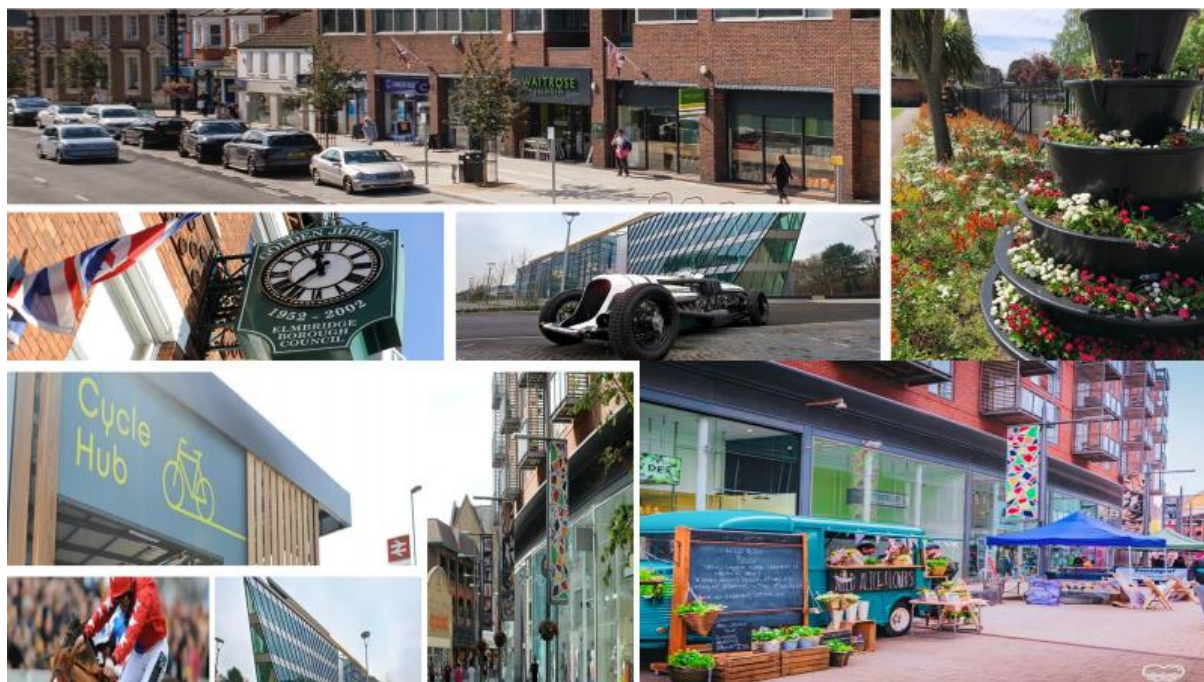


Statement of Accounts 2023/24 for the year ending 31 March 2024



Summary of Financial Performance in the year

In the financial year to 31 March 2024, the Council delivered its services within the approved budget of £19.1 million. This is in accordance with the Council's medium-term financial strategy, and robust financial management of the Council's services has enabled services to be provided within budget.

The Council's General Fund balance remains at £4 million as at 31 March 2024. The Council's financial health remains sound although there is continued uncertainty over the ongoing impact of the cost of living crisis in the medium term, and capacity will be needed to provide a firm financial foundation for the Council to deliver its services in what continues to be a very challenging financial climate. The national inflationary pressures have impacted the Council's expenditure: this will need to be closely monitored and appropriate action taken to minimise the impact on the quantity and quality of services.

The Council has taken steps to strengthen its reserves, in line with the Administration Commitment. There continues to be no reliance on the use of reserves to support the net expenditure of the Council.

The timing and impact of the government's review of the Business Rates Retention Scheme and the Fair Funding Review continues to add to the uncertain financial climate the Council is operating under.

The Council has recognised in strategic terms that the local authority needs to reduce its dependency on Government revenue funding when public funds are so highly constrained, through modest increases in Council Tax, effective use of assets, increased income from property investments, Fees & Charges and retention of Business Rates. The clear message from Central Government is that councils should fund local services using locally raised revenue.

Financial Strategy Review

The role of the Council's financial planning process is to support the achievement of the Council's Strategic Priorities and Corporate Plan. The main driver for the budget and savings options developed is the administration's desire to provide high quality services that are in line with Council priorities and residents needs at the least possible cost to Council Taxpayers.

The impact of Covid has diminished, rising inflation and the cost of living crisis will continue to have an impact in 2024/25 and in the medium term. Managing the ongoing impact and the recovery for our businesses and residents will remain a key priority.

Key actions that continue to be being taken to mitigate these challenges include:

- Delivery of the Council's Transformation Programme.
- Review of fees and charges and other income generation opportunities across the Council, balancing impact on local residents and the local economy.
- Enhance the provision of customer services by effective use of technology to align with our resident needs and accessibility requirements and use digital technology to improve processes and make it more efficient for the end user.
- Manage risk with respect to our income generating assets and delivery of housing and regeneration schemes in the Borough.
- Investing in initiatives to mitigate some of the homelessness pressures on the Council's revenue budget, continue to increase the supply of temporary accommodation in the Borough.
- Continue to review level and use of reserves and balances.
- Optimising return on cash surplus and increase the balance on the interest equalisation reserve to protect the taxpayer from interest rate fluctuations, balancing security, liquidity and yield.

- Continue to use existing assets more effectively, releasing space which can generate rental income.
- Undertake a review of capital spending plans to ensure a sustainable business case with affordable capital programmes.
- Review Partnerships and funding to the Voluntary sector, strengthen service level agreements and maximise the use of Voluntary Sector to provide services.
- Maximise invest to save opportunities to generate income, improve processes and make efficiencies.

Non-Financial Performance

The Council consults regularly with stakeholders, taxpayers and service users. The “My Elmbridge” programme is in place to consult, engage and inform residents about local services. The Council proactively engages with residents, businesses and partners to maintain the Council’s reputation, gain understanding and support for the organisation’s vision and objectives and keep users informed about priorities, services and campaigns and consultations via digital, in person and social media channels.

Budget and Actual Expenditure 2023/24

Budget proposals for 2023/24 were reported to Members through various Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Performance and Finance Panel and Council between September 2022 and February 2023, with the final budget being approved in February 2023. From it’s peak, inflation was 10% and the Bank of England increased the Base Rate to bring inflation down to the target of 2%. The economy entered into a period being referred to as a cost of living crisis, caused by increases in the cost of utilities, food and other basic commodities which continues to disproportionately impact the most vulnerable groups.

The Council’s approach to setting the budget involved detailed consideration of financial risk, so that this can be factored into budget decisions.

The 2023/24 Budget incorporated savings of £1.9 million. The main components of the budget in February 2023 for 2023/24, and how they compare with actual income and expenditure for the year are:

Portfolio	2022/23	2023/24			
	Actual £'000	Original Budget £'000	Actual £'000	Variance to Original Budget £'000	%
Climate Change and Sustainability	166	193	192	(1)	(1)
Community Care	3,471	3,889	3,947	58	1
Environmental Services	4,535	5,343	4,739	(604)	(11)
Finance and Resources	1,506	3,949	4,120	171	4
Housing	2,497	2,752	2,880	128	5
Leisure, Culture & Commercial Strategy	5,244	5,745	5,364	(381)	(7)
Planning, Enterprise & Local Economy	1,686	2,648	509	(2,139)	(81)
Policy and Transformation	2,830	3,363	4,846	1,483	44
Covid Expenditure	144	-	-	-	-
	22,079	27,882	26,597	(1,285)	(5)
Depreciation Reversal	(3,155)	(3,434)	(3,434)	-	-
Interest on Balances	(2,388)	(3,250)	(5,534)	(2,284)	(70)
Contribution To/(from) Interest Equalisation Reserve	557	1,000	2,250	1,250	125
Investment Properties	(4,181)	(3,218)	(3,564)	(346)	(11)
Transfer from Council Tax Freeze Grant Reserve	(150)	(150)	(150)	-	-
Lower Tier Servies Grant	(106)	-	-	-	-
Services Grant	(161)	(94)	(94)	-	-
Multiplier Compensation	-	(412)	(412)	-	-
Funding Guarantee	-	(1,320)	(1,320)	-	-
New Homes Bonus	(1,028)	(115)	(115)	-	-
Contribution to New Homes Bonus / Property Acquisition Reserve	1,028	115	115	-	-
Underlying Requirement to Produce a Balanced Budget	(199)	(483)	-	483	100
To / (from) Earmarked Reserves	2,932	(372)	1,855	2,227	599
Capital Financing	2,914	2,914	2,869	(45)	-
Net Expenditure	18,142	19,063	19,063	-	-
Funded By:					
Council Tax	15,495	16,056	16,056		
Retained Business Rates	2,329	2,415	2,415		
Grants and Collection Fund Deficit	318	592	592		
	18,142	19,063	19,063		

An analysis of the major variance between the actual and the approved budget in February 2023 is as follows:

	£'000
Employee Related Savings	(701)
Increased Income	(945)
Interest on balances net of contribution to equalisation reserve	(1,034)
Various Other	(30)
Reduction in Use of Reserve to Balance Budget	(2,710)

Budgets are monitored on the following basis:

- i. Budget Managers and Heads of Service receive monthly monitoring reports so that they can take corrective action if necessary
- ii. Monthly Financial Monitoring reports to Council Management Board (CMB) outlining key income and expenditure, highlighting emerging risks.
- iii. For the first and second quarters – The Cabinet receive a budget monitoring report by portfolio along with key financial indicators.
- iv. All Cabinet, Budget and Financial Monitoring Reports are discussed at Performance and Finance Panels.
- v. Third Quarter – A revised forecast for the year is produced and reported to CMB and Cabinet.
- vi. Year end – The final accounts are produced in May and outturn reported to Cabinet in July.

Where major adverse variances are found, corrective action is taken to rectify the position during the year.

Accounts for 2023/24

The Statement of Accounts

The purpose of the Statement of Accounts is to give residents of Elmbridge, electors, those subject to locally levied taxes and charges, Members of the Council, employees and other interested parties clear information about the Council's finances. The format of the Statement of Accounts is governed by The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom, published by CIPFA (The Code). To make the document as useful as possible to its audience and so as to make meaningful comparisons between authorities the Code requires:

- All Statement of Accounts to reflect a common pattern of presentation, although at the same time not requiring them to be identical.
- Interpretation and explanation of the Statement of Accounts to be provided.
- The Statement of Accounts and supporting notes to be written in plain English.

The Council's Statement of Accounts for the year 2023/24 includes:

The Statement of Responsibilities

This outlines the responsibilities of the Council's and the Chief Finance Officer's responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts. It also carries the certification of the Chief Finance Officer (S151 Officer).

The Audit Opinion and Certificate

This is provided by Grant Thornton UK LLP, the appointed auditor, following the completion of the annual audit in the following financial year.

The Statement of Accounting Policies

This explains the basis for the recognition, measurement and disclosure of figures and events in the accounts and is intended to aid the reader's understanding of the accounts.

Annual Governance Statement (AGS)

The AGS is not part of the accounts but shown alongside them. The statement sets out the main components of internal control and the governance framework within which the Council's internal control is managed and reviewed, including arrangements for internal audit. It also reports on significant weaknesses and areas for improvement identified and the actions taken to rectify or strengthen these areas. The statement is signed by the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council.

Core Financial Statements

The Movement in Reserves Statement

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Authority, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund specific items of expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other unusable reserves. The Surplus or (Deficit) on the Provision of Services line shows the true economic cost of providing the Authority's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES). These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance for Council Tax setting. The Net Increase/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves line shows the statutory General Fund Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from Earmarked Reserves undertaken by the Council. In order to aid clarity, the Council had an element of the general reserve earmarked for specific uses, these have been established as Earmarked Reserves.

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

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

The Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Authority. The net assets of the Authority (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Authority. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves are usable reserves, i.e. those reserves that the Authority may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use (for example the Capital Receipts Reserve may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt). The second category of reserves is those that the Authority is not able to use to provide services. This category of reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line 'Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'.

31 March 2023 £'000	Balance Sheet Summary	31 March 2024 £'000
231,487	Long Term Assets	256,853
103,392	Current Assets	76,707
(35,199)	Current Liabilities	(29,655)
(69,897)	Long Term Liabilities	(55,414)
229,753	Net Assets	248,491
	<u>Usable Reserves</u>	
4,000	General Fund	4,000
26,836	Earmarked Reserves	31,262
16,751	Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	17,393
733	Collection Fund Support - Government Grants	-
19,362	Capital Receipts Reserve	19,015
23,503	Capital Grants Unapplied	21,328
91,185	Total Usable Reserves	92,998
138,568	Unusable Reserves	155,493
229,753	Total Reserves (Net Worth)	248,491

The Collection Fund Support – Government Grants reserve is established as a consequence of governments regulations for accounting for business rates and the way in which grant support was given to Councils in relation to Covid. The reserve has been used to match deficits in the period 2021-2024 as a consequence of the complications of accounting for the collection of Business Rates and the interactions with both the Government and Surrey County Council

The Council's working capital ratio has decreased (current assets / current liabilities) at 31 March 2024 to 2.3 (2.7 at 31 March 2023). The working capital provides an indication of the Council's ability to pay its debts within one year. The higher the ratio, the more liquid the organisation. An organisation would normally anticipate a ratio higher than 1.0.

The Cash Flow Statement

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

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

These provide supporting and explanatory information on the Core Financial Statements.

The Collection Fund Statement

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 Elmbridge as the billing authority in relation to the collection from taxpayers, and distribution to local authorities (Surrey County Council and the Parish) and the Police and the Government, of council tax and non-domestic rates.

Pensions

These Statements have been prepared in accordance with International Accounting Standard (IAS) 19 – Employee Benefits. The Balance Sheet shows a Pensions liability of £4.5 million, which reduces the total reserves of the Council by 2%. Further explanatory notes are provided in the Statement of Accounting Policies and in the notes to the Core Financial Statements.

Significant Changes in Accounting Policies and Requirements

There have been no significant changes in Accounting Policies and requirements, affecting the Council Taxpayer, for 2023/24.

Borrowing and Cash Flow

The Council has £49.8 million of borrowing outstanding at 31 March 2024 (£52.4 million – 31 March 2023) from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLb), with £2.6 million being repaid during 2023/24. No new borrowing was undertaken during 2023/24.

The Council has sufficient resources to fund its Capital programme but may decide to borrow based on interest rates and regulations. The Council is not allowed to borrow to fund revenue expenditure but

has a balanced budget with its expenditure being financed from fees and charges, rental income from property holdings, government grants and Council Tax, although there remains uncertainty over the grant levels from Central Government, the total amount of Government grants are expected to reduce over the medium-term.

Capital Expenditure

During the year the following items of major capital works and purchases were undertaken:

2022/23		2023/24
£'000		£'000
704	Local Authority Housing Fund Partnership	7,164
2,682	Grant Expenditure - CIL / ECIF / Other	1,635
904	Private Sector Housing Grants	1,079
1,274	Affordable Housing Grants / Loans	529
67	Community Transport / Centre Enhancements	363
1,424	Other Public Building Acquisition and Enhancements	305
484	Playground Refurbishments / Tennis Courts	291
313	IT Development/Investment	283
-	Leisure & Culture	216
37	Installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Points	123
11	Other	118
-	Play Strategy	113
-	Climate Change	86
35	Other Infrastructure	29
119	Countryside Estate Infrastructure	13
-	Weybridge Street Scape	13
8,054	Total	12,360

There were no capital receipts received in the year.

The Council set its capital programme in February 2024 with spending plans being funded as follows:

	Total Funds Available at	Budgeted Spend	Committed
	31 March 2024	2024/25	2025/27
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Capital Receipts	19,015	6,232	1,402
Capital Grants	21,328	9,539	1,208
Revenue Resources	3,599	3,449	150
Borrowing*	-	10,397	20,000
	43,942	29,617	22,760

*Borrowing is subject to Regeneration & Housing development proposals and Prudential Borrowing conditions.

Significant Provisions or Contingencies and Material Write-Offs

Except in relation to appeals against Business Rate Valuation, there have been no material provisions or write-offs made during the year.

Economic Climate – Inflation and Cost of Living

In setting the 2024/25 budget there was still uncertainty about the ongoing impact on income streams such as car park income, council tax collection and planning fees, as a result of inflationary pressures and the Cost of Living crisis.

Climate Change

The Council declared a climate change emergency in 2019 and addressing the challenges of climate change will increasingly impact on the Council's Financial Strategy. Work is ongoing to reduce the impact of the Council's activities on the environment, for example, solar panels at our Xcel Leisure Centre and our Centres for the Community, loft insulations at our centres and electric vehicle chargers at our car parks. Although this increases capital investment it should result in longer-term revenue benefits by reducing energy costs. A detailed action plan has been prepared and the Council is working through the actions to reduce the Council's environmental impact, the new Council Vision 2030 also enhances the Council commitment to climate change.

The adequacy of balances and reserves to withstand future financial pressures

The last few years has been particularly challenging for local government finances with continued reduction in government funding combined with an increase in costs. 2023/24 was difficult year due to inflationary pressures and the cost of living crisis, with costs rising and income streams continuing to be below pre-pandemic levels. Despite this, collectively the Council has worked hard to ensure costs and income are managed effectively to achieve a balanced position.

The Council has faced unprecedented challenges as a result of the pandemic and inflationary pressures and continues to plan its future finances to mitigate these risks, ensuring sufficient reserves are held to withstand future financial pressures. The depth and length of the cost of living crisis is uncertain and it is essential to continue to provide adequate financial resilience through the adequacy of the council reserves.

The Council maintains a level of General Fund balances to provide a measure of protection against risk. Without the protection provided by reserves, any unforeseen expenditure would have to be met either by increases in Council Tax or immediate savings (potentially through reductions in service levels and redundancies).

The Revenue Risk Reserve together with the Interest Equalisation Reserve are used to mitigate revenue budget risks and interest rate risks facing the Council during the year such as shortfall in income or increase in expenditure.

The Council is determined to address the financial challenges presented by the wider economic difficulties and stringent resource constraints by utilising focused risk management and by embracing all opportunities available to deliver more effective and efficient services for our community.

The forecast over the next five years (2025/26 to 2029/30) is that in order to have a balanced budget the Council will need to find savings of approximately £4.5 million based on the Medium-Term Financial Strategy approved by Council in February 2024. The Council manages financial risk by maintaining adequate reserves to help ensure that the medium-term policy programme is sustainable, the 2024/25 Budget does not rely on reserves to provide a balanced budget, and includes a contribution to the interest equalisation reserve of £1.75 million as a result of the increased interest earned on balances, to protect the Council's budget from future decreases in interest rates. The forecast for the medium-term will be refreshed and reported to Members in the autumn of 2024.

The Council will need to mitigate the impact of funding uncertainty from central government, with the cautious use of reserves and organisational efficiencies. When reserves are utilised, plans will need to be put in place to replenish them. The Transformation Programme outlined below is expected to address the funding gap and help the organisation become financially sustainable and resilient.

Operational Models

The Council uses a number of operating models to transform its inputs into key services and outcomes. The main operating models are:

- the provision of services model – these services are provided at a net cost to the Council and must be provided under statute, such as Planning Services;
- the contribution to services model – some services within the Council contribute to other services and reduce the Council Tax requirement, these include off-street car parking and investment properties;
- the breakeven model – some services are required by statute to have no impact on the Council Tax, such as Land Charges;
- the Building Control Mutualisation where Elmbridge Building Control Services Limited provides the Council's building control services and in which the Council owns a 20% stake;
- on-street car parking is a function of SCC and the Council agree to operate the service on their behalf, realising synergies with the off-street parking service, the service has a zero-net cost to the Council. From April 2023 this service was provided by Surrey County Council.
- the Joint Waste Partnership model – the Council partners with other Surrey Districts in order to realise efficiencies in providing the Waste Collection and Street Cleaning Service; and
- In order to increase the number of affordable housing units the Council Established two wholly owned companies, EBC Investments Ltd and EBC Homes Ltd. EBC Homes surrendered its property back to the Council in March 2024 and is in the process of dissolving.

Capital Strategy 2024 to 2044

The Capital Strategy demonstrates that the Council takes capital investment decisions in line with service objectives and properly takes account of stewardship, value for money, prudence, sustainability and affordability in the long-term context. The Capital Strategy draws together existing good practice within the Council into a single document and outlines limits on the use of capital receipts to approximately £750,000 per annum and not to exceed £2.5 million in any rolling three-year period. The guidance also states that the balance of capital receipts shall be not less than £5 million and held as a contingency against unforeseen capital expenditure.

The Capital Strategy analyses the demand for capital expenditure and the predicted availability of capital resources to identify the gap between demand and available resources to inform decision making. The Capital Strategy was approved in February 2024 and is available on the Council's website.

Risks and Opportunities

Risks

The Council's Risk Management Strategy requires the Corporate Strategic Risk Register to be reviewed on an annual basis. The Register contains details of major identified risks, which could affect the Council's ability to achieve its priorities during the financial year. The top three most significant risks reported in February 2024 are:

- Adverse service planning conditions and / or significant loss of income resulting from changes in national economic conditions beyond the Council's control including the effects of welfare reforms, government and other external funding and other legislation and regulations and Brexit. Detrimental effect of cost-of-living crisis.
- Failure to address the ongoing revenue funding gap identified in the Council's medium term financial strategy including reduction in / elimination of grant funding from external bodies including central government and Surrey County Council.
- Fluctuations in the property market affecting rental income generated from the Council's property portfolio.

For more information on identified risks please see the Council's Strategic Risk Register approved by Council in February 2024.

Opportunities

The Council carefully monitors any future opportunities that may assist in delivering optimal outcomes and improve service provision. Significant future opportunities include:

- Continuing to digitise and modernise the way services are provided.
- Explore collaboration opportunities with other Districts & Boroughs and the Voluntary Sector.
- Re-imagine services and target funding to meet the need in the Borough.
- Building strong foundations of existing investment and skills to create fit for purpose services for both current and future Elmbridge residents.

Our Vision 2030

Our ambition and aspirations for Elmbridge 2030, as well as those of all who have provided their hopes and thoughts on the future of borough – our residents, partners, businesses, officers and Councillors - have been distilled into the Elmbridge 2030 Vision.

Elmbridge is a vibrant borough, but we are keenly aware that not all share in its prosperity. There are people and families for whom the weekly food shop, monthly rent and their home heating bills are a constant worry. We will not leave behind the most vulnerable in our community.

We believe strongly in the power of community and what can be achieved by local people and businesses, our public sector partners and the voluntary and community sector all pulling together for the Elmbridge community.

This is also a vision with sustainability at its heart. Environmental sustainability is central to everything we do, as is nurturing sustainable and thriving communities and managing within sustainable finances. We will meet the challenges of the future and realise our ambitions within the resources available to us.

That is why we have committed to a programme of transformation internally at the council. We have added resource to our work on climate change to give profile and authority to what is a defining issue for our administration, and we have reinforced our commitment to the local economy, reflecting the importance of thriving businesses and vibrant high streets.

Our Vision for Elmbridge



Vision statement

A sustainable, thriving Elmbridge driven by the power of our community.

To deliver this Vision,

Elmbridge Borough Council will be a high performing, environmentally and financially sustainable organisation.

Transformation: our 3 year focus

In order to reach our 2030 goals, we know that a rethink and period of transformation is necessary to develop the Elmbridge of the future. We can achieve this through driving change and reconfiguring our service offer for residents.

Here's what you can expect to see us achieve in the first three years of our vision:



We will have launched our package of community initiatives on climate change, implemented a Green Fleet Strategy and be on our way to decarbonising our fleet



We will have undertaken our digital first approach to improve processes and customer access to services



We will have maximised our open spaces; increasing use and income from use, and achieved our developmental plan for Hurst Pool



We will have assessed parking income following the pandemic and subsequent behaviour change, seeing our new strategy in action



Our Local Plan will be in place, outlining our commitments for how the communities and places in the borough will develop



We will use the Housing Enabling fund to increase homes in Elmbridge that meet temporary accommodation needs



We will have significantly progressed the Lower Green regeneration project, with the aim of increased connectivity with surrounding communities



We will have reviewed our approach to our Community Support Services offer to ensure it meets local need and is financially sustainable



We will have completed and implemented our asset strategy review to balance operational, strategic and commercial outcomes



We will have developed and implemented our new Housing & Homelessness strategy to address the housing challenges our community faces

Sustainable

This is a Vision with sustainability at its heart. But what do we mean by sustainable? For Elmbridge 2030, it means being carbon neutral, enhancing our natural environment, as well as supporting and engaging our community with biodiversity, active travel and sustainable living.

Thriving

A thriving borough has vibrant towns and villages, offering residents and visitors the chance to visit the theatre, have a coffee with friends, shop and relax. Our support of the local economy will not only enable businesses to grow but that positive impact will also benefit local amenities such as parks, libraries, leisure facilities.

Community

We are a borough of thriving communities, each with their own passions and priorities. In our role as a community leader, convenor and connector we will engage and empower our communities, while also supporting independence, enhancing health and wellbeing and always striving to keep Elmbridge safe.

A high performing organisation

To deliver on our Vision for community, Elmbridge Borough Council itself needs to continue to be a high performing council. What we do matters to the lives of many in our community, especially when it comes to sustainability and carbon reduction. The stakes are high which is why the needs of the community must come first.

We will always be open and authentic in our communications with residents, transparent in our decision making and listen to the views of our community. We will do this while continuing to be an employer of choice, with a committed and progressive workforce.

Our Vision 2030 establishes our direction for the future and our ambitions for our borough. It provides the backdrop for the modernisation and service transformation proposed within the Transformation Programme.

It's never been more important for us to reimagine our services and facilities in line with need in the community, and for us to explore how that need can be best met. The current events including the effects of energy insecurity and its impact on the cost-of living crisis all underline the need for us to create a positive sustainable, thriving and caring future for Elmbridge with community at its heart. Underpinning all of this is ensuring Elmbridge is a high performing organisation, one that listens, is transparent and proactive with an agile and progressive workforce.

We are accelerating our plans to review what we do and how we do it through an inspiring Transformation Programme which will ensure that we work efficiently and effectively in a way that is modern, affordable and sustainable.

Looking ahead

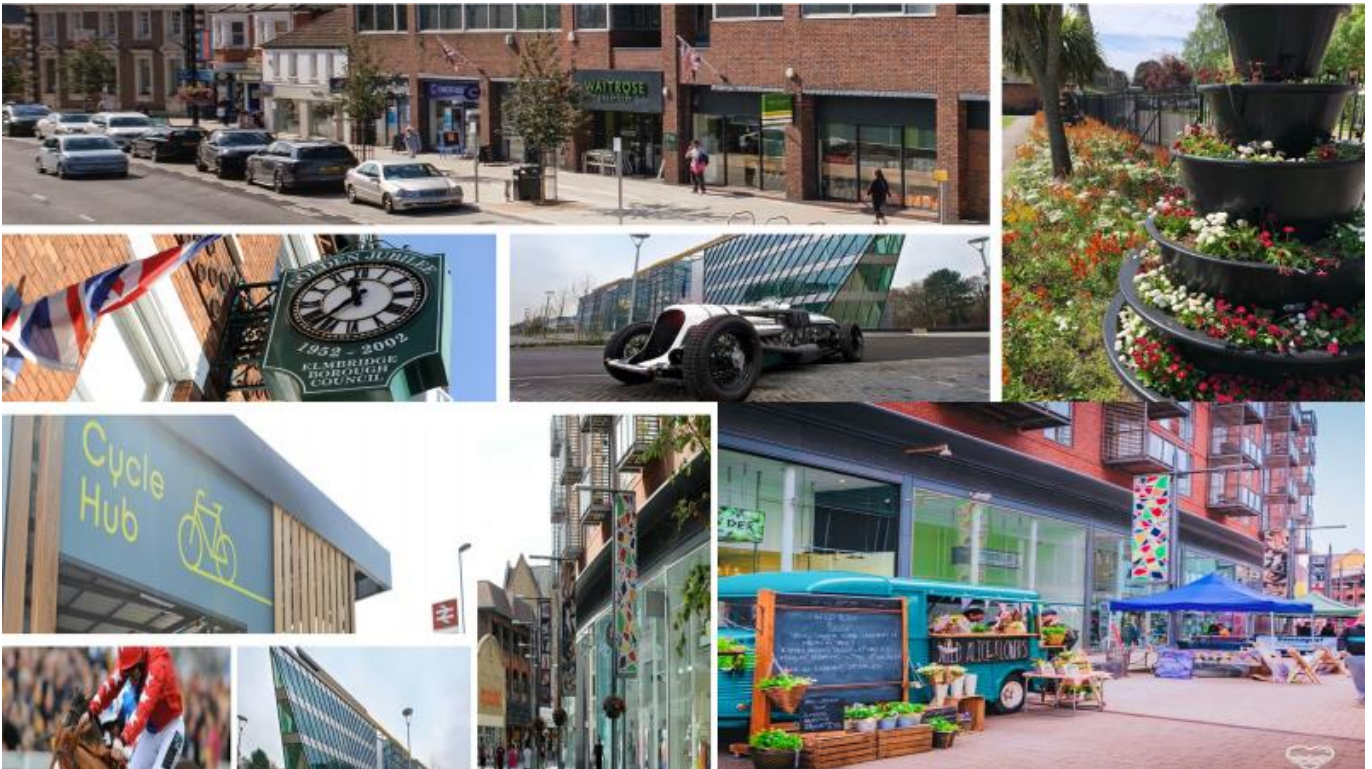
Despite the current economic climate, the Council is making progress enabling us to deliver quality services and value for money for Elmbridge residents now and in the future. We will bring forward plans and budgets which are sustainable by ensuring that we are as effective and efficient as possible by strengthening our digitalisation, agile working initiatives so that we can continue to deliver our vision and priorities.

Elmbridge has a strong record of prudence in the way we manage our finances, and will continue to do so whilst reviewing our services to ensure they meet need and are delivered economically, efficiently and effectively.

With the Council's commercial income stream holding up despite the continuing effect of the pandemic, the Council has a balanced budget for 2024/25 and plans are in place for the MTFS period, placing the Council in a good position to respond to ongoing challenges.

The Council's Vision 2030 establishes our direction for the future and our ambitions for the Borough. It provides the backdrop for the modernisation and service transformations proposed within the Transformation Programme. The Transformation programme will drive change and reconfigure the Organisation's service offering so that it is financially sustainable by maximising income, making efficiencies and savings, ensuring revenue and capital expenditure is in proportion to available funds, reduce reliance on and rebuilding the Council's reserves over the medium to long term.

Statement of Accounts Year Ended 31 March 2024



Elmsbridge
Borough Council

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Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

This Statement is given in respect of the Statement of Accounts 2023/24, signed and dated by the responsible financial officer on behalf of the Council.

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 Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer.
- Manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- Approve the Statement of Accounts.

Approved by Council

The Audited Statement of Accounts was approved at a meeting of the Audit & Standards Committee on 29 January 2025.

Councillor Richard Flatau
Chair of Audit & Standards Committee
27 February 2025

Responsibilities of S151 Officer as Head of Finance

The S151 Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Council's Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom* ("the Code").

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the S151 Officer has:

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

The S151 Officer has also:

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

Certificate of Head of Finance

I hereby certify that the Statement of Accounts presents a true and fair view of the financial position and the income and expenditure of the Council for the year ended 31 March 2024. I can also confirm that the Statement of Accounts complies with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

Andrew Cooper
Head of Finance & Section 151 Officer
27 February 2025

Independent auditor's report to the members of Elmbridge Borough Council

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion on financial statements

We have audited the financial statements of Elmbridge Borough Council (the 'Authority') for the year ended 31 March 2024, which comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, the Collection Fund Income and Expenditure Account and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority as at 31 March 2024 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law, as required by the Code of Audit Practice (2024) ("the Code of Audit Practice") approved by the Comptroller and Auditor General. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report. We are independent of the Authority in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We are responsible for concluding on the appropriateness of the Head of Finance's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the auditor's opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Authority to cease to continue as a going concern.

In our evaluation of the Head of Finance's conclusions, and in accordance with the expectation set out within the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 that the Authority's financial statements shall be prepared on a going concern basis, we considered the inherent risks associated with the continuation of services provided by the Authority. In doing so we had regard to the guidance provided in Practice Note 10 Audit of financial statements and regularity of public sector bodies in the United Kingdom (Revised 2022) on the application of ISA (UK) 570 Going Concern to public sector entities. We assessed the reasonableness of the basis of preparation used by the Authority and the Authority's disclosures over the going concern period.

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Head of Finance's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Head of Finance with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Head of Finance is responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Other information we are required to report on by exception under the Code of Audit Practice

Under the Code of Audit Practice published by the National Audit Office in November 2024 on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (the Code of Audit Practice) we are required to consider whether the Annual Governance Statement does not comply with the requirements of the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24, or is misleading or inconsistent with the information of which we are aware from our audit. We are not required to consider whether the Annual Governance Statement addresses all risks and controls or that risks are satisfactorily addressed by internal controls.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters required by the Code of Audit Practice

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit of the financial statements, the other information published together with the financial statements in the Statement of Accounts for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Under the Code of Audit Practice, we are required to report to you if:

- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we make a written recommendation to the Authority under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we make an application to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law under Section 28 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we issue an advisory notice under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we make an application for judicial review under Section 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit.

We have nothing to report in respect of the above matters.

Responsibilities of the Authority and the Head of Finance

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts the Authority is required to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this authority, that officer is the Head of Finance. The Head of Finance is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24, for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Head of Finance determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Head of Finance is responsible for assessing the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they have been informed by the relevant national body of the intention to dissolve the Authority without the transfer of its services to another public sector entity.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Authority and determined that the most significant which are directly relevant to specific assertions in the financial statements are those related to the following reporting frameworks; the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24, the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Local Government Act 2003 and the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (as amended by the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Local Government Finance Act 2012).

We enquired of management, internal audit and the Audit and Standards Committee concerning the Authority's policies and procedures relating to:

- the identification, evaluation and compliance with laws and regulations;
- the detection and response to the risks of fraud; and
- the establishment of internal controls to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.

We enquired of management and the Audit and Standards Committee whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or whether they had any knowledge of actual, suspected or alleged fraud.

We assessed the susceptibility of the Authority's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur, by evaluating management's incentives and opportunities for manipulation of the financial statements. This included the evaluation of the risk of management override of controls, the risk of improper revenue recognition (rebutted), the risk of fraud in expenditure recognition (rebutted) and the risk of management bias in accounting estimates. We determined that the principal risks were in relation to journal entries and management bias in material accounting estimates subject to significant management judgement, a high level of estimation uncertainty and high sensitivity to small changes in assumptions. Our audit procedures involved:

- evaluation of the design effectiveness of controls that management has in place to prevent and detect fraud,

- journal entry testing with a focus on the journals deemed to be high risk. We considered all journal entries for fraud and set criteria to identify entries we considered to be high risk. Such criteria included journals containing keywords which might indicate fraud and journals including amounts with a material impact on the Council's financial position;
- challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in its significant accounting estimates in respect of property, plant and equipment and investment property valuations and the valuation of the defined benefit pensions liability;
- assessing the extent of compliance with the relevant laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement item.

These audit procedures were designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free from fraud or error. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error and detecting irregularities that result from fraud is inherently more difficult than detecting those that result from error, as fraud may involve collusion, deliberate concealment, forgery or intentional misrepresentations. Also, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it.

We communicated relevant laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members, including the significant accounting estimates relating to the valuation of land and buildings and the defined benefit pensions liability. We remained alert to any indications of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, throughout the audit.

Our assessment of the appropriateness of the collective competence and capabilities of the engagement team included consideration of the engagement team's;

- understanding of, and practical experience with audit engagements of a similar nature and complexity through appropriate training and participation
- knowledge of the local government sector
- understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements specific to the Authority including:
 - the provisions of the applicable legislation
 - guidance issued by CIPFA/LASAAC and SOLACE
 - the applicable statutory provisions.

In assessing the potential risks of material misstatement we obtained an understanding of:

- the Authority's operations, including the nature of its income and expenditure and its services and of its objectives and strategies to understand the classes of transactions, account balances, expected financial statement disclosures and business risks that may result in risks of material misstatement.
- the Authority's control environment, including the policies and procedures implemented by the Authority to ensure compliance with the requirements of the financial reporting framework.

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

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements – the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

Matter on which we are required to report by exception – the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

Under the Code of Audit Practice, we are required to report to you if, in our opinion, we have not been able to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2024.

We have nothing to report in respect of the above matter.

Responsibilities of the Authority

The Authority is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Auditor's responsibilities for the review of the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

We are required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to be satisfied that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

We undertake our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in November 2024. This guidance sets out the arrangements that fall within the scope of 'proper arrangements'. When reporting on these arrangements, the Code of Audit Practice requires auditors to structure their commentary on arrangements under three specified reporting criteria:

- Financial sustainability: how the Authority plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services;
- Governance: how the Authority ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks; and
- Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness: how the Authority uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.

We document our understanding of the arrangements the Authority has in place for each of these three specified reporting criteria, gathering sufficient evidence to support our risk assessment and commentary in our Auditor's Annual Report. In undertaking our work, we consider whether there is evidence to suggest that there are significant weaknesses in arrangements.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements – Delay in certification of completion of the audit

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate for Elmbridge Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2024 in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice until we have completed the work necessary in relation to consolidation returns, including Whole of Government Accounts (WGA), and the National Audit Office has concluded their work in respect of WGA for the year ended 31 March 2024. We are satisfied that this work does not have a material effect on the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the members of the Authority, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 [and as set out in paragraph 85 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited]. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Authority's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Authority and the Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

John Paul Cuttle, Key Audit Partner
for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Local Auditor
London
27 February 2025

Movement in Reserves Statement

The movement in reserves statement shows the position at the 31 March 2024 for the movements between reserves in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Practice. Detailed analysis of the movement in Earmarked Reserves is found in Note 8 to the Statement of Accounts.

2022/23	General Fund Reserve	Earmarked Revenue Reserves	Collection Fund Support Government Grants	General Fund Balance	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance at 31 March 2022 brought forward	4,000	39,423	12,700	56,123	18,538	21,687	96,348	82,363	178,711
Movement in reserves during 2022/23									
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	1,711	4,164	(11,967)	(6,092)			(6,092)	57,134	51,042
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulation (Note 7)	(1,711)			(1,711)	824	1,816	929	(929)	
Increase (Decrease) in 2022/23	-	4,164	(11,967)	(7,803)	824	1,816	(5,163)	56,205	51,042
Balance at 31 March 2023 carried forward	4,000	43,587	733	48,320	19,362	23,503	91,185	138,568	229,753

2023/24	General Fund Reserve	Earmarked Revenue Reserves	Collection Fund Support Government Grants	General Fund Balance	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance at 31 March 2023 brought forward	4,000	43,587	733	48,320	19,362	23,503	91,185	138,568	229,753
Movement in reserves during 2023/24									
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(7,049)	5,068	(733)	(2,714)			(2,714)	21,452	18,738
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulation (Note 7)	7,049			7,049	(347)	(2,175)	4,527	(4,527)	
Increase (Decrease) in 2023/24	-	5,068	(733)	4,335	(347)	(2,175)	1,813	16,925	18,738
Balance at 31 March 2024 carried forward	4,000	48,655	-	52,655	19,015	21,328	92,998	155,493	248,491

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)

2022/23			2023/24			
Gross Expenditure (Restated) £'000	Gross Income (Restated) £'000	Net Expenditure (Restated) £'000	Note	Gross Expenditure £'000	Gross Income £'000	Net Expenditure £'000
189		189		200		200
6,799	2,380	4,419		5,972	1,843	4,129
6,711	2,046	4,665		6,944	2,161	4,783
2,629	1,323	1,306		3,208	1,045	2,163
38,141	33,977	4,164		46,778	36,107	10,671
8,801	1,993	6,808		9,614	2,061	7,553
12,377	10,592	1,785		10,595	8,747	1,848
3,112	121	2,991		3,577	318	3,259
458	37	421				
79,217	52,469	26,748		86,888	52,282	34,606
50	924	(874)	9	70	1	69
	208	(208)				
18,337	13,119	5,218	10	14,367	17,013	(2,646)
23,493	48,285	(24,792)	11	24,858	54,173	(29,315)
121,097	115,005	6,092		126,183	123,469	2,714
		(8,467)	24.2			(10,302)
		(48,667)	40.2			(11,150)
		(57,134)				(21,452)
		(51,042)				(18,738)

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

Restating the 2022/23 Portfolios for a change in the Portfolio Structure in 2023/24 for Comparison Purposes

The changes to portfolio responsibilities in 2023/24 compared to 2022/23 were:

- Combining Enterprise and Local Economy with Planning;
- Transferring Commercial Strategy from Finance and Resources to Leisure and Culture.

The restated values of the 2022/23 Portfolios for comparison purposes are set out below:

Old Portfolios	2022/23			Movement		2022/23 restated to 2023/24			New Portfolio
	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	Expenditure	Income	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Service Expenditure									
Climate Change	189		189			189		189	Sustainability
Community Care	6,799	2,380	4,419			6,799	2,380	4,419	Community Care
Enterprise And Local Economy	2,559	4,419	(1,860)	(2,559)	(4,419)				
Environmental Services	6,711	2,046	4,665			6,711	2,046	4,665	Environmental Services
Finance And Resources	4,080	2,168	1,912	(1,451)	(845)	2,629	1,323	1,306	Finance and Resources
Housing	38,141	33,977	4,164			38,141	33,977	4,164	Housing
Leisure And Culture	7,350	1,148	6,202	1,451	845	8,801	1,993	6,808	Leisure, Culture and Commercial Strategy
Planning And Environmental Health	9,818	6,173	3,645	2,559	4,419	12,377	10,592	1,785	Planning, Enterprise and Local Economy
Policy And Transformation	3,112	121	2,991			3,112	121	2,991	Policy and Transformation
Covid Expenditure	458	37	421			458	37	421	Covid Expenditure
Cost of Services	79,217	52,469	26,748	0	0	79,217	52,469	26,748	

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

1 April 2022 (restated) £'000	2022/23 (restated) £'000		Notes	2023/24 £'000
115,053	123,135	Property Plant & Equipment	12	139,349
1,424	1,424	Heritage Assets	13	1,449
99,899	91,569	Investment Properties	14	78,975
1,019	959	Intangible Assets	15	994
13,369	13,440	Long Term Investments	16	35,269
1,174	930	Long Term Debtors	16	817
231,938	231,457	Long Term Assets		256,853
63,178	79,672	Short Term Investments	16	55,582
58	61	Inventories		49
18,165	12,488	Short Term Debtors	18	11,459
24,993	11,171	Cash and Cash Equivalents	19	9,617
106,394	103,392	Current Assets		76,707
(41,922)	(31,895)	Short Term Creditors	21	(24,171)
-	(2,157)	Grants Received in Advance - Revenue		(4,325)
(1,136)	(1,147)	Short Term Loans	21	(1,159)
(43,058)	(35,199)	Current Liabilities		(29,655)
(60,297)	(16,258)	Net Liability Arising from the Defined Benefit Pension Obligation	40	(4,522)
(3,836)	(2,356)	Provisions	39	(2,268)
(52,430)	(51,283)	Long Term Borrowing	43	(48,624)
(116,563)	(69,897)	Long Term Liabilities		(55,414)
178,711	229,753	Net Assets		248,491
96,348	91,185	Useable Reserves	23	92,998
82,363	138,568	Unusable Reserves	24	155,493
178,711	229,753	Total Reserves		248,491

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 (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Council. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves are usable reserves, i.e. those reserves that the Council may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory or other limitations on their use (for example the Capital Receipts Reserve may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt).

The second category of reserves is those that the Council is not able to use to provide services. This category of reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), 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

2022/23		Notes	2023/24
£'000			£'000
6,092	Net (surplus) / deficit on the provision of services		2,714
(15,385)	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	25.1	(11,139)
12,088	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	25.2	9,727
2,795	Net cash flows from operating Activities		1,302
10,323	Investing Activities	26	(1,586)
704	Financing Activities	27	1,838
13,822	Net (increase) / decrease in cash and cash equivalents		1,554
(24,993)	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		(11,171)
(11,171)	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	19	(9,617)

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.

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2023/24 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2024. The Council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, which Regulations require to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These regulations were further amended by the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2022, stipulating the accounts must be issued by 31 May and the Audited Accounts published by 30 September. These practices, under Section 21 of 2003 Act, primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 and the Service Reporting Code of Practice 2023/24, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

The accounting convention adopted in the Statement of Accounts is principally historical cost, modified by the revaluation of certain categories of non-current assets and financial instruments. The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis. This assumes that the Council, its functions and services will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

1.2 Accruals of Income and Expenditure

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

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

1.3 Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are investments that mature in a specified period, no more than one month or less from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

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

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

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

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

1.5 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; and
- amortisation of intangible fixed assets attributable to the service.

The Council cannot raise Council Tax to fund depreciation, revaluations, impairment losses or amortisations. However, it is required to make an annual contribution from revenue towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement equal to an amount calculated on a prudential basis determined by the Council in accordance with statutory guidance.

Depreciation, revaluations, impairment losses and amortisations are therefore replaced by the contribution in the General Fund Balance Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between them.

1.6 Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates

Billing authorities act as agents, collecting Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) on behalf of the major preceptors (including government for NDR) and, as principals, collecting Council Tax and NDR for themselves. Billing authorities are required by statute to maintain a separate fund (i.e. the Collection Fund) for the collection and distribution of amounts due in respect of Council Tax and NDR. Under the legislative framework for the Collection Fund, billing authorities, major preceptors and central government share proportionately the risks and rewards that the amount of Council Tax and NDR collected could be less or more than predicted.

Accounting for Council Tax and NDR

The Council Tax and NDR income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) is the authority's share of accrued income for the year. However, regulations determine the amount of council tax and NDR that must be included in the authority's General Fund. Therefore, the difference between the income included in the CIES and the amount required by regulation to be credited to the General Fund is taken to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account and included as a reconciling item in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The Balance Sheet includes the authority's share of the end of year balances in respect of Council Tax and NDR relating to arrears, impairment allowances for doubtful debts, overpayments and prepayments and appeals.

Where debtor balances for the above are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a past event that payments due under the statutory arrangements will not be made (fixed or determinable payments), the asset is written down and a charge made to the Taxation and Non-Specific Grant line in the CIES. The impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount and the revised future cash flows.

1.7 Employee Benefits

Benefits Payable During Employment

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

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 appropriate service segment line in the CIES, at the earlier of when the authority can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when the Council recognises costs for a restructuring.

Where 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.

Post-Employment Benefits

Employees of the Council are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme, administered by Surrey County Council. The scheme provides defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees worked for the Council.

The Local Government Pension Scheme is accounted for as a defined benefits scheme. The liabilities of the Surrey Pension Fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc, and projections of projected earnings for current employees.

Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a Corporate Bond yield curve constructed using the constituents of the iBoxx AA corporate bond index. This is then adjusted to reflect the 'term' of the benefit.

The assets of the Surrey Pension 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; and
- property – market value.

The change in the net pension 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 CIES to the services for which the employees worked.
- past service cost – the increase in liabilities arising from current year decisions whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years, debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the CIES as part of the service segments; net interest on the net defined benefit liability, i.e. net interest expense for the authority – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the CIES – this is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability at the beginning of the period – taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.

Re-measurements 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 – debited to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure; and
- contributions paid to the Surrey Pension Fund – cash paid as employer's contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities to the extent 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 appropriations to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end. The negative balance that arises on the Pensions Reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact to the General Fund of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

Discretionary Benefits

The Council 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.

1.8 Events after the Reporting Period

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

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

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

1.9 Financial Instruments

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

For the borrowing that the Council has, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable (plus accrued interest); and interest charged to the CIES is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement.

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

Where premiums and discounts have been charged to the CIES, regulations allow the impact on the General Fund Balance to be spread over future years. The Council has a policy of spreading the gain or loss over the term that was remaining on the loan against which the premium was payable or discount receivable when it was repaid.

Financial Assets

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

- amortised cost
- fair value through profit or loss (FVPL), and
- fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI)

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

Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost

Financial assets measured at amortised cost are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the authority becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value. They are subsequently measured at their amortised cost. Annual credits to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) for interest receivable are based on the carrying amount of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. For most of the financial assets held by the authority, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal receivable (plus accrued interest) and interest credited to the CIES is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement.

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

Expected Credit Loss Model

The authority recognises expected credit losses on all of its financial assets held at amortised cost [or where relevant FVOCI], either on a 12-month or lifetime basis. The expected credit loss model also applies to lease receivables and contract assets. Only lifetime losses are recognised for trade receivables (debtors) held by the authority.

Impairment losses are calculated to reflect the expectation that the future cash flows might not take place because the borrower could default on their obligations. Credit risk plays a crucial part in assessing losses. Where risk has increased significantly since an instrument was initially recognised, losses are assessed on a lifetime basis. Where risk has not increased significantly or remains low, losses are assessed on the basis of 12-month expected losses.

1.10 Government Grants and Contributions

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

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

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

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

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

1.11 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The Council has elected to charge a CIL. The Levy is charged on new builds with appropriate planning consent. This Council charges for and collects the levy, a planning charge. The Council raises and collects the levy and the income from this planning charge is used to fund infrastructure projects to support the development of the area.

CIL is received without outstanding conditions and is recognised in the CIES.

Any unallocated CIL at the end of the financial year is held as an earmarked revenue reserve. When CIL Grants are awarded, depending on the nature of the expenditure it is awarded for, the funds are moved to the appropriate classification on the Council's Balance Sheet e.g. Capital Grants Unapplied, Creditors or Receipts in Advance.

1.12 Heritage Assets & Memorials

Heritage Assets

The carrying amounts of heritage assets are reviewed where there is evidence of impairment, e.g. where an item has suffered physical deterioration or breakage or where doubts arise as to authenticity. The Authority's heritage assets are accounted for in accordance with the nature of the asset and the relevant accounting policy.

Memorials

The Council is responsible for a number of memorials in the Borough. These memorials, while having significant value to the community, have no resale value and are not used for any operational purpose. The memorials are reflected in the balance sheet at replacement cost and are not depreciated on the basis they have indeterminate lives and are fully maintained.

1.13 Intangible Assets

Expenditure on non-monetary assets that do not have physical substance but are controlled by the Council as a result of past events (e.g. software licences) is capitalised when it is expected that future economic benefits or service potential will flow from the intangible asset to the Council.

Internally generated assets are capitalised where it is demonstrable that the project is technically feasible and is intended to be completed (with adequate resources being available) and the Council will be able to generate future economic benefits or deliver service potential by being able to sell or use the asset.

Expenditure is capitalised where it can be measured reliably as attributable to the asset and is restricted to that incurred during the development phase (research expenditure cannot be capitalised).

Expenditure on the development of the website is capitalised because the website is not solely or primarily intended to promote or advertise the Council's goods or services, as it also includes facilities for web-based payments.

Intangible assets are measured initially at cost. Amounts are only revalued where the fair value of the assets held by the Council can be determined by reference to an active market. In practice, no intangible asset held by the Council meets this criterion, and they are therefore carried at amortised cost. The depreciable amount of an intangible asset is amortised over its useful life to the relevant service line(s) in the CIES. An asset is tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the asset might be impaired – any losses recognised are posted to the relevant service line(s) in the CIES. Any gain or loss arising on the disposal or abandonment of an intangible asset is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the CIES.

Where expenditure on intangible assets qualifies as capital expenditure for statutory purposes, amortisation, impairment losses and disposal gains and losses are not permitted to have an 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 (for any sale proceeds greater than £10,000) the Capital Receipts Reserve.

1.14 Interests in Companies and Other Entities

Apart from the Building Control Service and EBC Investments Ltd the Council has no material interests in companies and other entities that have the nature of subsidiaries, associates and jointly controlled entities and has no requirement to prepare group accounts.

In August 2015 the Council established a mutual for the Building Control Service in which it owns 20% of the share equity with the balance being owned by the employees of the mutual.

The authority has a material interest (100% owned) in EBC Investments Ltd that have the nature of a subsidiary, it may require it to prepare group accounts at a later date. In the authority's own single-entity accounts, the interests in companies and other entities are recorded as financial assets at cost, less any provision for losses. The company became operational in January 2019 with the first accounting year ending on 31 March 2020, the nature and value of the transactions were not material in either 2022/23 or 2023/24. At the 31 March 2024 EBC Investments is in the process of being wound up.

1.15 Inventories and Long-Term Contracts

Inventories are valued at the latest price paid, with an appropriate allowance made for obsolescent and slow-moving items. This is a departure from the requirements of The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting, which require stocks to be shown at the lower of cost or net realisable value. The effect of the difference in treatment is not material.

Long-term contracts are accounted for on the basis of charging the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services with the value of works and services received under the contract during the financial year.

1.16 Investment Property

Investment properties are those that are used solely to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation. The definition is not met if the property is used in any way to facilitate the delivery of services or production of goods or is held for sale.

Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value, being the price that would be received to sell such an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. As a non-financial asset, investment properties are measured at highest and best use. Properties are not depreciated but are revalued annually 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 CIES. The same treatment is applied to gains and losses on disposal.

Rentals received in relation to investment properties are credited to the Financing and Investment Income line and result in a gain 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 (for any sale proceeds greater than £10,000) the Capital Receipts Reserve.

1.17 Leases

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

Where a lease covers both land and buildings, the land and buildings elements are considered separately for classification.

Arrangements that do not have the legal status of a lease but convey a right to use an asset in return for payment are accounted for under this policy where fulfilment of the arrangement is dependent on the use of specific assets.

The Council as Lessee

Finance Leases

Property, plant and equipment held under finance leases is recognised on the Balance Sheet at the commencement of the lease at its fair value measured at the lease's inception (or the present value of the minimum lease payments, if lower). The asset recognised is matched by a liability for the obligation to pay the lessor. Initial direct costs to the Council are added to the carrying amount of the asset. Premiums paid on entry into a lease are applied to writing down the lease liability. Contingent rents are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

Lease payments are apportioned between:

- a charge for the acquisition of the interest in the property, plant or equipment – applied to write down the lease liability, and
- a finance charge (debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES).

Property, Plant and Equipment recognised under finance leases is accounted for using the policies applied generally to such assets, subject to depreciation being charged over the lease term if this is shorter than the asset's estimated useful life (where ownership of the asset does not transfer to the Council at the end of the lease period).

The Council is not required to raise Council Tax to cover depreciation or revaluation and impairment losses arising on leased assets. Instead, a prudent annual contribution is made from revenue funds towards the deemed capital investment in accordance with statutory requirements. Depreciation and revaluation and impairment losses are therefore substituted by a revenue contribution in the General Fund Balance, by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

Operating Leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the CIES as an expense of the services benefiting from use of the leased property, plant or equipment. Charges are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease, even if this does not match the pattern of payments (e.g. there is a rent-free period at the commencement of the lease).

The Council as Lessor

Finance Leases

Where the Council grants a finance lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the relevant asset is written out of the Balance Sheet as a disposal. At the commencement of the lease, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (whether Property, Plant and Equipment or Assets Held for Sale) is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the CIES as part of the gain or loss on disposal. A gain, representing the Council's net investment in the lease, is credited to the same line in the CIES also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal), matched by a lease (long-term debtor) asset in the Balance Sheet.

Lease rentals receivable are apportioned between:

- a charge for the acquisition of the interest in the property – applied to write down the lease debtor (together with any premiums received), and
- finance income (credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES)

The gain credited to the CIES on disposal is not permitted by statute to increase the General Fund Balance and is required to be treated as a capital receipt. Where a premium has been received, this is posted out of the General Fund Balance to the Capital Receipts Reserve in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Where the amount due in relation to the lease asset is to be settled by the payment of rentals in future financial years, this is posted out of the General Fund Balance to the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve in the Movement in Reserves Statement. When the future rentals are received, the element for the capital receipt for the disposal of the asset is used to write down the lease debtor. At this point, the deferred capital receipts are transferred to the Capital Receipts Reserve.

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 therefore appropriated to the Capital Adjustment Account from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Operating Leases

Where the Council grants an operating lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the asset is retained in the Balance Sheet. Rental income is credited to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the CIES. Credits are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease, even if this does not match the pattern of payments (e.g. there is a premium paid at the commencement of the lease). Initial direct costs incurred in negotiating and arranging the lease are added to the carrying amount of the relevant asset and charged as an expense over the lease term on the same basis as rental income.

1.18 Overheads and Support Services

The costs of overheads and support services are charged to service segments in accordance with the authority's arrangements for accountability and financial performance.

1.19 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. For accounting purposes, the Council has a de-minimis level of £10,000.

Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment is capitalised on an accruals basis, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. Expenditure that maintains but does not add to an asset's potential to deliver future economic benefits or service potential (i.e. repairs and maintenance) is charged as an expense when it is incurred.

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

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

The Council does not capitalise borrowing costs incurred whilst assets are under construction.

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

Donated assets are measured initially at fair value. The difference between fair value and any consideration paid is credited to the Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income line of the CIES, unless the donation has been made conditionally. Until conditions are satisfied, the gain is held in the Donated Assets Account. Where gains are credited to the CIES, they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

- infrastructure and community assets– depreciated historical cost;
- assets under construction – historical cost;
- surplus assets – the current value measurement base is fair value, estimated at highest and best use from a market participant’s perspective; and
- all other assets – current value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value – EUV).

Where there is no market-based evidence of fair value because of the specialist nature of an asset, Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC) is used as an estimate of current value.

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

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at current value are revalued according to the following revaluation programme. This is considered to be sufficiently regularly to ensure that the carrying amounts are not materially different from the fair values at the year-end:

- Annually – Civic Centre / Car Parks / Xcel Leisure Centre / Sports Hub.
- Every 3 years – Walton Town Centre / Cemetery Houses / Albermarle House
- Every 5 years – All other asset groups.

Asset revaluations are phased to ensure that at least 70% of the total asset value is revalued every year.

Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. Exceptionally, gains might be credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services where they arise from the reversal of a loss previously charged to a service.

Where decreases in value are identified, they are accounted for as follows:

- where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains); and
- where there is no balance in the Revaluation Reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the CIES.

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

Impairment

Assets are assessed at each year-end as to whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. Where indications exist and any possible differences are estimated to be material, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated and, where this is less than the carrying amount of the asset, an impairment loss is recognised for the shortfall.

Where impairment losses are identified, they are accounted for as follows:

- where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains); and
- where there is no balance in the Revaluation Reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the CIES.

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

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided for on all Property, Plant and Equipment assets by the systematic allocation of their depreciable amounts over their useful lives. An exception is made for assets without a determinable finite useful life (i.e. freehold land and certain Community Assets) and assets that are not yet available for use (i.e. assets under construction).

Depreciation is calculated on the following basis:

- other buildings, plant, furniture and equipment and infrastructure – straight-line allocation over the useful life of the property as estimated by the valuer, or the estimated useful life of the other assets;
- vehicles – reducing balance - a percentage of the value of each vehicle, as advised by a suitably qualified officer; and

Where an item of property, plant and equipment asset has major components whose values are significant in relation to the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately.

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

Disposals and Non-Current Assets Held for Sale

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

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

Assets that are to be abandoned or scrapped are not reclassified as assets held for sale. When an asset is disposed of or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (whether property, plant and equipment or assets held for sale, is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure in the CIES as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals (if any) are credited to the same line in the CIES also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal). Any revaluation gains accumulated for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts. The balance of receipts remains within the Capital Receipts Reserve and can then only be used for new capital investment or set aside to reduce the authority's underlying need to borrow. Receipts are appropriated to the Reserve from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The written off value of disposals is not a charge against Council Tax, as the cost of non-current assets is fully provided for under separate arrangements for capital financing.

1.20 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Provisions

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Council a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefits or service potential, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. For instance, the Council 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 CIES in the year that the Council becomes aware of the obligation and are measured at the best estimate at the balance sheet date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

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

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

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.

1.21 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 in that year to be included the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the CIES. The reserve is then appropriated back into the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement so that there is no net charge against Council Tax for the expenditure.

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 – these reserves are explained in the relevant notes to the accounts.

From 1 April 2013 the Authority has elected to charge a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The levy will be charged on new builds (chargeable developments for the Authority) with appropriate planning consent. The Council charges for and collects the levy, which is a planning charge. The income from the levy will be used to fund the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure projects (these include transport, flood defences and schools) to support the development of the area.

CIL is received without outstanding conditions; it is therefore recognised at the commencement date of the chargeable development in the CIES in accordance with the accounting policy for reserves set out above. CIL charges will be largely used to fund capital expenditure. However, they may also be used to fund revenue expenditure. Once a decision has been made on how the funds will be allocated the revenue reserve is transferred to the appropriate part of the balance sheet (Capital Grants, Short Term Creditors or Earmarked Reserves).

1.22 Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute

Expenditure incurred during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provisions but that does not result in the creation of a non-current asset has been charged as expenditure to the relevant service in the CIES in the year. Where the Council has determined to meet the cost of this expenditure from existing capital resources or by borrowing, a transfer in the Movement in Reserves Statement from the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account then reverses out the amounts charged so that there is no impact on the level of Council Tax.

1.23 Value Added Tax

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

1.24 Fair Value Measurement

The authority measures some of its non-financial assets such as surplus assets and investment properties and some of its financial instruments such as equity shareholdings [other financial instruments as applicable] at fair value at each reporting date. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurement assumes that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability takes place either:

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

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

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

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

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

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

1A. Prior Period Adjustment

The following adjustments have been made to restate the 2022/23 financial statement following a change in accounting policy or material error.

Creditors: £2,157,000 has been reclassified as Grants Received in Advance – Revenue.

£1,902,000 does not qualify as a creditor and has been reclassified as an earmarked reserve (£1,104,000 of which was at the 1 April 2022).

Cash Equivalents: £17,288,000 has been reclassified as Short-Term Investments following a change in accounting policy. A deposit was previously recognised as a Cash Equivalent if there was less than 30 days to maturity at the balance sheet date. The new policy is that a deposit would be recognised as Cash Equivalent if there was less than 30 days to maturity from the date of acquisition.

Property Valuation: An operational asset was valued using incorrect measurements resulting in it being undervalued by £3,390,000.

Movement in Reserves Statement

2022/23		Creditors Adjustment	Cash Equivalents Adjustment	Property Valuation Adjustment	2022/23 restated
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
	Balance at 1 April 2022				
38,319	Earmarked Reserves	1,104			39,423
78,155	Unusable Reserves			4,208	82,363
	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				
913	General Fund Reserve	798			1,711
57,952	Unusable Reserves			(818)	57,134
	Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulation				
(913)	General Fund Reserve	(798)			(1,711)
1,018	Capital Grants Unapplied	798			1,816

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

2022/23		Creditors Adjustment	Cash Equivalents Adjustment	Property Valuation Adjustment	2022/23 restated
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
(23,994)	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income and Expenditure	(798)			(24,792)
(9,285)	(Surplus) or Deficit on Revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment Assets			818	(8,467)

Balance Sheet – 1 April 2022

1 April 2022		Creditors Adjustment	Cash Equivalents Adjustment	Property Valuation Adjustment	1 April 2022 restated
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
110,845	Property Plant & Equipment			4,208	115,053
(43,026)	Short Term Creditors	1,104			(41,922)
95,244	Useable Reserves	1,104			96,348
78,155	Unusable Reserves			4,208	82,363

Balance Sheet – 31 March 2023

2022/23		Creditors Adjustment	Cash Equivalents Adjustment	Property Valuation Adjustment	2022/23 restated
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
119,745	Property Plant & Equipment			3,390	123,135
62,384	Short Term Investments		17,288		79,672
28,459	Cash and Cash Equivalents		(17,288)		11,171
(35,954)	Short Term Creditors	4,059			(31,895)
-	Grants Received in Advance - Revenue	(2,157)			(2,157)
89,283	Useable Reserves	1,902			91,185
135,178	Unusable Reserves			3,390	138,568

Cash Flow Statement

2022/23		Creditors Adjustment	Cash Equivalents Adjustment	Property Valuation Adjustment	2022/23 restated
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
6,890	Net (surplus) / deficit on the provision of services	(798)			6,092
(16,471)	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements		1,086		(15,385)
11,290	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	798			12,088
(5,879)	Investing Activities		16,202		10,323
(28,459)	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		17,288		(11,171)

A further prior period adjustment, which did not have an impact on the primary statements, was required in respect of the disclosure on financial instruments (Note 16). The disclosure at Note 16 has been restated to exclude items not meeting the definition of financial instruments.

2. Exceptional Item

The costs and impacts of the Councils response to Covid for 2022/23 have been included in both the Income and Expenditure Account and the impacts shown on the Balance Sheet. There is no exceptional item for 2023/24.

3. Accounting Standards that have been issued but have not yet been adopted

There are no changes in accounting requirements for 2024/25 that are anticipated to have a material impact on the Council's financial performance or financial position. As at the balance sheet date, the following new accounting standards or amendments had not yet been adopted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting:

- Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-Current (Amendments to IAS 1)
- Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback (Amendments to IFRS 16)
- Non-current Liabilities with Covenants (Amendments to IAS 1)
- International Tax Reform: Pillar Two Model Rules (Amendments to IAS 12)
- Supplier Finance Arrangements (Amendments to IAS 7 and IFRS 7)

For the 2024/25 financial year, the Council must implement IFRS 16 *Leases*, applying the provisions as they have been adopted in the 2024/25 Accounting Code. It is anticipated that this will not have a material impact on the Council's financial statements.

4. Critical Judgements in applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 1, the Council has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. The critical judgements 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 lose facilities and reduce levels of service provision.

5. 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 2024 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
Property, Plant and Equipment	<p>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.</p> <p>The periodic revaluation of Land and Building assets are subject to complex valuation techniques undertaken by professional valuers based on certain assumptions at the time the valuations are undertaken which may change over the passage of time.</p>	<p>If the useful life of assets is reduced, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the assets falls.</p> <p>It is estimated that the annual depreciation charge for buildings would increase by £323,000 for every year that useful lives had to be reduced.</p> <p>Of the total value of the Councils Operational Land & Buildings £92.9 million was revalued during 2023/24.</p> <p>These values are material and the sources of estimation uncertainty as they require complex valuation techniques, use of indices, comparison with values of alternative sites etc. It is reasonably possible, based on existing knowledge, that outcomes within the next financial year may be based on different assumptions to the current year and could result in material adjustment to their carrying amount.</p>
Investment Properties	<p>The annual revaluation of Investment Property assets are subject to complex valuation techniques undertaken by professional valuers based on certain assumptions at the time the valuations are undertaken which may change over the passage of time.</p>	<p>Movements in value are charged to the CI&E account but are reversed out under regulation and held in unusable reserves and have no impact on taxation or usable resources. Without undertaking another valuation exercise at a real cost to the taxpayer it is not possible to estimate the amount of any difference.</p> <p>Investment Properties were valued at £78.9 million at 31 March 2024. The effect of a 5% change in the carrying value of investment properties would equate to a +/- change in the value by £3.9 million.</p>

Pensions Liability	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. 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. For instance, a 0.1% decrease in the real discount rate assumption would result in an increase in the pension liability of £2.4 million. However, the assumptions interact in complex ways. A 1-year increase in member life expectancy would increase the liability by £5.6 million. Similarly, a 1.0% increase in the salary rate or in the pension increase rate would increase the liability by £23.3 million and £0.9 million respectively.
Impairment Losses on Debtors	Estimation of the impairment losses on debtors from all debtors.	The effect of Covid-19 and the cost of living crisis on both individuals and business to pay debts remains uncertain. If the allowance for impairments changes by 10% the cost would be an additional £1.5 million. At 31 March 2024 the carrying value of the bad debt provision was £3.6 million.
Provision for Appeals Business Rates	Estimation of the likelihood of successful appeals against the valuations calculated by the Valuation Office	The effect of a 1% increase in the assumption for appeals against the 2017 and 2023 valuations would result in a £1.1 million change in the provision, of which Elmbridge's provision would change by £0.4 million.

6. Events after the Reporting Period

The issued Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Head of Finance & S151 Officer on 30 May 2024. Events taking place after the date of issuance of the audited financial statements are not reflected in the financial statements or notes. Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31 March 2024, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information.

7. Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations

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

2022/23 (restated - see Note 1A)	Usable Reserves			Unusable Reserves £'000
	General Fund Balance	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Adjustments to Revenue Resources				
<i>Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the CIES are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements:</i>				
Pensions costs (transferred to (or from) the Pensions reserve)	(3,034)			3,034
Council tax and NDR (transfers to (or from) Collection Fund Adjustment Account)	9,516			(9,516)
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure (these items are charged to the CAA)	3,006		(7,492)	4,486
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources				
Transfer of non-current sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve	1,131	(1,131)		
Statutory provision for the repayment of debt (transfer from the CAA)	1,607			(1,607)
Capital Expenditure financed from revenue balances (transfer to the CAA)	85			(85)
Adjustments to Capital Resources				
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure		513		(513)
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	2,021		5,676	(7,697)
Cash payments in relation to deferred capital receipts		(206)		206
Other				
Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(38)			38
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under Statute	(3,740)			3,740
Movements in the market value of Investment Properties	(8,843)			8,843
Total Adjustments	1,711	(824)	(1,816)	929

2023/24	Usable Reserves			Unusable Reserves
	General Fund	Capital	Capital Grants	
	Balance	Receipts	Unapplied	
	£'000	Reserve	£'000	
Adjustments to Revenue Resources				
<i>Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the CIES are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements:</i>				
Pensions costs (transferred to (or from) the Pensions reserve)	586			(586)
Council tax and NDR (transfers to (or from) Collection Fund Adjustment Account)	(10)			10
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure (these items are charged to the CAA)	(7,385)		(4,465)	11,850
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources				
Transfer of non-current sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve		-		
Statutory provision for the repayment of debt (transfer from the CAA)	1,633			(1,633)
Capital Expenditure financed from revenue balances (transfer to the CAA)	423			(423)
Adjustments to Capital Resources				
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure		442		(442)
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	4,849		6,640	(11,489)
Cash payments in relation to deferred capital receipts		(95)		95
Other				
Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(19)			19
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under Statute	(2,651)			2,651
Movements in the market value of Investment Properties	(4,475)			4,475
Total Adjustments	(7,049)	347	2,175	4,527

8. Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves

This note sets out the amounts set aside from earmarked revenue reserves to provide financing for the future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from earmarked reserves to meet expenditure in 2023/24.

	Note	Balance at	Transfers In	Transfers Out	Balance at	Transfers In	Transfers Out	Balance at
		31 March 2022*			31 March 2023*			31 March 2024
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Revenue Contingency & Rent Risk Reserve	a	1,225			1,225			1,225
Strategic Reserve (LABGI)	b	466		(55)	411		(57)	354
Corporate Restructure - Initiatives	c	419			419			419
Capital Expenditure and Repairs & Maintenance	d	809	325	(34)	1,100	100	(20)	1,180
Investment Properties - Maintenance (Sinking Fund)	e	447	200	(10)	637	200	(141)	696
Performance Reward (LPSA)	f	113			113		(12)	101
Grant Equalisation Reserve	g	543		(150)	393		(150)	243
Interest Equalisation	h	479	557		1,036	2,250		3,286
Approved Carry Forward Requests	i	881	150	(6)	1,025	200	(87)	1,138
Car parking Maintenance	j	551	150	(36)	665	150	(85)	730
New Homes Bonus Reserve	k	1,162	399	(41)	1,520	115	(337)	1,298
New Homes Bonus Reserve - Enabling Fund	l	662		(47)	615		(9)	606
Elmbridge Civic Improvement Fund	m	383		(9)	374	4	(8)	370
Community Safety	n	129		(14)	115			115
Service Specific	o	2,010	273	(137)	2,146	62	(79)	2,129
Housing Reforms	p	597			597		(195)	402
Planning Delivery Grant	q	60		(27)	33			33
Property Acquisition Reserve	r	1,421			1,421			1,421
Business Rate Equalisation Reserve	s	3,919	3,534	(199)	7,254	1,633		8,887
Business Rate Pilot Infrastructure Feasibility studies	t	400	385	(33)	752			752
Planning Related Receipts (S106, SANGS and Tariffs)	u	3,259	56	(11)	3,304	8		3,312
Land Charges	v	1	28		29			29
Insurance	w	232			232			232
Covid Mitigation Reserve	x	-			-			-
Transformation Programme Reserve	y	480	250	(160)	570	200	(177)	593
Climate Change	z	-	546		546	500		1,046
Cost of Living Crisis Fund	COL	-	500	(196)	304	500	(139)	665
Total Earmarked Revenue Reserves (Excluding CIL)		20,648	7,353	(1,165)	26,836	5,922	(1,496)	31,262

		Balance at			Balance at			Balance at
	Note	31 March 2022*	Transfers In	Transfers Out	31 March 2023*	Transfers In	Transfers Out	31 March 2024
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Total Earmarked Revenue Reserves (Excluding CIL)		20,648	7,353	(1,165)	26,836	5,922	(1,496)	31,262
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	CIL1	6,675	988	(1,626)	6,037	237	(501)	5,773
Community Infrastructure Levy (Strategic Infrastructure and Maintenance Projects)	CIL2	12,100	3,264	(4,650)	10,714	2,336	(1,430)	11,620
Total Earmarked Revenue Reserves (Including CIL)		39,423	11,605	(7,441)	43,587	8,495	(3,427)	48,655
Collection Fund Support - Government Grants	CF	12,700	-	(11,967)	733	-	(733)	-

* restated – see Note 1A

Notes to Earmarked Reserves

Notes	
a	To meet current and future contingency requirement and the revenue budget risks facing the authority. It will provide cover for rental income if it falls below the level assumed in the MTFS.
b	Fund received for growth in Business Rates used to reinvest in business related improvements, hanging baskets and Christmas lights.
c	To meet staffing costs arising from Council reorganisations or restructures.
d	Revenue sums held to finance capital expenditure and to deal with emergency repairs and maintenance and dilapidation costs to council owned property.
e	A reserve established to provide for maintenance on the Councils Investment Properties, from the property rental income.
f	Local Public Service Agreement funds used to fund projects of a one-off nature.
g	Established to mitigate the effect of the time limited funding relating to freezing council tax from central government.
h	Set aside to protect the authority's annual budget in the event of in-year or between-year fluctuations in investment returns.
i	To finance items included of a one-off nature where budget provision has been made, but the expenditure will be incurred in the following financial year.
j	Established by allocating 5% of the income stream from "Off-Street" car parking to provide funding for the ongoing maintenance of the Council's car parks.
k	A reserve established from New Homes Bonus funding, received to provide incentives and rewards for Councils and Communities to build homes in their area, mainly used to fund capital project.
l	Funds set aside from New Homes Bonus to assist with the provision of affordable housing.
m	Elmbridge Civic Improvement Fund (ECIF), money set aside to fund the improvement, enhancement of local businesses and regeneration of the borough.
n	Funds provided by the Home Office and held in respect of Crime and Disorder initiatives.
o	Funds principally held in respect of bequests and donations to support the ongoing provision and maintenance of Centres for the Community, the ongoing maintenance of graves and other specific receipts.
p	Established to protect the Council's revenue accounts during the period of transition to Universal Credit and changes resulting from Welfare Reform.
q	Reserve established from a planning delivery grant. Fully committed to fund part of the costs associated with the preparation of the Local Plan.
r	To use in the purchase of Property Assets for regeneration/Residential purposes. Funding for the year was transferred from the New Homes Bonus Reserve.
s	Net surplus arising from the Business Rates Retention Scheme retained by the Council to offset any future deficits attributable to the Council.
t	To fund infrastructure feasibility studies as a result of the agreement for the Council being a member of the Business Rate Surrey Pilot.
u	Receipts held as a result of the approval of planning consent, the funding must be used in accordance with the planning agreement.
v	Established for Land Charges surplus income, which may be used to fund deficits arising for those services in future years in accordance with legislative requirements.
w	Held in respect of future payments required for self-insurance / premium excess payments.
x	Reserve Established to mitigate the impact of Covid on the 2021/22 revenue budget.
y	Reserve established to assist with the Councils transformation programme to deliver sustainable budget savings.
z	Established to fund the revenue costs of the Councils response to Climate Change.
COL	Established to help residents of the borough as a result of the impact of the cost of living crisis.
CIL1	Community Infrastructure Receipts held to meet future infrastructure requirements as outlined in the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations and subsequent amendments.
CIL2	Community Infrastructure Receipts earmarked for Strategic Infrastructure and Maintenance Projects
CF	Funding provided by government in relation to the Collection Fund, in relation to the covid business reliefs given during 2020/21 and 2021/22. The closing balance of £12.7 million will be credited to revenue to match the deficits on Council Tax and Business rates which will be charged against the collection funds over the next two year (2022/23 and 2023/24) as a consequence of the accounting requirements for Business Rates.

9. Other Operating Expenditure

2022/23	2023/24
£'000	£'000
(924) (Gains)/losses on the disposal of non-current assets	19
50 Other	50
(874) Total	69

10. Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

2022/23	2023/24
£'000	£'000
1,307 Interest payable and similar charges	1,236
1,667 Net interest on the net defined benefit liability	741
(2,418) Interest receivable and similar income	(5,534)
4,662 Income and expenditure in relation to investment properties and changes in their fair value	911
5,218 Total	(2,646)

11. Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income and Expenditure

2022/23*	2023/24		
Net Income	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Income
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
(15,634) Council Tax income		(16,167)	(16,167)
(3,925) Non Domestic Rates	24,858	(28,885)	(4,027)
(1,296) Non-ringfenced government grants		(1,663)	(1,663)
(3,937) Capital grants and contributions		(7,458)	(7,458)
(24,792) Total	24,858	(54,173)	(29,315)

*restated – see Note 1A

12. Property, Plant and Equipment

The table analyses the movements on property, plant and equipment by asset class.

Movements in 2022/23 (restated - see Note 1A)	Other Land and Buildings £'000	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment £'000	Infrastructure Assets £'000	Community Assets £'000	Surplus Assets £'000	Assets Under Construction £'000	Total Property, Plant and Equipment £'000
Cost or Valuation							
At 1 April 2022	104,624	15,662	1,061	402	2,350	1,773	125,872
Adjustment	4,208						4,208
At 1 April 2022 (restated)	108,832	15,662	1,061	402	2,350	1,773	130,080
Additions	2,819	1,225	154	-	-	192	4,390
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	4,918	-	-	-	-	-	4,918
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(543)	-	-	-	-	-	(543)
Derecognition - disposals	-	(9)	-	-	-	-	(9)
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale/Investment Properties	-	-	-	-	-	(470)	(470)
Other movements in cost or valuation	3	237	510		481	(1,231)	-
At 31 March 2023	116,029	17,115	1,725	402	2,831	264	138,366
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment							
At 1 April 2022	(3,160)	(11,178)	(515)	(62)	(112)	-	(15,027)
Depreciation charge	(2,654)	(957)	(55)	(1)	(94)	-	(3,761)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	3,549	-	-	-	-	-	3,549
Impairment (losses)/reversals recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment (losses)/reversals recognised in the Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derecognition - disposals	-	8	-	-	-	-	8
Other movements in depreciation and impairment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	(2,265)	(12,127)	(570)	(63)	(206)	-	(15,231)
Net Book Value							
At 31 March 2023	113,764	4,988	1,155	339	2,625	264	123,135
At 31 March 2022	105,672	4,484	546	340	2,238	1,773	115,053

Movements in 2023/24	Other Land and Buildings £'000	Council Dwellings £'000	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment £'000	Infrastructure Assets £'000	Community Assets £'000	Surplus Assets £'000	Assets Under Construction £'000	Total Property, Plant and Equipment £'000
Cost or Valuation								
At 1 April 2023	116,029	-	17,115	1,725	402	2,831	264	138,366
Additions	4,229	3,998	1,067	29	17		126	9,466
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	11,065	(3,131)	-	-	-	-	-	7,934
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(4,312)	(3,138)	-	-	-	-	-	(7,450)
Derecognition - disposals	-	-	(90)	-	-	-	-	(90)
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale/Investment Properties	1,425	6,694	-	-	-	-	-	8,119
Other movements in cost or valuation	(716)	709	17	-	-	-	(10)	-
At 31 March 2024	127,720	5,132	18,109	1,754	419	2,831	380	156,345
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment								
At 1 April 2023	(2,265)	-	(12,127)	(570)	(63)	(206)	-	(15,231)
Depreciation charge	(3,209)	(1)	(826)	(65)	(1)	(101)	-	(4,203)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	2,603	18	-	-	-	-	-	2,621
Impairment (losses)/reversals recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	(253)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(253)
Impairment (losses)/reversals recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derecognition - disposals	-	-	70	-	-	-	-	70
Other movements in depreciation and impairment	18	(17)	(1)	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2024	(3,106)	-	(12,884)	(635)	(64)	(307)	-	(16,996)
Net Book Value								
At 31 March 2024	124,614	5,132	5,225	1,119	355	2,524	380	139,349
At 31 March 2023	113,764	-	4,988	1,155	339	2,625	264	123,135

Revaluation and Depreciation

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 every five years. Valuations of land and buildings were carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. Valuations of vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment and buildings under construction are not subject to revaluation on the grounds of materiality. Historic cost is used as a proxy for current value.

The following remaining lives and depreciation rates have been used in the calculation of depreciation:

- Buildings – straight line, 6 to 80 years.
- Vehicles – reducing balance, 33% or 55% of carrying amount.
- Plant, Furniture and Equipment – straight line, 5 to 50 years.

In 2023/24 the following groups of properties were re-valued at 1 April as part of the rolling programme and/or the remaining useful lives assigned to them were changed. These changes have had the overall financial effect of reducing the total annual depreciation for other land and buildings however, by regulation depreciation has no effect on taxation.

RICS Registered Valuer	Asset Group	Change to useful Life in years
Stuart La Frenais MRICS for and on behalf of Elmbridge Borough Council	Car Parks	No Change
Ian D Pitt BSc (Hons) FRICS IRRV (Hons) and Louise Rymel MRICS for and on behalf of Bruton Knowles LLP	Xcel Leisure Centre Walton Sports Hub Civic Centre Heart Shopping Centre	No Change No Change No Change No Change
	Long Ditton Cemetery Bungalow	No Change
	Burvale Cemetery bungalow	Reduced from 39 to 34 years.
	Weybridge Children's Centre	Increased from 0 to 27 years
	Thames Ditton Youth Centre	No Change
	River Mole Business Park	Increased from 5 to 20 years
	Mill Road Depot	Increase from 0 to 15 years
Ian S Pitt BSc (Hons) FRICS IRRV (Hons) and Helen McLeod-Baikie BSc (Hons) MRICS IRRV (Hons) on behalf of Bruton Knowles LLP	Investment Properties	N/A - Not depreciated

The April 2024 cycle of revaluations identified a net increase of around £9 million from the upward valuation of Xcel Leisure Centre £6.8 million, Albermarle House £0.8 million, Pavilions £4 million, and a combined increase of £0.9 million from Car Parks, Harry Fletcher House and Civic Centre revaluations and downward valuations on the Walton Sports Hub (£0.5 million), Council Dwellings (£3 million). These valuations were undertaken by Ian S Pitt BSc (Hons) FRICS IRRV (Hons) and Helen McLeod-Baikie BSc (Hons) MRICS IRRV (Hons) both RICS registered valuers on behalf of Bruton Knowles LLP. These revaluations have been reflected in the 2023/24 accounts.

The following table breaks down the property, plant and equipment portfolio valuation over the years in which the valuations were made:

	Other Land and Buildings £'000	Council Dwellings £'000	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment £'000	Infrastructure Assets £'000	Community Assets £'000	Surplus Assets £'000	Assets Under Construction £'000	Total £'000
Carried at historical cost	7,395		18,109	1,754	419	481	380	28,538
Valued at fair value as at:								
31 March 2024	90,336	5,132						95,468
31 March 2023	20,123							20,123
31 March 2022	3,141					2,350		5,491
31 March 2021	6,725							6,725
Total Cost or Valuation	127,720	5,132	18,109	1,754	419	2,831	380	156,345

13. Heritage Assets

There has been no revaluation, impairment or disposal of Heritage Assets during either 2023/24 or 2022/23. The assets held at the 31 March are categorised as shown below:

2022/23 £'000		2023/24 £'000
816	War Memorials	816
520	Museum Artefacts & Civic Regalia	545
64	Heritage Marker	64
24	Xcel Art	24
1,424	Total Heritage Assets	1,449

14. Investment Properties

The following items of income and expenditure have been accounted for in the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES. The increase in direct operating expenses is mainly costs of repairs £237,000 and empty property costs £190,000.

2022/23		2023/24
£'000		£'000
5,017	Rental income from investment property	5,111
(836)	Direct operating expenses arising from investment property	(1,563)
4,181	Net income	3,548
(8,843)	Net (loss)/gain from fair value adjustments	(4,475)
(4,662)	Net loss	(927)

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 income and the proceeds of disposal. The Council has no material contractual obligations to purchase, construct or develop investment property or for repairs, maintenance or enhancement. All the Council's investment properties fair value measurements are based on other significant observable inputs. The Office Units and Commercial properties are measured using the investment method of valuation, assessing the passing rent and market rent by comparison to other transactions, and capitalising the income stream at an appropriate yield to reflect the key investment characteristics of the property.

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

2022/23		2023/24
£'000		£'000
99,899	Balance at start of the year	91,569
	Additions:	
43	Purchases	-
(8,843)	Net (loss)/gain from fair value adjustments	(4,475)
	Transfers:	
470	(To)/from Property, Plant and Equipment	(8,119)
-	(To)/from Surplus Assets Awaiting Disposal	-
91,569	Balance at end of the year	78,975

The investment property portfolio consists of £12.2 million of Office Buildings, £64.2 million of Industrial/Retail Premises (Commercial) and £2.5 million of other sites.

15. Intangible Assets

The Council accounts for its software as intangible assets. All software is attributed a finite useful life, based on assessments of the period that the software is expected to be of use to the Council. The useful lives assigned to the major software suites used by the Council is 10 years. The carrying amount of intangible assets is amortised on a straight-line basis. The amortisation of £178,200 charged to revenue in 2023/24 was charged to the Information Systems Service and then absorbed as an overhead across all the service headings in the Net Expenditure of Services. It is not possible to quantify exactly how much of the amortisation is attributable to each service heading. The movement of Intangible Asset balances during the year is as follows:

2022/23 £'000		2023/24 £'000
	Balance at start of year:	
4,538	Gross carrying amounts	4,660
(3,519)	Accumulated amortisation	(3,701)
1,019	Net carrying amount at start of year	959
	Additions:	
122	Purchases	213
-	Other disposals	-
(182)	Amortisation for the period	(178)
-	Other changes	-
959	Net carrying amount at end of year	994
	Comprising:	
4,660	Gross carrying amounts	4,873
(3,701)	Accumulated amortisation	(3,879)
959		994

16. Financial Instruments

Categories of Financial Instruments

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

2022/23*			2023/24	
Non-current £'000	Current £'000		Non-current £'000	Current £'000
		Financial assets at amortised cost		
13,440	79,672	Investments #	35,269	55,582
930	3,138	Debtors	817	3,777
	11,171	Cash & Cash Equivalents		9,617
14,370	93,981	Total financial assets	36,086	68,976
		Financial liabilities at amortised cost		
51,283	1,147	Borrowing	48,624	1,159
-	9,600	Creditors	-	8,986
51,283	10,747	Total financial liabilities	48,624	10,145

* Restated – see Note 1A

Figures for investments include interest accrued but not yet received

Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

2022/23 (restated - see Note 1A)				2023/24		
Financial Liabilities measured at amortised cost	Financial Assets measured at amortised cost	Total		Financial Liabilities measured at amortised cost	Financial Assets measured at amortised cost	Total
£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
1,307	-	1,307	Interest expense	1,236	-	1,236
-	250	250	Impairment losses	-	(34)	(34)
1,307	250	1,557	Total expense in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	1,236	(34)	1,202
-	(2,421)	(2,421)	Interest income	-	(5,534)	(5,534)
-	(2,421)	(2,421)	Total income in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	(5,534)	(5,534)
1,307	(2,171)	(864)	Net (gain)/loss for the year	1,236	(5,568)	(4,332)

Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities

Financial assets and liabilities represented by investments, non-current debtors and creditors are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost. The authority has no assets or liabilities designated at 'Fair value through profit or loss' or 'Fair value through other comprehensive income'. Their fair values are assessed on the basis of other significant observable inputs (Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy) by calculating the present value of the cash flows that will take place over the remaining term of the instruments, using the following assumptions:

- Estimated ranges of interest at 31 March 2024 of 4.60% to 5.21% applies to loans from PWLB, and 2.00% to 5.08% for loans receivable (investments) based on new lending rates for equivalent loans at that date;
- 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; and
- the fair value of trade and other receivables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.

Fair values are calculated as follows, the Council holds no Level 1 or Level 3 financial instruments:

2022/23 (restated - see Note 1A)				2023/24		
Carrying amount	Fair value	of which: Level 2	Financial liabilities at amortised cost	Carrying amount	Fair value	of which: Level 2
£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
10,747	10,747	10,747	Current liabilities	10,145	10,145	10,145
51,283	36,281	36,281	Non-current liabilities	48,624	31,219	31,219

The fair value of non-current liabilities is lower than the carrying amount because the rates payable on the Council's PWLB loans are lower than the prevailing rates at the Balance Sheet date. This shows a notional future gain (based on economic conditions at 31 March 2024) arising from a commitment to pay interest to lenders below current market rates.

2022/23 (restated - see Note 1A)				2023/24		
Carrying amount	Fair value	of which: Level 2	Financial assets at amortised cost	Carrying amount	Fair value	of which: Level 2
£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
93,981	93,981	93,981	Current assets	68,976	68,976	68,976
14,370	13,687	13,687	Non-current assets	36,086	38,721	38,721

The fair value of the non-current assets is higher than the carrying amount because the Council's portfolio of investments includes a number of fixed rate loans where the interest rate receivable is higher than the rates available for similar loans at the Balance Sheet date. This shows a notional future gain (based on economic conditions at 31 March 2024) attributable to the commitment to receive interest above current market rates.

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

17. Construction Contracts

At 31 March 2023 and at 31 March 2024 the Authority had no material construction contracts.

18. Short Term Debtors

2022/23 £'000		2023/24 £'000
1,258	Trade Receivables	1,306
1,044	Local Taxation (Council Tax and Business Rates)	942
523	Prepayments	701
9,663	Other receivable amounts	8,510
12,488		11,459

The main reasons for the decrease in short term debtors, relates to Local Taxation for the government and preceptors as set out below.

18.1 Debtors for Local Taxation

2022/23 £'000		2023/24 £'000
	Debtors	
836	Less than a year	842
761	More than a year	1,260
1,597		2,102
385	Government and Preceptor Debtors	179
(938)	Impairments	(1,339)
1,044		942

The main reason for the increase in Local Taxation debtors relates to debt older than one year in relation to Business Rates.

19. Cash and Cash Equivalents

The cash and cash equivalent is made up of the following amounts:

2022/23* £'000		2023/24 £'000
1	Cash held by the Authority	-
368	Bank current accounts - In Hand / (overdrawn)	(136)
10,802	Short-term deposits with banks and building societies	9,753
11,171	Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	9,617

*restated – see Note 1A

Short term deposits with banks and building societies have less than one month to maturity.

20. Assets held for sale

At 31 March 2024 the Council held no assets for sale, at 31 March 2023 the Council did not hold any assets for sale.

21 Creditors

21.1 Short Term Creditors

2022/23*		2023/24
£'000		£'000
(7,296)	Trade Payables	(6,520)
(5,897)	Other Payables	(4,624)
(13,774)	Local Taxation (Council Tax and Business Rates)	(7,967)
(1,983)	Receipts in advance - Local Taxation	(1,473)
(2,945)	Receipts in advance - other	(3,588)
(31,895)		(24,172)

*restated – see Note 1A

The main reason for the reduction in Local Taxation relates to the Business Grants that were outstanding at 31 March 2023 (£2.2 million), and repaid by 31 March 2024.

21.2 Short Term Loans

The short-term loan of £1,158,838 at 31 March 2024 is the element of the principal repayment required on loans in 2024/25 (£1,147,139 at 31 March 2023 for repayment in 2023/24). Further details of the loans outstanding can be found in note 43.2.

22 Impairments

The Council has provided for a provision for the non-payment of debt owed to the Council, also referred to as Impairments, see note 18 for an analysis, by the debtor type and the net amount owed after impairment.

23. Usable Reserves

- The General Fund Balance is the accumulation of surplus or deficit on operational services attributable to Council Taxpayers. Such funds are not held for any specific purpose but are available to assist with the management of financial risks and to deal with any emergencies that might arise. The Medium-Term Financial Strategy sets out the Council's policy for the recommended value of the General Fund Balance in order to provide assurance against the estimates and assumptions used in the annual budgeting process.
- Earmarked Reserves are resources set aside to meet specific future running costs and investments. The Medium Term Financial Strategy sets out the Council's policy for Earmarked Reserves, including their nature and suggested requirements. Full details of the movements on each reserve can be found at Note 8.
- The Usable Capital Receipts Reserve holds the proceeds of fixed asset sales available to meet future capital investment.
- Government grants and other contributions are accounted for on an accruals basis and recognised in the CIES (as detailed in Note 33) when the conditions for their receipt have been satisfied and there is reasonable assurance that the grant or contribution will be received. Capital Grants Unapplied holds the balance of grants received where the conditions have been met but the expenditure has not yet been incurred. Any grants received in advance of conditions being satisfied are held as Capital Grant Receipts in Advance until the conditions are satisfied and the grant can then be recognised in the CIES. Elmbridge currently does not have any Capital Grant Receipts in Advance.

The position at 31 March for each category of Usable Reserve is as follows:

2022/23*		2023/24
£'000		£'000
4,000	General Fund	4,000
43,587	Earmarked Reserves (Including CIL)	48,655
733	Collection Fund Support (Government Grants)	-
19,362	Capital Receipts Reserve	19,015
23,503	Capital Grants Unapplied	21,328
91,185	Total Usable Reserves	92,998

*restated – see Note 1A

24. Unusable Reserves

24.1 Analysis of Unusable Reserves

2022/23		2023/24
£'000		£'000
76,114	Revaluation Reserve	84,450
77,134	Capital Adjustment Account	74,111
(16,258)	Pensions Reserve	(4,522)
930	Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve	816
648	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	638
138,568	Total Unusable Reserves	155,493

24.2 Revaluation Reserve

The Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the Council arising from increases in the value of its Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible Assets. The balance is reduced when assets with accumulated gains are revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost, used in the provision of services and the gains are consumed through depreciation, or disposed of and the gains are realised. The Reserve contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 1 April 2007, the date that the Reserve was created.

2022/23		2023/24
£'000		£'000
64,826	Balance at 1 April	76,114
4,208	Adjustment	
69,034	Balance at 1 April (restated)	
24,615	Upward revaluation of assets	20,638
(16,148)	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(10,336)
8,467	Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	10,302
(1,387)	Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	(1,966)
-	Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	-
(1,387)	Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	(1,966)
76,114	Balance at 31 March	84,450

24.3 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 amortisation are charged to the CIES (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. Note 7 provides details of the source of all the transactions posted to the Account, apart from those involving the Revaluation Reserve.

2022/23 £'000		2023/24 £'000
82,914	Balance at 1 April	77,134
	Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:	
(3,761)	Charges for depreciation and impairment of non current assets	(4,203)
(543)	Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	(7,450)
(182)	Amortisation of intangible assets	(178)
(3,740)	Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(2,651)
-	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	(19)
74,688		62,633
1,387	Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	1,966
76,075	Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year	64,599
	Capital financing applied in the year:	
513	Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	442
2,021	Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital financing	4,849
5,676	Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	6,640
1,607	Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund	1,633
85	Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund Balance	423
9,902		13,987
(8,843)	Movements in the market value of Investment Properties debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(4,475)
-	Movement in the Donated Assets Account credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	-
77,134	Balance at 31 March	74,111

24.4 Pensions Reserve

The Pensions Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post-employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. The Council accounts for post-employment benefits in the CIES 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.

2022/23		2023/24
£'000		£'000
(61,891)	Balance at 1 April	(16,258)
48,667	Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability	11,150
(5,158)	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(3,656)
2,124	Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	4,242
(16,258)	Balance at 31 March	(4,522)

24.5 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.

2022/23		2023/24
£'000		£'000
1,174	Balance at 1 April	930
(38)	Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(19)
(206)	Transfer to the Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash	(95)
930	Balance at 31 March	816

During 2020/21 the Council provided Catalyst Housing Limited with £196,488 to provide mortgages to purchase property from the private sector. No new loans were issued in 2023/24. These funds are secured by a charge against the property and will be repaid to the Council when the loan is redeemed with Catalyst Housing Limited. During 2023/24, 2 loans were repaid with drop in value varying between -1% and -3%. Due to continued decline in annual house prices during 2023/24 a decrease of 2% has been applied to outstanding loans, resulting in a decrease in value of £16,670 which has been debited as part of the loss on disposal to the CIES.

24.6 Collection Fund Adjustment Account

The Collection Fund Adjustment Account manages the differences arising from the recognition of Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates income in the CIES as it falls due from Council Taxpayers and Business Rate payers compared with the statutory arrangements for paying across amounts to the General Fund from the Collection Fund.

2022/23 £'000		2023/24 £'000
(8,868)	Balance at 1 April	648
9,516	Amount by which council tax 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	(10)
648	Balance at 31 March	638

25. Cash Flow Statement – Operating Activities

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:

2022/23 £'000		2023/24 £'000
(1,463)	Interest received	(3,903)
1,313	Interest paid	1,242
(150)	Net cash (inflow)/outflow	(2,661)

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

2022/23* £'000		2023/24 £'000
(3,761)	Depreciation	(4,203)
(543)	Impairment and downward revaluations	(7,450)
(182)	Amortisation	(178)
(268)	Impairment - provision for bad debts	(55)
7,711	Creditors	5,534
(2,613)	Debtors	1,696
3	Inventories	(12)
(4,628)	Pensions liability	586
-	Carrying amount of non-current assets sold	(19)
(11,104)	Other non-cash items charged	(7,038)
(15,385)	Adjustments for non-cash movements	(11,139)

*restated – see Note 1A

25.2 Adjustments for Items Included in the Net Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services that are Investing and Financing Activities

2022/23*		2023/24
£'000		£'000
924	Proceeds from sale of property, plant & equipment, investment properties & intangibles	-
1,444	Proceeds from sale of former council houses	208
207	Proceeds from non-sale transactions	205
9,513	Capital grants receivable	9,314
12,088	Adjustments for items which are investing and financing activities	9,727

*restated – see Note 1A

26. Cash Flow Statement – Investing Activities

2022/23*		2023/24
£'000		£'000
4,550	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	9,562
15,600	Purchase of short and long-term investments	-
3,740	Other payments for investing activities	2,651
(924)	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	-
-	Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments	(3,750)
(12,643)	Other receipts from investing activities	(10,049)
10,323	Net cash outflow from investing activities	(1,586)

*restated – see Note 1A

27. Cash Flow Statement – Financing Activities

2022/23		2023/24
£'000		£'000
-	Cash receipts of short and long-term borrowing	-
(432)	Other receipts from financing activities	(809)
1,136	Repayments of short- and long-term borrowing	2,647
-	Other payments for financing activities	-
704	Net cash (inflow)/outflow from financing activities	1,838

28. Expenditure and Funding Analysis (including Analysis by Nature)

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis shows how annual expenditure is used and funded from resources (Government Grants, rents, Council Tax and Business Rates) by local authorities in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by authorities in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. It also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the council's Portfolios. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the CIES. The note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis breaks down the adjustments into adjustments for capital purposes, pensions adjustments and other differences.

2022/23 (restated - see Note 1A)					
	As reported for Resource Management	Adjustments to arrive at the net amount chargeable to the General Fund	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis (Note 7)	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Climate Change and Sustainability	166	-	166	23	189
Community Care	3,471	(1)	3,470	949	4,419
Environmental Services	4,535	32	4,567	98	4,665
Finance and Resources	1,506	(96)	1,410	(104)	1,306
Housing	2,497	(18)	2,479	1,685	4,164
Leisure, Culture and Commercial Strategy	5,244	34	5,278	1,530	6,808
Planning, Enterprise and Local Economy	1,686	2,091	3,777	(1,992)	1,785
Policy and Transformation	2,830	26	2,856	135	2,991
Covid Expenditure	144	266	410	11	421
Net Cost of Services	22,079	2,334	24,413	2,335	26,748
Other income and expenditure	(14,276)	(2,334)	(16,610)	(4,046)	(20,656)
(Surplus) or Deficit	7,803	-	7,803	(1,711)	6,092
Opening General Fund Balance			56,123		
Surplus/(Deficit) on General Fund Balance in Year			(7,803)		
Closing General Fund Balance at 31 March 2023			48,320		

2023/24					
	As reported for Resource Management	Adjustments to arrive at the net amount chargeable to the General Fund	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis (Note 7)	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Climate Change and Sustainability	192	-	192	8	200
Community Care	3,947	12	3,959	170	4,129
Environmental Services	4,739	35	4,774	9	4,783
Finance and Resources	4,120	137	4,257	(2,094)	2,163
Housing	2,880	211	3,091	7,580	10,671
Leisure, Culture & Commercial Strategy	5,364	-	5,364	2,189	7,553
Planning, Enterprise & Local Economy	509	(457)	52	1,796	1,848
Policy and Transformation	4,846	189	5,035	(1,776)	3,259
Net Cost of Services	26,597	127	26,724	7,882	34,606
Other income and expenditure	(30,932)	(127)	(31,059)	(833)	(31,892)
(Surplus) or Deficit	(4,335)	-	(4,335)	7,049	2,714
Opening General Fund Balance			48,320		
Surplus/(Deficit) on General Fund Balance in Year			4,335		
Closing General Fund Balance at 31 March 2024			52,655		

2022/23 (restated - see Note 1A)				
	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments	Other Differences	Adjustments between Accounting and Funding Basis
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Climate Change and Sustainability	-	(23)	-	(23)
Community Care	(126)	(823)	-	(949)
Environmental Services	(55)	(43)	-	(98)
Finance and Resources	170	(66)	-	104
Housing	(1,072)	(574)	(39)	(1,685)
Leisure, Culture and Commercial Strategy	(1,062)	(468)	-	(1,530)
Planning, Enterprise and Local Economy	2,917	(925)	-	1,992
Policy and Transformation	(34)	(101)	-	(135)
Covid Expenditure	-	(11)	-	(11)
Net Cost of Services	738	(3,034)	(39)	(2,335)
Other income and expenditure	(5,471)	-	9,517	4,046
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(4,733)	(3,034)	9,478	1,711

2023/24				
	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments	Other Differences	Adjustments between Accounting and Funding Basis
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Climate Change and Sustainability	-	(8)	-	(8)
Community Care	(2)	(168)	-	(170)
Environmental Services	4	(13)	-	(9)
Finance and Resources	80	2,014	-	2,094
Housing	(7,437)	(143)	-	(7,580)
Leisure, Culture & Commercial Strategy	(2,076)	(95)	(18)	(2,189)
Planning, Enterprise & Local Economy	(1,560)	(236)	-	(1,796)
Policy and Transformation	1,800	(24)	-	1,776
Net Cost of Services	(9,191)	1,327	(18)	(7,882)
Other income and expenditure	1,583	(741)	(9)	833
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(7,608)	586	(27)	(7,049)

Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature

The Council's expenditure and income is analysed by type

2022/23*		2023/24
£'000		£'000
20,965	Employees and Associated Costs	20,174
17,069	Depreciation and Impairment of Fixed Assets	16,888
7,161	Interest and Investment Expenses	9,310
28,519	Housing Benefit Payments	29,632
23,493	Business Rates Tariff	24,858
23,890	Other Service Expenses	25,321
121,097	Total Expenditure	126,183
(15,715)	Fees, Charges and Other Income	(14,994)
(28,153)	Reimbursement from Government for Housing Benefits	(29,444)
(3,817)	Community Infrastructure Levy	(2,721)
(22,391)	Other Grants and Contributions	(14,215)
(10,789)	Interest and Investment Income	(16,431)
(2,333)	Gains in Investment Property Fair Values	(582)
(31,807)	Income from Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates	(45,082)
(115,005)	Total Income	(123,469)
6,092	Deficit/(Surplus) on Provision of Services	2,714

*restated – see Note 1A

29. Agency Services

The Council provided on-street car parking management during 2022/23. The on-street car parking management service for Surrey County Council ceased on the 31 March 2023. The surplus in 2022/23 was £25,952.

30. Members' Allowances

Each Member of the Council receives a fixed (basic) allowance; in addition, a special responsibility allowance is paid to the Leader of the Council, Members of the Cabinet, the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of committees, and to the leaders of political groups.

Payments to all Members of the Council in 2023/24 amounted to £369,560 of which £566 were made relating to expenses. (2022/23 - £368,672, of which £357 related to expenses).

The allowances were increased by 3.5% in April 2023 after the Council consideration of the recommendations of an Independent Remuneration Panel appointed to consider Members' allowances for 2023/24.

31. Officers' Emoluments

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 1996 introduced a specific requirement for the disclosure of officers' emoluments. This information must be in a form, which shows the number of employees whose total remuneration for the year fell in each band of a scale in multiples of £5,000, starting at £50,000 as detailed below. This sum includes benefits in respect of items relating to the provision of cars and other allowances but does not include employer's pension contributions and electoral fees.

2022/23	Band	2023/24
25	£50,000 - £54,999	19
11	£55,000 - £59,999	18
10	£60,000 - £64,999	10
4	£65,000 - £69,999	6
2	£70,000 - £74,999	1
-	£75,000 - £79,999	3
-	£80,000 - £84,999	-
3	£85,000 - £89,999	-
5	£90,000 - £94,999	3
1	£95,000 - £99,999	-
2	£100,000 - £104,999	4
-	£105,000 - £109,999	1
-	£110,000 - £114,999	-
-	£115,000 - £119,999	-
1	£120,000 - £124,999	-
-	£125,000 - £129,999	-
-	£130,000 - £134,999	-
-	£135,000 - £139,999	1
1	£140,000 - £144,999	1
-	£145,000 - £149,999	-
-	£150,000 - £154,999	-

The cost of employee remuneration and benefit expenses (excluding employer's superannuation and National insurance costs) for 2023/24 was £14.6 million (£14 million in 2022/23).

Election expenses are not included in the table above.

In addition, the regulations require a full breakdown of the remuneration of senior officers of the Council (these officers are included in table above).

Disclosure of remuneration for senior employees

2023/24 Elmbridge Borough Council

Post Holder Information	Salary	Elections *	Bonuses	Expenses Allowances	Compensation for loss of office	Other Benefits	Total remuneration excluding Pension Contributions	Pension Contributions	Total remuneration including Pension Contributions 2023/24
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service)	136,803.96	6,126.00	-	7,341.96	-	-	150,271.92	23,393.52	173,665.44
Strategic Director & Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer) (to Aug 23)	55,332.39	1,500.00	-	3,059.15	-	150.00	60,041.54	9,126.50	69,168.04
Strategic Director - Services	116,027.04	1,500.00	-	7,341.96	13,099.83	100.00	138,068.83	19,840.68	157,909.51
Strategic Director – Place & Community (from Sep 23)	59,213.50	-	-	4,282.81	-	-	63,496.31	10,453.99	73,950.30
Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer (from Sep 23)	55,576.50	-	-	3,726.94	-	350.00	59,653.44	9,503.55	69,156.99
Head of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	95,274.00	1,250.00	-	6,389.04	-	-	102,913.04	16,291.80	119,204.84
	518,227.39	10,376.00	-	32,141.86	13,099.83	600.00	574,445.08	88,610.04	663,055.12

2022/23 Elmbridge Borough Council

Post Holder Information	Salary	Elections *	Bonuses	Expenses Allowances	Compensation for loss of office	Other Benefits	Total remuneration excluding Pension Contributions	Pension Contributions	Total remuneration including Pension Contributions 2022/23
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) #	97,517.06	-	-	5,617.71	-	692.51	103,827.28	16,675.38	120,502.66
Strategic Director & Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer) ##	131,442.23	1,500.00	-	7,464.00	-	2,276.22	142,682.45	22,566.81	165,249.26
Strategic Director – Services	113,550.00	6,002.00	-	7,464.00	-	-	127,016.00	19,417.08	146,433.08
Head of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	85,260.13	750.00	-	6,590.33	-	-	92,600.46	14,134.20	106,734.66
	427,769.42	8,252.00	-	27,136.04	-	2,968.73	466,126.19	72,793.47	538,919.66

* Election fees for the Returning Officer are set by the Ministry of Justice

Chief Executive part year July to March

Includes acting up allowance for April to June to Chief Executive

32. External Audit Costs

In 2023/24 Elmbridge Borough Council, incurred a total of £200,786 in fees relating to external audit and inspection of this £157,786 was the statutory fee and an estimated non-statutory fee of £43,000 (Statutory £65,613 and non-statutory £17,000– 2022/23). The main reason for the increase is due to the retendering of audit fees by Public Sector Audit Appointments.

33. Grant Income

The Council credited the following grants and contributions to the CIES in 2023/24.

2022/23* £'000		2023/24 £'000
	Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income	
(3,937)	Capital Grants	(7,458)
(27,418)	EBC Proportion of total business rate collectable for the year	(28,885)
(89)	Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit Account	(62)
(15,545)	Precept Collection Fund	(16,106)
(1,028)	New Homes Bonus	(115)
-	Funding Guarantee	(1,320)
(268)	Other Grants	(228)
(48,285)	Totals	(54,174)
	Credited to Services	
(28,108)	Housing Benefit Subsidy	(29,444)
(520)	Flexible Homelessness Grant	(774)
(181)	NDR Cost of Collection	(179)
(1,952)	Refugees	(2,452)
(29)	Covid Related	-
(816)	Other Grants	(380)
(31,606)	Total	(33,229)

*restated – see Note 1A

More details on the Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates can be found in the Collection Fund Income and Expenditure Account.

34. Related Party Transactions

The Code of Practice for Local Authority Accounting requires the disclosure of any material transactions with related parties which are not disclosed elsewhere. Examples of related parties to an authority such as Elmbridge Borough Council would include central government, other local authorities and precepting bodies, joint ventures and joint venture partners, together with the Council's Members and Chief Officers. Comparatives are shown where there was a payment in 2023/24, to aid the reader, a full list of transactions can be found in the 2022/23 accounts for the related transaction payments for that year.

Several Members are connected with local organisations, with whom the Council has dealings. Material transactions are either material to the Council or of materiality to the third party concerned. In addition, they need to be able to exercise control or a significant influence on either party.

2022/23		2023/24
£		£
159,913	Citizens Advice Elmbridge (West)	158,020
92,987	Elmbridge Building Control Services Ltd	103,499
100,970	Esher & District CAB	97,970
26,203	Riverhouse Barn Arts Centre	76,471
-	Sunbury & Walton Sea Cadets	58,051
37,658	Claygate Recreation Ground Trust	33,230
29,120	Lower Green Community CIO	30,251
46,680	CHEER	26,390
38,840	Central Surrey Voluntary Action	23,840
27,100	Rental Support Scheme	17,350
31,379	Chatterbus CIO	16,379
111,354	Walton Charity	4,552
3,090	Home Support Elmbridge	3,090
1,105	Weybridge In Bloom	1,105
(87,677)	EBC Homes Ltd - cost recharge	(61,934)

Under the Council's corporate governance arrangements, Members are required to declare any interests, personal or prejudicial (or both) on agenda items before meetings of the Council including the Cabinet, committees and sub-committees commence, and any such declarations appear in the minutes.

The Council maintains a register of Members' and officers' interests, which is updated annually.

The appropriate analysis has been undertaken with regard to related party transactions, for the year ended 31 March 2024, and the conclusion was reached that there were no other material transactions with related parties in that year, which are not disclosed elsewhere in this Statement of Accounts.

Building Control Mutual

On 1 August 2015, the Council established a Building Control mutual in which it owns 20%. The mutual is a going concern and the council will receive a share of profit in accordance with the transfer agreement.

At the time of issuing the 2023/24 accounts no accounts have been filed at Companies House by the mutual, in 2022/23 it made a profit of £144,427.

At 31 March 2023, the mutual had a net current liability of £399,514 represented by negative shareholder funds of £399,514.

The figures will be updated when a set of accounts have been completed.

Housing Company

During 2018/19 the Council established a wholly owned company 'EBC Investments', and a subsidiary, 'EBC Homes'. EBC Homes started trading on 7 January 2019, a loan for working capital purposes of £150,000 was made from the Council to EBC Homes, at a rate of 5%. During 2022/23 an additional loan of £100,000 was advanced on the same terms.

At the 31 March 2024 the company is in the process of being wound up with the assets and liabilities of the company transferring back to Elmbridge. The funds held by EBC Homes have been transferred to Elmbridge during April 2024, this will redeem the outstanding loan from Elmbridge to EBC Homes and any current liabilities which have been transferred as part of the winding up of the company.

At the 1 April 2024 there were 5 Officers acting as Directors of EBC Investments or EBC Homes for no financial gain or reward

EBC Homes had an independent non-executive director who receives £5,000 per annum.

Trust Funds

The Council administers two Trust Funds', the total value at 31 March 2024 is £47,497 (£46,974 – 31 March 2023).

35. 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. The CFR is analysed below:

2022/23	2023/24
£'000	£'000
65,446 Opening Capital Financing Requirement	63,839
Capital investment	
4,390 Property, Plant and Equipment	9,466
- Heritage Assets	25
43 Investment Properties	-
122 Intangible Assets	213
3,740 Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	2,651
Sources of finance	
(513) Capital Receipts	(442)
(7,697) Government Grants and Other Contributions	(11,490)
Sums set aside from revenue:	
(85) Direct revenue contributions	(423)
(1,607) MRP/loans fund principal	(1,633)
63,839 Closing Capital Financing Requirement	62,206
Explanation of movements in year	
(1,607) Increase/(decrease) in underlying need to borrow (unsupported by government financial assistance)	(1,633)

36. Leases

The Council as Lessee

The Council has no material finance or operating leases.

The Council as Lessor

Operating Leases

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

- for the provision of community services such as sporting facilities; and
- 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:

2022/23		2023/24
£'000		£'000
616	Not later than one year	665
1,946	Later than one year and not later than five years	2,233
2,694	Later than five years	2,650
5,256		5,548

The 2023/24 movement of £292,000 is mainly due to two new leases, one at one of our halls and the other at the Civic Centre.

37. Impairment Losses

At the 31st March 2024 Rugby Ground pavilion, Oaken Lane was impaired by £253,000 due to ongoing contamination issues. No impairment losses incurred in 2023/24 as the impairment was adjusted through revaluation balances. The Council had no impairment losses in 2022/23.

Under regulation impairment losses have no effect on the Council Taxpayer.

38. Termination Benefits

The Council terminated 1 officer contract in 2023/24, incurring £13,100 of liabilities (£2,248 in 2022/23 for 1 officer). There were no savings as a result of this termination (no savings for the 2022/23 exits). The termination benefits to individual employees can be analysed in bandings of £20,000 as follows:

Number of Employees 2022/23	Termination Benefit	Number of Employees 2023/24
1	£0 - £20,000	1
-	£20,001 - £40,000	-
-	£40,001 - £60,000	-
-	£60,001 - £80,000	-
-	£80,001 - £100,000	-
-	£100,001 - £120,000	-
-	£120,001 - £140,000	-
-	£140,001 - £160,000	-

39. Provisions

	MMI	Business Rate Appeals	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1 April 2023	52	2,304	2,356
Additional provisions made	-	523	523
Amounts used	-	(611)	(611)
Unused amounts reversed	-	-	-
Balance at 31 March 2024	52	2,216	2,268

MMI

In 1991 the Council's Insurer Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI) went into administration. Since this time the administrator has been handling any outstanding/new claims made against Elmbridge. In April 2012 the Council was notified that MMI had lost a court case regarding the possible future payments in settling outstanding court cases. The Council were informed that it was unlikely that MMI would achieve a solvent run off. At the 31 March 2012 the Council's maximum liability, should there be an insolvent run off, was £389,000. A full provision was made during 2011/12 to cover the maximum liability until an actuarial review of the company is completed. The Council received an actuarial review in 2013 and based on the advice at this time only £150,000 was required to meet the Council's liability. During 2013/14, £59,000 was paid to MMI in respect of this provision; an additional £39,000 was paid in 2016/17. At this time the final settlement remains uncertain.

Business Rate Appeals

The provision represents the potential reduction in the amount of business rates as a result of alterations of Rateable Value from appeals and future appeals. If the Valuation Office re-assess the rateable value as a result of an appeal, the Council will reimburse the property owner for any overpayment, backdated to the date of the original assessment.

There remains uncertainty over the level of appeals, especially with some appeals against the 2017 list only having been concluded in 2023/24.

40. Defined Benefit Pension Scheme

40.1 Participation in Pension Schemes

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its officers and other employees, 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 need to be disclosed at the time that employees earn their future entitlement.

The Council participates in the Local Government Pension Scheme for civilian employees, administered by Surrey County Council. This is a funded defined benefit final salary scheme (from 2014 this was based on career average), 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 is an unfunded defined benefit arrangement, under which liabilities are recognised when awards are made.

The disclosures below reflect changes implemented by IAS19 'Employee Benefits' (revised) concerning the treatment of interest and administration costs in relation to current service costs and administration costs directly related to the management of plan assets.

40.2 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 retirement benefits is reversed out of the General Fund via the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The following transactions have been made in the CIES and the General Fund Balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement during the year:

2022/23		2023/24	
£'000		£'000	£'000
	<u>Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</u>		
	Cost of Services		
5,085	Current service cost	2,887	
-	Past service costs	28	
-	(Gain)/loss from settlements	-	
5,085	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure		2,915
1,667	Net interest expense		741
6,752	Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services		3,656
	Other Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
	Actuarial gains and losses		
	Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability comprising:		
5,017	• Return on plan assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense)		(8,755)
(3,386)	• Actuarial (gains) and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions		(802)
(61,316)	• Actuarial (gains) and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions		(6,103)
11,018	• Other		4,510
(48,667)			(11,150)
(41,915)	Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		(7,494)
	<u>Movement In Reserves Statement</u>		
44,039	Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit for the Provision of Services for post employment benefits in accordance with the code		11,736
2,124	Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year employers' contributions payable to scheme		4,242

40.3 Pensions Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

2022/23		2023/24
£'000		£'000
(136,112)	Present value of funded liabilities	(136,861)
(2,733)	Present value of unfunded liabilities	(2,637)
(138,845)	Present value funded and unfunded liabilities	(139,498)
122,587	Fair value of plan assets	134,976
(16,258)	Net liability arising from the defined benefit obligation	(4,522)

Reconciliation of the Movements in the Fair Value of the Scheme (Plan) Assets

2022/23		2023/24
£'000		£'000
125,303	Opening fair value of scheme assets	122,587
3,345	Interest income	5,773
	Remeasurement gains / (loss):	
(5,017)	• Return on plan assets, excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	8,755
1,610	• Other	-
1,858	Contributions from employer (see note below)	3,966
775	Contributions from employees into the scheme	903
(5,287)	Benefits paid	(7,008)
122,587	Closing balance at 31 March	134,976

The Council made an advanced payment to the scheme in 2020/21 which included an advanced payment for secondary contributions for 2022/23 of £1,594,000. The Council has charged £1,594,000 of this payment to the Council revenue account in 2022/23 in accordance with proper accounting requirements.

Reconciliation of Present Value of the Scheme Liabilities

2022/23		2023/24
£'000		£'000
185,600	Opening balance at 1 April	138,845
5,085	Current service cost	2,887
-	Past service cost (including curtailments)	28
5,012	Interest cost	6,514
775	Contributions by scheme participants	903
	Remeasurement gains / losses:	
(61,316)	• Actuarial gains / (losses) arising from changes in demographic assumptions	(6,103)
(3,386)	• Actuarial gains / (losses) arising from changes in financial assumptions	(802)
12,628	• Other	4,510
(5,553)	Benefits paid	(7,284)
138,845	Closing balance at 31 March	139,498

Local Government Pension Scheme assets comprised:

Fair value of scheme assets		
2022/23		2023/24
£'000		£'000
2,567	Cash and cash equivalents	2,088
	Equity instruments by industry type:	
1,925	• Consumer	1,779
1,607	• Manufacturing	2,153
616	• Energy & utilities	-
2,180	• Financial institutions	1,787
1,907	• Health & care	1,837
2,700	• Information technology	3,237
<u>10,935</u>	Sub-total equity	<u>10,793</u>
	Bonds by sector:	
-	• Government	-
<u>-</u>	Sub-total bonds	<u>-</u>
	Property by type:	
4,508	• UK property	4,266
2,879	• Overseas property	2,363
<u>7,387</u>	Sub-total property	<u>6,629</u>
17,360	Private equity *	20,659
	Other investment funds:	
71,392	• Equities	75,213
13,273	• Bonds	19,671
<u>84,665</u>	Sub-total other investment funds	<u>94,884</u>
	Derivatives:	
(327)	• Foreign exchange	(77)
<u>(327)</u>	Sub-total derivatives	<u>(77)</u>
<u>122,587</u>	Total assets	<u>134,976</u>

* The private equity investments do not have quoted prices in active markets.

40.4 Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels, etc. Both the Local Government Pension Scheme and Discretionary Benefits liabilities have been assessed by Hymans Robertson LLP, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the County Council Fund being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2022.

The significant assumptions used by the actuary have been:

2022/23		2023/24
	Long-term expected rate of return on assets in the scheme:	
4.8%	Equity investments	4.8%
4.8%	Bonds	4.8%
4.8%	Property	4.8%
4.8%	Cash	4.8%
	Mortality assumptions:	
	Longevity at 65 for current pensioners (years):	
22.0	• Men	21.9
24.6	• Women	24.4
	Longevity at 65 for future pensioners (years):	
23.1	• Men	23.0
26.2	• Women	26.0
3.0%	Pension Increase Rate (CPI)	2.8%
4.0%	Rate of increase in salaries	3.8%
3.0%	Rate of increase in pensions	2.8%
4.8%	Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	4.8%

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

Impact on the Defined Benefit Obligation in the Scheme	Increase in Assumption	
	%	£'000
Longevity (increase of 1 year)	4	5,580
Rate of inflation (CPI increase by 0.1%)	2	2,332
Rate of increase in salaries (increase by 0.1%)	2	2,332
Rate of increase in pensions (increase by 0.1%)	-	88
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities (decrease by 0.1%)	2	2,378

The Council's share of the deficit on the Surrey Pension Fund continued to reduce the Council's net asset position. Elmbridge's Balance Sheet shows a Pensions liability of £4.5 million, a decrease of £11.8 million from 1 April 2023. The main change in the accounting valuation of the fund compared to 31 March 2023 relates to the return on assets during the year of £9 million. The current actuarial valuation, based on forecast yields rather than corporate bond yields as required by the accounting standards, and future anticipated funding shows that the fund is approaching fully funded status over the next 15 years.

40.5 Impact on the Authority's Cash Flows

The objectives of the scheme are to keep employers' contributions at as constant a rate as possible. Surrey County Council has agreed a strategy with the scheme's actuary to achieve a funding level of 100% over the next 20 years. Funding levels are monitored on an annual basis. A valuation was carried out at 31 March 2022, the next triennial valuation is due to be completed as at 31 March 2025.

The actuary anticipates the authority's expected contributions to the scheme in 2023/24 will be £3,915,000 based on the triennial actuarial review at 31 March 2022, (2022/23 - £3,649,000). The main reason for the increase compared to 2022/23 is the Council did not making a prepayment for 2023/24.

The weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation for scheme members is 15 years in 2023/24 (16 years in 2022/23).

Further information can be found within the Surrey County Council Superannuation Fund Annual Report, which is available upon request from Surrey County Council, County Hall, Penrhyn Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT1 2DN.

41. Contingent Liabilities

As part of the large-scale voluntary transfer agreement between the Council and the Elmbridge Housing Trust (now Paragon Asra) the Council provided an environmental warranty with an aggregate cap of £10 million for a period of 30 years. There was no local knowledge of serious problems in this regard, and after taking professional advice from the Council's specialist insurance consultant and considering the likely costs of a full survey and insurance cover, the Council decided not to effect insurance cover in respect of this risk. The warranty was subsequent to a full disclosure being made by the Council of all known environmental issues concerning the housing stock and related assets. No claims against the warranty have been made at the date of the issue of the accounts.

On 1 August 2015 the Council established a Building Control Mutual. As part of the agreement establishing the mutual the Council provided a guarantee in relation to the pension deficit at the date of the transfer. The liability will only materialise if the Mutual ceases to trade. The cost of the guarantee is approximately £0.7million.

42. Contingent Assets

There are no contingent assets.

43. 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; and
- 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 in the annual Treasury Management Strategy. Elmbridge Borough 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.

43.1 Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and other financial institutions, and in addition credit exposures to the Council's own customers. The Council's 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, such as ratings received from Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poors, applying the lowest available rating for any institution. The Annual Investment Strategy also imposes maximum limits on the time period and amount that can be placed by investment category and institution. For further information please refer to Appendix B of the 2024/25 Treasury Management Strategy papers presented to 7 February 2024 Cabinet.

A summary of the credit quality of the Council's investments at 31 March 2024 is shown below:

2022/23 £'000	Fitch Rating	2023/24 £'000
-	AAA	-
-	AA+	-
-	AA	-
25,000	AA-	8,000
16,586	A+	19,841
15,000	A	20,000
25,000	A-	10,000
-	BBB+	10,000
-	BBB	-
21,750	n/a	30,000
103,336		97,841

The Council's loans receivable are all fixed term investments and hence classified at 'Amortised cost'. An expected credit loss model, applied to determine the estimated loss allowance that might be required from holdings of investments, has shown the amount to be immaterial.

Customer Debt - Credit exposures to customer debt are assessed, taking into account their financial position, past experience and other factors, with individual credit limits being set in accordance with internal ratings in accordance with parameters set by the Council.

The Council does not expect any losses from non-performance by any of its counterparties in relation to deposits. In relation to its customers, the Council has a prudent provision for bad debts to cover cases of default. There are no debts posing a credit risk to the Council at the balance sheet date, which are not covered by the provision for bad debts.

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 bonds.

The Council does not generally allow credit for customers. £4.2 million of the £5.1 million balance is past its due date for payment. The past due amount can be analysed by age at 31 March as follows:

2022/23		2023/24	
£'000		£'000	%
496	Less than three months	308	7%
535	Three to six months	1,114	26%
1,866	Six months to one year	1,047	25%
1,069	More than one year	1,747	42%
3,966		4,216	100%

43.2 Liquidity Risk

The Council undertakes daily cash flow management to ensure that it has adequate but not excessive cash resources, borrowing arrangements, overdraft or standby facilities to enable it to have sufficient funds to meet its liabilities as they become due.

At 31 March 2024, the Council has external borrowing with the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) of £49,782,583 with a maturity analysis as follows:

2022/23		2023/24	
£'000		£'000	
Short term loans			
1,147	Less than one year		1,159
1,147			1,159
Long term loans			
1,159	Between one and two years		1,171
3,336	Between two and five years		2,944
9,394	Between five and fifteen years		7,691
37,394	More than fifteen years		36,818
51,283			48,624
52,430			49,783

The fair value of PWLB loans of £32.4 million measures the economic effect of the terms agreed with the PWLB compared with estimates of the terms that would be offered for market transactions undertaken at the Balance Sheet date, based on the authority's ability to borrow from PWLB at concessionary rates. The difference between the carrying amount and the fair value measures the higher interest (based on economic conditions at 31 March 2024) that the authority will pay over the remaining terms of the loans under the agreements with the PWLB, against that which would be paid if the loans were at prevailing market rates.

The exit price for the PWLB loans, including the net discount, would be £37.1 million.

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

43.3 Market Risk

Interest Rate Risk

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

- borrowing at fixed rates – the fair value of the liabilities borrowings will fall;
- investments at variable rates – the interest income credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services will rise; and
- investments at fixed rates – the fair value of the assets will fall.

Borrowings are not carried at fair value, so nominal gains and losses on fixed rate borrowings would not impact on the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, or Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

However, changes in interest receivable on variable rate investments would be posted to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services and affect the General Fund Balance. Movements in the fair value of fixed rate investments that have a quoted market price would be reflected in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

The Council has a number of strategies for managing interest rate risk. The Treasury Management Team has an active 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. The Council established an Interest Equalisation Reserve a number of years ago to protect the Council against changes in the interest income generated on its surplus funds due to changes in market conditions; at the 31 March 2024 the balance on this reserve was £3.3 million.

According to this assessment strategy, at 31 March 2024, if interest rates had been 1% higher with all other variables held constant, the financial effect would have been an additional £1,180,000 being credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services.

43.4 Price Risk

The Council does not hold any investments in equity shares and therefore is not exposed to potential losses arising from movements in share prices.

43.5 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 rate.

Collection Fund Income and Expenditure Account

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.

2022/23				2023/24		
Business Rates £'000	Council Tax £'000	Total £'000		Business Rates £'000	Council Tax £'000	Total £'000
			Note			
			Income			
-	143,120	143,120	Council tax receivable	2	-	148,472
53,629	-	53,629	Business rates receivable	3	55,692	-
(279)	-	(279)	Transitional protection receivable		3,222	-
53,350	143,120	196,470			58,914	148,472
			Expenditure			
			Apportionment of previous year's surplus/(deficit)			
(11,488)	-	(11,488)	Central Government		(496)	-
(9,190)	155	(9,035)	Elmbridge Borough Council		(397)	123
(2,297)	1,036	(1,261)	Surrey County Council		(99)	847
-	192	192	Surrey Police & Crime Commissioner		-	154
(22,975)	1,383	(21,592)			(992)	1,124
			Precepts, demands & shares			
27,774	-	27,774	Central Government		29,329	-
22,235	15,545	37,780	Elmbridge Borough Council		23,463	16,106
5,555	106,641	112,196	Surrey County Council		5,866	110,522
-	19,380	19,380	Surrey Police & Crime Commissioner		-	20,491
55,564	141,566	197,130			58,658	147,119
			Charges to the Collection Fund:			
-	387	387	Write-off of uncollectable amounts		-	177
324	340	664	Increase / (decrease) in bad debt provision		1,161	620
(2,959)	-	(2,959)	Amount Charged to Appeals Provision		(1,527)	-
(739)	-	(739)	Increase / (decrease) in appeals provision		1,305	-
181	-	181	Cost of Collection		179	-
(3,193)	727	(2,466)			1,118	797
29,396	143,676	173,072			58,784	149,040
(23,954)	556	(23,398)	(Surplus) / deficit arising in year		(130)	568
22,547	(1,337)	21,210	Balance at 1 April		(1,407)	(781)
(1,407)	(781)	(2,188)	Balance at 31 March		(1,537)	(213)
						(1,750)

Notes to the Collection Fund Income and Expenditure Account

1. Business Rates Retention Scheme

The Council collects business rates in its area based on local rateable values multiplied by a uniform rate prescribed by Central Government. The Business Rates Retention Scheme allows local authorities to benefit from supporting local business growth by retaining a proportion of increases in business rates retained income above a baseline funding level, to invest in local services, subject to a Central Government growth levy. Safety net arrangements have also been established to compensate those authorities where retained income falls below a certain threshold.

Revenue growth under the scheme is shared between Central Government, Elmbridge and Surrey County in the ratio 50:40:10. The 40% share of growth accruing to Elmbridge is then subject to a Central Government levy applied at a rate of 50%, so that in practice Elmbridge is permitted to retain 20% of any business rates growth of its share of retained income above its 2023/24 baseline funding level of £2.4 million (2022/23 £2.3 million). The baseline funding level rises each year in line with the change in the business rates multiplier.

2. Council Tax Receivable

For Council Tax purposes all domestic properties are placed in one of eight valuation bands at 1991 prices, the bands ranging from A to H. The Council set a 2023/24 Council Tax charge for Band D properties of £2,243.15 within the Claygate Parish Area and £2,229.00 for the area excluding Claygate. Persons on lower incomes are entitled to assistance with Council Tax costs under the local Council Tax Reduction scheme administered by Elmbridge Borough Council and substantially financed by central government.

The Council Tax base for the year for the Elmbridge Borough Council area, i.e. the estimated number of chargeable dwellings in each band (adjusted for dwellings where discounts and reliefs apply), converted to an equivalent number of Band D dwellings, was as follows:

Band	Estimated No. of Taxable Properties After Effect of Discounts & Reliefs	Ratio	Band D Equivalent Dwellings
A	328	6/9	219
B	1,003	7/9	780
C	5,603	8/9	4,980
D	11,537	1	11,537
E	9,895	11/9	12,094
F	7,428	13/9	10,729
G	10,834	15/9	18,056
H	4,295	18/9	8,590
TOTAL	<u>50,923</u>		<u>66,985</u>
		Less: Adjustments *	(1,005)
		Council Tax Base	<u>65,980</u>

* An adjustment is made to reflect the estimated rate of collection of Council Tax for the year.

3. Business Rates Receivable

The total Non-Domestic Rateable Value for the Elmbridge area at 31 March 2024 was £159 million (£153 million in 2022/23), and the National Non-Domestic Rates multiplier 51.2p for 2023/24.

Glossary of Terms

This glossary helps to define some of the terms and phrases found in these accounts.

Accounting Period

The length of time covered by the accounts, in the case of these accounts the year from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

Accrual

A sum included in the accounts to cover income or expenditure attributable to the accounting period for goods or services, but for which payment has not been received/made, by the end of that accounting period.

Actuarial Gains and Losses

Changes in the estimated value of the pension fund because events have not coincided with the actuarial assumptions made or the assumptions themselves have changed.

Appropriations

The transfer of resources between various revenue reserves.

Balances

These represent the accumulated surplus of revenue income over expenditure.

Budget

An expression, mainly in financial terms, of the Council's intended income and expenditure to carry out its objectives.

Budget Requirement

The amount each local authority estimates as its planned spending, after deducting funding from reserves and any income expected to be collected (excluding Council Tax and Government Grants). This requirement is then offset by Government Grant, retained business rate with the balance being the amount needed to be raised in Council Tax.

Capital Charge

A charge to service revenue accounts to reflect the cost of fixed assets used in the provision of services.

Capital Expenditure

Expenditure on the acquisition of fixed assets that will be of use or benefit to the Council in providing its services for more than one year.

Capital Financing Account

An account that is credited with the amounts set aside for the repayment of external debt and with capital expenditure paid for from revenue and capital receipts. The balance cannot be used to fund revenue or capital expenditure.

Capital Receipts

Income received from the sale of capital assets.

Cash Equivalents

Generally short term, highly liquid investments readily convertible into cash.

Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)

CIPFA is the main professional body for accountants working in the public service. It draws up the Accounting Codes of Practice and issues professional guidance that is used to compile these accounts.

Collection Fund

A fund administered by the Council as a “billing authority”. The Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates are paid into this fund and payments are made to Central Government, Surrey County Council, Elmbridge Borough Council, Surrey Police and Claygate Parish as required by statute.

Collection Fund Adjustment Account

An account that is credited/debited with the difference between the Collection Fund surplus that is required by government regulations to be charged to the General Fund in the year and the amount required under accounting requirements to be shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account. The balance on the account at the year-end represents the Borough Council’s element of the Collection Fund balance at the year end.

Creditors

The amounts owed by the Council at the Balance Sheet date in respect of goods and services received before the end of the accounting period with the actual payment being made in the next financial year.

Current Service Cost

The increase of the present value of a defined benefit schemes liabilities expected to arise from employee service in the accounting period.

Debtors

Amounts owed to the Council but unpaid at the Balance Sheet date.

Depreciation

The measure of the cost of the benefit of the fixed asset that have been consumed during the period.

Expected Rate of Return on Pensions Assets

The average rate of return, including both income and changes in fair value but net of scheme expenses, expected over the remaining life of the related obligation on the actual assets held by the scheme.

Fees and Charges

The income raised by charging for goods, services or the use of facilities.

Fixed Asset

A tangible item that yields benefit to the Council for a period of more than one year.

Formula Grant

Central government financial support towards the general expenditure of local authorities.

General Fund

The main revenue fund of the Council which is used to meet the cost of services paid for from Council Tax, Retained Business Rates, Government Grant and fees and charges.

Intangible Assets

Expenditure on assets, such as software, which are amortised over their expected life but there is no physical asset.

Interest Cost – Pension Scheme

The expected increase over the period in the present value of the pension scheme liabilities because the benefits are one period closer to settlement.

LABGI – Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Grant

A grant payable from the National Non-Domestic Rate National Pool to Councils for the growth, over a year, in the value of Non-Domestic Rateable values in their area.

Leasing

A method of acquiring the use of capital assets for a specified period for which a rental charge is paid.

Minimum Revenue Provision

The minimum amount, prescribed by law, to be set aside each year from revenue to repay the principal amounts of external loans outstanding. The Council can set aside amounts in addition to the minimum requirement, known as a voluntary provision for debt redemption.

Non-Domestic Rates

Rates from Non-Domestic properties, collected locally, are distributed as part of the Business Rate Retention System.

Precept

The amount that Surrey County Council, Surrey Police Authority, Elmbridge Borough Council and Claygate Parish Council require the Collection Fund to pay to meet the costs of their services after government grant.

Provisions

Amounts set aside to meet costs which are likely or certain to be incurred but are uncertain in value or timing.

Public Works Loans Board

A government body that provides loans to local authorities.

Reserves

The accumulated surplus income in excess of expenditure, which can be used to finance future spending and is available to meet unforeseen financial problems. Earmarked Reserves are amounts set aside for a specific purpose in one financial year and carried forward to meet expenditure in future years.

Revenue Expenditure

The day to day spending on employment costs, other operating costs (accommodation, supplies and services etc.) net of income for fees and charges etc.

Revenue Expenditure funded from Capital Resources Under Statute

Expenditure that can be classified as capital expenditure, but which does not result in the acquisition of an asset.

Specific Government Grants

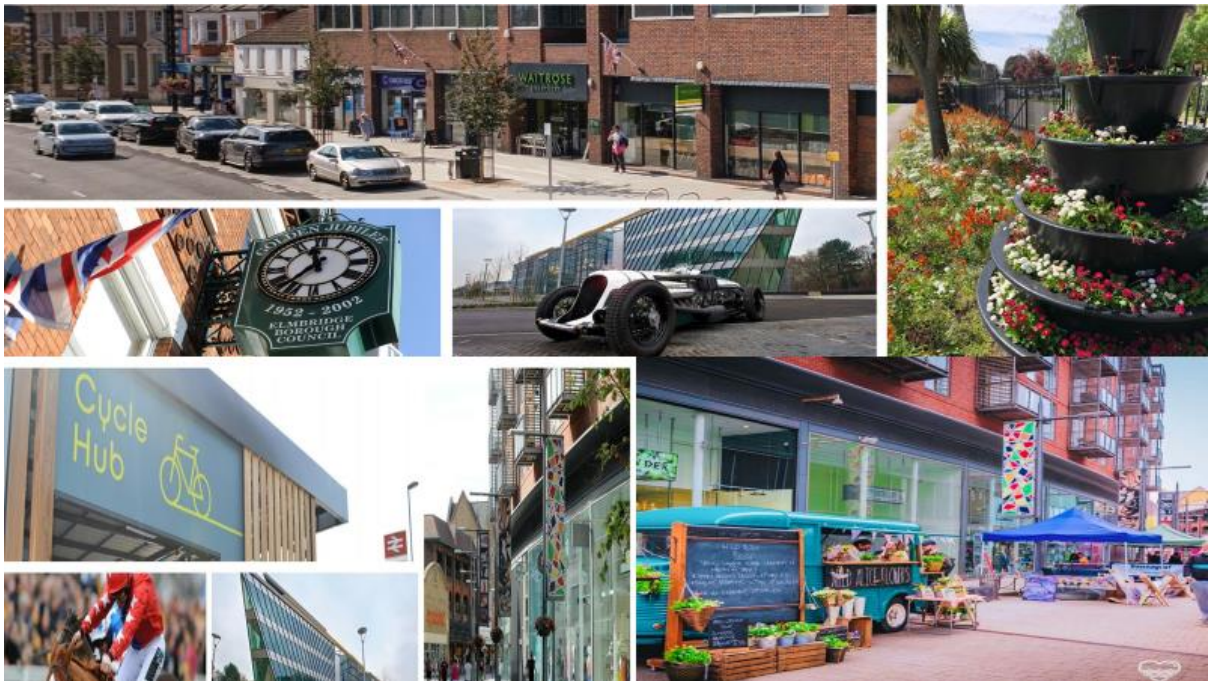
Central Government financial support towards particular services which is "ring fenced", i.e. can only be spent on a specific service area or items.

Abbreviations

BSc	Bachelor of Science
CAA	Capital Adjustment Account
CA	Citizens Advice
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
CFR	Capital Financing Requirement
CIES	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
CIPFA	Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy
CPI	Consumer Price Index
DRC	Depreciated Replacement Cost
ECIF	Elmbridge Civic Improvement Fund
EIP	Equal Instalments of Principal
EUV	Existing Use Value
FRS	Financial Reporting Standard
HMRC	Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standard
LABGI	Local Authority Business Growth Incentive
LASAAC	Local Authority (Scotland) Accounts Advisory Committee

LPSA	Local Public Service Agreement
MMI	Municipal Mutual Insurance
MRP	Minimum Revenue Provision
MTFS	Medium Term Financial Strategy
NDR	Non-Domestic Rates
PFI	Private Finance Initiative
PDG	Planning Delivery Grant
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PWLB	Public Works Loan Board
RICS	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
RPI	Retail Price Index
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation
SANGS	Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space
SeRCOP	Service Reporting Code of Practice
SCC	Surrey County Council
VAT	Value Added Tax
VFM	Value for Money
VOA	Valuation Office Agency

Annual Governance Statement 2023/2024



Elmsbridge
Borough Council

Introduction

This is the Annual Governance Statement for Elmbridge Borough Council for the year 2023/2024. This is a statutory document, which explains the processes and procedures in place to enable the council to carry out its functions effectively and provides a key record of the overall effectiveness of the governance arrangements within the authority.

The statement reflects the latest guidance from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance (CIPFA)/Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE) on a strategic approach to governance and demonstrates how key governance requirements have been met.

Scope of responsibility

Elmbridge Borough Council is responsible for ensuring that:

- Its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards;
- Public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for; and
- Resources are used economically, efficiently, and effectively.

The Council also has a duty to:

- Make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised;
- Put in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs; and
- Implement and maintain effective processes of internal control, including appropriate arrangements to manage risks.

Governance Framework

The purpose of the Governance Framework

The governance framework comprises the systems, processes, cultures and values which underpin how the Council is controlled and managed internally, and how it engages with taxpayers, service users and the wider community. It enables the Council to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate services and value for money.

The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.

The governance system at Elmbridge

The Council operates a Leader and Cabinet system of governance. The Cabinet takes the executive decisions and must ensure that the Council's Plan (Vision 2030) and the Budget and Policy Framework as approved by the Council are delivered. The Council has an Overview & Scrutiny Committee in place to scrutinise the work of the Cabinet. The Council also has in place an Audit and Standards Committee which is tasked with reviewing and considering improvements to corporate governance in general and to consider specified cases of allegations of misconduct.

The Council has appointed statutory officers which includes the Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive), the Section 151 Officer (Head of Finance & S106 Officer) and the Monitoring Officer (Head of Legal & Governance). These three officers have had regular meetings to discuss governance, risk and reputational issues. This further demonstrates the commitment to ensuring effective corporate governance arrangements are in place.

Company governance

The Council operates two companies:

- EBC Homes Limited
- EBC Investments Limited

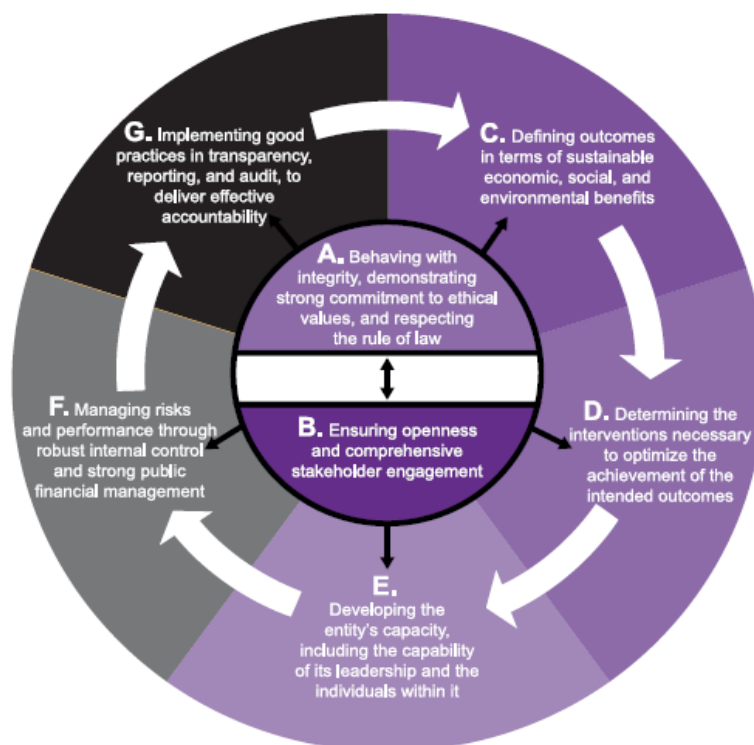
These companies' original objective was the provision of housing in the borough, however as the stock numbers have not significantly increased the decision was taken by EBC Homes Ltd and the Council to transfer the stock held by the company to the Council and steps will now be taken to wind up these companies as appropriate. As the 100% shareholder in these companies the Council receives information about their performance through the Shareholder Committee (Housing) which acts as the designated shareholder committee for the Council.

Arrangements for Governance

The Council's governance arrangements are designed to secure compliance with the principles set out in the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework for "*Delivering Good Governance in Local Authorities*"¹

Elmbridge is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards and that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently, and effectively. The Council also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency, and effectiveness.

The seven core principles of "*Delivering Good Governance in Local Authorities*" are illustrated as:



The Council meets the standards of the framework in the following ways:

A - Behaving with integrity

The Council's Constitution defines the roles/responsibilities of the Cabinet (Executive), regulatory committees, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and statutory officers and sets out how these roles are discharged, and the delegations extended to officers and Councillors.

¹ <https://www.cipfa.org/policy-and-guidance/publications/d/delivering-good-governance-in-local-government-framework-2016-edition>

Codes of Conduct are in place for Councillors and officers and are set out in the Council's Constitution. The member/office protocol sets out relationship expectations. All new Councillors and officers receiving training on the expected behavior.

The Council's Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer have specific statutory responsibilities to ensure that decisions taken by the Council are lawful and in line with constitutional requirements.

B - Ensuring openness

The Council consults regularly with stakeholders, taxpayers, and service users. The "My Elmbridge" programme is in place to consult, engage and inform residents about local services. The Council proactively engages with residents, businesses, and partners to maintain the Council's reputation, gain understanding and support for the organisation's vision and objectives and keep users informed about priorities, services and campaigns and consultations via digital, in person and social media channels.

The Council's website provides a key means of communication between the Council and the public in an open and transparent form. The Council provides considerable transparency information on the website. The Council's website has had a complete refresh to enhance usability.

The Council is a proactive user of social media and other online tools to ensure engagement.

Responsiveness to freedom of information requests is monitored by the Monitoring Officer and the Council's Management Board.

C - Defining sustainable outcomes

The Council has launched the Elmbridge Vision 2023 with a 2024/2025 refresh (this is the Council's plan covering a seven-year period from 2023-2030). Every year the Council sets out the Annual Delivery Plan with the objectives and priorities for the year.

The vision of the Council is:



Vision statement

A sustainable, thriving Elmbridge driven by the power of our community.

To deliver this Vision,

Elmbridge Borough Council will be a high performing, environmentally and financially sustainable organization.

In order to reach the Council's 2030 goals, it is acknowledged that a period of transformation is necessary. A plan has been set to show what can be expected in the first three years of the vision and this is refreshed annually.

D – Achieving intended outcomes

The Council has a robust Performance Management Framework in place which flows from the Vision 2023, into the Annual Delivery Plan and into individual service plans.

The Performance Management Framework contains key performance indicators to measure the performance of the services. There is also an organisational development framework in place including continuous performance reviews, one-to-ones, and clear job descriptions.

The Cabinet is responsible for ensuring that actions approved as part of the Budget and Policy Framework are delivered in each service area. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee scrutinise portfolio holders, examine Council performance and future plans. The Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report is then approved by the Council.

Feedback from residents and businesses is obtained through resident's surveys to ensure that a high level of customer service is delivered and that they are happy with the Council's priorities and services.

E – Developing Capacity

Asset capacity has been considered with assets, including parts of the Civic Centre being let to third parties. The Vision 2030 will transform the Council's services and it will look at capacity (including assets) as to the best services that can be delivered with the available resources.

There is a robust learning and development programme for officers including mandatory e-learning on a wide variety of subjects and management training. Councillors also have a training and development programme in place, which consists of a comprehensive induction programme, specific committee training e.g. planning, licensing and governance issues such as the code of conduct.

F – Managing Risks

A Risk Management Strategy and strategic and operational risk registers are in place, which are regularly reviewed by officers and Councillors. The Strategic Risk Register is reviewed annually and links to the Council's top priorities and strategic objectives. To improve the risk management approach the Council are considering a revised format of the strategic risk register for greater accessibility and a focused approach.

Financial Procedure Rules together with the Contract Procedure Rules and Officer Employment Procedure Rules, set the framework of internal controls. Internal audit has a programme of work designed to assess how this framework operates in practice and reports to the Audit and Standards Committee.

Partnership working is governed by agreements, memoranda of understanding or protocols relevant to the type of work or relationship involved. The Council's legal services ensure all are fit for purpose and the Council's interest are protected.

The Council has strong IT security requirements which reflect hybrid and virtual ways of working. The Information Governance Group meets quarterly to discuss and monitor compliance with corporate systems of internal control, data security, data protection and governance issues. Any issues are reported to the Council's Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO).

The Council's Emergency Planning and Resilience specialist oversees and monitors the Council's range of business continuity plans including the Corporate Business Continuity Plan. Business Continuity desktop exercises are regularly held with the Emergency Planning and Resilience specialist.

G – Transparency and accountability

All Council meetings are held in public, and minutes and webcasts are available on the Council's website.

There is an effective Audit and Standards Committee with defined roles and responsibilities and undertakes core functions in accordance with relevant CIPFA guidance. The external Annual Audit Report is submitted to that committee.

The Annual Report of the Audit & Standards Committee was approved by the Council in March 2024.

Annual financial statements include a narrative summary of the Council's performance during the year as well as reporting the financial position.

The Council's governance arrangements for budgeting, the accounts, financial decision making and compliance with codes of practice and legislation are in accordance with the financial management standards set out in the Financial Management code. No significant issues or concerns have been raised by internal or external audit.

Review of Effectiveness

The Council uses several ways to review the effectiveness of governance arrangements. One of the key assurance statements is the Corporate Governance Review 2023/2024 undertaken by Internal Audit and which provided reasonable assurance on the arrangements in place.

Internal Audit reviewed the following areas which have particular relevance to the Annual Governance Statement:

- Corporate governance framework arrangements
- Risk management
- Performance management
- Business continuity and emergency planning
- Information governance

The review of effectiveness is also informed by:

- The work of the Council Management Board and the senior managers who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment;
- The Council's risk management framework;
- The Audit and Standards Committee internal audit progress reports;
- Comments made by external auditors and other review agencies and inspectorates;
- The Head of Internal Audit's Annual Report; and
- The completion of Annual Assurance Statements by all Heads of Service as at 31 March 2024.

All Heads of Service returned completed Annual Assurance Statements as at 31 March 2024.

The Council's Management Board and Councillors have been made aware of issues which have arisen in relation to the Council's Community Support Service. Steps have been taken to improve service delivery including training and management support, this is an ongoing process for the Council and a full review of the situation is being considered by the Internal Audit team as well as external advisors to ensure that lessons are learnt are implemented. The Head of Community Services acknowledged this position in her Annual Assurance Statement.

The Head of Internal Audit's Opinion for the year 2023/2024 is:

Audit Opinion

Reasonable Assurance - There is a generally sound system of governance, risk management and control in place. Some issues, non-compliance or scope for improvement were identified which may put at risk the achievement of objectives in the area audited.

It is confirmed that the Local Code of Corporate Governance is in place and accords with the principals of the CIPFA/SOLACE "*Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework*" 2016.

The Council's financial management and assurance arrangements conform with the governance requirements of the CIPFA statement on the Role of the Chief Finance Officer in Local Government 2016.

CIPFA published the Code of Practice on "*Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption*" in 2014. The Council has adopted an approach that is appropriate for its fraud & corruption risks and commits to maintain its vigilance to tackle fraud. We have no knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud affecting the Authority which would cause a material misstatement in the financial statement's either through fraudulent financial reporting and/or misstatements resulting from misappropriation of assets for 2023/2024.

Outcomes, value for money and improvements during the year

The Audit and Standards Committee received the Council's appointed External Auditor's (Grant Thornton) Audit Findings for 2022/2023 in March 2024. This report contains an unqualified opinion on the 2022/2023 financial statements.

The Auditor's Annual Report was also reported to Council in March 2024 under all three areas of 1) financial sustainability, 2) Improving economy, efficiency and

effectiveness and 3) Governance that the conclusion was that there are no risks of significant weaknesses identified. There was one improvement recommendation made regarding enhancing the format of the corporate risk register, but this had already been initiated.

Other governance outcomes are shown below:

Issues Identified	Performance in 2023/24
Formal reports by Chief Finance Officer or Monitoring Officer to the Council	None
Outcomes from Audit and Standards Committee or Monitoring Officer Investigations	The Monitoring Officer received 6 complaints about member conduct in 2023/2024 some of which were against more than one Councillor in a single complaint. The outcomes of these are: one complaint was dismissed, and the two Councillors concerned retired, three were resolved as appropriate apologies were given, one proceeded to independent investigation but was dismissed as no breach and a third was dismissed as no breach prior to investigation.
Proven frauds carried out by Councillors or officers	None
Objections received from local electors	None
Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) referrals upheld	In response to one complaint, the Council has had to make an apology, make a compensation payment and refine processes.
Information Commissioner referrals upheld	None

The Council continued the monitoring of performance to ensure that continuous improvements are made.

The Council has a People Strategy and a delivery plan which sets out the five key commitments that provide focus for growth as an organisation to deliver our Vision over the next seven years. These are all about supporting and developing high

performing teams, valuing diversity of the workforce and engaging people at all levels to ensure we are one council.

Direction of travel

The overall direction of travel by the Council is one of strengthening its governance arrangements. The renewed Constitution has been in operation for a municipal year. This has been monitored over the year and learning points are being incorporated into an updated version. The Financial Procedural Rules, Contract Procedure Rules and Officer Code of Conduct will also be updated during the coming year.

It is acknowledged that the Council could strengthen its contract management processes and procedures and is embarking on a project to develop more robust practices.

The Council operates in a complex and constantly evolving financial, policy and legislative environment. The role, responsibilities and funding models of local government continue to be in a period of transition. The Council continues to progress the delivery of its ambitious transformation programme, with officers and members engaged in working towards the delivery of the programme.

The changes taking place present both opportunities and challenges. The Council must continue to engage in a broad programme of innovation, service review and redesign work so it can provide services for residents which are efficient, effective and deliver value for money, using available resources.

Conclusion and Certification

Good governance is about doing things properly. It is the means by which the Council demonstrates that it is taking decisions for the good of the people of Elmbridge in an open and equitable way. It recognises the standard of behavior that supports good decision making. It is the foundation for the delivery of good quality services and fundamental to showing that public money is well spent.

Conclusion

The Council is satisfied that suitable and appropriate governance arrangements are in place. The Annual Assurance Statements received do not highlight any matters of a significant governance nature and the Corporate Governance Review 2023/2024 gives reasonable assurance.

However, looking to 2024/2025, there is always more that can be done, and the Council will focus on a review of the remaining sections of the constitution and strengthening contract management practices and procedures across the authority.

Certification

We have been advised on the results of the annual review of the effectiveness of the Council's governance framework, as set out above. We will continue to monitor best practice and potential improvements as part of our next annual review.

We confirm to the best of our knowledge, that this statement provides an accurate and fair view of the Council's operations and governance framework.

Signed on behalf of Elmbridge Borough Council by:

..... Mike Rollings, Leader of the Council

..... Adam Chalmers, Chief Executive