (increase)/decrease before transfers to earmarked reserves*' line shows the statutory general fund balance before any discretionary transfers to/(from) earmarked reserves undertaken by the Council.

Council only	General fund balance	Earmarked GF reserves	Capital receipts reserves	Capital grants unapplied	Total usable reserves	Unusable reserves	Total Council reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April 2013	(3,292)	(22,660)	(3,816)	(481)	(30,249)	(67,792)	(98,041)
Movement in reserves during 2013/14							
Deficit on provision of services (accounting basis)	8,099	-	-	-	8,099	-	8,099
Other comprehensive income and expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	1,512	1,512
Total comprehensive income and expenditure	8,099	-	-	-	8,099	1,512	9,611
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (Note 6.2)	(9,982)	-	-	(111)	(10,093)	10,093	-
Net (increase)/decrease before transfers to earmarked reserves	(1,883)	-	-	(111)	(1,994)	11,605	9,611
Transfers to/(from) earmarked reserves (Note 7)	1,535	(1,535)	-	-	-	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in year	(348)	(1,535)	-	(111)	(1,994)	11,605	9,611
Balance at 31 March 2014 carried forward	(3,640)	(24,195)	(3,816)	(592)	(32,243)	(56,187)	(88,430)
Movement in reserves during 2014/15							
Deficit on provision of services (accounting basis)	2,118	-	-	-	2,118	-	2,118
Other comprehensive income and expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	10,788	10,788
Total comprehensive income and expenditure	2,118	-	-	-	2,118	10,788	12,906
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (Note 6.2)	(5,814)	-	(5,793)	(675)	(12,282)	12,282	-
Net (increase)/decrease before transfers to earmarked reserves	(3,696)	-	(5,793)	(675)	(10,164)	23,070	12,906
Transfers to/(from) earmarked reserves (Note 7)	3,571	(3,571)	-	-	-	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in year	(125)	(3,571)	(5,793)	(675)	(10,164)	23,070	12,906
Balance at 31 March 2015	(3,765)	(27,766)	(9,609)	(1,267)	(42,407)	(33,117)	(75,524)

Group	General fund balance	Earmarked GF reserves	Capital receipts reserves	Capital grants unapplied	Total usable reserves	Unusable reserves	Total Council reserves	Council's share of reserves of joint venture	Total reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April 2013	(2,022)	(22,660)	(3,816)	(481)	(28,979)	(67,792)	(96,771)	(854)	(97,625)
Movement in reserves during 2013/14									
Deficit on provision of services (accounting basis)	9,201	-	-	-	9,201	-	9,201	-	9,201
Other comprehensive income and expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	435	435	(1,077)	(642)
Total comprehensive income and expenditure	9,201	-	-	-	9,201	435	9,636	(1,077)	8,559
Adjustments between group accounts and authority accounts (Note 6.1)	(663)	-	-	-	(663)	-	(663)	663	-
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (Note 6.2)	(9,982)	-	-	(111)	(10,093)	11,170	1,077	-	1,077
Net (increase)/decrease before transfers to earmarked reserves	(1,444)	-	-	(111)	(1,555)	11,605	10,050	(414)	9,636
Transfers to/(from) earmarked reserves (Note 7)	1,535	(1,535)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in year	91	(1,535)	-	(111)	(1,555)	11,605	10,050	(414)	9,636
Balance at 31 March 2014 carried forward	(1,931)	(24,195)	(3,816)	(592)	(30,534)	(56,187)	(86,721)	(1,268)	(87,989)
Movement in reserves during 2014/15									
Deficit on provision of services (accounting basis)	1,716	-	-	-	1,716	-	1,716	-	1,716
Other comprehensive income and expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	10,788	10,788	(1,500)	9,288
Total comprehensive income and expenditure	1,716	-	-	-	1,716	10,788	12,504	(1,500)	11,004
Adjustments between group accounts and authority accounts (Note 6.1)	506	-	-	-	506	-	506	(506)	-
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (Note 6.2)	(5,814)	-	(5,793)	(675)	(12,282)	12,282	-	-	-
Net (increase)/decrease before transfers to earmarked reserves	(3,592)	-	(5,793)	(675)	(10,060)	23,070	13,010	(2,006)	11,004
Transfers to/(from) earmarked reserves (Note 7)	3,571	(3,571)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in year	(21)	(3,571)	(5,793)	(675)	(10,060)	23,070	13,010	(2,006)	11,004
Balance at 31 March 2015	(1,952)	(27,766)	(9,609)	(1,267)	(40,594)	(33,117)	(73,711)	(3,274)	(76,985)

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

This statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. 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.

2013/14						2014/15							
Council only			Group			Council only			Group				
Gross expenditure	Gross income	Net expenditure	Gross expenditure	Gross income	Net expenditure	Gross expenditure	Gross income	Net expenditure	Gross expenditure	Gross income	Net expenditure		
£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	note	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000		
2,044	(1,222)	822	2,044	(1,222)	822		2,166	(1,353)	813	2,166	(1,353)	813	
7,924	(2,376)	5,548	7,924	(2,376)	5,548		7,382	(3,000)	4,382	7,382	(3,000)	4,382	
10,729	(4,088)	6,641	10,729	(4,088)	6,641		11,627	(4,707)	6,920	11,627	(4,707)	6,920	
11,328	(3,925)	7,403	11,328	(3,925)	7,403		7,305	(4,737)	2,568	7,305	(4,737)	2,568	
2,692	(2,755)	(63)	2,692	(2,755)	(63)		2,932	(6,255)	(3,323)	2,932	(6,255)	(3,323)	
54,882	(48,153)	6,729	54,882	(48,153)	6,729		57,234	(49,553)	7,681	57,234	(49,553)	7,681	
3,303	(1)	3,302	3,303	(1)	3,302		3,231	(3)	3,228	3,231	(3)	3,228	
1,999	-	1,999	1,999	-	1,999		1,910	-	1,910	1,910	-	1,910	
94,901	(62,520)	32,381	94,901	(62,520)	32,381	Cost of services	31	93,787	(69,608)	24,179	93,787	(69,608)	24,179
	1,862			1,862		Other operating income and expenditure	8		4,943		4,943		
	(334)			768		Financing and investment income and expenditure	9		1,338		936		
	<u>(25,810)</u>			<u>(25,810)</u>		Taxation and non-specific grant income	10		<u>(28,342)</u>		<u>(28,342)</u>		
	8,099			9,201		Deficit on provision of services			2,118		1,716		
	(591)			(1,668)		Surplus on revaluation of property, plant and equipment assets	25.1		(3,416)		(4,916)		
	(46)			(46)		Deficit/(surplus) on revaluation of available for sale financial assets	25.2		51		51		
	<u>2,149</u>			<u>2,149</u>		Remeasurement of net defined benefit	25.5		<u>14,153</u>		<u>14,153</u>		
	1,512			435		Other comprehensive income and expenditure			10,788		9,288		
	9,611			9,636		Total comprehensive income and expenditure			12,906		11,004		

Balance Sheet

The balance sheet shows the value as at the balance sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council. The net assets of the Council are matched by the reserves held by the Council. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves is 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 is those that the Council is not able to use to provide services.

31 March 2014			31 March 2015	
Council only	Group		Council only	Group
£000	£000	note	£000	£000
		Property, plant & equipment		
104,035	104,035	Other land and buildings	11.7	108,554
2,262	2,262	Vehicles, plant and equipment	11.7	1,887
19	19	Community assets	11.7	19
9,729	9,729	Surplus assets not held for sale	11.7	9,729
220	220	Heritage assets	11.7	220
8,941	8,941	Assets under construction	11.7	10,131
125,206	125,206	Total property, plant & equipment		130,540
415	415	Investment property	12	415
1,340	56	Long term investments	13	1,285
-	843	Investment in joint venture	14	-
28,727	28,727	Long term debtors	15	28,315
155,688	155,247	Long term assets		160,555
1,800	1,800	Assets held for resale	16	451
21,076	21,076	Short term investments	17	34,132
23	23	Inventories		3
14,934	14,934	Short term debtors	17,18	12,584
7,736	7,736	Short term loans	17,19	4,286
5,115	5,115	Cash and cash equivalents	17,20	7,965
50,684	50,684	Current assets		59,421
-	-	Bank overdraft	17,20	-
(5,009)	(5,009)	Short term borrowing	17	-
(13,416)	(13,416)	Short term creditors	17,21	(13,552)
(1,629)	(1,629)	Provisions	22	(1,629)
(20,054)	(20,054)	Current liabilities		(15,181)
(183)	(183)	Provisions	22	(187)
(82,566)	(82,566)	Other long term liabilities	23	(100,306)
(15,139)	(15,139)	Long term borrowing	17	(28,778)
(97,888)	(97,888)	Long term liabilities		(129,271)
88,430	87,989	Net assets		75,524
(3,640)	(1,931)	General fund balance	24	(3,765)
(3,816)	(3,816)	Capital receipts reserve	24	(9,609)
(592)	(592)	Capital grants unapplied	24	(1,267)
(24,195)	(24,195)	Earmarked reserves	7,24	(27,766)
-	1,129	Share of joint venture profit and loss reserves	24	-
(32,243)	(29,405)	Usable reserves		(42,407)
(10,961)	(13,358)	Revaluation reserve	25.1	(14,377)
(51)	(51)	Available for sale financial instruments reserve	25.2	-
(86,824)	(86,824)	Capital adjustment account	25.3	(80,949)
(32,708)	(32,708)	Deferred capital receipts	25.4	(28,769)
73,064	73,064	Pensions reserve	25.5	90,307
1,204	1,204	Collection fund adjustment account	25.6	597
89	89	Accumulated absences account	25.7	74
(56,187)	(58,584)	Unusable reserves		(33,117)
(88,430)	(87,989)	Total reserves		(75,524)
				(76,985)

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.

2013/14			2014/15	
Council only	Group		Council only	Group
£000	£000	note	£000	£000
(8,099)	(9,201)		(2,118)	(1,716)
18,983	20,085	26.1	10,781	10,379
(7,929)	(7,929)	26.2	(8,364)	(8,364)
2,955	2,955		299	299
(17,662)	(17,662)	27	(10,035)	(10,035)
(781)	(781)	28	12,586	12,586
(15,488)	(15,488)		2,850	2,850
20,603	20,603		5,115	5,115
5,115	5,115		7,965	7,965

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 General principles

The statement of accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2014/15 financial year and its position at 31 March 2015. The Council is required to prepare an annual statement of accounts by the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011 no.817), which require the accounts to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in The United Kingdom 2014/15 and Service Reporting Code of Practice 2014/15, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and statutory guidance issued under section 12 of the 2003 Act.

1.2 Accruals of expenditure and income

All transactions of the Council are accounted for in the year in which they take place, not simply when the cash payments are made or received. In particular:

- Fees, charges and rents due from customers are accounted for as income at the date the Council provides the relevant goods or services;
- Supplies and services are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed - where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption, they are carried as stocks on the balance sheet;
- Interest receivable on investments is accounted for on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract;
- Where income and expenditure has been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the balance sheet. Where it is doubtful that debts will be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected; and
- Income and expenditure are credited and debited to the relevant service revenue account, unless they properly represent capital receipts or capital expenditure.

1.3 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash comprises cash in hand and call account deposits repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value. In the cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the Council's cash management.

1.4 Charges to revenue for non-current assets

Services, support services and trading accounts are debited with the following amounts to record the cost of holding fixed assets during the year:

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

The Council is not required to raise council tax to fund depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisations. However, it is required to make an annual contribution from revenue towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement equal to either at least 4% of the underlying amount measured by the adjusted capital financing requirement or the asset life method where the MRP is determined by reference to the life of the asset and an equal amount charged each year. Depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are therefore replaced by minimum revenue provision in the statement of movement on the general fund balance, by way of an adjusting transaction within the capital adjustment account for the difference between the two.

1.5 Employee benefits

1.5.1 Benefits payable during employment

Short-term employee benefits are those due to be settled wholly within 12 months of the year-end. They include such benefits as wages and salaries, paid annual leave and paid sick leave, bonuses and non-monetary benefits for current employees and are recognised as an expense for services in the year in which employees render service to the Council.

An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements (or any form of leave, e.g. time off in lieu) earned by employees but not taken before the year end which employees can carry into the next financial year. The accrual is made at the wage and salary rates applicable in the following year, being the period in which the employee takes the benefit. The accrual is charged to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services, but is then reversed out through the movement in reserves statement so that holiday benefits are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs.

1.5.2 Termination benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Council to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy in exchange for those benefits, and are charged on an accruals basis to the relevant service costs line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement at the earlier of when the Council can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when the Council recognises costs for a restructuring.

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

1.5.3 Post-employment benefits

The majority of Council employees are members of the local government pension scheme, administered by Buckinghamshire County Council. The scheme provides defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees work for the Council.

The local government scheme is accounted for as a defined benefits scheme:

- The liabilities of Buckinghamshire County Council's superannuation 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 based on the annualised yield at the 21 year point on the Merrill Lynch AA rated corporate bond curve, which has been chosen to meet the requirements of IAS19 and with consideration of the duration of the employer's liabilities. This approach has been updated from previous disclosures when the yield on the iBoxx Sterling Corporate Index was used as a standard assumption for most employers in the fund.
- The assets of Buckinghamshire County Council's superannuation fund attributable to the Council are included in the balance sheet at their fair value:
 - quoted securities – current bid price
 - unquoted securities – professional estimate
 - unitised securities – current bid price
 - property – market value
- The change in the net pensions liability is analysed into the following components:
 - service cost comprising:
 - current service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year (allocated in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement to the services for which the employees worked).
 - past service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of a scheme amendment or curtailment whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years (debited to the net cost of services in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement as part of non-distributed costs).
 - net interest on the defined benefit liability, i.e. net interest expense for the Council – the change during the year in the net defined benefit liability that arises from the passage of time (charged to the financing and investment income and expenditure line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement).

- re-measurement comprising:
 - the return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability (charged to the pensions reserve as other comprehensive income and expenditure).
 - actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation, or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions (charged to the pensions reserve as other comprehensive income and expenditure).
- contributions paid to Buckinghamshire County Council's pension fund – cash paid as employer's contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities. This is not accounted for as an expense.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the general 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 transfers to and from the pensions reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year end. The negative balance that arises on the pensions reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact to the general fund of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

1.5.4 Discretionary benefits

The Council also has restricted powers to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirements. Any liabilities estimated to arise as a result of an award to any member of staff are accrued in the year of the decision to make the award and accounted for using the same policies as are applied to the local government pension scheme.

1.6 Events after the balance sheet date

Events after the balance sheet date are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that have occurred between the balance sheet date and the date when the statement of accounts is authorised for issue. Two types of event can be identified:

- those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the balance sheet date – the statement of accounts is adjusted to reflect such events
- those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the balance sheet date – the statement of accounts is not adjusted to reflect such events, but where a category of events would have a material effect, disclosure is made in the notes of the nature of the events and their estimated financial effect.

Events taking place after the date of authorisation for issue are not reflected in the statement of accounts.

1.7 Financial instruments

1.7.1 Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are recognised on the balance sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are measured at fair value. Annual charges to the financing and investment income and expenditure line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement for interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument.

This means that for the borrowings the Council has, the amount presented in the balance sheet is the outstanding principal repayable plus accrued interest, and interest charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement is the amount payable for the year.

1.7.2 Financial assets

Financial assets are classified into two types:

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

1.7.2.1 Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are recognised on the balance sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are measured at fair value. Annual credits to the financing and investment income and expenditure line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement for interest receivable are based on the carrying amount of the liability multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument.

This means that for the loans the Council has made, the amount presented in the balance sheet is the outstanding principal receivable plus accrued interest, and interest charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement is the amount receivable for the year.

Where assets are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a past event that payments due under the contract will not be made, the asset is written down and a charge made to the financing and investment income and expenditure line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement. The impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the revised future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate.

1.7.2.2 Available for sale assets

Available for sale assets are recognised on the balance sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are measured at fair value. Where the asset has fixed or determinable payments, annual credits to the financing and investment income and expenditure line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement for interest receivable are based on the carrying amount of the liability multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. Where there are no fixed or determinable payments, income is credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement when it becomes receivable by the Council.

1.8 Government grants and other contributions

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

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

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

Monies advanced as grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried in the balance sheet as creditors. When conditions are satisfied, the grant or contribution is credited to the relevant service line or taxation and non-specific grant income in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.

Where capital grants are credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement, they are reversed out of the general fund balance in the movement in reserves statement. Where the grant has yet to be used to finance capital expenditure, it is posted to the capital grants unapplied reserve. Amounts in the capital grants unapplied reserve are transferred to the capital adjustment account once they have been applied to fund capital expenditure.

1.8.1 Revenue support grant

Revenue support grant (RSG) is a general grant allocated by central government directly to local authorities as additional revenue funding. RSG is non-ring-fenced and is credited to taxation and non-specific grant income in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement

1.9 Interests in companies and other entities

The Council has a material interest in Aylesbury Vale Estates LLP (AVE), which requires it to prepare group accounts. In the Council's own single-entity accounts this interest is recorded as a financial asset at cost less any provision for losses.

1.10 Inventories and long-term contracts

Inventories (stocks) are included in the balance sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Long term contracts are accounted for on the basis of the comprehensive income and expenditure statement being charged in the year during which the cost of goods or services were received or provided.

1.11 Investment property

Investment properties are those (land or a building, or part of a building, or both) that are held solely to earn rentals or for capital appreciation or both. The definition is not met if the property is used in any way to facilitate the delivery of services or production of goods or is held for sale.

Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value, based on the amount at which the asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable parties at arm's length. Properties are not depreciated but are revalued annually according to market conditions at the year end. Gains and losses on revaluation are posted to the financing and investment income and expenditure line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement. The same treatment is applied to gains and losses on disposal.

Rentals and costs relating to investment properties are posted to the financing and investment income and expenditure line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement and result in a gain or loss for the general fund balance. However, revaluation and disposal gains and losses are not permitted by statutory arrangements to have an impact on the general fund balance. The gains and losses are therefore reversed out of the general fund balance in the movement in reserves statement and posted to the capital adjustment account and any sale proceeds credited to the capital receipts reserve.

1.12 Leases

1.12.1 Finance leases

The Council accounts for leases as finance leases when substantially all (determined for Aylesbury Vale District Council as being equal to or greater than 95%) the risks and rewards relating to the leased property transfer to the Council. Rentals payable are apportioned between:

- a charge for the acquisition of the interest in the property (recognised as a liability in the balance sheet at the start of the lease, matched with a tangible fixed asset – the liability is written down as the rent becomes payable); and
- a finance charge is made to net operating expenditure in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement as the rent becomes payable.

Fixed assets recognised under finance leases are accounted for using the policies applied generally to tangible fixed assets, subject to depreciation being charged over the lease term, if this is shorter than the asset's estimated useful life.

1.12.2 Operating leases

Leases that do not meet the definition of finance leases are accounted for as operating leases. Rentals payable are charged to the relevant service account on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease, which generally means that rentals are charged when they become payable.

1.13 Overheads and support services

The cost of support services are recharged to services based on use and in accordance with CIPFA's *Service Reporting Code of Practice 2014/15 – SeRCOP*.

The total absorption costing principle is used – the full cost of overheads and support services are shared between users in proportion to the benefits received, with the exception of:

- corporate and democratic core – costs relating to the Council's status as a multifunctional, democratic organisation; and
- non-distributed costs – the cost of discretionary benefits awarded to employees retiring early and any depreciation and impairment losses chargeable on non-operational properties.

These two categories are defined in SeRCOP and accounted for as separate headings in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.

1.14 Prior period adjustments, changes in accounting policies and estimates and errors

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

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

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

1.15 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.

1.15.1 Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of fixed assets is capitalised on an accruals basis in the accounts. Expenditure in excess of £10,000 on fixed assets is capitalised. This excludes expenditure on routine repairs and maintenance of fixed assets which is charged direct to service revenue accounts.

1.15.2 Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising all expenditure that is directly attributable to bringing the asset into working condition for its intended use. Assets are then carried in the balance sheet using the following measurement bases:

- assets surplus to requirements - fair value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value – EUV)
- other land and buildings - fair value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value – EUV)
- vehicles, plant and equipment – existing use value (EUV)
- infrastructure assets - historic cost
- community assets – historic cost or revalued basis
- assets under construction – historic cost

Assets included in the balance sheet at current value are revalued on a rolling basis within a five year time-frame. Increases in valuations are matched by credits in 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 an impairment loss previously charged to a service revenue account.

1.15.3 Impairment

The values of each category of assets and of material individual assets that are not being depreciated are reviewed at the end of each financial year for evidence of reductions in value. Where impairment is identified as part of this review or as a result of a valuation exercise, this is accounted for by:

- where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the revaluation reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains)
- where there is no balance on the revaluation reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant line(s) in the comprehensive income and expenditure account.

Where an impairment loss is charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement but there were accumulated revaluation gains in the revaluation reserve for that asset, an amount up to the value of the loss is transferred from the revaluation reserve to the capital adjustment account.

1.15.4 Disposals and non current assets held for resale

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 resale. The asset is revalued immediately before reclassification and then carried at the lower of this amount and fair value less costs to sell. Where there is a subsequent decrease to fair value less costs to sell, the loss is posted to the other operating costs 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 non current assets held for resale.

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

When an asset is disposed of or decommissioned, the value of the asset in the balance sheet is written off to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals are credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal). Any revaluation gains in the revaluation reserve are transferred to the capital adjustment account. Amounts in excess of £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts. A proportion of receipts (75%) relating to housing mortgage receipts is payable to the government. The balance of receipts is required to be credited to the capital receipts reserve, and can then only be used for new capital investment or set aside to reduce the Council's underlying need to borrow – the capital financing requirement. Receipts are appropriated to the reserve from the movement in reserves statement.

The written-off value of disposals is not a charge against council tax, as the cost of fixed assets is fully provided for under separate arrangements for capital financing. Amounts are appropriated to the capital adjustment account from the movement in reserves statement.

1.15.5 Depreciation

Depreciation is provided in respect of all the relevant property, plant and equipment, other than investment properties, where a finite useful life has been determined. This is with the intention of writing off their balance sheet values in equal annual instalments over their remaining expected useful lives. This is commonly referred to as the 'straight line' method. An exception is made for assets without a determinable finite life (i.e. freehold land and certain community assets) and assets that are not yet available for use (i.e. assets under construction).

Revaluation gains are also depreciated, with an amount equal to the difference between the current value depreciation charge on assets and the depreciation that would have been chargeable based on their historical cost being transferred each year from the revaluation reserve to the capital adjustment account.

1.15.6 Componentisation

The objective of component accounting is to follow proper accounting practice by ensuring that property, plant and equipment is accurately and fairly included in the Council's balance sheet, and that the comprehensive income and expenditure statement properly reflects the consumption of economic benefits of those assets over their useful lives through depreciation charges.

In order to do this, the Council must first determine which of its assets have a material value. For Aylesbury Vale District Council materiality in this instance has been set as any asset with a carrying value equal to or greater than 20% of the total carrying value for any asset group.

Where an asset is deemed material then the Council must ensure that the overall value of an asset is fairly apportioned over significant components that need to be accounted for separately and that their useful lives and the method of depreciation are determined on a reasonable and consistent basis. For Aylesbury Vale District Council significance has been set at equal to or greater than 20% of the asset's cost.

1.16 Provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets**1.16.1 Provisions**

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Council a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefits or service potential, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. For instance, the authority may be involved in a court case that could eventually result in the making of a settlement or the payment of compensation.

Provisions are charged as an expense to the appropriate 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.

1.16.2 Contingent liabilities

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

Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the balance sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts.

1.16.3 Contingent assets

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

Contingent assets are not recognised in the balance sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts where it is probable that there will be an inflow of economic benefits or service potential.

1.17 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 general fund balance in the movement in reserves statement. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service revenue account. The value is then appropriated from the reserve and credited to the general fund balance so that there is no charge against council tax for the expenditure.

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

1.18 Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute

Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute (REFCUS) is expenditure which may be capitalised but which does not result in the creation of tangible assets controlled by the Council. REFCUS incurred during the year is written off as expenditure to the relevant service revenue account in the year. Examples include grants to third parties for capital purposes and expenditure on private sector housing renewal.

1.19 VAT

VAT is only included within the revenue and capital income and expenditure accounts to the extent that it is irrecoverable.

2. Accounting standards not yet adopted

The Code of Practice on Local Council Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16 (the Code) requires the disclosure of information relating to the expected impact of an accounting change that will be required by a new standard that has been issued but not yet adopted. This applies to the adoption of the following new or amended standards within the 2015/16 Code:

- IFRS 13 Fair Value Measurement – This standard provides a consistent definition of fair value and enhanced disclosure requirements. It is designed to apply to assets and liabilities covered by those IFRSs that currently permit or require measurement at fair value (with some exceptions). The adoption of this standard will require surplus assets (assets that are not being used to deliver services, but which do not meet the criteria to be classified as either investment properties or non-current assets held for sale) to be revalued to market value rather than value in existing use as at present. Operational property, plant and equipment are outside the scope of IFRS13. Overall this standard is not expected to have a material impact on the statement of accounts due to the low value of surplus assets held by the Council
- Annual Improvements to IFRSs (2011 – 2013 Cycle) – These improvements are minor, principally providing clarification, and will not have a material impact on the statement of accounts.

The Code requires implementation from 1 April 2015 and there is therefore no impact on the 2014/15 statement of accounts

3. Critical judgements in applying accounting policies

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

- There is a high degree of uncertainty about future levels of funding for local government. However, the Council has determined that this uncertainty is not yet sufficient to provide an indication that the assets of the Council might be impaired as a result of a need to close facilities and reduce levels of service provision.
- The Council has a number of members who are trustees of the Aylesbury Vale Community Trust, an independent not-for-profit organisation that operated the leisure centres previously operated by the Council. It has been determined that the Council does not have control of the trust and it is not a subsidiary of the Council.

4. Assumptions made about the future and other major sources of estimation uncertainty

The statement of accounts contains estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the Council about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because balances cannot 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 March 2015 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

- Business rates - Since the introduction of the business rates retention scheme effective from 1 April 2013, local authorities are liable for successful appeals against business rates charged to businesses in 2012/13 and earlier years in their proportionate share. Therefore a provision has been recognised for the best estimate of the amount that businesses have been overcharged up to 31 March 2015. The estimate has been calculated using the Valuation Office (VOA) ratings list of appeals and the analysis of successful appeals to date when providing the estimate of the total provision up to and including 31 March 2015.
- Council tax (surplus)/deficit - Assumptions are made on the likely (surplus)/deficit for the year in the January prior to the year end. The information forms part of the budget setting process for Aylesbury Vale District Council, Buckinghamshire County Council, Thames Valley Police Authority and Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire & Rescue Authority. If the actual (surplus)/deficit differs significantly from the estimated assumption position from January, there will be an impact in the following year's budget process. A higher deficit could mean more savings being required or an increased council tax.
- Debt impairment - At 31 March 2015, the Council had a balance of sundry debtors for £9,735,000. A review of significant balances suggested that an impairment for doubtful debts of 21% (£2,013,000) was appropriate. However, in the current economic climate it is not certain that such an allowance would be sufficient. If collection rates were to deteriorate, which was not the case during 2014/15, the Council would require additional funds to set aside as an allowance.

- Earmarked reserves - The Council has a large number of earmarked reserves, which are reviewed annually to assess the expected year end balance. The expected reserve balances form part of the budget setting process. Although, the reserve levels are not prescribed, major variations could have an impact on service budgets as expected funds may not be available, which could lead to savings being required in year.
- Pensions liability - Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgments relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied. The effects on the net pensions liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured. The assumptions interact in complex ways.
- Property, plant and equipment - Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about the level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual assets. In the current economic climate there will be increased pressure on all budgets, leading to difficult choices which might result in the Council being less able to sustain its current spending on repairs and maintenance, bringing into doubt the useful lives assigned to assets.

If the useful life of assets is reduced, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the assets falls. It is estimated that the annual depreciation charge for buildings would increase by £85,700 for every year that useful lives had to be reduced.

- Provisions for liabilities including restructuring, redundancy and onerous contracts - no provision is made for redundancies as sections have to meet the cost from within their own budgets. If there was the need to make redundancies and they could not be met from the service budget then it would impact on the general fund surplus. Any impact would have to be met from the following year. It could be significant if there were a large number.

This list does not include assets and liabilities that have been carried at fair value based on a recently observed market price.

5. Events after the balance sheet date

The statement of accounts was authorised for issue by the Director on 28 September 2015. 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 March 2015, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information.

6. Adjustments

6.1 Adjustments between group accounts and Council accounts

2013/14		2014/15
Group		Group
£000		£000
663	Share of AVE LLP loss for the year	(506)
663		(506)

6.2 Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations

This note details the adjustments that are made to the total comprehensive income and expenditure recognised by the Council in the year in accordance with proper accounting practice to the resources that are made by statutory provisions as being available to the Council to meet future capital and revenue expenditure.

The following sets out a description of the reserves against which the adjustments are made.

- General fund balance
The general fund is the statutory fund into which all the receipts of the Council are required to be paid and out of which all liabilities of the Council are to be met, except to the extent that statutory rules might provide otherwise. These rules can also specify the financial year in which liabilities and payments should impact on the general fund balance, which is not necessarily in accordance with proper accounting practice. The general fund therefore summarises the resources that the Council is statutorily empowered to spend on its services or on capital investment.

- **Capital receipts reserve**
The capital receipts reserve holds the proceeds from the disposal of land or other assets, which are restricted by statute from being used other than to fund new capital expenditure or to be set aside to finance historic capital expenditure. The balance on the reserve shows the resources that have yet to be applied for these purposes at the year end.
- **Capital grants unapplied**
The capital grants unapplied account holds the grants and contributions received towards capital projects for which the Council has met the conditions that would otherwise require repayment of the monies but which have yet to be applied to meet expenditure. The balance is restricted by grant terms as to the capital expenditure against which it can be applied and/or the financial year in which this can take place.

Council and group	2014/15			
	Usable reserves			Movement in unusable reserves
	General fund balance	Capital receipts reserve	Capital grants unapplied	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Adjustments primarily involving the capital adjustment account				
Reversal of items debited or credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement				
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(7,915)	-	-	7,915
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the (surplus)/deficit on the provision of services	7,325			(7,325)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(4,588)	-	-	4,588
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the (gain)/loss on disposal to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement	(7,434)	-	-	7,434
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement				
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	1,320	-	-	(1,320)
Adjustments primarily involving the capital grants unapplied account				
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement	1,928	-	(1,928)	-
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the capital adjustment account	-	-	1,253	(1,253)
Adjustments primarily involving the capital receipts reserve				
Use of the capital receipts reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-	4,164	-	(4,164)
In-year capital receipts	6,018	(6,018)	-	-
Transfer from deferred capital receipts reserve upon receipt of cash	-	(3,939)	-	3,939
Adjustments primarily involving the pensions reserve				
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement	(6,832)	-	-	6,832
Employer's contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in year	3,742	-	-	(3,742)
Adjustments primarily involving the collection fund adjustment account				
Amount by which council tax income and non domestic rates income credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement is different from council tax and non domestic rates income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	607	-	-	(607)
Adjustments primarily involving the accumulated absences account				
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	15	-	-	(15)
Total adjustments	(5,814)	(5,793)	(675)	12,282

Council and group	2013/14			
	Usable reserves			Movement in unusable reserves
	General fund balance	Capital receipts reserve	Capital grants unapplied	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Adjustments primarily involving the capital adjustment account				
Reversal of items debited or credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement				
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(7,628)	-	-	7,628
Capital grants and contributions applied	6	-	-	(6)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(4,063)	-	-	4,063
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the (gain)/loss on disposal to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement	(2,574)	-	-	2,574
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement				
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	1,219	-	-	(1,219)
Adjustments primarily involving the capital grants unapplied account				
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement	3,196	-	(3,196)	-
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the capital adjustment account	-	-	3,085	(3,085)
Adjustments primarily involving the capital receipts reserve				
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the loss on disposal to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement	2,193	(2,193)	-	-
Use of the capital receipts reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-	4,666	-	(4,666)
In-year capital receipts	2,131	(2,131)	-	-
Transfer from deferred capital receipts reserve upon receipt of cash	-	(342)	-	342
Adjustments primarily involving the deferred capital receipts reserve				
Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the loss on disposal to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement	114	-	-	(114)
Adjustments primarily involving the pensions reserve				
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement	(6,741)	-	-	6,741
Employer's contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in year	3,547	-	-	(3,547)
Adjustments primarily involving the collection fund adjustment account				
Amount by which council tax income and non domestic rates income credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement is different from council tax and non domestic rates income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(1,382)	-	-	1,382
Total adjustments	(9,982)	-	(111)	10,093

7. Transfers (to)/from earmarked reserves

This note sets out the amounts set aside from general fund balances in earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from earmarked reserves to meet general fund expenditure in 2013/14 and 2014/15

Council and group	Balance 1 April 2013	Transfers out 2013/14	Transfers in 2013/14	Balance 31 March 2014	Transfers out 2014/15	Transfers in 2014/15	Balance 31 March 2015
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Capital purposes							
Amenity areas	(2,214)	-	(210)	(2,424)	-	(82)	(2,506)
Property sinking	(2,812)	-	-	(2,812)	500	-	(2,312)
Information technology	(924)	-	(290)	(1,214)	282	(297)	(1,229)
Property strategy	(151)	151	(436)	(436)	-	(104)	(540)
Future vehicle costs	(4)	-	(15)	(19)	15	-	(4)
	(6,105)	151	(951)	(6,905)	797	(483)	(6,591)
Revenue purposes							
New homes bonus	(987)	-	(2,564)	(3,551)	-	(3,450)	(7,001)
Interest equalisation	(4,859)	1,407	-	(3,452)	657	-	(2,795)
Business rates	-	-	(1,680)	(1,680)	-	(321)	(2,001)
Superannuation	(1,963)	126	-	(1,837)	277	-	(1,560)
Benefit subsidy	(1,534)	-	-	(1,534)	-	-	(1,534)
Planning fees	(865)	363	(251)	(753)	405	(842)	(1,190)
Repairs & renewals	(851)	91	(295)	(1,055)	401	(254)	(908)
LABGI	(1,260)	388	(35)	(907)	100	(50)	(857)
Fairford Leys riverine	(393)	-	(19)	(412)	-	(438)	(850)
Self insurance	(594)	55	-	(539)	-	(38)	(577)
Aylesbury special expenses	(381)	-	(90)	(471)	-	(48)	(519)
Recycling & composting	(141)	-	(10)	(151)	-	(48)	(199)
Car parking	(170)	-	(22)	(192)	-	-	(192)
District elections	(73)	-	(68)	(141)	35	(54)	(160)
Leisure Activities	-	-	-	-	-	(156)	(156)
Historic buildings	(136)	-	-	(136)	-	(5)	(141)
Housing needs & s106	(116)	9	-	(107)	-	-	(107)
Business support fund	-	-	-	-	-	(102)	(102)
Business transformation	(211)	61	-	(150)	61	-	(89)
Rent guarantee scheme	(71)	-	-	(71)	-	-	(71)
Health licensing income	(53)	12	(10)	(51)	-	-	(51)
Market research	(31)	-	(1)	(32)	-	(15)	(47)
Playgrounds	(30)	-	(10)	(40)	-	-	(40)
Land registry fees	(33)	30	(8)	(11)	-	-	(11)
Other	(9)	-	-	(9)	-	-	(9)
Corporate improvement	(7)	-	(1)	(8)	-	-	(8)
Electricity supply	(1,787)	1,787	-	-	-	-	-
	(16,555)	4,329	(5,064)	(17,290)	1,936	(5,821)	(21,175)
	(22,660)	4,480	(6,015)	(24,195)	2,733	(6,304)	(27,766)

The following paragraphs provide an explanation of those reserves whose balance is in excess of £1 million or where it was felt reporting would be beneficial.

(a) Amenity areas

The Council has established a reserve to hold commuted sums and sums received by way of section 106 agreements. The sums are invested and the interest transferred to the general fund to meet on-going revenue costs.

- (b) Property sinking reserve**
The Council has established a property sinking fund for the purpose of meeting large maintenance and refurbishment costs associated with operational buildings, particularly the offices and the new theatre.
- (c) Information technology**
The Council has established a reserve for the purpose of meeting the cost of investment in new technology.
- (d) New homes bonus**
The Council has established a reserve from payments received from the Government. The new homes bonus payments are an incentive scheme aimed at encouraging authorities to increase housing supply through new build and returning empty properties to use. At its meeting of the 17 July 2013, the Council agreed to a £5.4 million contribution to the East/West rail link, which would be met from this reserve.
- (e) Interest equalisation reserve**
The Council has established a reserve for the purpose of maintaining the level of interest transferred to the general fund annually. The reserve helps to counteract any fluctuations in interest rates.
- (f) Business rates reserve**
The Council has established a reserve to smooth out the fluctuations in the retained proportion of business rates arising from new government financing arrangements.
- (g) Superannuation reserve**
This reserve has been established for the purpose of meeting back funding contributions and pension strain costs in respect of deleted posts.
- (h) Benefit subsidy reserve**
The Council has established a reserve for the purpose of meeting fluctuations in respect of housing benefit subsidy. Additional year end subsidy received during the following year will be available to meet future fluctuations once the final benefit subsidy position is known.
- (i) Planning reserves**
The Council has established a number of reserves for the purpose of meeting fees and costs associated with major planning enquiries.
- (j) Repairs and maintenance (corporate property) reserve**
The Council maintains a reserve for the purpose of providing for the future refurbishment of general fund property assets. This reserve receives an annual contribution from the comprehensive income and expenditure account.
- (k) LABGI (local authority business growth incentive) reserve**
The Council has created a reserve from the grant income received from the DCLG pending the allocation to specific areas that have been identified within the district.

8. Other operating income and expenditure

2013/14 Council and Group		2014/15 Council and Group
£000		£000
4,193	Parish precepts	4,272
2	Payments to the government housing capital receipts pool	1
(2,131)	Post stock transfer capital receipts	(2,793)
(210)	Commutated sum income	(82)
(253)	Other operating costs/(income)	(246)
261	Loss on disposal of non-current assets	3,791
1,862		4,943

9. Financing and investment income and expenditure

2013/14			2014/15	
Council only	Group		Council only	Group
£000	£000		£000	£000
212	212	Interest payable and similar charges	829	829
2,968	2,968	Net interest on the net defined liability	3,138	3,138
(3,181)	(3,181)	Interest receivable and similar income	(2,601)	(2,601)
-	663	Share of losses attributable to joint venture	-	(506)
(439)	-	Distribution attributable to joint venture (note 29)	(104)	-
106	106	Other investment costs (note 12)	76	76
(334)	768		1,338	936

10. Taxation and non-specific grant income

2013/14		2014/15
Council and Group		Council and Group
£000		£000
(13,672)	Council tax income	(14,060)
(2,652)	Non domestic rates	(3,697)
(8,547)	Non-ringfenced government grants (note 30)	(9,157)
(939)	Capital grants and contributions	(1,428)
(25,810)		(28,342)

11. Property, plant and equipment**11.1 Measurement bases used**

The gross carrying amount of assets has been determined on the following bases:

- other land and buildings are included in the balance sheet at the lower of net current replacement cost and net realisable value.
- vehicles, plant and equipment are included in the balance sheet at historical cost.
- community assets are included in the balance sheet at historical cost.
- assets under construction are included in the balance sheet at historical cost.

11.2 Depreciation methods used

Depreciation is calculated on a straight line basis over the useful life of an asset

11.3 Useful lives or depreciation rates used

The useful life of an asset is the period over which it is expected to deliver productive benefit to the Council. The useful lives used for depreciating the various assets are:

<u>Class type</u>	<u>Useful life</u>
Surface car parks	20 - 34 years
Multi-storey car parks	26 - 50 years
Sports pavilions	10 - 28 years
Other public buildings	8 - 43 years
Equipment	5 years
Vehicles	3 years

11.4 Capital commitments

In May 2014 the Council entered into an agreement to construct an educational facility for the value of £16.550 million. The outstanding commitment at 31 March 2015 was £6.419 million.

The Council is undertaking refurbishment work at Swan Pool, Buckingham at a cost of £2.700million. The outstanding commitment at 31 March 2015 was £2.229 million.

The Council had no construction contracts in effect at 31 March 2015.

11.5 Effects of changes in estimates

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

If the useful life of assets is reduced, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the assets falls. It is estimated that the annual depreciation charge for buildings would increase by £85,700 for every year that useful lives had to be reduced.

11.6 Revaluations

The Council carries out a rolling programme that ensures that all property, plant and equipment required to be measured at fair value is revalued at least once every five years. 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 all the community centres and Hampden House multi storey carpark were carried out by Mark Aldis BSc(Hons) M.R.I.C.S. of Wilks, Head and Eve as at 31 March 2015.

The significant assumptions applied in estimating the fair values are:

- operational assets – the total value has been apportioned between land and building parts, with the building representing the depreciable amount;
- specialised assets – where no market-based evidence exists to arrive at fair value, the depreciated replacement cost (DRC) approach has been used;
- land assets – these have been assessed to fair value having regard to the cost of purchasing notional replacement sites in the same locality;
- assets held for sale – these have been assessed to fair value on the basis of market value.

11.7 Movement on property, plant and equipment

Council and group	2014/15						
	Other land & buildings £000	Vehicles, plant & equipment £000	Community assets £000	Surplus assets £000	Heritage assets £000	PP&E under construction £000	Total PP&E £000
Cost or valuation							
At 1 April 2014	106,296	6,048	19	9,729	220	8,941	131,253
Additions	-	60	-	-	-	8,533	8,593
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the revaluation reserve	3,160	-	-	-	-	-	3,160
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the (surplus)/deficit on the provision of services	7,325	-	-	-	-	-	7,325
Impairment losses/reversals recognised in the (surplus)/deficit on the provision of services	(3,785)	-	(1,362)	-	-	-	(5,147)
Derecognition - disposals	(5,634)	-	-	-	-	-	(5,634)
Reclassification to assets held for resale	(451)	-	-	-	-	-	(451)
Other movements in cost or valuation	5,981	-	1,362	-	-	(7,343)	-
At 31 March 2015	112,892	6,108	19	9,729	220	10,131	139,099
Accumulated depreciation							
At 1 April 2014	(2,261)	(3,786)	-	-	-	-	(6,047)
Depreciation charge	(2,333)	(435)	-	-	-	-	(2,768)
Depreciation written out to the revaluation reserve	256	-	-	-	-	-	256
At 31 March 2015	(4,338)	(4,221)	-	-	-	-	(8,559)
Net book value							
At 31 March 2015	108,554	1,887	19	9,729	220	10,131	130,540
At 1 April 2014	104,035	2,262	19	9,729	220	8,941	125,206

Council and group	2013/14						
	Other land & buildings £000	Vehicles, plant & equipment £000	Community assets £000	Surplus assets £000	Heritage assets £000	PP&E under construction £000	Total PP&E £000
Cost or valuation							
At 1 April 2013	85,937	5,865	19	9,729	220	23,775	125,545
Additions	361	181	-	-	-	9,639	10,181
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the revaluation reserve	590	-	-	-	-	-	590
Impairment written out to the (surplus)/deficit on the provision of services	127	-	-	-	-	-	127
Impairment losses/reversals recognised in the (surplus)/deficit on the provision of services	-	-	(4,880)	-	-	-	(4,880)
Derecognition - disposals	(310)	-	-	-	-	-	(310)
Other movements in cost or valuation	19,591	2	4,880	-	-	(24,473)	-
At 31 March 2014	106,296	6,048	19	9,729	220	8,941	131,253
Accumulated depreciation							
At 1 April 2013	(18)	(3,162)	-	-	-	-	(3,180)
Depreciation charge	(2,251)	(624)	-	-	-	-	(2,875)
Derecognition - disposals	8	-	-	-	-	-	8
At 31 March 2014	(2,261)	(3,786)	-	-	-	-	(6,047)
Net book value							
At 31 March 2014	104,035	2,262	19	9,729	220	8,941	125,206
At 1 April 2013	85,919	2,703	19	9,729	220	23,775	122,365

12. Investment properties

The following items of income and expense have been accounted for in the financing and investment income and expenditure line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement:

2013/14		2014/15	
Council and group		Council and group	
£000		£000	
	(2) Rental income from investment property		(2)
108	Direct operating expenses arising from investment property	78	
106		76	

There are no restrictions on the Council's ability to realise the value inherent in its investment property or on the Council's right to the remittance of income and the proceeds of disposal. The Council has no contractual obligations to purchase, construct or develop investment property or carry out repairs, maintenance or enhancement.

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

31 March 2014		31 March 2015	
Council and group		Council and group	
£000		£000	
540	Balance at 1 April	415	
(125)	Disposals	-	
415	Balance at 31 March	415	

13. Long term investments

31 March 2014			31 March 2015		
Council only	Group		Council only	Group	
£000	£000		£000	£000	
1,284	-	Aylesbury Vale Estates LLP	1,284	-	
55	55	Green deal shares	-	-	
1	1	Other	1	1	
1,340	56		1,285	1	

14. Investment in joint venture

31 March 2014		31 March 2015	
Group		Group	
£000		£000	
1,308	Investment at cost	1,308	
(24)	Capital repayments and distributions	(24)	
(1,709)	Distributions	(1,813)	
(1,129)	AVDC share of accumulated losses	(623)	
2,397	AVDC share of accumulated revaluation gains	3,897	
843		2,745	

15. Long term debtors

31 March 2014		31 March 2015	
Council and group		Council and group	
£000		£000	
28,648	Aylesbury Vale Estates LLP	28,264	
79	Car purchase loans	51	
28,727		28,315	

16. Assets held for resale

At the end of the year, the Council had entered into negotiations to sell Elmhurst Community Centre, with a total value of £451,000.

31 March 2014		31 March 2015	
Council and group		Council and group	
£000		£000	
-	Elmhurst Community Centre	451	
1,800	Circus Fields	-	
1,800		451	

17. Financial instruments

17.1 Categories of financial instruments

The following categories of financial instruments are carried in the balance sheet:

31 March 2014		31 March 2015	
Council and group		Council and group	
Long term	Current	Long term	Current
£000	£000	£000	£000
Investments			
-	21,076	-	34,132
-	21,076	-	34,132
Debtors			
28,727	7,736	28,315	4,286
-	8,833	-	8,651
28,727	16,569	28,315	12,937
Cash and cash equivalents			
-	5,115	-	7,965
-	5,115	-	7,965
Borrowings			
(15,139)	(5,009)	(28,778)	-
(15,139)	(5,009)	(28,778)	-
Creditors			
(9,502)	(6,037)	(9,999)	(5,169)
(9,502)	(6,037)	(9,999)	(5,169)

17.2 Income, expense, gains and losses

2013/14				2014/15		
Council and group				Council and group		
Financial assets: loans and receivables	Assets and liabilities at fair value through profit and loss	Total		Financial assets: loans and receivables	Assets and liabilities at fair value through profit and loss	Total
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
-	212	212	Interest expense	-	829	829
-	212	212	Total expense in deficit on the provision of services	-	829	829
(3,181)	-	(3,181)	Interest income	(2,601)	-	(2,601)
(3,181)	-	(3,181)	Total income in deficit on the provision of services	(2,601)	-	(2,601)
(46)	-	(46)	Gains on revaluation	-	-	-
			Amounts recycled to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services after impairment	51	-	51
(46)	-	(46)	Deficit/(surplus) arising on revaluation of financial assets in other comprehensive income and expenditure	51	-	51
(3,227)	212	(3,015)		(2,550)	829	(1,721)

17.3 Fair values 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:

- no early repayment or impairment is recognised;
- where an instrument will mature in the next 12 months, the 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.

31 March 2014			31 March 2015	
Council and group			Council and group	
Carrying amount	Fair value		Carrying amount	Fair value
£000	£000		£000	£000
Financial assets				
28,727	28,727	Long term debtors	28,315	28,315
21,076	21,101	Short term investments	34,132	34,097
5,115	5,115	Cash and cash equivalents	7,965	7,965
54,918	54,943		70,412	70,377
Financial liabilities				
(9,502)	(9,502)	Long term creditors	(9,999)	(9,999)
(5,009)	(5,056)	Short term borrowing	-	-
(15,139)	(14,859)	Long term borrowing	(28,778)	(31,840)
(29,650)	(29,417)		(38,777)	(41,839)

Short term debtors and creditors are carried at cost as this is a fair approximation of their value.

18. Short term debtors

31 March 2014		31 March 2015
Council and group		Council and group
£000		£000
7,108	Central government bodies	3,721
1,268	Other local authorities	748
47	NHS bodies	200
193	Amounts owed by group undertakings	193
7,742	Other entities and individuals	9,735
<u>16,358</u>		<u>14,597</u>
(1,424)	Provision for impairment of bad debts	(2,013)
<u>14,934</u>		<u>12,584</u>

19. Short term loans

During 2012/13, the Council granted a loan to Hale Leys LLP (a newly created, wholly owned subsidiary of AVE LLP) to facilitate the purchase of the Hale Leys shopping centre in Aylesbury. By supporting the acquisition the Council became joint owners of the shopping centre.

The dividend receivable from AVE LLP in respect of 2011/12, plus an additional repayment of capital during 2012/13 was converted into a short term loan during 2012/13. An amount payable by AVE LLP for the purchase of 28 High Street, Winslow of £120,000 was converted into a short term loan during 2013/14 as was the dividend receivable of £439,000. Similarly, the dividend receivable in respect of 2014/15 of £104,000 was also converted into a short term loan.

The balances outstanding at the end of the year are as follows:

31 March 2014		31 March 2015
Council and group		Council and group
£000		£000
2,900	Hale Leys LLP	2,900
4,836	Aylesbury Vale Estates LLP	1,386
<u>7,736</u>		<u>4,286</u>

20. Cash and cash equivalents

31 March 2014		31 March 2015
Council and group		Council and group
£000		£000
1	Cash	1
592	Bank current accounts	424
4,522	Short term deposits	7,540
<u>5,115</u>		<u>7,965</u>

21. Short term creditors

31 March 2014	31 March 2015
Council and group	Council and group
£000	£000
(2,581) Central government bodies	(2,347)
(4,947) Other local authorities	(4,258)
(5,888) Other entities and individuals	(6,947)
(13,416)	(13,552)

22. Provisions

	Council and group	
	Short term NNDR appeals	Long term Refundable bonds
	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April 2013	-	(164)
Additional provisions made in 2013/14	(1,629)	(19)
Balance at 31 March 2014	(1,629)	(183)
Additional provisions made in 2014/15	-	(4)
Balance at 31 March 2015	(1,629)	(187)

23. Other long term liabilities

31 March 2014	31 March 2015
Council and group	Council and group
£000	£000
(73,064) Pension liability	(90,307)
(9,502) ALUTS contributions	(9,999)
(82,566)	(100,306)

24. Usable reserves

Movement in usable reserves are summarised below:

Council only	Balance 1 April 2013	Movements		Balance 31 March 2014	Movements		Balance 31 March 2015
		Debits	Credits		Debits	Credits	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
General fund balance	(3,292)	135,987	(136,335)	(3,640)	130,420	(130,545)	(3,765)
Capital receipts reserve	(3,816)	4,666	(4,666)	(3,816)	4,164	(9,957)	(9,609)
Capital grants unapplied	(481)	3,085	(3,196)	(592)	1,253	(1,928)	(1,267)
Earmarked reserves	(22,660)	4,480	(6,015)	(24,195)	2,733	(6,304)	(27,766)
	(30,249)	148,218	(150,212)	(32,243)	138,570	(148,734)	(42,407)

Group	Balance	Movements		Balance	Movements		Balance
	1 April 2012	Debits	Credits	31 March 2013	Debits	Credits	31 March 2014
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
General fund balance	(2,022)	135,987	(135,896)	(1,931)	130,420	(130,441)	(1,952)
Capital receipts reserve	(3,816)	4,666	(4,666)	(3,816)	4,164	(9,957)	(9,609)
Capital grants unapplied	(481)	3,085	(3,196)	(592)	1,253	(1,928)	(1,267)
Earmarked reserves	(22,660)	4,480	(6,015)	(24,195)	2,733	(6,304)	(27,766)
Joint venture profit and loss reserves	466	663	-	1,129	-	(506)	623
	(28,513)	148,881	(149,773)	(29,405)	138,570	(149,136)	(39,971)

25. Unusable reserves

Movement in unusable reserves are summarised below:

Council only	Balance	Movements		Balance	Movements		Balance
	1 April 2013	Debits	Credits	31 March 2014	Debits	Credits	31 March 2015
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Revaluation reserve	(11,007)	637	(591)	(10,961)	-	(3,416)	(14,377)
Available for sale financial instruments reserve	(5)	-	(46)	(51)	51	-	-
Capital adjustment account	(91,476)	14,265	(9,613)	(86,824)	19,937	(14,062)	(80,949)
Deferred capital receipts	(32,936)	342	(114)	(32,708)	3,939	-	(28,769)
Pensions reserve	67,721	22,492	(17,149)	73,064	28,423	(11,180)	90,307
Collection fund adjustment account	(178)	-	1,382	1,204	-	(607)	597
Accumulated absences account	89	89	(89)	89	74	(89)	74
	(67,792)	37,825	(26,220)	(56,187)	52,424	(29,354)	(33,117)

Group	Balance	Movements		Balance	Movements		Balance
	1 April 2013	Debits	Credits	31 March 2014	Debits	Credits	31 March 2015
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Revaluation reserve	(12,327)	720	(1,751)	(13,358)	141	(5,057)	(18,274)
Available for sale financial instruments reserve	(5)	-	(46)	(51)	51	-	-
Capital adjustment account	(91,476)	14,265	(9,613)	(86,824)	19,937	(14,062)	(80,949)
Deferred capital receipts	(32,936)	342	(114)	(32,708)	3,939	-	(28,769)
Pensions reserve	67,721	22,492	(17,149)	73,064	28,423	(11,180)	90,307
Collection fund adjustment account	(178)	-	1,382	1,204	-	(607)	597
Accumulated absences account	89	89	(89)	89	74	(89)	74
	(69,112)	37,908	(27,380)	(58,584)	52,565	(30,995)	(37,014)

25.1 Revaluation reserve

The revaluation reserve contains the gains arising from increases in the value of its property, plant and equipment. The balance is reduced when assets with accumulated gains are:

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

The reserve contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 1 April 2007, the date that the reserve was created. Accumulated gains arising before that date are consolidated into the balance on the capital adjustment account.

2013/14			2014/15	
Council only	Group		Council only	Group
£000	£000		£000	£000
(11,007)	(12,327)	Balance at 1 April	(10,961)	(13,358)
(591)	(1,751)	Upward revaluation of assets	(3,160)	(4,801)
-	-	- Depreciation written back to revaluation reserve	(256)	(256)
-	83	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the deficit on the provision of services	-	141
(591)	(1,668)	Surplus on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the deficit on the provision of services	(3,416)	(4,916)
637	637	Amount written off to the capital adjustment account	-	-
(10,961)	(13,358)	Balance at 31 March	(14,377)	(18,274)

25.2 Available for sale financial instruments reserve

The available for sale financial instruments reserve contains the gains arising from increases in the value of investments that have quoted market prices or otherwise do not have fixed or determinable payments. The balance is reduced when investments with accumulated gains are:

- revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost; or
- disposed of and the gains are realised.

2013/14		2014/15
Council and group		Council and group
£000		£000
(5)	Balance at 1 April	(51)
(46)	Upward revaluation of investments	-
-	Downward revaluation of investments	51
(51)	Balance at 31 March	-

25.3 Capital adjustment account

The capital adjustment account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of non-current assets and for financing the acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions. The account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement (with reconciling postings from the revaluation reserve to convert fair value figures to a historical cost basis). The account is credited with the amounts set aside by the Council as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement.

The account contains accumulated gains and losses on investment properties and gains recognised on donated assets that have yet to be consumed by the Council.

The account also contains revaluation gains accumulated on property, plant and equipment before 1 April 2007, the date that the revaluation reserve was created to hold such gains. Note 6 provides details of the source of all the transactions posted to the account, apart from those involving the revaluation reserve.

2013/14			2014/15	
Council and group			Council and group	
£000	£000		£000	£000
	(91,476)	Balance at 1 April		(86,824)
		Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement		
		• Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	7,915	
7,628				
		• Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the (surplus)/deficit on the provision of services	(7,325)	
-				
4,063		• Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	4,588	
		• Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the loss on disposal to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement	7,434	
<u>2,574</u>			<u>7,434</u>	
14,265		Adjusting amounts written out of the revaluation reserve	12,612	
<u>(637)</u>		Net written out amount of the non-current assets consumed in the year	-	
	13,628			12,612
		Capital financing applied in the year		
		• Use of the capital receipts reserve to finance new capital expenditure		(4,164)
	(4,666)			
		• Capital grants and contributions credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement that have (6) been applied to capital financing		-
		• Application of grants to capital financing from the capital grants unapplied account and earmarked reserves		(1,253)
	(3,085)			
		• Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the general fund		(1,320)
	(1,219)			<u>(1,320)</u>
	<u>(86,824)</u>	Balance at 31 March		<u>(80,949)</u>

25.4 Deferred capital receipts reserve

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

2013/14			2014/15	
Council and group			Council and group	
£000	£000		£000	£000
	(32,936)	Balance at 1 April		(32,708)
		Transfer of deferred sales proceeds credited as part of the loss on disposal to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement		-
	(114)			
	342	Transfer to the capital receipts reserve upon receipt of cash	3,939	
	<u>(32,708)</u>	Balance at 31 March	<u>(28,769)</u>	

25.5 Pensions reserve

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

2013/14			2014/15	
Council and group			Council and group	
£000	£000		£000	£000
	67,721	Balance at 1 April		73,064
(2,105)		Return on plan assets in excess of interest	(7,406)	
3,826		Other actuarial losses on assets	-	
5,943		Change in financial assumptions	21,591	
5,982		Change in demographic assumptions	-	
(11,497)		Experience gain on defined benefit obligation	(32)	
	2,149	Remeasurement of net defined benefit		14,153
		Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the (surplus)/deficit on the provision of services in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement		6,832
	6,741	Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year		(3,742)
	(3,547)			
	73,064	Balance at 31 March		90,307

25.6 Collection fund adjustment account

The collection fund adjustment account manages the differences arising from the recognition of council tax income in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement as it falls due from council tax payers compared with the statutory arrangements for paying across amounts to the general fund from the collection fund.

2013/14			2014/15	
Council and group			Council and group	
£000	£000		£000	£000
	(178)	Balance at 1 April		1,204
		Amount by which council tax income and non domestic rates income credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement is different from council tax and non domestic rates income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements		(607)
	1,382			
	1,204	Balance at 31 March		597

25.7 Accumulated absences account

The accumulated absences account absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise on the general fund balance from accruing for compensated absences earned but not taken in the year, e.g. annual leave entitlement carried forward at 31 March. Statutory arrangements require that the impact on the general fund balance is neutralised by transfers (to)/from the account.

2013/14			2014/15	
Council and group			Council and group	
£000	£000		£000	£000
	89	Balance at 1 April		89
(89)		Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	(89)	
89		Amount accrued at the end of the current year	74	
		Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements		(15)
	89	Balance at 31 March		74

26. Cash flow statement

26.1 Adjustments to net deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements

2013/14			2014/15	
Council only	Group		Council only	Group
£000	£000		£000	£000
7,628	7,628	Depreciation and impairment losses	7,915	7,915
-		Upward revaluations	(7,325)	(7,325)
5,435	5,435	Increase in creditors	(563)	(563)
(1,492)	(1,053)	Increase in debtors	155	259
(4)	(4)	(Increase)/Decrease in inventories	20	20
3,194	3,194	Pension liability	3,090	3,090
-	-	(Increase)/Decrease in impairment for bad debts	-	-
2,574	2,574	Carrying amount of non-current assets sold	7,434	7,434
-	663	Share of losses attributable to joint venture	-	(506)
		Other non-cash items charged to the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services	55	55
18,983	20,085		10,781	10,379

26.2 Adjustments for items included in the net deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities

2013/14		2014/15
Council and group		Council and group
£000		£000
	Proceeds from the sale of property plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	
(4,444)		(6,436)
	Any other items for which the cash effects are investing or financing cash flows	
(3,485)		(1,928)
(7,929)		(8,364)

26.3 Operating activities

Operating activities within the cash flow statement include the following cash flows relating to interest:

2013/14		2014/15
Council and group		Council and group
£000		£000
3,222	Interest received	2,600
(64)	Interest paid	(566)

27. Cash flow statement - investing activities

2013/14		2014/15
Council and group		Council and group
£000		£000
(10,181)	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(8,593)
(44,009)	Purchase of short term and long term investments	(66,000)
2,535	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	10,375
30,546	Proceeds from the sale of short term and long term investments	53,000
3,447	Other receipts from investing activities	1,183
(17,662)		(10,035)

28. Cash flow statement - financing activities

2013/14		2014/15
Council and group		Council and group
£000		£000
44,994	Cash receipts of short and long term borrowing	13,500
-	- Other receipts from financing activities	4,168
(775)	Other payments for financing activities	-
(45,000)	Repayment of short and long term borrowing	(5,082)
(781)		12,586

29. Distribution attributable to joint venture

2013/14		2014/15
Council only		Council only
£000		£000
(439)	Distribution attributable to joint venture for the year	(104)
(439)		(104)

30. Grant income

The Council credited the following revenue grants and contributions to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement:

2013/14		2014/15
Council and group		Council and group
£000		£000
Credited to taxation and non specific grant income		
(5,176)	Revenue support grant	(3,917)
(3,283)	New homes bonus	(4,370)
(88)	Other grants	(870)
(8,547)		(9,157)
Credited to services		
(499)	Growth area fund 3	-
(15)	Planning delivery	(35)
(329)	Renovation grants	(340)
(224)	Council tax/NNDR collection grant	(224)
(54)	Homelessness	(53)
(165)	Other	(135)
(1,286)		(787)

31. Amounts reported for resource allocation decisions

The analysis of income and expenditure by service on the face of the comprehensive income and expenditure statement is that specified by the *Service Reporting Code of Practice*. However, decisions about resource allocation are taken by the Council's cabinet on the basis of budget reports analysed across portfolios. These reports are prepared on a different basis from the accounting policies used in the financial statement. In particular:

- no charges are made in relation to costs incurred in relation to the Paralympics Heritage Flame Festival or the Council's contribution to the HS2 fighting funds as these are to be funded from reserves.
- no charges are made for enabling grants paid.
- income and expenditure relating to town centre properties and industrial estates are included within portfolio spend, but are shown within other operating income and expenditure in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.
- no charge is made for the year end accumulated absences accrual.

The income and expenditure of the Council's principal portfolios recorded in the budget reports for the year is as follows:

2014/15										
Council and group										
	Civic Amenities	Community Matters	Economic Development	Environment & Health	Leader	Leisure	Planned Development	Resources	Strategic Planning	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Fees, charges & other service income	(3,017)	(585)	(1,839)	(4,583)	(992)	(2,525)	(2,853)	(48,442)	(444)	(65,280)
Government grants	-	(69)	-	(340)	-	-	(26)	(317)	(35)	(787)
Total income	(3,017)	(654)	(1,839)	(4,923)	(992)	(2,525)	(2,879)	(48,759)	(479)	(66,067)
Employee expenses	1,008	2,190	208	5,538	2,676	2,456	2,678	3,920	534	21,208
Other service expenses	2,310	1,466	1,660	4,270	1,227	3,921	600	47,674	572	63,700
Support service recharges	(400)	(150)	(676)	762	589	605	594	(1,353)	98	69
Depreciation & impairment	(2,886)	-	1,863	318	-	1,295	-	-	-	590
Total expenditure	32	3,506	3,055	10,888	4,492	8,277	3,872	50,241	1,204	85,567
Net expenditure	(2,985)	2,852	1,216	5,965	3,500	5,752	993	1,482	725	19,500
2013/14										
Council and group										
	Civic Amenities	Community Matters	Corporate Issues	Economic Development	Environment & Health	Leader	Leisure	Planned Development	Resources	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Fees, charges & other service income	(2,783)	(580)	(1,060)	(3,932)	(931)	(1,831)	(2,253)	(47,149)	(313)	(60,832)
Government grants	-	(107)	-	(329)	-	-	(28)	(278)	(15)	(757)
Total income	(2,783)	(687)	(1,060)	(4,261)	(931)	(1,831)	(2,281)	(47,427)	(328)	(61,589)
Employee expenses	1,086	2,284	115	5,295	2,879	2,576	2,853	3,787	588	21,463
Other service expenses	1,786	1,607	1,918	3,877	1,020	3,685	424	45,942	1,093	61,352
Support service recharges	(376)	(282)	(821)	768	647	552	633	(1,358)	101	(136)
Depreciation & impairment	384	-	5,068	318	13	2,026	-	53	-	7,862
Total expenditure	2,880	3,609	6,280	10,258	4,559	8,839	3,910	48,424	1,782	90,541
Net expenditure	97	2,922	5,220	5,997	3,628	7,008	1,629	997	1,454	28,952

Reconciliation of portfolio income and expenditure to cost of services in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement

This reconciliation shows how the figures in the analysis of portfolio income and expenditure relate to the amounts included in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.

2013/14 Council and group £000		2014/15 Council and group £000
28,952	Net expenditure in the quarterly digest for the end of March	19,500
	Amounts in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement not reported to	
3,474	management in the analysis	4,694
	Amounts included in the analysis not included in the comprehensive income and	
(45)	expenditure statement	(15)
32,381	Cost of services in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement	24,179

Reconciliation to subjective analysis

This reconciliation shows how the figures in the analysis of portfolio income and expenditure relate to a subjective analysis of the deficit on the provision of services included in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.

	Council and group						Group	
	Portfolio analysis	Amounts not reported to management for decision making	Amounts not included in I & E	Cost of services	Corporate amounts	Total	Group adjustments	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
2014/15								
Fees, charges & other service income	(65,280)	(3)	2	(65,281)	-	(65,281)	-	(65,281)
Interest and investment income	-	-	-	-	(2,525)	(2,525)	-	(2,525)
Income from council tax	-	-	-	-	(14,060)	(14,060)	-	(14,060)
Income from non domestic rates	-	-	-	-	(3,697)	(3,697)	-	(3,697)
Post stock transfer capital receipts	-	-	-	-	(2,793)	(2,793)	-	(2,793)
Government grants and contributions	(787)	-	-	(787)	(10,585)	(11,372)	-	(11,372)
Dividends receivable	-	-	-	-	(104)	(104)	104	-
Other operating income	-	(3,540)	-	(3,540)	(82)	(3,622)	-	(3,622)
Total income	(66,067)	(3,543)	2	(69,608)	(33,846)	(103,454)	104	(103,350)
Employee expenses	21,208	-	-	21,208	-	21,208	-	21,208
Other service expenses	63,700	225	(32)	63,893	-	63,893	-	63,893
Support service recharges	69	(86)	15	(2)	-	(2)	-	(2)
Depreciation & impairment	590	-	-	590	-	590	-	590
Interest payments	-	-	-	-	3,967	3,967	-	3,967
Precepts & levies	-	-	-	-	4,272	4,272	-	4,272
Payments to housing capital receipts pool	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1
Gain or loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	3,791	3,791	-	3,791
Share of losses attributable to joint venture	-	-	-	-	-	-	(506)	(506)
Other operating costs	-	8,098	-	8,098	(246)	7,852	-	7,852
Total expenditure	85,567	8,237	(17)	93,787	11,785	105,572	(506)	105,066
(Surplus)/deficit on the provision of services	19,500	4,694	(15)	24,179	(22,061)	2,118	(402)	1,716

	Council and group					Group		
	Portfolio analysis	Amounts not reported to management for decision making	Amounts not included in I & E	Cost of services	Corporate amounts	Total	Group adjustments	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
2013/14								
Fees, charges & other service income	(60,832)	(402)	-	(61,234)	-	(61,234)	-	(61,234)
Interest and investment income	-	-	-	-	(3,075)	(3,075)	-	(3,075)
Income from council tax	-	-	-	-	(13,672)	(13,672)	-	(13,672)
Income from non domestic rates	-	-	-	-	(2,652)	(2,652)	-	(2,652)
Post stock transfer capital receipts	-	-	-	-	(2,131)	(2,131)	-	(2,131)
Government grants and contributions	(757)	(529)	-	(1,286)	(9,486)	(10,772)	-	(10,772)
Dividends receivable	-	-	-	-	(439)	(439)	439	-
Other operating income	-	-	-	-	(210)	(210)	-	(210)
Total income	(61,589)	(931)	-	(62,520)	(31,665)	(94,185)	439	(93,746)
Employee expenses	21,463	70	-	21,533	-	21,533	-	21,533
Other service expenses	61,352	621	(59)	61,914	-	61,914	-	61,914
Support service recharges	(136)	(65)	14	(187)	-	(187)	-	(187)
Depreciation & impairment	7,862	(233)	-	7,629	-	7,629	-	7,629
Interest payments	-	-	-	-	3,180	3,180	-	3,180
Precepts & levies	-	-	-	-	4,193	4,193	-	4,193
Payments to housing capital receipts pool	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	2
Gain or loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	261	261	-	261
Share of losses attributable to joint venture	-	-	-	-	-	-	663	663
Other operating costs	-	4,012	-	4,012	(253)	3,759	-	3,759
Total expenditure	90,541	4,405	(45)	94,901	7,383	102,284	663	102,947
(Surplus)/deficit on the provision of services	28,952	3,474	(45)	32,381	(24,282)	8,099	1,102	9,201

32. Trading operations

The table below shows those operating units of the Council where service managers are required to operate within a commercial environment and balance their budget by generating income from other parts of the Council, other organisations and the general public.

2013/14		2014/15	
Council and group		Council and group	
Turnover	(Surplus)/deficit	Turnover	(Surplus)/deficit
£000	£000	£000	£000
(906)	(125)	(978)	(136)
(551)	(70)	(629)	(31)
(2,631)	(295)	(2,833)	(277)
(455)	34	(483)	7
(84)	19	(91)	30
(346)	(63)	(367)	(90)
(4,973)	(500)	(5,381)	(497)

33. Members' allowances

The Council paid the following amounts to members of the Council during the year:

2013/14		2014/15	
Council and group		Council and group	
£000		£000	
312	Salaries	316	
129	Allowances	130	
11	Travel and other allowances	11	
452		457	

34. Officers' remuneration**34.1 Senior officers' remuneration**

There is a requirement to disclose the individual remuneration of senior officers (those whose remuneration is more than £50,000 and are a designated head of a paid service and/or have responsibility for the management of the Council). The following table sets out the remuneration for senior officers whose salary is above £50,000 or where employed during the financial year, for those earning more than £150,000 then they must be named. The remuneration paid to the Council's senior employees is as follows:

2014/15					
Council and group					
Identifier	Salary (including fees & allowances)	Bonuses	Total remuneration excluding pension contributions	Pension contributions	Total remuneration including pension contributions
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Chief Executive - A Grant	148	-	148	34	182
Deputy Chief Executive	99	-	99	23	122
Corporate Director	76	-	76	17	93
Head of Service - Legal - Interim - Resigned	68	-	68	16	84
Head of Service - IT	67	-	67	15	82
Head of Service - Communications	66	-	66	15	81
Corporate Director	63	-	63	14	77
Head of Service - Facilities - Resigned	17	-	17	4	21
Head of Service - Planning - Resigned	9	-	9	2	11
	613	-	613	140	753

		2013/14				
		Council and group				
Identifier		Salary (including fees & allowances)	Bonuses	Total remuneration excluding pension contributions	Pension contributions	Total remuneration including pension contributions
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Chief Executive - A Grant	1	139	-	139	34	173
Deputy Chief Executive	2	98	-	98	22	120
Corporate Director	3	74	-	74	17	91
Head of Service - Legal - Interim	4	79	-	79	18	97
Head of Service - IT	5	67	-	67	15	82
Head of Service - Communications	6	64	-	64	15	79
Corporate Director	7	61	-	61	14	75
Head of Service - Facilities	8	59	-	59	13	72
Head of Service - Planning	9	77	-	77	18	95
Corporate Director - Resigned		38	-	38	9	47
Head of Service - People & Payroll - Resigned		14	-	14	3	17
		770	-	770	178	948

34.2 Officers' remuneration

The Council's other employees receiving more than £50,000 remuneration for the year (excluding employer's pension contributions) were paid the following amounts:

2013/14		2014/15	
Council and group		Council and group	
Number of employees		Number of employees	
19	£50,000 - £54,999	16	
7	£55,000 - £59,999	8	
1	£60,000 - £64,999	-	
-	£65,000 - £69,999	2	
27		26	

The number of exit packages with total cost per band and total cost of the compulsory and other redundancies are set out in the table below:

	Number of compulsory redundancies		Total number of exit packages by cost band		Total cost of exit packages in each band	
	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15
	Council and group		Council and group		Council and group	
				£000	£000	
£0 - £20,000	8	17	8	17	100	217
£20,001 - £40,000	6	8	6	8	145	233
£40,001 - £60,000	-	6	-	6	-	295
£60,001 - £80,000	1	1	1	1	60	75
£80,001 - £100,000	-	2	-	2	-	169
	15	34	15	34	305	989

35. External audit costs

The Council has incurred the following costs in relation to the audit of the statement of accounts, certification of grant claims and statutory inspections and to non-audit services provided by the Council's external auditors:

2013/14 Council and group £000		2014/15 Council and group £000
75	Fees payable to the appointed auditor with regard to external audit services	90
(8)	Fees payable to the Audit Commission in respect of statutory inspection	(6)
18	Fees payable to the appointed auditor for the certification of grant claims and returns for the year	8
85		92

36. Leases**Council as lessee****36.1 Finance leases**

The Council has acquired a number of buildings under finance leases, the majority of which are at a peppercorn rent. The assets acquired under these leases are carried as property, plant and equipment in the balance sheet at the following net amounts:

31 March 2014 Council and group £000		31 March 2015 Council and group £000
7,309	Other land and buildings	11,942
7,309		11,942

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

2013/14 Council and group £000		2014/15 Council and group £000
9	Not later than one year	8
27	Later than one year and not later than five years	26
14	Later than five years	8
50		42

The expenditure charged in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement during the year in relation to these leases was:

2013/14 Council and group £000		2014/15 Council and group £000
8	Minimum lease payments	6
8		6

36.2 Operating leases

The Council has acquired its fleet of refuse collection vehicles by entering into operating leases with typical lives of seven years.

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

2013/14		2014/15
Council and group		Council and group
£000		£000
854	Not later than one year	842
2,556	Later than one year and not later than five years	1,677
3,410		2,519

The expenditure charged to the environmental and regulatory services line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement during the year in relation to these leases was:

2013/14		2013/14
Council and group		Council and group
£000		£000
853	Minimum lease payments	865
853		865

Council as lessor**36.3 Operating leases**

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

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

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

2013/14		2014/15
Council and group		Council and group
£000		£000
(148)	Not later than one year	(1,000)
(264)	Later than one year and not later than five years	(4,836)
(26)	Later than five years	(7,199)
(438)		(13,035)

The minimum lease payments receivable do not include rents that are contingent on events taking place after the lease was entered into, such as adjustments following rent reviews.

37. Capital expenditure and capital financing

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

2013/14 Council and group		2014/15 Council and group
£000		£000
25,654	Opening capital financing requirement	30,976
	Capital investment	
542	Property, plant and equipment	60
9,639	Assets under construction	8,533
55	Long term investments	-
4,063	Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	4,588
	Sources of finance	
(4,666)	Capital receipts	(4,164)
(3,085)	Government grants and other contributions	(1,253)
(7)	Other	(55)
	Sums set aside from revenue:	
(1,219)	Minimum revenue provision	(1,320)
30,976	Closing capital financing requirement	37,365
	Explanation of movements in year	
5,322	Increase in underlying need to borrow (unsupported by government financial assistance)	6,389
5,322	Increase in capital financing requirement	6,389

38. Defined benefit pension schemes**38.1 Participation in pensions schemes**

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

The Council participates in two post-employment schemes:

- The Local Government Pension Scheme, administered locally by Buckinghamshire County Council – this is a funded defined benefit final salary scheme, meaning that the Council and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pensions liabilities with investment assets.
- Arrangements for the award of discretionary post-retirement benefits upon early retirement – this is an unfunded defined benefit arrangement, under which liabilities are recognised when awards are made. However, there are no investment assets built up to meet these pension liabilities, and cash has to be generated to meet actual pensions payments as they eventually fall due.

38.2 Transactions relating to post-employment benefits

The Council recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the reported cost of services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge 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 general fund via the movement in reserves statement.

The following transactions have been made in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement and the general fund balance via the movement in reserves statement during the year:

	Local government pension scheme		Discretionary benefits arrangements	
	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15
	Council and group		Council and group	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost of services:				
• service cost	3,663	3,616	-	-
Financing and investment income and expenditure				
• net interest on the defined liability	2,968	3,138	-	-
Administration expenses	110	78	-	-
Total post employment benefit charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement	6,741	6,832	-	-
Movement in reserves statement				
• reversal of net charges made to surplus or deficit for the provision of services for post employment benefits in accordance with the code	(6,741)	(6,832)	-	-
Actual amount charged against the general fund balance for pensions in the year:				
• employers' contributions payable to scheme	3,273	3,379	-	-
• retirement benefits payable to pensioners	-	-	274	363

The cumulative amount of actuarial gains and losses recognised in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement during 2014/15 is a loss of £34,893,000 (a loss of £20,740,000 during 2013/14).

38.3 Assets and liabilities in relation to post-employment benefits

Reconciliation of the present value of the scheme liabilities (defined benefit obligation):

	Funded liabilities		Unfunded liabilities: discretionary benefits arrangements	
	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15
	Council and group		Council and group	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Opening balance at 1 April	162,752	171,170	(924)	(3,992)
Adjustment	2,949	-	(2,949)	-
Revised opening balance at 1 April	165,701	171,170	(3,873)	(3,992)
Current service cost	3,599	3,423	-	-
Interest cost	7,149	7,229	-	-
Change in financial assumptions	5,808	21,511	135	80
Change in demographic assumptions	5,982	-	-	-
Experience loss/(gain) on defined benefit obligation	(11,497)	(32)	-	-
Liabilities extinguished on settlements	(134)	-	-	-
Estimated benefits paid net of transfers in	(6,484)	(6,814)	-	-
Past service costs including curtailments	112	193	-	-
Contributions by scheme participants	934	1,038	-	-
Unfunded pension payments	-	-	(254)	(250)
Closing balance at 31 March	171,170	197,718	(3,992)	(4,162)

Reconciliation of the fair value of the scheme assets:

	Funded liabilities	
	2013/14	2014/15
	Council and group	
	£000	£000
Opening balance at 1 April	(94,107)	(94,114)
Interest on assets	(4,181)	(4,091)
Return on assets less interest	(2,105)	(7,406)
Other actuarial gains and losses	3,826	-
Administration expenses	110	78
Contributions by employer including unfunded	(3,547)	(3,742)
Contributions by scheme participants	(934)	(1,038)
Estimated benefits paid plus unfunded net of transfers in	6,738	7,064
Settlement prices paid	86	-
Closing balance at 31 March	(94,114)	(103,249)

Pension scheme assets comprised:

	31 March 2014				31 March 2015			
	Council and group				Council and group			
	Quoted prices in active markets	Quoted prices not in active markets	Total	Percentage total of asset	Quoted prices in active markets	Quoted prices not in active markets	Total	Percentage total of asset
	£000	£000	£000	%	£000	£000	£000	%
Gilts	-	4,706	4,706	5%	12,870	-	12,870	12%
UK equities	17,882	-	17,882	19%	11,564	-	11,564	11%
Overseas equities	38,586	-	38,586	41%	38,099	-	38,099	37%
Private equity	-	7,529	7,529	8%	-	6,722	6,722	7%
Other bonds	-	9,411	9,411	10%	13,371	-	13,371	13%
Property	-	7,529	7,529	8%	8,029	823	8,852	9%
Cash	-	941	941	1%	2,009	-	2,009	2%
Hedge funds	-	3,765	3,765	4%	-	3,888	3,888	4%
Absolute return portfolio	-	3,765	3,765	4%	-	4,352	4,352	4%
Alternative Assets	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	1,522	1,522	1%
	56,468	37,646	94,114		85,942	17,307	103,249	

38.4 Basis for estimating assets and liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels etc. The local government pension scheme liabilities have been assessed by Barnett Waddingham, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2013.

The significant assumptions used by the actuary have been:

2013/14 Council and group		2014/15 Council and group
Mortality assumptions		
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners:		
23.6	Men	23.7
26.0	Women	26.1
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners:		
25.8	Men	26.0
28.3	Women	28.4
2.8%	Rate of Inflation	2.4%
4.6%	Rate of increase in salaries	4.2%
2.8%	Rate of increase in pensions	2.4%
4.4%	Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	3.3%

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. The sensitivity analysis below has 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. The assumptions in longevity, for example, assume that life expectancy increases or decreases for men and women. In practice, this is unlikely to occur, and changes in some of the assumptions may be interrelated. The estimations in the sensitivity analysis have followed the accounting policies for the scheme, i.e. on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method. The methods and types of assumptions used in preparing the sensitivity analysis below did not change from those used in the previous period.

	Increase in assumption	Decrease in assumption
	Council and group	
	£000	£000
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities (increase or decrease by 1%)	(3,419)	3,484
Rate of increase in salaries (increase or decrease by 1%)	417	(414)
Rate of increase in pensions (increase or decrease by 1%)	3,095	(3,037)
Longevity (increase or decrease by 1 year)	(6,624)	6,681

38.5 Impact on the Council's cash flows

The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the Council has in the long run to pay post-employment (retirement) benefits. The total liability of £90,307,000 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 remains healthy:

- the deficit on the local government scheme will be made good by increased contributions over the remaining working life of employees (i.e. before payments fall due), as assessed by the scheme actuary
- finance is only required to be raised to cover discretionary benefits when the pensions are actually paid.

The total contributions expected to be made to the local government pension scheme by the Council in the year to 31 March 2015 is £3,448,000.

38.6 Scheme history

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
	Council and group				
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Present value of liabilities					
Local government pension scheme	123,830	148,598	162,752	171,170	197,718
Discretionary benefits	(451)	(673)	(924)	(3,992)	(4,162)
Fair value of assets in the local government pension scheme	(82,077)	(79,498)	(94,107)	(94,114)	(103,249)
(Surplus)/deficit in the scheme:					
• local government pension scheme	41,753	69,100	68,645	77,056	94,469
• discretionary benefits	(451)	(673)	(924)	(3,992)	(4,162)
Total	41,302	68,427	67,721	73,064	90,307

38.7 History of experience gains and losses

The actuarial gains identified as movements on the pensions reserve in 2014/15 can be analysed into the following categories, measured as a percentage of assets or liabilities at 31 March 2015:

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
	Council and group				
	%	%	%	%	%
Differences between the expected and actual return on assets	0.58	(10.72)	11.75	2.61	11.14
Experience gains and losses on liabilities	11.41	-	(0.81)	6.88	0.02

39. Nature and extent of risks arising from financial instruments

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

- credit risk – the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the Council.
- liquidity risk – the possibility that the Council might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments.
- 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.

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

39.1 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 annual investment strategy, which requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet identified minimum credit criteria, as laid down by Fitch and Moody's Ratings Services. The annual investment strategy also imposes a maximum sum to be invested with a financial institution located within each category.

The credit criteria in respect of financial assets held by the Council are as detailed below:

The objective of the Council's treasury management policy is that it matches or betters the "average 7 day rate" for interest earned on investments whilst at all times protecting the Council's capital balances.

Investments are limited to the top 25 building societies together with UK banks and are only made to those institutions with high credit ratings and never for more than one year. A high credit rating is defined for this purpose as those banks or building societies with a short term rating of (A) or better according to the Fitch and Moody's Rating Services. Those building societies without Fitch ratings but ranked within the top 25 by size are also classed as prudent counterparties for investments purposes. Under the Local Government Act 2003 these are classed as non-specified institutions and should only be included on the Authorised Lending List after additional assurance has been obtained. Aylesbury Vale District Council imposes the additional condition that no investment should exceed 182 days with a non-specified institution and that the maximum amount lent to any single institution should not exceed £3 million if the assets of the organisation are more than £1 billion and £1 million if its assets are more than £½ billion.

No more than 70% of the Council's total investments should be invested with building societies without credit ratings.

Where possible, Aylesbury Vale District Council will further seek to reduce counterparty risk by placing investments with other local authorities and nationalised institutions. As these are ultimately backed by either the government or through taxation these are deemed to offer higher security than that offered at present by the financial sector. This strategy is limited by the need for these organisations to be seeking funding which coincides with our need to lend.

Customers for goods and services are assessed, taking into account their financial position, past experience and other factors, with individual credit limits being set in accordance with internal ratings with parameters set by the Council.

The Council's maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to its investments in banks and building societies of £34,077,000 cannot be assessed generally as the risk of any institution failing to make interest payments or repay the principal sum will be specific to each individual institution. Recent experience has shown that it is rare for such entities to be unable to meet their commitments. A risk of irrecoverability applies to all of the Council's deposits, but there was no evidence at 31 March 2015 that this was likely to crystallise.

The following analysis summarises the Council's potential maximum exposure to credit risk on other financial assets, based on experience of default and uncollectability over the last five financial years, adjusted to reflect current market conditions.

Council and group					
<u>Counterparty Rating</u>	Amount at 31 March 2015	Historial experience of default	Historial experience adjusted for market conditions at 31 March 2015	Estimated maximum exposure to default and uncollectability at 31 March 2015	Estimated maximum exposure at 31 March 2014
	£000	%	%	£000	£000
	A	B	C	(A*C)	
A	11,029	0.023	0.023	2.5	2.4
A-	9,019	0.000	0.000	-	-
BBB	1,002	0.065	0.323	3.2	-
BBB-	5,012	0.000			
BB+	1,002	0.580	0.580	5.8	20.2
B	3,008	0.292	0.292	8.8	50.2
Other rated	4,005	0.311	0.311	12.5	18.8
Customers	2,880	5.000	5.000	144.0	139.3
	36,957			176.8	230.9

No credit limits were exceeded during the reporting period and the Council does not expect any losses from non-performance by any of its counterparties in relation to deposits and customers.

The Council does not generally allow credit for customers, such that £2,001,000 of the £2,880,000 balance is past its due date for payment. The past due but not impaired amount can be analysed by age as follows:

31 March 2014		31 March 2015
Council and group		Council and group
£000		£000
491	Less than three months	495
242	Three to six months	223
422	Six months to one year	206
783	More than one year	1,077
1,938		2,001

39.2 Liquidity risk

The Council manages its liquidity position through the risk management procedures above as well as through cash flow management procedures required by the Code of Practice. In the event of an unexpected cash requirement the Council has ready access to borrowings from the money markets to cover any day to day cash flow need. The Council is also required to provide a balanced budget through the Local Government Act 1992, which ensures sufficient monies are raised to cover the annual expenditure. Therefore, there is no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments.

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

39.3 Market risk

39.3.1 Interest rate risk

The Council is exposed to risk in terms of its exposure to interest rate movements on its investments. Movements in interest rates have a complex impact on the Council, depending on how variable and fixed interest rates move across differing financial instrument periods. For instance, a rise in interest rates would have the following effects:

- investments at variable rates – the interest income credited to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services will rise
- investments at fixed rates – the fair value of the assets will fall.

Changes in interest payable and receivable on variable rate investments will be posted to the (surplus)/deficit on the provision of services or other comprehensive income and expenditure lines and affect the general fund balance, subject to influences from government grants. Movements in the fair value of fixed rate investments will be reflected in the other comprehensive income and expenditure line.

The Council has 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. From this a prudential indicator is set which provides maximum and minimum limits for fixed and variable interest rate exposure. The treasury team will monitor market and forecast interest rates within the year to adjust exposures appropriately. For instance, during periods of falling interest rates, fixed rate investments may be taken for longer periods to secure better long term returns.

The treasury management team has a strategy for assessing interest rate exposure that feeds into the setting of the annual budget and which is used to update the budget quarterly during the year. This allows any adverse changes to be accommodated. According to this assessment strategy, at 31 March 2015, if interest rates had been 0.25% higher with all other variables held constant, the financial effect would be:

	Council and group
	£000
Increase in interest receivable on variable rate loans	1,352
Increase in interest receivable on variable rate investments	11
Increase in government grant receivable for financing costs	-
Impact on surplus or deficit on the provision of services	1,363
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate investment assets	-
Impact on other comprehensive income and expenditure	-
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate borrowings liabilities (no impact on the surplus or deficit on the provision of services or other comprehensive income and expenditure)	14

The impact of a 0.25% fall in interest rates would mean that no interest would have been received.

39.3.2 Price risk

The Council does not invest in equity shares and is not exposed to losses arising from movements in the prices of the shares.

39.3.3 Foreign exchange risk

The Council has no financial assets or liabilities denominated in foreign currencies and thus has no exposure to loss arising from movements in exchange rates.

39.4 Environmental risk

The Council has taken out a rolling 10 year environmental warranty to safeguard against the risk of contaminated land that was transferred to the Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust as part of the stock transfer. The risk of having to make use of the warranty is minimal.

40. Contingent liabilities

A contingent liability is a potential liability which depends on the occurrence or non occurrence of one or more uncertain future events. The Council has identified the following contingent liabilities as at 31 March 2015.

- NNDR appeals – The Council has made a provision for NNDR appeals based upon its best estimates of the actual liability as at the year end in known appeals. It is not possible to quantify appeals that have not yet been lodged with the Valuation Office so there is a risk to the Council that national and local appeals may have a future impact on the accounts.
- Refund of fees paid - A group of property search companies which were seeking to claim refunds of fees paid to the Council to access land charges data have been successful. The Council has paid £159,000 to settle the claim. This amount includes interest and costs. The claimants have also intimated that they may bring a claim against all English and Welsh local authorities for alleged anti-competitive behaviour. It is not clear what the value of any such claim would be against the Council. It is possible that additional claimants may come forward to submit claims for refunds, but none have been intimated at present.

41. Contingent assets

A contingent asset is an asset that may be received but only if a future event occurs that is not under the control of the Council. At 31 March 2015, the Council had no material contingent assets.

42. Related party transactions

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

Central government

Central government has effective control over the general operations of the Council – it is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Council operates, provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties (e.g. council tax bills, housing benefits). Grants received from government departments are set out in the subjective analysis in Note 31 on reporting resources allocation decisions. Grant receipts outstanding at 31 March 2015 are shown in Note 30.

Members

Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. The total of members' allowances paid in 2014/15 is shown in Note 33. A review has been made of the Register of Members' Interests and of declarations of interests made by members during the year. In addition, members have been requested to sign a form declaring whether there were any related party transactions during the year. Councillors Raj Khan, Tuffail Hussain, Michael Edmonds, Mike Hawkett, Alison Harrison, Peter Agoro, Ashley Bond and Peter Strachan have failed to make a return. Councillors David Thompson, Derrick Isham, Alan Ward, Brian Tyndall, Pam Pearce and David Vick either did not stand or were unsuccessful at the elections in May and have not returned a declaration. No works and services were commissioned from companies in which members had an interest. Details of any declarations are recorded in the Register of Members' Interests, which is open to public inspection at The Gateway Offices, Gatehouse Road during office hours.

Joint venture

The Council has a 50% interest in Aylesbury Vale Estates LLP. Relevant transactions are disclosed within note 14 (investments) and note 15 (long term debtors) to the balance sheet. The accounts of the joint venture have been consolidated with the overall Council accounts in the group financial statements.

Local enterprise partnerships

The Council is a member of both the South East Midlands LEP (SEMLEP) and the Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP (BTVLEP). This puts the Council in a strong position to influence economic growth and ensures there is LEP impact in the vale, benefiting the Council's communities. During the year, the Council made a contribution to SEMPLEP of £7,000.

Shared procurement partnership

The Council is in partnership with Improvement and Efficiency South East (IESE), a special purpose vehicle established to deliver savings through improved procurement. Each year the Council makes a contribution to IESE of £75,000.

Bucks Advantage

Bucks Advantage is the local delivery vehicle for the Vale, jointly owned by the Council and Buckinghamshire County Council, and covers the BTVLEP area. No contribution was made during the year, although the Council processes payments on their behalf for which it is reimbursed on a quarterly basis.

Aylesbury Vale Local Strategic Partnership

Aylesbury Vale Local Strategic Partnership focuses on those community engagement activities not actioned by other bodies. No contribution was made during the year.

Collection fund

The collection fund is an agent's statement that reflects the statutory obligation for billing authorities to maintain a separate collection fund. The statement shows the transactions of the billing authority in relation to the collection from taxpayers and distribution to local authorities and the government of council tax and non-domestic rates.

2013/14			2014/15		
Council tax	NDR	Total	Council tax	NDR	Total
£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Income					
(99,164)	-	(99,164)	(102,577)	-	(102,577)
-	(48,134)	(48,134)	-	(49,613)	(49,613)
(99,164)	(48,134)	(147,298)	(102,577)	(49,613)	(152,190)
Expenditure					
Precepts and demands					
67,473	-	67,473	72,037	-	72,037
9,853	-	9,853	10,570	-	10,570
3,702	-	3,702	3,894	-	3,894
12,974	-	12,974	13,815	-	13,815
Business rates:					
-	24,245	24,245	-	23,381	23,381
-	4,849	4,849	-	4,676	4,676
-	19,396	19,396	-	18,678	18,678
-	224	224	-	224	224
-	-	-	-	257	257
-	-	-	-	-	-
-	4	4	-	12	12
Bad and doubtful debts					
(161)	114	(47)	(201)	82	(119)
267	-	267	670	-	670
-	4,072	4,072	-	-	-
Contributions					
1,269	-	1,269	4,048	-	4,048
95,377	52,904	148,281	104,833	47,310	152,143
(3,787)	4,770	983	2,256	(2,303)	(47)
(1,313)	-	(1,313)	(5,100)	4,770	(330)
(3,787)	4,770	983	2,256	(2,303)	(47)
(5,100)	4,770	(330)	(2,844)	2,467	(377)

Notes to the collection fund

C1. General

The collection fund is an agent's statement that reflects the statutory obligation of billing authorities to maintain a separate collection fund. The statements shows the transactions of the billing authority in relation to the collection form taxpayers of council tax and national non-domestic rates (NNDR) and its distribution to local government bodies and the government.

The Council has a statutory requirement to operate a collection fund as a separate account to the general fund. The purpose of the collection fund therefore is to isolate the income and expenditure relating to council tax and NNDR. The administrative costs associated with the collection process are charged to the general fund.

Collection fund surpluses declared by the billing authority in relation to council tax are apportioned to the relevant precepting bodies in the subsequent financial year. Deficits likewise are proportionately charged to the relevant precepting bodies in the following year. For Aylesbury, the council tax precepting bodies are Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC), Thames Valley Police Authority (TVPA) and Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire and Rescue Authority (BMKFRA).

In 2013/14, the local government finance regime was revised with the introduction of the retained business rates scheme. The main aim of the scheme is to give Councils a greater incentive to grow businesses in their area. It does, however, also increase the financial risk due to non-collection and the volatility of the NNDR tax base.

The scheme allows the Council to retain a proportion of the total NNDR received. Aylesbury Vale District Council's share is 40% with the remainder paid to our precepting bodies, central government 50%, BCC 9% and BMKFRA 1%.

NNDR surpluses declared by the billing authority in relation to the collection fund are apportioned to the relevant precepting bodies in the subsequent financial year in their respective proportions. Deficits likewise are proportionately charged to the relevant precepting bodies in the following year.

The national code of practice followed by local authorities in England stipulates that a collection fund income and expenditure account is included in the Council's financial statements. The collection fund balance sheet meanwhile is incorporated into the Council's consolidated balance sheet.

C2. Calculation of council tax

Council tax derives from charges raised according to the value of residential properties, which have been classified into 9 valuation bands (A* - H) for this specific purpose. Individual charges are calculated by estimating the amount of income required to be taken from the collection fund by the Council for the forthcoming year and dividing this by the council tax base (i.e. the equivalent number of band D dwellings).

The council tax base for 2014/15 was 70,733 (2013/14: 69,178). The tax base was approved under delegated authority by the Cabinet Member for Resources and was calculated as follows:

2013/14				2014/15		
Number of chargeable homes less exemptions and discounts	Factor	Band D equivalents	Band	Number of chargeable homes less exemptions and discounts	Factor	Band D equivalents
5	5/9	3	A*	6	5/9	3
2,429	6/9	1,619	A	2,456	6/9	1,637
10,206	7/9	7,938	B	10,428	7/9	8,111
18,980	8/9	16,871	C	19,541	8/9	17,370
11,436	9/9	11,436	D	11,807	9/9	11,807
9,773	11/9	11,945	E	9,945	11/9	12,155
7,012	13/9	10,128	F	7,106	13/9	10,264
5,517	15/9	9,195	G	5,626	15/9	9,377
331	18/9	662	H	363	18/9	726
<u>65,689</u>		<u>69,797</u>		<u>67,278</u>		<u>71,450</u>
		(619)	Allowance for non-collection			(717)
		<u>(6,572)</u>	Council tax support scheme			<u>(4,880)</u>
		<u>69,178</u>	Council tax base			<u>65,853</u>
		99.1%	Collection rate assumed			98.9%

C3. Non-domestic rates

The Council collects national non-domestic rates (NNDR) for its area based on local rateable values provided by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) multiplied by a uniform business rate set nationally by central government. In previous financial years the total amount due, less certain allowances, was paid to a central pool (the NNDR pool) administered by central government, which, in turn, paid to local authorities their share of the pool, such shares being based on a standard amount per head of the local adult population.

In 2013/14, the administration of NNDR changed following the introduction of a business rates retention scheme which aims to give Councils a greater incentive to grow businesses in their area but also increases the financial risk due to volatility and non-collection of rates. Instead of paying NNDR to the central pool, local authorities retain a proportion of the total collectible rates due. Aylesbury Vale District Council's share is 40% with the remainder paid to our precepting bodies, central government 50%, BCC 9% and BMKFRA 1%.

The business rates shares payable for 2014/15 were estimated before the start of the financial year as £23,381,000 to central government, £4,209,000 to BCC, £468,000 to BMKFRA and £18,705,000 to Aylesbury Vale District Council. These sums have been paid in 2014/15 and charged to the collection fund in the year.

When the scheme was introduced, central government set a baseline level for each authority identifying the expected level of retained business rates and a top-up or tariff amount to ensure that all authorities receive their baseline amount. Tariffs due from authorities payable to central government are used to finance the top-ups to those authorities who do not achieve their targeted baseline funding. In this respect, Aylesbury Vale District Council paid a tariff of £15,722,000 from the general fund in 2014/15.

In addition to the local management of business rates, authorities are expected to finance appeals made in respect of rateable values as defined by VOA and hence business rates outstanding as at 31 March 2015. As such, authorities are required to make a provision for these amounts. Appeals are charged and provided for in proportion of the precepting shares. The total provision charged to the collection fund for 2014/15 has been calculated as £0 (2013/14: £4,072,000).

The total non-domestic rateable value at 31 March 2015 was £130,470,959 (31 March 2014: £130,037,211). The national non-domestic rate multiplier for the year was 47.1p for small businesses (2013/14: 46.2p) and 48.2p for all other businesses (2013/14: 47.1p).

C4. Contribution to collection fund surpluses and deficits

The Council has a statutory requirement to prepare an estimate each January of the surplus or deficit expected to arise at the end of the financial year. In January 2014 it was estimated that the collection fund would have a surplus of £4,048,000, which was payable during 2014/15.

Accrual

Income and expenditure are shown in the accounts as sums due to and from the Council during the year when they are earned or incurred and not when the money is received or paid.

Budget

A budget is a financial statement that expresses the Council's service delivery plans and capital programme in monetary terms.

Capital expenditure

Expenditure on the acquisition of a fixed asset that will be used to provide services beyond the current accounting period or expenditure that adds value to an existing asset.

Capital programme

This is a financial summary of the capital projects that Aylesbury Vale District Council intends to carry out over a specified period of time.

Capital receipt

The proceeds from the sale of land or property. Capital receipts can be used to finance new capital expenditure but cannot be used to fund revenue expenditure.

CIPFA

This is the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

Collection fund

A separate fund recording the expenditure and income relating to council tax and non-domestic rates.

Community assets

This is land and property that Aylesbury Vale District Council intends to hold forever. It generally has no determinable useful life and there is often a restriction regarding its sale.

Contingent liability

A sum due to be paid which may arise in the future but which cannot be determined in advance.

Council tax

This is one of the main sources of income to the Council. Council tax is levied on households within its area by the billing authority and the proceeds are paid into the collection fund for distribution to precepting authorities and for use by the billing authority's own general fund.

Creditor

This applies to money the Council owes to third parties for goods and services it has received but not paid for at the end of the accounting period.

Debtor

This applies to money that is owed to the Council from third parties for goods and services it has provided but not yet been paid for at the end of the accounting period.

Depreciation

This is a charge made to the revenue account each year that reflects the reduction in value of fixed assets used to deliver services.

Exceptional items

Material items which derive from events or transactions that fall within the normal activities of the Council and which need to be disclosed separately by virtue of their size or incidence to give fair presentation to the accounts.

Extraordinary items

Material items possessing a high degree of abnormality which derive from events or transactions that fall outside the normal activities of the Council and which are not expected to recur.

Finance lease

This is a lease, usually of buildings, which is treated as capital borrowing.

Fixed assets

Tangible assets that yield benefits to the Council and its services for a period of more than one year.

Government grants

Grants made by the central government towards either revenue or capital expenditure to help with the costs of providing services and capital projects. Some government grants have restrictions on how they may be used whilst others are general purpose.

Gross expenditure

The total cost of providing the Council's services before taking into account income from fees, charges and government grants.

Housing benefits

This is the national system for giving financial assistance to individuals towards certain housing costs. The cost of the service is subsidised by central government.

Impairment

This is a reduction in the value of a fixed asset as shown in the balance sheet to reflect its true value.

Income

This is the money that the Council receives or expects to receive from any source; fees, charges, sales, grants and interest.

Infrastructure assets

Inalienable fixed assets, expenditure on which is recoverable only by continued use of the asset created e.g. pedestrianisation.

Intangible assets

These are non-financial fixed assets that do not have any physical substance but are identifiable and are controlled by the Council through custom or legal rights e.g. computer software.

Inventories

These are items of stores that the Council has bought to use on a continuing basis but has not yet used.

Liability

A liability arises when the Council owes money to others and it must be included in the financial statements. There are two types of liability:

- a current liability is a sum of money that will or might be payable during the next accounting period e.g. creditors or cash overdrawn.
- a deferred liability is a sum of money that will not be payable until some point after the next accounting period or is paid off over a number of accounting periods.

Local services support grant

A general grant paid by central government to local authorities as a contribution towards the cost of their services.

Long term investments

Long term investments are investments intended to be held for use on a continuing basis in the activities of the Council. They should be classified as long term only where an intention to hold the asset for longer than one year can be clearly demonstrated.

National non-domestic rate (NNDR)

A levy on businesses, based on a national rate in the pound set by the government multiplied by the 'rateable value' of the premises they occupy. NNDR is collected by Aylesbury Vale District Council on behalf of central government and paid into a national 'pool'. The 'pool' is then redistributed among all local authorities and police authorities on the basis of population.

Operating lease

This is a lease where ownership of the fixed asset remains with the lessor.

Property, plant and equipment assets

These are fixed assets owned by the Council and used or consumed in the direct delivery of services.

Precept

The levy made by precepting authorities on billing authorities, requiring the latter to collect income from council tax payers on their behalf. Precepts are paid from the collection fund.

Provision

This is a sum of money that has been put aside in the accounts for liabilities or losses that are due but where the amount due or timing of the payment is not known with any certainty.

Rateable value

The annual assumed rental value of a property that is used for business purposes.

Reserves

A reserve results from an accumulation of surpluses, deficits and appropriations over past years. Reserves of a revenue nature are available and can be spent or earmarked at the Council's discretion.

Revenue expenditure

The day to day expenses associated with the provision of services.

Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statue

This is capital expenditure that does not create an asset that belongs to the Council. The value is written off to revenue in the year. An example of this type of expenditure is an improvement grant to another organisation.

Useful life

This is the period over which an organisation will derive benefits from the use of a fixed asset.

GENERAL FUND REVENUE RESERVES AND PROVISIONS

The table shows the current level of provisions and reserves held by the Council at the beginning of the year, the movements in the year and the closing balance at 31st March 2015.

GENERAL FUND REVENUE RESERVES AND PROVISIONS	OPENING BALANCE 01/04/2014 £'000	INCOME TO 31/03/2015 £'000	SPEND TO 31/03/2015 £'000	SCRUTINY CLOSING BALANCE 31/03/2015 £'000
PROVISIONS				
Refundable Bonds	(183)	(4)	0	(187)
NNDR Appeals	(1,629)	0	0	(1,629)
BAD DEBT PROVISIONS				
Housing Benefits Overpayments	(858)	(503)	0	(1,361)
Local Taxation	(372)	(62)	0	(434)
Other	(86)	(15)	8	(93)
On Street Parking	(67)	(45)	28	(84)
Haywoods Way - Aylesbury FC	(41)	0	0	(41)
TOTAL PROVISIONS	(3,236)	(629)	36	(3,829)
Aylesbury Special Expenses	(471)	(48)	0	(519)
RESERVES				
New Homes Bonus	(3,110)	(3,450)	0	(6,560)
New Homes Bonus Parish Initiatives	(441)	0		(441)
Interest Equalisation	(3,452)	0	657	(2,795)
Property Sinking	(2,812)	0	500	(2,312)
Commuted Sums	(2,424)	(82)	0	(2,506)
Superannuation	(1,837)	0	277	(1,560)
Housing Benefit Subsidy	(1,534)	0	0	(1,534)
New Technology System Replacement	(1,214)	(297)	282	(1,229)
Repairs & Renewals	(1,000)	(253)	401	(852)
LABGI	(907)	(50)	100	(857)
Planning Related	(753)	(842)	405	(1,190)
Insurance - Risk and Self Insurance	(540)	(38)	0	(578)
Industrial Rent Loss	(436)	(104)	0	(540)
Business Rates	(1,680)	(321)	0	(2,001)
Fairford Leys Riverine Corridor	(412)	(438)	0	(850)
Car Parking Related	(192)	0	0	(192)
Recycling and Composting	(151)	(48)	0	(199)
Business Transformation	(150)	0	61	(89)
District Council Elections	(141)	(54)	35	(160)
Business Support Fund	0	(102)	0	(102)
Historic Buildings	(136)	(5)	0	(141)
Housing Needs & Section 106	(107)	0	0	(107)
Rent Guarantee Scheme	(71)	0	0	(71)
CCTV	(56)	0	0	(56)
Licensing	(51)	0	0	(51)
Playgrounds	(40)	0	0	(40)
Corporate Market Research	(31)	(15)	0	(46)
Future Vehicle Costs	(19)	0	15	(4)
Land Registry	(11)	0	0	(11)
Other	(9)	0	0	(9)
Corporate Improvement	(7)	0	0	(7)
Leisure Activities	0	(156)	0	(156)
TOTAL RESERVES & SPECIAL	(24,195)	(6,303)	2,733	(27,765)
TOTAL RESERVES AND PROVISIONS	(27,902)	(6,980)	2,769	(32,113)

AVDC: Estimates Used in the Production of the Statement of Accounts 2014/15

The following table summarises the significant estimates made in compiling the Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2015:

Item	Method Used, and any change from prior period	Relevant Controls	Use of an Expert	Assumptions Made / Sensitivity to changes in assumptions	Reliability of data / consideration of alternative estimates	Level of Estimation Uncertainty
Non adjusting events – after the balance sheet date	None.					
Property, plant and equipment valuations	<p>Certified valuations provided as part of a five year rolling programme and an annual review for impairment covering all assets.</p> <p>Only the properties classed as Community Centres were valued.</p> <p>All valuations prepared in accordance with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Valuation Manual.</p>	Valuations are reviewed by Finance and any large / unexpected movements are checked with the valuer.	Yes – Valuer from the Wilks, Head and Eve a firm Valuers.	<p>Title – assumed all properties are free from onerous and unusual restrictions.</p> <p>Contamination – assumed properties are not affected by land contamination.</p> <p>Site Stability – assumed no instability of any of the properties.</p> <p>Vehicles and Equipment are depreciated on a straight line basis rather than a reducing balance method.</p>		Assumptions are standard recommended practice for valuation of properties.
Depreciation	<p>Straight line depreciation over the remaining useful life of each asset.</p> <p>Remaining life estimated by the valuer in accordance with the RICS Valuation Manual.</p>	Following inputting into Aptos, the amounts are reviewed against the budget. Any variations are investigated.	Yes – Valuer from the Wilks, Head and Eve a firm Valuers.	As above.		Any increase or decrease in useful lives will affect the level of depreciation and the carrying value of the assets.
Impairments	Physical impairment assessed by Finance Manager whilst an Economic impairment assessment is requested from an external valuer.	Any findings to be confirmed with surveyor in legal section.	Yes – Valuer from the Wilks, Head and Eve a firm Valuers.	Any major physical will be reported via property services and/or insurance section.	None.	Incorrect assessment of impairment could have a major impact on the balance sheet but not the overall bottom line.

Item	Method Used, and any change from prior period	Relevant Controls	Use of an Expert	Assumptions Made / Sensitivity to changes in assumptions	Reliability of data / consideration of alternative estimates	Level of Estimation Uncertainty
Componentisation	If an individual asset has a carrying value of more than 20% of the carrying value of the overall asset then it will be separately accounted for.	To be reviewed by Finance Manager.	No.	The cost of the individual asset will be used as the value for comparison of the overall asset value.		
Estimated remaining useful lives of PPE	Remaining life estimated by the valuer in accordance with the RICS Valuation Manual. No change from prior period.	Valuations are reviewed by Finance and any large / unexpected movements are checked with the valuer.	Yes – Valuer from the Wilks, Head and Eve a firm Valuers.	As for PPE valuations above.		Any increase or decrease in useful lives will affect the level of depreciation and the carrying value of the assets.
Recharging of overheads	Cost of overheads are allocated to SEA headings based on usage of various services. There will be no change from prior periods.	Allocation basis and final recharge reviewed by Finance Manager.	No.	Assume that each basis accurately reflects the level of service consumed e.g. ICT services recharged based on number of PCs held by each area. Assume that data taken at a point in time will not alter significantly during the year.	No consideration of alternative estimates.	No effect on bottom line figures. Errors in estimates unlikely to be significant and will only affect allocation between service headings.
Measurement of Financial Instrument fair values	Fair values based on Net Present Value approach, which provides an estimate of the value of payments in the future in today's terms	Valuations provided by an expert	Yes – Capita Asset..	Interest is not paid/received on the start date of an instrument, but is paid/received on the maturity date.		Potential effect of higher/lower interest rates included within the Statement of Accounts 2014/15. But not considered material.
Bad debt provision	Provision is made based upon the financial level of the arrear. An increasing percentage is applied to the increasing level of the arrears. For Council Tax arrears older than 4 years, a 100% provision is made.	None.	No.	Assumed that the higher the financial amount then the harder will be to collect over time.	Data reliable. An alternative approach based upon the age of the debt could be considered.	Not material for AVDC but could have an impact upon the Collection Fund surplus / deficit.

Item	Method Used, and any change from prior period	Relevant Controls	Use of an Expert	Assumptions Made / Sensitivity to changes in assumptions	Reliability of data / consideration of alternative estimates	Level of Estimation Uncertainty
Provisions for liabilities including restructuring, redundancy and onerous contracts	No provision is made for redundancies, sections have to meet the cost from within their budgets..	None.	No.	Sections can meet costs within their budgets.		Could be significant if no budgetary provision but there is a possible reserve that could be used.
Accruals	Use of actual information or estimate from section.	Review of working paper if applicable by Finance.	No.	Will vary depending on individual circumstances. Typical example will be where an invoice crosses over the year end, the amount will be allocated on a proportional basis		Unlikely to be significant as over and under estimates are likely to cancel each other out on average
Finance Lease liabilities	None.					
Long term obligations -PFIs	None.					
Defined benefit pension amounts and disclosures	Information supplied by actuaries via Bucks CC.	None.	Yes – actuary	Assumed information is correct.	Assumed information is reliable.	
Earmarked Reserves	Annual review, where reserve holders indicate expected levels. A review was carried out in 2014/15 and some reserves of a similar type were merged.	Actual position will be compared to return that was submitted.	Yes – Finance Manager.			Reserves - levels not prescribed. Any over/under estimates will be reviewed in the following year.
Contingent Assets	None.					
Contingent Liabilities	None.					
NNDR payment to/ from the DCLG	Figure now based upon the NNDR 1 claim.	None.	Revenue's officer.	Assumed the NNDR 1 claim will be accurate.	Data considered reliable.	Assumed difference will be marginal.
Council tax surplus/ deficit	Using Iworld control prints a forecast position is determined based upon likely income and bad debts. This is done in November and again January. No change from prior years.		No.	Assumptions will be made about the level of income received and the level of level of arrears that could be expected.	Data is reliable, no need for an alternative approach.	Any difference in the estimated surplus or deficit will have an impact in the following year.