Wigan Council

Statement of Accounts 2025/26

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Foreword by Councillor Nazia Rehman, Leader of Wigan Council

It was the honour of my life to this year become the first female leader in the history of Wigan Council and I am looking forward to making a real difference to the citizens and places of our borough.

As well as being leader I retain my portfolio for finance, so I know first-hand how much effort and expertise goes into the Statement of Accounts and ensuring the council remains financially robust year-on-year. It is a testament to everyone involved that we continue to be able to deliver a balanced budget amid so many economic challenges, nationally and globally.

Here in Wigan Borough, we believe deeply in the strength of our communities and the potential to make positive change happen. That is what our two missions for our partnership movement 'Progress with Unity' are all about: to reduce inequalities across our borough and enable our towns and neighbourhoods to thrive.

The past year has seen huge progress on these missions not least the securing of £40 million of funding into two of our neighbourhoods, through the Government's 'Pride in Place' programme. The community in those neighbourhoods will decide how that funding is spent with the focus on rekindling community life and investing in the social infrastructure which makes such a difference to communities and the opportunities people have.

As well as investment in neighbourhoods, the regeneration of our town centres remains a key priority and the centres of Leigh, Wigan and Ashton are being transformed with significant investment. Later this year we will see the first phases completed on these important projects. These milestones will be a vital step forward in boosting pride and confidence in our town centres, and in ensuring our historic centres have a vibrant future ahead.

As council leader I am determined the services we deliver to our residents are of the highest standard possible. I was therefore delighted that two independent assessments in the past year of our most critical services showed consistently high-quality provision:

- The Care Quality Commission found our adult social care and health services to be among the very best in the country with an 'Outstanding' rating.

- Our children's services were rated 'Good' by Ofsted, with many areas of practice, including support for children in care and care leavers, recognised as outstanding.

Taken together, these outcomes reflect our long-standing commitment to prevention, strong leadership and working alongside our communities to deliver high quality, person-centred services that make a real difference to people's lives.

Wigan never stands still and the impact of artificial intelligence and data in our lives is something that we must harness and maximise. We are already using AI to automate routine tasks and free up staff time, helping services respond faster and focus more on residents' needs. At the same time, we are using data and real-time insight to guide decisions, predict demand and improve outcomes across our services.

By being creative, innovative and focusing on preventative public services the council will continue to deliver a balanced budget and serve a borough where people and places can thrive.

Councillor Nazia Rehman, Leader of Wigan Council

Narrative Report by the Director of Finance and Legal (Section 151 Officer)

Introduction

The Statement of Accounts is produced annually to give electors, local taxpayers, Members of the Council, employees and other interested parties clear information about the Council's finances.

The accounts must be completed by law and in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) for 2025/26, Accounting Codes of Practice published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and any other government legislation or regulations.

The overriding requirement of the Code of Practice is that the Statement of Accounts 'presents a true and fair view' of the financial position and transactions of the Council.

The Statement of Accounts aims to assist our residents, members and other interested parties in:

- Understanding the financial position of the council;
- Having confidence that the public money with which the council has been entrusted has been used and accounted for appropriately; and
- Being assured of the robustness of the council's financial standing.

The accounts are a technical document, and therefore this associated narrative report aims to place the accounts in context, providing key information on the Council, its strategy and missions and risks and opportunities inherent within the position.

It is pleasing to report that the Council's financial position continues to be resilient despite the many challenges faced by the sector. Whilst the Council still faces demand challenges, particularly in Children's and Families, we have been able to deliver a budget that is in overall terms balanced and with a reduction to the planned use of reserves. Our aim remains to ensure financial sustainability without an ongoing reliance on reserves and our ambition is to

seek to increase our reserves over the medium term in a way that is sustainable and prudent.

Robust financial management is key to the Council's sustainability over the medium-term period. This is delivered through a robust governance framework including budget monitoring, medium-term financial planning, capital strategy, treasury management strategy and management of reserves as reported to Cabinet and Council during the year.

These draft accounts were submitted to the External Auditor Forvis Mazars and published on the Council's website on 30th June 2026. Due to resourcing challenges in the external audit sector as a result of national technical accounting issues in recent years, for the second consecutive year, the Council's 2024/25 accounts received a disclaimed opinion. This position was not unique to Wigan, with 189 local government bodies receiving a disclaimed opinion in 2025/26.

The Government has provided a structured multi-year frameworks to help local councils systematically restore unmodified opinions over time, but this will be a multi-year process and will be built into the 2025/26 audit plan.

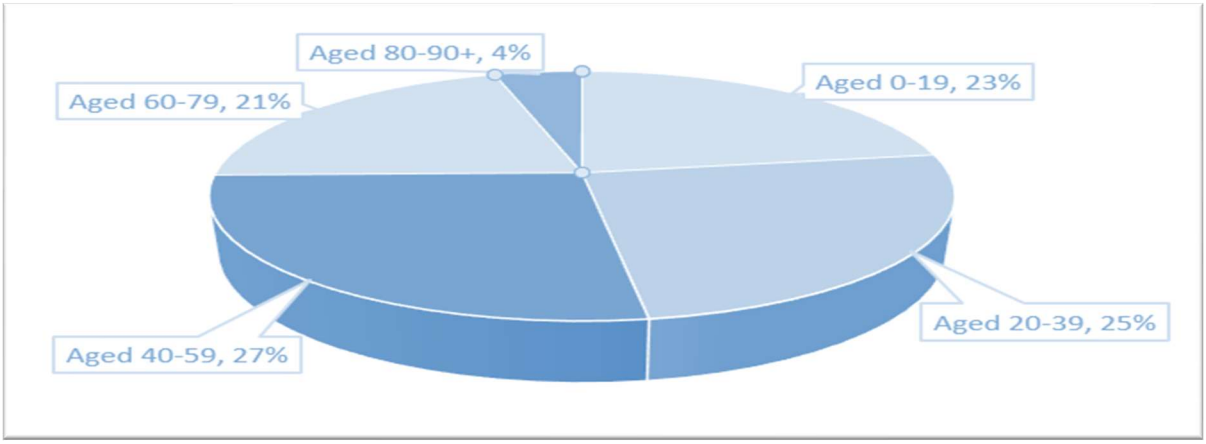
Wigan Borough

Our residents are very proud of their borough and its parks, green spaces, sporting and cultural heritage, and industrial history. Most of all they are proud of its people, their accents, good humour and personalities.

We have strong proud towns, historic villages and a wealth of green spaces. We love our stunning parks, woodlands, wetlands, canals and green space, which are legally designated a Local Nature Reserve.

Our strong employment rates, outstanding schools and affordable housing make Wigan an attractive place to live and work.

Age Profile



Wigan has the fastest ageing population in Greater Manchester, with the highest proportion of residents over 65 when compared to the other 9 authorities in the region. Average life expectancy for a male born in Wigan today is 74.3 years, and for a female 78.6 years, which is lower than the national average of 79.1 and 83.0 respectively.

Wigan Council: Key Statistics 2025/26

- **1,730,439** visits to our Be Well Leisure Centres including by 18,634 fitness members, an increase of 1,515 on 2024/25
- Provided Care of **6,452** adults through our long and short-term care services
- Supported **373** children in approved foster placements
- Over **9,846** young people supported through the Holiday Activity and Food programme, utilising partnerships with local providers, with 56% living in the top 20% most disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
- Maintained over **670** miles of roads, spending over **£5m** capital invested in maintaining the road, footway and cycle network
- Wigan was rated Green in the latest Department for Transport Highways ratings—an accolade achieved by only 16 of 154 local authorities, recognising strong asset management across the road network.
- **£41m** of capital invested in the town centre investment framework, enabling us to deliver on our missions
- Collected over **11.5 million** domestic waste bins (black, green, blue and brown)
- Held events attracting around **152,000** visitors to the Borough, demonstrating our rich cultural offer
- **Green Flag Award** retained at Mesnes Park (Wigan), Pennington Hall Park (Leigh), Alexandra Park (Newtown), Jubilee Park (Ashton-in-Makerfield), Colliers Corner (Howe Bridge), Tanners Lane Embankment (Golborne) and Central Park (Atherton).
- Wigan Council websites get an average of **420,000** visits each month and over **2.5 million page** views

- There are over **140,160** active citizen accounts allowing residents to access services online

Wigan Council: Political Structure

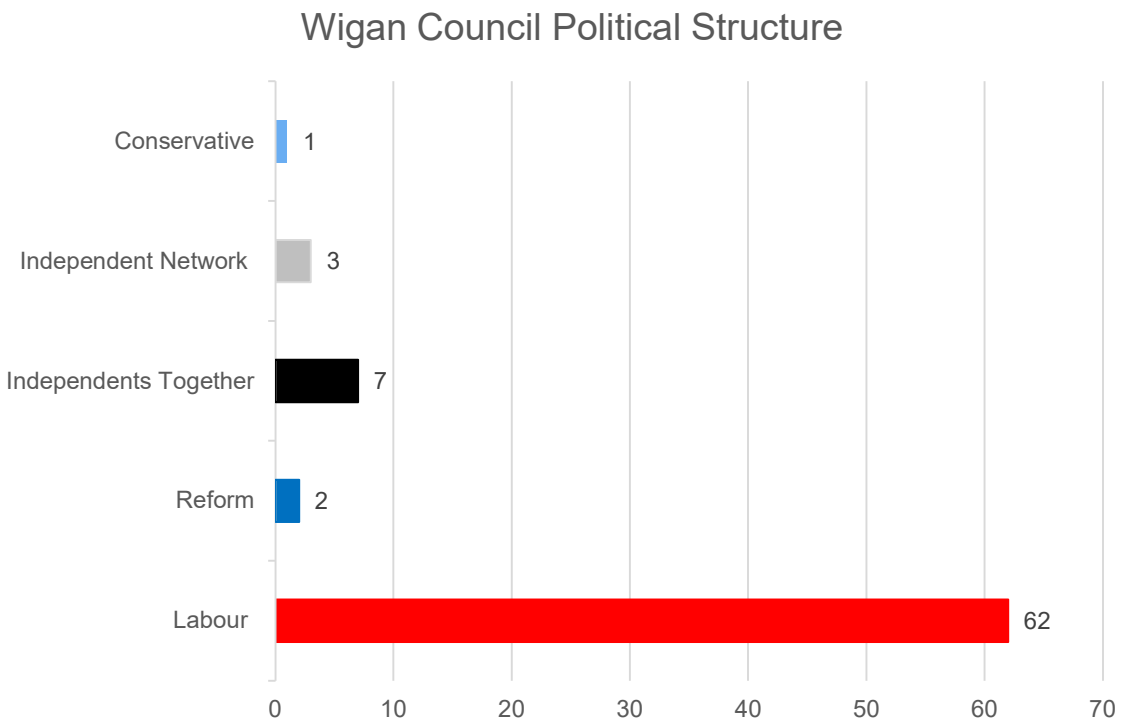
Wigan Council was created in 1974 as part of a major reorganisation of local government. Wigan is the second largest borough in Greater Manchester and occupies an enviable position between Liverpool and Manchester. The area it covers is still around 70% countryside with its "Greenheart" covering some 77 square miles.

The Borough is split into 25 wards each with 3 elected Councillors. Local Councillors are elected by the community to decide how the Council should carry out its various activities. They represent public interest as well as individuals living within the ward in which he or she has been elected to serve a term of office. They have regular contact with the general public through Council meetings, telephone calls or surgeries. Surgeries provide an opportunity for any ward resident to go and talk to their Councillor face to face and these take place on a regular basis.

Council Wards

Political Structure

The political structure of the Council for the financial year 2025/26 was as follows:



The Cabinet, also known as the Executive, is the main policy-making body of the Council and carries out Council functions that are not the responsibility of any other part of the Council, whether by law or under the constitution. It consists of an Executive Leader together with at least 2, but no more than 9, Councillors appointed by the Executive Leader.

At Wigan, the Cabinet (Executive) consists of 8 senior Councillors who are each 'Portfolio Holders' for a major area of responsibility.

- Economic Development and Regeneration
- Adult Social Care
- Planning, Environmental Services and Transport
- Children and Families
- Finance, Resources and Transformation
- Housing and Welfare
- Communities and Neighbourhoods
- Police, Crime and Civil Contingencies

In addition, the Executive Leader has decided that eight Lead members will support the Cabinet members and attend Cabinet meetings:

- Finance and Resources
- Crime Prevention
- Armed Forces and Veterans
- District Centres and Nighttime Economy
- Heritage and Building Conservation
- Youth Opportunities and Equalities
- Leisure and Public Health
- Climate Response and Sustainability

In accordance with the Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000, they will not have decision-making powers in their own right.

Wigan Borough's Partnership Movement: Progress with Unity

Progress with Unity began in 2023 as a movement for positive change in Wigan Borough. It built on a decade of innovation while responding to new challenges and opportunities facing our communities. Since it began partnerships have been re-energised with an emphasis on mutual respect, honesty and shifting power out to communities. Numerous events have brought people together under the Progress with Unity missions. These include learning and live well festivals, sporting partnerships and events for children and young people.

As a public service partnership under Progress with Unity, we continue our commitment to a relational and preventative model of public service delivery, harnessing the hearts and minds, attitudes and behaviours of the workforce. We continue to learn, listen deeply to residents and reflect honestly on where we need to go further.

The Progress with Unity Missions

As residents, businesses, public services and community organisations of this borough we are together delivering two key missions:

Mission 1: Create fair opportunities for all children, families, residents & businesses.

“Together, we will break down the barriers that create financial, health, education and environmental inequalities in our borough.”

Mission 2: Make all our towns and neighbourhoods flourish for those who live and work in them.

“Together, in genuine partnership with our residents and businesses, who know our community best, we will help each town and neighbourhood in the borough celebrate and maintain their identity whilst understanding and helping to achieve what is needed to thrive.”

As a council, we have developed a plan setting out how we will deliver against the borough missions.

Our mission led approach is underpinned by a strong financial consciousness that recognises the direct relationship between improving population outcomes and long-term financial sustainability, rooted in prevention.

Council Plan

Wigan Council

Mission 1

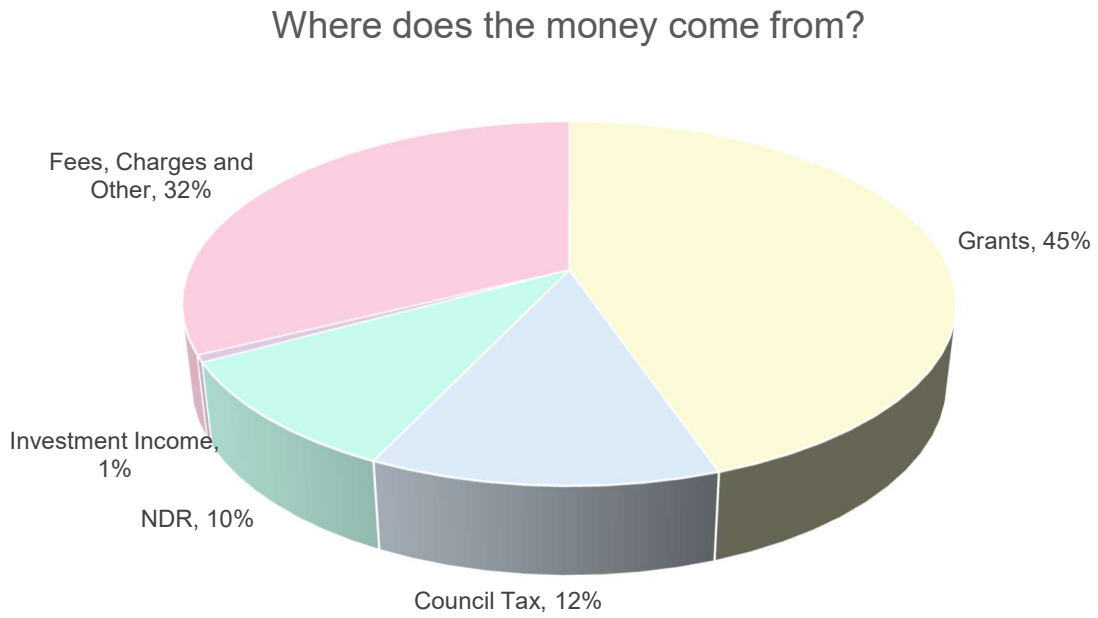
Create fair opportunities for all children, families, residents & businesses.

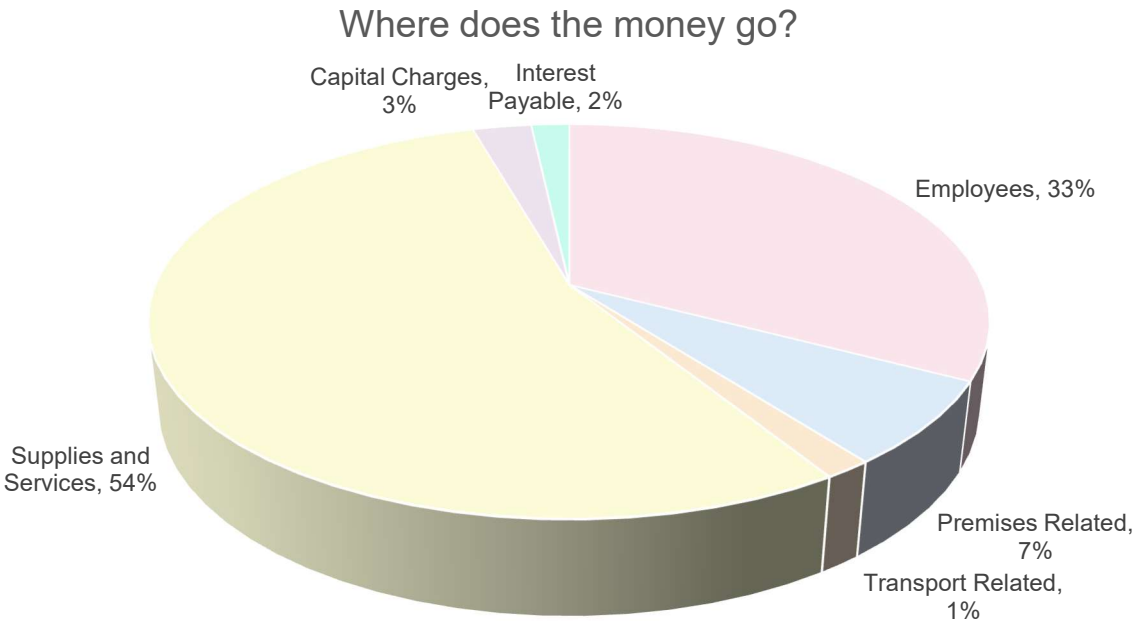
Mission 2

Make all our towns and neighbourhoods flourish for those who live and work in them.

2025/26 Financial Performance

The following charts show the main sources of income that the Council received in 2025/26 and a high-level breakdown on the money that it spent providing services. This includes the Council's Housing Revenue Account.





Revenue Outturn

The Council is reporting a revenue underspend of £0.065m for 2025/26. The table below provides an overview of the outturn by service area.

	Full Year Revised Budget £000	Actual £000	Variance £000
Strategy, Innovation and BeWell	32,631	33,389	758
Adult Social Care and Health	127,215	129,111	1,896
Children and Families	92,458	104,547	12,089
Place	9,124	9,214	90
Resident Services	51,032	50,098	-934
Finance & Legal	16,002	15,220	-782
Service Position	**328,462**	**341,579**	**13,117**
Corporate Grant Funding	-94,683	-96,400	-1,717
Precepts and Levies	25,653	25,429	-224
Other Corporate Budgets (Non-Service)	35,187	23,946	-11,241
Corporate Budgets	**-33,843**	**-47,025**	**-13,182**
Total Budget Requirement	**294,620**	**294,554**	**-65**

Revenue Budget: Key Risks and Uncertainties

The below outlines some of the key challenges that have driven the 2025/26 financial position, and how the Council is addressing these going into the future to ensure a sustainable position which delivers on priority services for our residents.

Children's Social Care

The major risk area for the Council's revenue budget remains the costs relating to our looked-after children and specifically the cost of residential placements with external providers. The Council has provided significant growth for Children's Services in recent years, but increasing demand, cost inflation and a broken market in respect of residential care placements is a significant challenge but not one that is unique to Wigan.

The Children Directorate's Sufficiency Strategy 2025-2028 aims to ensure there are sufficient safe and appropriate placements for vulnerable children within the Borough, which, as well as providing better outcomes for the individual child, should positively impact on the underlying financial pressure. In addition, in conjunction with other partners, the Council is looking to further invest in emotional and mental health services and continue to enhance its edge of care offer, to better meet the needs of individual children living in a home setting, which could ultimately minimise the need for high-cost placements.

The demand in Children's Services must be seen in the context of the rising national demand on Children's Services. In Wigan due to the embedding of the Early Help Strategy and the implementation of the Family Safeguarding Model we have started to see a reduction in demand for children's social care, demonstrating that these measures are mitigating demand. The number of referrals for services, the number of children subjected to a child protection plan and the number of those coming into care (particularly the under 12) are all on a downward trajectory.

Home to School Transport

A continued risk within the Children's Services budget continues to be Home to School Transport services. Linked to the rise in Education Health Care Plans, eligibility for Home to School Transport is presenting a budget pressure nationally. In Wigan, the service has been reporting significant financial pressures with the area overspending in 2025/26 by £3.2m, which is

due to 6.4% increase in the number of children using the service, combined with a 7% increase in the cost per passenger.

An action plan is in place to help manage these pressures looking at smarter commissioning, travel training and route planning which will assist the Council to fully meet our responsibilities in this area within the available budget.

Adult Social Care

The financial climate for local authorities and adult social care at a national level remains challenging, driven through rising demand and the impact of inflation on the cost of care.

The volume and complexity of people requiring adult social care is also set to continue to increase year on year. This includes support to young adults transitioning from children's services, ongoing demand pressures through hospital discharge and the impact of an ageing population. Wigan has the highest number of residents aged 65+ in Greater Manchester and the fastest ageing population, with the number of people living in the borough aged 80+ set to grow by 36% to 2040.

Our approach to adult social care in Wigan means we are comparatively well placed to respond to the challenge though risks remain and reflect in our spending position for 2025/26. We are continuing to transform our adult social care delivery in line with Progress with Unity and a focus on early intervention and prevention.

With over 9,000 people working in the sector across the borough, we also recognise the potential of adult social care to support economic growth and build community wealth. Through our investment strategy, we are continuing to invest in ensuring carers in Wigan receive a minimum of the real living wage.

Crisis Intervention and Prevention – Homelessness Support

Homelessness and temporary accommodation costs continue to present a risk into the future. There has been a 32% increase in homelessness numbers over the last two years, but due to significant funding increases from the Local Government Finance Settlement, the service managed this within budget in 2025/26. But this will continue to be an area of risk for 2025/26 and future years, and the Council will continue its early intervention and prevention strategies to help mitigate any future cost increases.

Other Areas of Risk

Construction industry prices remain high due to demand for labour and materials, and rising energy costs amplifying price pressures through supply chains. The increased cost has resulted in increased costs of capital schemes, particularly the highly ambitious Fettlers scheme aiming to regenerate Wigan town centre. Schemes have continually been reprofiled, redesigned, and value engineered to make them affordable for the Council, but the impact of these schemes will start to impact the council's revenue budgets from 2026/27 and beyond.

Interest rate risk will also be seen to have an impact on the finances of the Council, as there have been significant increases in borrowing costs since the USA and Iran conflict started in February 2026. The Council will continue to use internal borrowing to mitigate the higher cost of borrowing, but as the Council will need to significantly increase its levels of borrowing during 2026/27, any increase in borrowing costs will have an impact on the Council's financial position.

Funding Risk

In December 2025, the results of the Governments long-awaited fair funding review was announced with the publishing of the Local Government Finance Settlement.

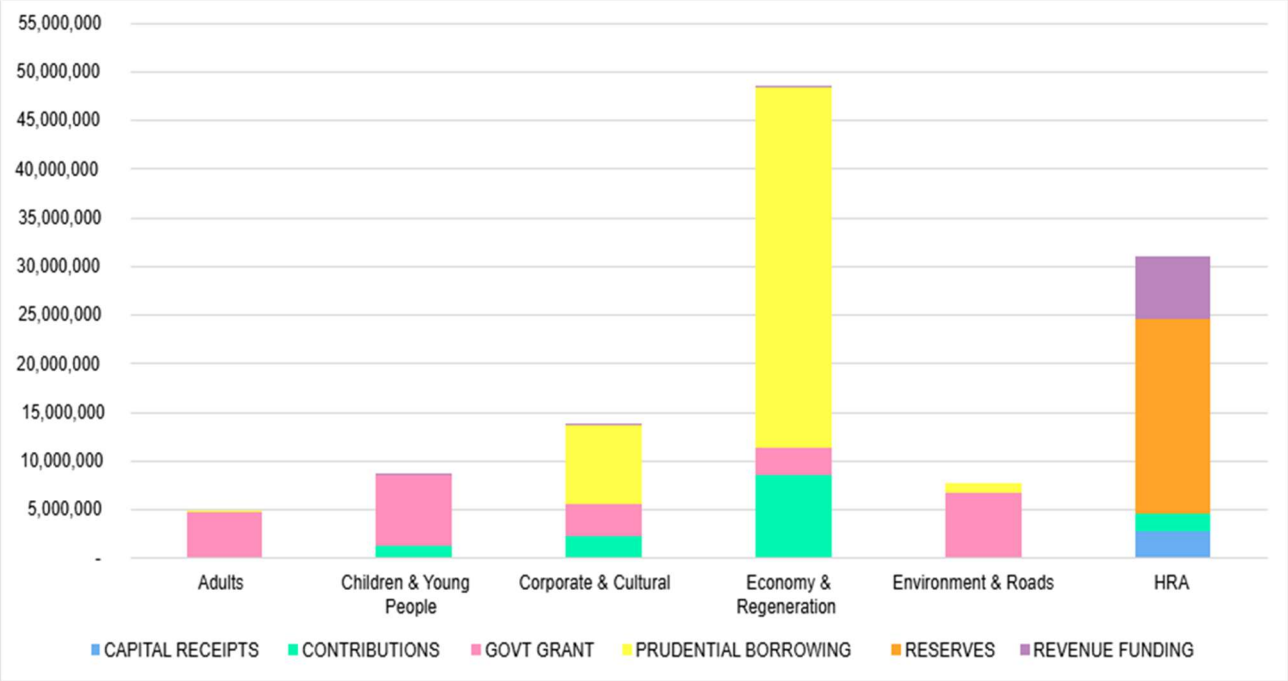
Aimed at simplifying the existing formula funding, realigning funding with need and providing funding certainty by providing a three-year funding settlement, the outcome of the funding review created both winners and losers under the new arrangements. Whilst transitional protections have mitigated some of the impact of the funding changes for Wigan and a three-year settlement has allowed us to plan with more certainty for the medium term, the outcome was disappointing and the Council will continue to lobby for a better settlement for Wigan.

Capital Programme Outturn

The Council spent £113.838m on its capital programme in 2025/26. The programme underpins the Council's objectives and provides for investment in long-term assets which are used to deliver the Council's services.

The Council operates a rolling capital programme that is reviewed throughout the year. The programme is funded from a variety of sources which includes capital receipts generated from the sale of council assets, government grants, contributions from developers and borrowing, both internal and external. The Council's strategy is to operate a balanced programme over its duration.

The chart below analyses the expenditure across the different areas together with the funding sources.



Borrowing Facilities and Cash

In accordance with Treasury Management policy, when there is a requirement to borrow then the majority of borrowing will be secured via the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB). The PWLB offers borrowing at rates only slightly above rates at which the Government secures its borrowing. It has traditionally been considered to be the most cost-effective source of obtaining "traditional" funding.

For a number of years, the level of debt held by the Council has been reducing as the Council has taken the opportunity to utilise its cash balances to repay debt and to pay for its capital programme, to avoid externalising borrowing at a time when interest rates are at a peak. This strategy continued during 2025/26, with the Council being in an under-borrowed position of £138.9m at year end.

This meant that the capital borrowing need (the Capital Financing Requirement) was not fully funded with loan debt, as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow was used as an interim measure.

This strategy was prudent as investment returns were low and resulted in a reduction in exposure to counterparty risk. Details of the Council's Capital Financing Requirement are disclosed in Note 16 to the accounts.

The level of PWLB borrowing at 31 March 2026 had increased to £438.201m (2024/25 £386.352m). Of this £311.687m related to the Housing Revenue Account.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

The Council is required to keep a separate account in respect of council housing.

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) shows the main elements of expenditure including maintenance, management and capital financing along with details of income from rents and other charges.
The HRA Statement of Accounts has two parts: the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement and the Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement.

The HRA commenced the 2025/26 financial year with a surplus of £19.6m and ended the year on 31 March 2026 with an accumulated surplus of £22.1m, due to rent income exceeding budget by approximately £1.9m, supported by strong collection performance of around 99%, with bad debt remaining in line with expectations. Solar Panel income increased by roughly £0.5m compared to the previous year, reflecting ongoing investment in maintenance. In addition, investment income was £0.265m above budget, driven by higher cash balances and favourable interest rates.

Approximately £31m was spent on capital schemes which included New Build Housing developments of £3.6m, properties at Belle Green Lane, Factory Street and Heysham Road. Other significant areas of capital spend during 25/26 included boiler renewals £4.2m, aids and adaptations £2.7m, and bringing void properties up to standard £11.7m.

The HRA faces challenges in its medium-term financial plan, with building services continuing to increase. A review of the repairs service is being undertaken to identify efficiencies which will help to mitigate.

Schools

Schools have responsibility for their budgets and may carry forward their own balances. In 2025/26 the cumulative level of delegated balances held by the schools has increased and now stands at £24.403m (2024/25 23.784m). This balance is spread across schools and is not available to the Council.

The Council's Dedicated Schools Grant balance has followed a national trend and increased its negative balance from £9.7m to £25.9m. This is due to pressure on the High Needs block, driven by growth in the number of Education Heath Care plans and an increasing number of pupils requiring placement in independent special schools out of borough due to the level of demand. During 2025/26, the statutory override, which separates out the DSG position from the wider Council financial position, has been extended until 31st March 2028, and the Government has announced the High Needs Stability Grant which will repay local authorities 90% of any DSG deficit, and will be payable in autumn 2026.

Whilst the Council has a DSG High Needs recovery plan, it is still anticipated that with the ongoing pressures within the high needs sector the overall DSG deficit will increase in future years.

Further information on schools funding is available in Note 35 Dedicated Schools Grant, and available General Fund Reserves including those holding Schools Balances are detailed in Note 27 Earmarked Reserves.

Health and Social Care Integration / Healthier Wigan Partnership

The commissioning of health services across Greater Manchester is currently overseen by NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board (ICB). Financial and operational challenges across health and social care nationally, mean that it is essential that local organisations continue to work in a joined-up way to ensure best use of their collective resources in improving health and wellbeing of the local population.

The Healthier Wigan Partnership brings together key health, care and community organisations to ensure the joined up, sustainable delivery of health and care in the borough in line with the locality plan and our Progress with Unity missions. In addition to the Local Authority and NHS Greater Manchester ICB, the partnership includes Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (WWL), Greater Manchester Mental Health Trust (GMMH), Primary care Networks and Voluntary and Community Organisations.

The partnership also oversees the Better Care Fund, which is a Section 75 pooled budget arrangement between Wigan Council and NHS Greater Manchester ICB, governed through national guidance and conditions.
In 2025, the Government announced plans for the reform of the NHS in England which includes a review of the role and structure of Integrated Care Boards. The review forms part of a broader effort to streamline NHS operations, improve efficiency and strengthen strategic commissioning. The outcome of these reforms is still to be fully understood and will continue to be reviewed.

Accounting and Other Matters 2025/26

Revaluation of Assets

The Council values its assets annually based on a 5-year rolling programme. This valuation provides the Council with an up-to-date value for its asset portfolio and reflects the market conditions. The value of assets can fluctuate significantly due to a number of factors, such as market conditions or obsolescence, or where physical damage to the asset has occurred. As per new CIPFA guidance for the 2025/26 statement of accounts, all operational property plant & equipment & surplus assets are now indexed in the intervening years between full valuations. Details of asset valuations are included within note 10 to the financial statements.

Manchester Airport Group

The Council holds a minority shareholding of 3.22%.

The shareholding in Manchester Airport Holdings Ltd has been estimated to be £37.5m which is a decrease in value of £5.9m since last year, the change primarily driven by an increase in the net debt of MAHL, reducing the equity value. The Manchester Airport Car Park Ltd shareholding has been valued at £3.9m, a marginal decrease of £0.5m.

The revaluation gain on the Council's shareholdings is recognised in the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve and there is no impact on the General Fund.

The airport paid an extraordinary dividend of £0.452 to the Council proportionate to its shareholding in 2025/26, a small reduction on the dividend of £0.484 payable last year

Technical Terms

Wherever possible the use of technical language is avoided. However, inevitably some is necessary, and a glossary is provided at the back of this publication to explain some of the technical terms. The following is a brief explanation of the main statements within the accounts:

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)

This statement shows the accounting cost in year of providing services with generally accepted accounting practices rather than the amount to be funded by taxation. Councils raise taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this will generally be different to the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in both the Expenditure and Funding Analysis and the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Movement in Reserves Statement

This statement shows the movement in year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into 'usable reserves' (those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce taxation) and 'unusable reserves'. The surplus or deficit on the provision of services line shows the true economic cost of providing the Council's services, more details of which are shown in the CIES. These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the general fund balance for council tax setting as the economic cost includes a number of accounting movements.

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the 31 March 2026 of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council. The net assets of the Council, i.e., assets less liabilities, are matched by reserves which are split into two categories, usable and unusable reserves. Usable reserves are those which the Council can use to support initiatives and services. Unusable reserves are not available to use on Council Services and are in the main technical accounting reserves.

Cash Flow Statement

The Cash Flow Statement summarises the total movement of cash and cash equivalents during 2025/26. The statement shows how the Council generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flow as operating, investing and financial activities.

Housing Revenue Account

The Housing Revenue Account Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement shows the costs in year of providing and operating the Council's housing stock and includes the major elements of expenditure (property maintenance, management and capital finance) and the income due from rents and charges.

Expenditure and Funding Analysis

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis demonstrates how the funding available to the authority (i.e., government grants, rents, council tax and business rates) for the year has been used in providing services in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by authorities in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. The Expenditure and Funding Analysis also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision-making purposes between the Council's directorates. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Collection Fund

The Collection Fund shows the transactions of the Billing Authority in relation to the collection from taxpayers of Council Tax and Business Rates and its distribution to precepting bodies. For Wigan, the Council Tax precepts payable are for the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept and the Mayoral General Precept (including Fire & Rescue Services).

Statement of Responsibilities

The Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts which sets out the responsibilities of the Council and the Director of Finance and Legal for the accounts.

Concluding Remarks

As the Council continues to transform, it is expected that as Chief Financial Officer, I ensure that the budget and council tax is appropriate and that a prudent level of reserves and balances are available to ensure the delivery of future plans are achievable.

The financial statements provide assurance to the reader that the Council's financial position is challenging but robust, and there is confidence that steps taken during the 2026/27 budget setting process address as far as possible the sector wide pressures.

The preparation of these statutory accounts is a testament to the hard work of staff across the Council. I would like to take the opportunity to pass on my thanks for this considerable achievement.

Sarah Johnston

Director of Finance and Legal (Section 151 Officer)

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Council's Responsibilities

The Council is required:

- to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Council, that officer is the Director of Finance and Legal
- to manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets
- to consider and if agreeable approve the Statement of Accounts

The Director of Finance and Legal Responsibilities

The Director of Finance and Legal 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.

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Director of Finance and Legal has:

- selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently
- made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent
- complied with the Code of Practice
- kept proper up to date accounting records
- taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities
- dated the Statement of Accounts, to the effect that it presents fairly the financial position of the Council at the accounting date and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2026.

I certify that the Responsibilities for the Statement present a true and fair view of the financial position of Wigan.

Sarah Johnston, Director of Finance and Legal

30th June 2026

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT 2025/26

The Movement in Reserves Statement shows the movement from the start of the year to the end on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into 'Usable Reserves' (those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other 'Unusable Reserves'. The statement shows how the movements in year of the Council's reserves are broken down between gains and losses incurred in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practices and the statutory adjustments required to return to the amount's chargeable to Council Tax (or rents) for the year. The 'Increase / Decrease in Year' line shows the statutory General Fund balance and Housing Revenue Account balance movements in the year following those adjustments.

	Note	General Fund	Earmarked Reserves	Housing Revenue Account	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance at 31 March 2024		**13,555**	**100,883**	**16,430**	**6,488**	**13,469**	**98,997**	**249,822**	**1,061,601**	**1,311,423**
Movement in Reserves during 2024/25										
Surplus or (deficit) on provision of services		-14,840	0	12,388	0	0	0	**-2,452**	**0**	**-2,452**
Other Comprehensive Expenditure and Income		0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	**59,486**	**59,486**
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income		**-14,840**	**0**	**12,388**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**-2,452**	**59,486**	**57,034**
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	**6**	-9,718	9,040	-9,147	-1,218	2,180	3,224	**-5,639**	**5,639**	**0**
Net Increase / Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves		**-24,558**	**9,040**	**3,241**	**-1,218**	**2,180**	**3,224**	**-8,091**	**65,126**	**57,034**
Transfers to / from Earmarked Reserves	**27**	24,558	-24,558	0	0	0	0	**0**	**0**	**0**
Increase / Decrease in Year		**0**	**-15,518**	**3,241**	**-1,218**	**2,180**	**3,224**	**-8,091**	**65,126**	**57,034**
Balance at 31 March 2025 Carried Forward		**13,555**	**85,365**	**19,670**	**5,269**	**15,649**	**102,221**	**241,731**	**1,126,726**	**1,368,457**

	Note	General Fund	Earmarked Reserves	Housing Revenue Account	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance at 31 March 2025 Brought Forward		**13,555**	**85,365**	**19,670**	**5,269**	**15,649**	**102,221**	**241,731**	**1,126,726**	**1,368,457**
Movement in Reserves during 2025/26										
Surplus or (deficit) on provision of services		18,674	0	12,441	0	0	0	**31,115**	0	**31,115**
Other Comprehensive Expenditure and Income		0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	63,816	**63,816**
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income		**18,674**	**0**	**12,441**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**31,115**	**63,816**	**94,931**
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	**6**	-32,843	16,194	-9,965	636	10,553	9,947	**-5,478**	5,478	**0**
Net Increase / Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves		**-14,169**	**16,194**	**2,476**	**636**	**10,553**	**9,947**	**25,636**	**69,294**	**94,931**
Transfers to / from Earmarked Reserves	**27**	15,735	-15,735	0	0	0	0	**0**	0	**0**
Increase / Decrease in Year		**1,565**	**459**	**2,476**	**636**	**10,553**	**9,947**	**25,636**	**69,294**	**94,931**
Balance at 31 March 2026		**15,121**	**85,824**	**22,146**	**5,905**	**26,202**	**112,169**	**267,367**	**1,196,020**	**1,463,388**

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 March 2026

This statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practices rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. Authorities raise taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in both the Expenditure and Funding Analysis and the Movement in Reserves Statement.

2024/25	2024/25	2024/25			2025/26	2025/26	2025/26
Gross Expenditure	**Gross Income**	**Net Expenditure**			**Gross Expenditure**	**Gross Income**	**Net Expenditure**
£'000	**£'000**	**£'000**			**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
			Expenditure on Services				
			People Directorate:				
249,668	-165,668	84,001	Adult Social Care and Health		269,421	-178,997	90,424
434,418	-328,999	105,419	Children and Families		471,405	-364,776	106,629
50,990	-19,209	31,780	Leisure & Wellbeing		62,511	-27,252	35,260
			Places Directorate:				
65,413	-29,755	35,658	Economy		74,686	-32,240	42,446
155,009	-95,094	59,915	Resident Services		139,689	-88,814	50,875
89,280	-108,706	-19,426	HRA		89,554	-110,624	-21,069
			Resources Directorate:				
28,256	-5,511	22,745	Corporate Services		28,023	-2,885	25,137
1,073,034	**-752,942**	**320,092**	**Net Cost of General Fund Services**		**1,135,289**	**-805,587**	**329,702**
		25,220	Other Operating Expenditure	**7**			27,722

2024/25	2024/25	2024/25			2025/26	2025/26	2025/26
		21,218	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	**8**			10,492
		-364,078	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	**9**			-399,031
1,179,971	**-1,177,519**	**2,452**	**Surplus (-) or Deficit on the provision of services**		**1,241,916**	**-1,273,030**	**-31,115**
		-60,879	Surplus (-) or Deficit arising on the revaluation of non-current assets				-81,198
		160	Impairment Loss on non-current assets charged to revaluation reserve				19
		-1,567	Re-measurement of the net defined benefit liability	**40**			10,964
		2,800	Surplus (-) / Deficit on financial assets measured at fair value through Other Comprehensive Income				6,400
		-57,034	**Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure**				**-94,930**

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 March 2026

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 is usable reserves, i.e., those reserves that the Council may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use (for example, the capital receipts reserve that may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt). The second category of reserves is 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 were sold, and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line "Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations".

31.3.25			31.3.26
£'000		**Notes**	**£'000**
1,653,557	Property, Plant and Equipment	**10**	1,764,496
5,618	Heritage Assets	**11**	5,637
40,905	Investment Property	**12**	55,948
5,259	Intangible Assets	**14**	6,200
47,806	Long-Term Investments	**17**	41,406
40,957	Long-Term Debtors	**17**	39,206
14,308	Right of Use Assets Capitalised under IFRS16	**39**	10,421
1,808,410	**Long-Term Assets**		**1,923,314**
1,038	Inventories		846
93,929	Short-Term Debtors	**20**	110,877
19,698	Cash and Cash Equivalents	**22**	26,478
1,053	Assets Held for Sale	**24**	1,516
115,718	**Current Assets**		**139,717**

-7,447	Short-Term Borrowing	**17**	-29,375
-68,329	Creditors	**25**	- 68,177
-2,254	Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	**25**	-202
-4,718	Provisions	**26**	- 2,398
-82,748	**Current Liabilities**		**-100,152**
-381,212	Long-Term Borrowing	**17**	-412,014
-88,879	Other Long-Term Liabilities	**18**	-82,889
-2,816	Provisions	**26**	-4,589
-472,925	**Long-Term Liabilities**		**-499,492**
1,368,457	**Net Assets**		**1,463,387**
241,731	Usable Reserves	**28**	267,367
1,126,726	Unusable Reserves	**29**	1,196,020
1,368,457	**Total Reserves**		**1,463,387**

I certify that the Balance Sheet and related accounts present a true and fair view of the financial position of Wigan Council at 31 March 2026.

Sarah Johnston
Director of Finance and Legal

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 March 2026

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.

2024/25 Restated		Notes	2025/26
£'000			**£'000**
	Operating Activities		
2,452	**Net Surplus (-) or Deficit on the Provision of Services**		**-31,115**
-64,916	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	**23**	-26,695
56,421	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	**23**	61,278
	Cash Outflows:		
12,928	Interest paid		15,644
4,705	Interest element of PFI and lease rental payments		1,433
	Cash Inflows:		
-898	Dividends received		-588
-8,528	Interest received		-2,659
-8,207	Reversal of operating activity items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of service		-13,830
-6,043	**Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities**		**3,468**

	Investing Activities		
	Cash Outflows:		
94,246	Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment		102,306
0	Other capital cash payments		0
	Cash Inflows:		
-49,729	Capital grants received		-49,157
-7,034	Sale of Property, Plant and Equipment		-13,239
0	Other receipts		0
37,483	**Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities**		**39,910**
	Financing Activities		
	Cash Outflows:		
21,833	Repayments of amounts borrowed		14,670
3,760	Payment for reduction of liability relating to PFI and other Leases		2,573
342	Other cash outflows		0
	Cash Inflows:		
-10,000	Cash receipts of short and long-term borrowing		-67,400
15,935	**Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities**		**-50,157**
47,375	**Net increase (-) / decrease in cash and cash equivalents**		**-6,779**
-67,073	**Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period**		**-19,699**
-19,698	**Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period**	**22**	**-26,478**

The 2024/25 figures on the attached have been restated to correct an addition error, and to add additional information in line with the presentation of the 2025/26 cash flow statement.

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NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

The CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2025/26 (the Code) requires an authority to disclose information relating to the impact of an accounting change that will be required by a new standard that has been issued but not yet adopted.

At the balance sheet date, the following amendments to existing standards have been published as part of the annual improvements to IFRS Standards but not yet adopted. None of these are expected to impact the Council's Statement of Accounts:

- Amendments to FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (Amendments to Heritage assets)
- Amendments to the Classification and Measurement of Financial Instruments (Amendments to IFRS 9 and IFRS 7)
- Annual improvements to IFRS accounting standards – Volume 11
- Contracts Referencing Nature-dependent Electricity (Amendments to IFRS 9 and IFRS 7)

2. Critical Judgements in applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 44, the Council has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions. The following are significant management judgements made in applying the accounting policies of the Council that have the most significant effect on the Statement of Accounts. Where the Council has had to make judgements relating to uncertainty about future events, these are described in Note 3.

Related Companies

An assessment of the Council's interests has been carried out during the year in accordance with the Code. The Council has identified 5 entities within the group boundary. However, having due regard to levels of materiality, both quantitative and qualitative, it has been determined that the Council does not have to prepare Group Accounts for 2025/26. For the reader's benefit we have included details of the relationship with the Council and financial performance of the most significant companies. These details are included in Note 37 Related Parties.

Better Care Fund

The Section 75 agreement by which Better Care resources have been pooled between the Council and NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board has been assessed against the appropriate standards, mainly IFRS10 and IFRS11. The arrangement has been assessed to be classified as a Joint Operation given the control and governance arrangements of the pool. As such, each party accounts for the assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses relating to its involvement in a joint operation. The details are included in Note 31 Joint Operations.

Regional Adoption Agency

A Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) was established as a shared service between Wigan, Warrington, St Helens, Halton and Cheshire West and Chester local authorities. Wigan Council acts as the host local authority on behalf of the RAA Partnership. Funds are pooled together to deliver the service. The Partnership has been in operation since 2017/18. The RAA has been assessed against appropriate standards and is deemed as a Joint Operation given the nature, governance and control arrangements of the partnership, details are included in Note 31 Joint Operations.

Private Finance Initiative (PFI)

The Council entered a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) arrangement in respect of the Wigan Life Centre. The Council has determined that it controls the services provided under the contract and retains control over any residual interest in the underlying asset at the end of the arrangement.

This assessment has been informed by a detailed review of the contractual terms and, where appropriate, advice from external specialists.

In accordance with the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice, the arrangement is therefore accounted for as a service concession arrangement. The underlying assets are recognised on the Council's Balance Sheet within Property, Plant and Equipment, together with a corresponding liability for amounts due to the operator.

Leases

The Council accounts for leases in accordance with IFRS 16 Leases, as adopted by the CIPFA Code of Practice, which the Council implemented on 1 April 2024. Under this standard, the distinction between operating and finance leases has been removed for lessees.

At the commencement date of a lease, the Council recognises a right-of-use asset and a corresponding lease liability on the Balance Sheet for all leases, including those previously classified as operating leases, where the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

In determining whether a contract contains a lease and how it should be accounted for, the Council exercises judgement in assessing whether substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred.

This assessment is based on the specific terms of the contract and the underlying economic substance of the arrangement.

The Council applies the recognition exemptions permitted under IFRS 16 for:

- Short-term leases, defined as leases with a term of 12 months or less; and
- Low-value assets, where the individual asset value is below the Council's de minimis threshold of £10,000.

Payments associated with these exempt leases are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Schools

In line with accounting standards and the Code, it has been determined that maintained schools (excluding academies) meet the definition of entities controlled by the Council. Rather than produce Group Accounts, school income and expenditure as well as assets, liabilities and reserves of each school are recognised within the Council's single entity accounts.

The recognition of non-current assets used by the different types of maintained schools has been assessed in line with the provisions of the Code. The Council has reviewed the various arrangements that it has with schools. The decision as to whether the school is recorded on the Council's Balance Sheet is determined by the ownership of the asset and the rights and obligations the legal owner has over the asset.

The types and numbers of schools that have been assessed are shown in the table below.

School Type	No. of Schools 2024/25	No. of Schools 2025/26	On Balance Sheet
Community – Nursery School	2	2	Yes
Community – Primary	22	21	Yes
Community – Secondary	3	3	Yes
Community – Special School	6	6	Yes
Voluntary Aided – Primary	50	50	No
Voluntary Aided – Secondary	5	5	No
Voluntary Controlled – Primary	4	4	No
Foundation – Primary	1	1	No
Foundation – Secondary	2	2	No
Total	**95**	**94**	**32**

The assessment has been based on information obtained in respect of legal title and information provided by the relevant dioceses.

A conclusion has been reached that for all 55 Voluntary Aided and 4 Voluntary Controlled schools, legal title, and/or substantive rights rest with the relevant Diocese and the Diocese has granted a 'mere licence' to the schools to use the Land and Buildings. Under this licence, the rights of use of the land and buildings have not transferred to the school and thus it has been judged not to be included on the Council's Balance Sheet.

In respect of Foundation schools, all 3 are classed as Foundation Trusts, and therefore a separate entity, in this instance a Trust, owns the land and buildings and no transfer of rights have been made to the Council in this respect. Therefore, these are judged not to be included on the Council's Balance Sheet.

Academies are not considered to be maintained schools within the Council's control. The Land and building assets are not owned by the Council and are therefore not included on the Council's Balance Sheet.

Investment Properties

Investment properties have been categorised as such, based on careful consideration of the criteria for recognition identified in IAS 40 Investment Property. Overall, the Council has determined that it holds assets with a value of £55.948m that it judges are held solely for capital appreciation or for the generation of investment income, or both. More information is available in Note 12, Investment Properties.

Airport Investment

The Council has a 3.22% shareholding in Manchester Airport Holdings Limited (MAHL). Following the adoption of accounting standard IFRS 9 Financial Instruments which came into effect on 1 April 2018, the default valuation method of the Council's equity holdings would be Fair Value through Profit and Loss. However, the shareholding is a strategic investment and not held for trading and therefore the Council has designated the investment as fair value through other comprehensive income. It is the Council's view that this is a reasonable and reliable accounting policy for the investment.

In addition, the Council made an equity investment in Manchester Airport Car Park Limited, (along with the other nine Greater Manchester District Councils), which opened at the end of 2020. The Council holds 3 Class C ordinary shares. This shareholding is classed as a financial instrument and held at fair value on the Council's balance sheet. The Council has designated the investment as fair value through other comprehensive income.

The decision to designate these investments as fair value through Other Comprehensive Income is irrevocable and it is the Council's view that this is a reasonable policy for this type of investment.

Pension Guarantees

For strategic and/or operational reasons, the Council has provided several admission agreements to the Greater Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF) to a number of organisations (admission bodies). Each admission body manages the funding of its section of the pension fund through the payment of pension contributions. Each of the admission agreements are underpinned by a pension guarantee from the Council. As guarantor the Council would be required to make good any costs incurred by GMPF as a result of an admission body being unable to meet its pension costs (i.e. if the admission body is unable to pay benefits to its members) as a result of premature termination by reason of insolvency, winding up or liquidation.

Thus, the pension guarantee is only activated by GMPF when an admission body is unable to pay, and all other cost recovery options have been exhausted. At this point GMPF would activate the guarantee and ask the Council to fund the outstanding costs. However, it is unlikely that these costs would ever crystalise resulting in a payment by the Council to GMPF. There are a number of options available to the Council, but it is likely that the pension assets and liabilities of the admission body would be absorbed into the Council's section of the pension fund. Doing this allows GMPF to value the admission body's pension assets and liabilities on a more optimistic going concern (ongoing) valuation basis. This valuation basis will result in an improved pension fund position being absorbed by the Council.

3. 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 different from the assumptions and estimates.

Manchester Airport Group

The Council's holds 3.22% shares in Manchester Airport Holdings Limited. The asset is valued using the earning-based method and discounted cash flow method resulting in the asset being valued at fair value rather than historic cost, therefore requiring an annual valuation. A firm of financial experts and valuers provide an independent valuation which includes reviewing the financial performance, stability and business assumptions of the Manchester Airport Group. The valuation provided is based on estimations and assumptions and therefore should the Council sell its shareholding, the value held in these statements may not be realised. As at 31 March 2026 the Council's valuers advised of a decrease of £5.9m in the fair value of the Council's share from £43.4m to £37.5m. (£2.9m decrease in 2024/25).

The Council also holds an equity investment of £5.610m in Manchester Airport Carpark Limited (MACP). The asset is valued using a discounted cashflow approach using the MACP forecast, meaning that the value of the asset is the sum total of the present value of future cashflows. This method requires an estimate of cash flow into the foreseeable future to which a discount rate must be applied to convert the anticipated monetary return into current day values and an assumption that the 20-year lease for the land will be extended. As at the 31 March 2026 the Council's valuers advised of a decrease of £0.5m from £4.4m to £3.9m (£0.1m Increase in 2024/25).

Pensions

The estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on several 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. The Council engages a firm of consulting actuaries, Hyman Robertson LLP, to provide the Council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.

During 2025/26 the Council's actuaries advised that the net pension asset disclosed in the accounts remained at £0. The actuaries determined that the fair value of pension plan assets outweighed the value of the plan obligations at 31st March 2026. The accounting standard requires that where an asset exists it is measured at the lower of the surplus in the plan or the asset ceiling. The asset ceiling is the present value of any economic benefits available in the form of refunds from the plan, or reductions in future contributions to the plan. The Council has therefore again limited the pension asset recognised in its balance sheet to the asset ceiling, which is £0.

Movement comprises:

- £10.964m actuarial gain on pensions assets and liabilities, inclusive of an adjustment for the asset ceiling.
- -£11.944m loss arising from employer contributions and direct payments of £38.249m being less than the pension obligations of £44.627m.

The impact of changes in actuarial assumptions on the net pension's liability can be measured. For instance, a change in the discount factor of + or – 0.1% would change the underlying liability by £23.103m. A change in earnings of + or – 0.1% would potentially change the total liability by £0.931m. An increase in consumer price inflation on pensions of 0.1% would change the liability by £22.145m.

However, the assumptions interact in complex ways and changes to other estimates and actuarial assumptions may produce a different impact upon the total liability.

Depreciation of Property, Plant and Equipment

Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about the level of repairs and maintenance on them. If the useful life of assets is reduced, then depreciation will increase and the carrying amount of the asset on the Balance Sheet will fall.

Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

The Council's portfolio of operational Land and Buildings is re-valued as part of a 5-year rolling programme (investment and Council dwellings portfolio annually). These asset valuations are prepared in accordance with the requirements of RICS Red Book Global and consider RICS guidance. The valuation of the Council's Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE) is a significant area of estimation uncertainty.

If the actual values differ from the assumptions used to value PPE, there is a risk of material adjustment to the carrying value of PPE within the next financial year. A reduction in estimated valuation would result in a reduction to the Revaluation Reserve and/or a loss recorded in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. An increase in estimation valuation would result in an increase in the Revaluation Reserve and/or gain recorded in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. As an example, the impact of a 10% change in the valuation of the Council's operational property and dwellings would be £151.422m. Note 10, Property, Plant and Equipment, sets out the Council's approach to valuation of its PPE and discloses the carrying value of each asset category.

From 1 April 2025, the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code) requirements changed in respect of revaluations of property, plant and equipment. In the intervening years of the 5-year valuation programme, non-property assets are subject to indexation. These indices are another area of estimation uncertainty due to their generalised nature.

Fair Value

When the fair values of Investment Properties and Surplus Assets cannot be measured based on quoted prices in active markets (i.e. Level 1 inputs), their fair value is measured using the following valuation techniques:

- For Level 2 inputs, quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets at the balance sheet date

- For Level 3 inputs, valuations are based on most recent valuations adjusted to current valuation using indexation and impairment review.

Where possible, the inputs to these valuation techniques are based on observable data, but where this is not possible, judgement is required in establishing fair values. These judgements typically include considerations such as uncertainty and risk. Changes in assumptions used could affect the fair value of the Council's assets and liabilities.

Private Finance Initiative

The Council's Private Finance Initiative arrangement has an implied lease within the agreement. The contract is paid monthly via a unitary charge which covers repayment of the initial capital costs, the ongoing facilities management and lifecycle costs. The Council estimates the implied interest rate within the contract to calculate the interest and principal payments. In addition, the future RPI increase within the contract has been estimated as remaining constant throughout the period of the contract.

The Council adopted the IRFS16 Leasing Accounting Standard for 2024/25. This required the lease within the contract to be re-calculated to reflect appropriate changes in the index-linked inflation within the contract. The lease liability was remeasured on transition, noting there is no overall change to past or future projected unitary charges.

Note 13 Private Finance Initiative discloses the value of future lease payments under the contract.

4. Material items of Income and Expenditure

This note provides details of the material items that have been included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES).

None of the charges impact upon the balances of the Council or upon the Council Tax.

Revaluation, Impairments and Depreciation

As part of the total movement in Property, Plant and Equipment valuations disclosed in Note 10, there were £46.829m upward revaluation movements offset by £39.412m of downward revaluation movements accounted for within the CI&ES, with the majority relating to Operational Land & Buildings. The CI&ES also contains a charge of £55.188m for the annual depreciation of Council assets.

Better Care Fund

As part of the joint operation with NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board (NHS GM ICB), £48.650m of revenue expenditure is included within Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement under Adult Social Care together with £20.680m of income.

5. Expenditure and Funding Analysis

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 directorates. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

2024/25				2025/26		
Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA balances	**Adjustments between the funding and accounting basis**	**Net Expenditure in the CIES**		**Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA balances**	**Adjustments between the funding and accounting basis**	**Net Expenditure in the CIES**
£000	**£000**	**£000**		**£000**	**£000**	**£000**
			People Directorate:			
82,443	1,557	84,001	Adult Social Care and Health	89,972	452	90,424
95,492	9,927	105,419	Children and Families	101,813	4,815	106,629
29,206	2,574	31,780	Leisure & Wellbeing	35,601	-341	35,260
			Places Directorate:			
21,172	14,487	35,658	Economy	15,154	27,292	42,446
52,368	7,546	59,915	Resident Services	44,795	6,081	50,876
-10,279	-9,147	-19,426	HRA	-11,104	-9,965	-21,069
			Resources Directorate:			
18,638	4,107	22,745	Corporate Services	19,902	5,235	25,137
289,041	**31,051**	**320,092**	**Net Cost of Services**	**296,133**	**33,569**	**329,702**
-276,763	-40,877	-317,640	Other Operating Income and Expenditure	-300,633	-60,183	-360,817
12,277	**-9,825**	**2,452**	**Surplus (-) or Deficit on General Fund and HRA Balance in Year**	**-4,501**	**-26,614**	**-31,115**
-130,868			**Opening General Fund and HRA Balance**	**-118,590**		
12,277			Less/Plus (Surplus) or Deficit on General Fund and HRA Balance in Year	4,501		
-118,590			**Closing General Fund and HRA Balance**	**-123,091**		

5a) Note to the Expenditure Funding Analysis

Adjustments from General Fund & HRA to arrive at the CIES	Adjustments for Capital Purposes		Net Change for Pensions Adjustments		Other Adjustments		Total Adjustments	
	2024/25	2025/26	2024/25	2025/26	2024/25	2025/26	2024/25	2025/26
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
People Directorate:								
Adult Social Care and Health	340	1,161	-835	-3,089	2,052	2,380	1,557	452
Children and Families	5,137	-3,586	-5,698	-10,391	10,487	18,792	9,927	4,815
Leisure & Wellbeing	3,970	2,144	-428	-2,069	-968	-416	2,574	-341
Places Directorate:								
Economy	11,206	25,934	-427	-1,293	3,707	2,651	14,487	27,292
Resident Services	10,677	11,325	-778	-2,289	-2,353	-2,955	7,546	6,081
HRA	-546	53	0	0	-8,601	-10,018	-9,147	-9,965
Resources Directorate:								
Corporate Services	2,054	-1,021	2,101	6,257	-48	0	4,107	5,235
Net Cost of Services	**32,839**	**36,009**	**-6,064**	**-12,874**	**4,277**	**10,434**	**31,051**	**33,569**
Other Income and Expenditure	-39,966	-55,639	-457	930	-454	-5,475	-40,877	-60,183
Surplus (-) or Deficit on General Fund and HRA Balance in Year	**-7,128**	**-19,630**	**-6,521**	**11,944**	**3,824**	**4,960**	**-9,825**	**-26,614**

The narrative commentary below provides an explanation of the major adjusting items necessary to reconcile the Expenditure and Funding Analysis deficit on the General Fund to the deficit on the Provision of Services from the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis Deficit represents the statutorily defined charges to the General Fund and HRA, excluding items charged under accounting practices.

Adjustments for Capital Purposes

This column adjusts for depreciation, impairment and revaluation gains and losses in the net cost of services line.

Within the other income and expenditure line, the adjustments relate to:

- Capital disposals with a transfer of income on disposal of assets and the amounts written off for those assets.
- Capital grants receivable in the year without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied in the year.

Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments

This column adjusts for the pension contributions and the addition of Employee Benefits pension expenditure and income calculated under IAS19.

- For net cost of services this represents the removal of the employer pension contributions made by the authority as allowed by statute and the replacement with current service costs and past service costs.
- For other income and expenditure this represents the net interest on the defined benefit liability which is charged to the CIES.

Other Adjustments

This column represents any further differences between amounts debited/credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement which need to be adjusted to reach the statutorily defined charges to the General Fund and HRA. These include:

- For net cost of services, the accumulated absences accrual for compensated absences earned but not taken in year
- For other income and expenditure, this represents the difference between what is chargeable under statutory regulations for Council Tax and NDR that was projected to be received at the start of the year, and the income recognised under generally accepted accounting practices in the Code. This is a timing difference, as any difference will be brought forward in future surpluses or deficits on the Collection Fund
- This also includes the statutory charges for capital financing, i.e., Minimum Revenue Provision and any revenue contributions to capital outlay allowed under the Code.

5b) Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature

	2024/25	2025/26
	£'000	£'000
Expenditure		
Employee Benefits Expenses	388,744	404,946
Other Service Expenses	627,710	696,620
Capital Charges	56,581	33,883
Interest Payable	22,946	22,896
Precepts and Levies	25,361	26,087
Payments to Housing Capital Receipts Pool	0	0
Gain/loss on Disposal of Non-Current Assets	-141	1,635
Gain/loss on Revaluation & Disposal of Investment Property	-445	-15,201
Trading	12,389	11,580
Pension Interest Costs	-143	1,843
Total Expenditure	**1,133,003**	**1,184,289**
Income		
Fees, Charges & Other Service Income	-292,689	-278,449
Interest & Investment Income	-13,531	-10,626
Income from Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates	-272,852	-291,015
Government Grants and Contributions	-506,392	-587,274
Capital Grants	-45,086	-48,040
Total Income	**-1,130,550**	**-1,215,404**
Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services	**2,452**	**-31,115**

6. Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under regulations

2025/26	Usable Reserves						Movement in Unusable Reserves
	General Fund Balance	Earmarked Reserves	Housing Revenue Account	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adjustments involving the CAA:							
Reversal of items debited/credited to the CIES:							
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	30,375	0	24,274	0	0	0	-54,650
Revaluation gains/losses on PP&E	7,828	0	112	0	0	0	-7,939
Movements in the market value of Investment Properties	-15,255	0	-100	0	0	0	15,356
Amortisation of intangible assets	558	0	0	0	0	0	-558
Capital grants and contributions applied	-17,182	0	-1,831	0	0	0	19,013
Income in relation to donated assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	8,921	0	0	0	0	0	-8,921
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CIES	4,599	0	10,217	0	0	0	-14,816
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the CIES:							

Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	-11,838	0	-3,638	0	0	0	15,476
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	-107	0	-9,379	0	0	0	6,486
Adjustments involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account:							
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the CIES	-29,562	0	0	0	0	29,562	0
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the CAA	0	0	0	0	0	-19,615	19,615
Adjustments involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:							
Transfer of sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CIES	-1,043	0	-12,196	0	13,404	0	-164
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	0	0	0	-2,638	0	2,638
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve towards admin costs of non-current asset disposals	0	0	213	0	-213	0	0
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance the payments to the Government capital receipts pool	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adjustments involving the Major Repairs Reserve:							
Reversal of Major Repairs Allowance credited to the HRA	0	0	-20,636	20,636	0	0	0
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	0	0	-20,000	0	0	20,000
Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve:							
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the CIES	36,239	0	0	0	0	0	-36,239

Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	-48,183	0	0	0	0	0	48,183
Adjustments involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account:							
Amount by which Council Tax and NDR income credited to the CIES is different from the amount calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	1,062	0	0	0	0	0	-1,062
Adjustments involving the Accumulated Absences Account:							
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CIES on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	745	0	0	0	0	0	-745
Adjustments primarily involving the Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account:							
Transfer of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) over/(underspend) to the DSG Adjustment Account	0	16,194	0	0	0	0	-16,194
Total Adjustments	**-32,843**	**16,194**	**-9,965**	**636**	**10,553**	**9,947**	**5,478**

2024/25	Usable Reserves						Movement in Unusable Reserves
	General Fund Balance	Earmarked Reserves	Housing Revenue Account	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adjustments involving the CAA:							
Reversal of items debited/credited to the CIES:							
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	24,115	0	23,060	0	0	0	-47,175
Revaluation gains/losses on PP&E	11,030	0	110	0	0	0	-11,140
Movements in the market value of Investment Properties	-461	0	16	0	0	0	445
Amortisation of intangible assets	184	0	0	0	0	0	-184
Capital grants and contributions applied	-20,034	0	-3,165	0	0	0	23,198
Income in relation to donated assets	-961	0	0	0	0	0	961
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	8,687	0	0	0	0	0	-8,687
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CIES	1,455	0	5,315	0	0	0	-6,770
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the CIES:							
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	-6,717	0	-3,601	0	0	0	10,318
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	-1,207	0	-5,000	0	0	0	6,207
Adjustments involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account:							

Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the CIES	-21,588	0	-512	0	0	22,099	0
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the CAA	0	0	0	0	0	-18,875	18,875
Adjustments involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:							
Transfer of sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CIES	-323	0	-6,711	0	7,122	0	-89
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	0	0	0	-4,819	0	4,819
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve towards admin costs of non-current asset disposals	0	0	124	0	-124	0	0
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance the payments to the Government capital receipts pool	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adjustments involving the Major Repairs Reserve:							
Reversal of Major Repairs Allowance credited to the HRA	0	0	-18,783	18,783	0	0	0
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	0	0	-20,002	0	0	20,002
Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve:							
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the CIES	38,106	0	0	0	0	0	-38,106
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	-44,627	0	0	0	0	0	44,627
Adjustments involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account:							
Amount by which council tax and NDR income credited to the CIES is different from council tax and NDR income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	2,329	0	0	0	0	0	-2,329

Adjustments involving the Accumulated Absences Account:							
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CIES on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	292	0	0	0	0	0	-292
Adjustments primarily involving the Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account:							
Transfer of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) over/(underspend) to the DSG Adjustment Account	0	9,040	0	0	0	0	-9,040
Total Adjustments	**-9,718**	**9,040**	**-9,147**	**-1,218**	**2,180**	**3,224**	**5,639**

7. Other Operating Expenditure

2024/25 £ 000		2025/26 £ 000
25,264	Levies	25,977
97	Parish Precepts	111
-141	Gains (-) & Losses on Disposals of Non-Current Assets	1,635
25,220		**27,722**

8. Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

2024/25 £ 000		2025/26 £ 000
22,946	Interest Payable and Similar Charges	22,896
12,389	Trading Accounts	11,580
-143	Net Interest on the Net Defined Benefit Pension Liability (Asset)	1,843
-13,531	Investment Receivable and Similar Income	-10,626
-445	Gains (-) & Losses on Revaluation of Investment Property	-15,356
1	Gains (-) & Losses on Disposal of Investment Property	155
21,218		**10,492**

9. Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income

2024/25 £ 000		2025/26 £ 000
-153,250	Council Tax Income	-159,949
-119,602	Non-Domestic Rates Income	-131,066
-45,086	Capital Grants and Contributions	-48,040
-45,179	Other Non-Ringfenced Grants	-59,976
-961	Donated Asset Additions	0
-364,078		**-399,031**

10. Property, Plant and Equipment

These tables contain details of the movements relating to Property, Plant and Equipment.

	Council Dwellings	Other Land & Buildings	Vehicles Plant and Equipment	Community Assets	Surplus Assets	Assets Under Construction	Total	PFI Assets Included in Other L&B
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or value at 1.4.25	**1,036,581**	**406,753**	**22,594**	**4,921**	**10,855**	**47,002**	**1,528,706**	**35,650**
Additions	27,681	7,175	4,642	910	2,152	46,287	**88,847**	-1,362
Revaluation increases/decreases to Revaluation Reserve	14,934	35,189	0	0	2,653	705	**53,481**	0
Revaluation increases/decreases to surplus/deficit on the provision of services (SDPS)	0	-16,135	0	0	712	0	**-15,423**	-3,773
Indexation increases/decreases to Revaluation Reserve	0	818	0	0	0	0	**818**	0
Indexation increases/decreases to SDPS	0	-700	0	0	0	0	**-700**	0
De-recognition – Disposals	-9,964	-3,574	0	0	-312	0	**-13,849**	0
De-recognition – Other	0	-40	-167	0	0	0	**-207**	0
Reclassified to/from held for sale	0	-1,350	0	0	110	0	**-1,240**	0
Transfers Between Asset Classes	5,238	11,614	0	0	143	-16,985	**11**	0
At 31.3.26	**1,074,471**	**439,750**	**27,069**	**5,831**	**16,313**	**77,010**	**1,640,442**	**30,515**
Depreciation & Impairment at 1.4.25	**22,270**	**10,329**	**7,686**	**0**	**633**	**0**	**40,919**	**571**
Depreciation	24,177	14,128	3,236	0	124	0	**41,665**	633
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	-22,295	-7,200	0	0	-9	0	**-29,504**	0
Depreciation written out to SDPS	0	-7,266	0	0	-164	0	**-7,431**	-667
Impairment losses/reversals to Revaluation Reserve	0	-139	0	0	0	0	**-139**	0
Impairment losses/reversals to SDPS	0	-386	0	0	-525	0	**-912**	0
De-recognition – Disposals	0	-52	0	0	0	0	**-52**	0
De-recognition – Other	0	-40	-167	0	0	0	**-207**	0
Reclassified to/from held for sale	0	-22	0	0	0	0	**-22**	0
Transfers Between Asset Classes	25	-25	0	0	0	0	**0**	0
At 31.3.26	**24,177**	**9,328**	**10,755**	**0**	**58**	**0**	**44,318**	**538**
Net Book Value at 31.3.26	**1,050,294**	**430,423**	**16,313**	**5,831**	**16,255**	**77,010**	**1,596,125**	**29,977**
Net Book Value at 31.3.25	**1,014,311**	**396,424**	**14,908**	**4,921**	**10,222**	**47,002**	**1,487,787**	**35,079**

	Council Dwellings	Other Land & Buildings	Vehicles Plant and Equipment	Community Assets	Surplus Assets	Assets Under Construction	Total	PFI Assets Included in PP & E
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or value at 1.4.24	**968,287**	**416,455**	**18,603**	**3,882**	**11,518**	**35,376**	**1,454,121**	**35,846**
Additions	28,642	13,865	5,179	1,049	2,049	32,416	**83,199**	0
Adjustment as at 1st April 2024 on transition to IFRS 16	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	6,460
Revaluation increases/decreases to Revaluation Reserve	23,737	-1,490	0	15	219	282	**22,762**	0
Revaluation increases/decreases to surplus/deficit on the provision of services (SDPS)	0	-15,163	0	0	-2,254	-69	**-17,486**	-6,656
De-recognition – Disposals	-5,194	-1,192	-987	0	0	0	**-7,373**	0
De-recognition – Other	0	-25	-201	-2	-830	0	**-1,058**	0
Reclassified to/from held for sale	0	-315	0	0	375	0	**60**	0
Transfers Between Asset Classes	21,110	-5,382	0	-23	-220	-21,003	**-5,519**	0
At 31.3.25	**1,036,581**	**406,753**	**22,594**	**4,921**	**10,855**	**47,002**	**1,528,706**	**35,650**
Depreciation & Impairment at 1.4.24	**29,414**	**15,443**	**6,162**	**0**	**965**	**0**	**51,984**	**574**
Depreciation	22,270	8,665	2,581	0	43	0	**33,558**	571
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	-22,151	-5,070	0	0	-7	-16	**-27,244**	0
Depreciation written out to SDPS	0	-3,595	0	0	-41	-8	**-3,645**	-574
Impairment losses/reversals to Revaluation Reserve	-7,263	-2,917	0	0	155	-90	**-10,115**	0
Impairment losses/reversals to SDPS	0	-2,088	0	2	516	-57	**-1,626**	0
De-recognition – Disposals	0	-19	-856	0	0	0	**-874**	0
De-recognition – Other	0	-25	-201	-2	-830	0	**-1,058**	0
Eliminated on reclassification to Held for Sale	0	-3	0	0	0	0	**-3**	0
Transfers Between Asset Classes	0	-61	0	0	-167	171	**-58**	0
At 31.3.25	**22,270**	**10,329**	**7,686**	**0**	**633**	**0**	**40,919**	**571**
Net Book Value at 31.3.25	**1,014,311**	**396,424**	**14,908**	**4,921**	**10,222**	**47,002**	**1,487,787**	**35,079**
Net Book Value at 31.3.24	**938,872**	**401,013**	**12,441**	**3,882**	**10,553**	**35,376**	**1,402,137**	**35,272**

Infrastructure Assets

In accordance with the temporary relief offered by the update to the Code on infrastructure assets, this note does not include disclosure of gross cost and accumulated depreciation for infrastructure assets because historical reporting practices and resultant information deficits mean that this would not faithfully represent the asset position to the users of the financial statements.

The authority has chosen not to disclose this information as the previously reported practices and resultant information deficits mean that gross cost and accumulated depreciation are not measured accurately and would not provide the basis for the users of the financial statements to take economic or other decisions relating to infrastructure assets.

A summary of infrastructure assets on a net book value basis is provided below.

	2024/25	2025/26
	£'000	£'000
Net Book Value (Modified Historical Cost) at 1st April	**162,618**	**165,770**
Additions	14,235	14,079
De-recognition	0	0
Depreciation	-11,083	-11,479
Impairment	0	0
Other Movements	0	0
Net Book Value at 31st March	**165,770**	**168,371**

The authority has determined in accordance with Regulation 30M of the Local Authorities (Capital Financing and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 that the carrying amounts to be derecognised for infrastructure assets when there is replacement expenditure is nil.

Additional Reconciliation to Balance Sheet for Infrastructure Assets

The table below reconciles Note 10 and Infrastructure Assets to the Balance Sheet:

Movement on Balances	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000
Infrastructure Assets	165,770	168,371
Property, Plant and Equipment	1,487,787	1,596,125
Net Book Value at 31st March	**1,653,557**	**1,764,496**

Capital Commitments

As at 31 March 2026, the Council was contractually committed to the following major items of capital work:

	£ 000	Start Date	Projected End Date
Fettlers	72,599	2025	2027
Affordable Housing	4,206	2025	2027
Haigh Hall Bothy	4,849	2025	2027
Leigh Regeneration Scheme	1,695	2025	2026
Our Future Ashton	4,210	2026	2026
HRA Maintenance	23,107	2024	2029

Property, Plant and Equipment Valuation Process

The Council's property portfolio has been valued on the bases outlined below, which accord with the Statements of Asset Valuation Practice and Guidance Notes of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). Valuations of Council Dwellings were undertaken by an external organisation, Savills, and certified by their lead principal surveyor on the contract (MRICS). All other

valuations were undertaken by an external organisation, CBRE, and certified by their lead principal surveyor on the contract (MRICS). Not all properties were inspected, as this wasn't considered by the Valuers to be necessary for the purposes of the valuation. Inspections were carried out between January 2026 and May 2026. The actual date of valuation was 31st March 2026.

From 1 April 2025, the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code) requirements changed in respect of revaluations of property, plant and equipment. Where authorities do not have a rolling programme of revaluations in place and/or the assets are not non-property assets subject to indexation, authorities revalue their assets every five years, with annual indexation applied to assets during the four intervening years. Where authorities cannot obtain indices without undue cost or effort, authorities revalue those assets using a quinquennial revaluation with a desktop revaluation in year three. The indices used by the authority have been provided by Sanderson Weatherall LLP and have been certified by their lead surveyor on the contract (MRICS).

The Code requires gains arising from the revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment to be used initially to reverse previous losses for the asset that have been charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services before crediting the Revaluation Reserve. Revaluation losses and impairments are debited initially to the Revaluation Reserve up to the balance for the asset and thereafter charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services.

The Council carries out a rolling programme of revaluations that ensures that all Property, Plant and Equipment required to be measured at current value is re-valued at least every five years, although material changes to asset valuations are recognised as they occur. Full revaluations are carried out in accordance with RICS Red Book requirements, while indexation reflects market-based movements applied in intervening periods. Although the valuation approaches differ, both are treated equally for accounting purposes under the revaluation model.

Where the current value – existing use value – for a property could not be determined because there was no market value for the asset, the depreciated replacement cost method of valuation was employed. This is in accordance with the Code. All valuations comply with those definitions settled by the International Valuation Standards Committee.

Vehicles, Plant and Equipment are carried at depreciated historical cost basis as a proxy for current value due to the short useful lives and low values of these assets in accordance with the Code.

Property, Plant and Equipment Valuation

By valuation method:

	Council Dwellings	Other Land & Buildings	Vehicles Plant and Equipment	Infrastructure Assets	Community Assets	Surplus Assets	Assets Under Construction	TOTAL
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Depreciated Historical Cost			16,313	168,371	5,831		77,010	**267,525**
Depreciated Replacement Cost		295,927						**295,927**
Current Value – Existing Use Value – Social Housing	1,050,294							**1,050,294**
Current Value – Existing Use Value		134,496						**134,496**
Fair Value – Highest and Best						16,255		**16,255**
Net Book Value at 31.3.26	**1,050,294**	**430,423**	**16,313**	**168,371**	**5,831**	**16,255**	**77,010**	**1,764,496**

By year of valuation:

	Council Dwellings	Other Land & Buildings	Vehicles Plant and Equipment	Infrastructure Assets	Community Assets	Surplus Assets	Assets Under Construction	TOTAL
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Depreciated Historical Cost:			16,313	168,371	5,831		77,010	**267,525**
Valued at Current Value as at: 31st March 2026	1,050,294	362,961				16,255		**1,429,510**
31st March 2025		46,929						**46,929**
31st March 2024		4,347						**4,347**
31St March 2023		9,127						**9,127**
31st March 2022		7,059						**7,059**
Net Book Value at 31.3.26	**1,050,294**	**430,423**	**16,313**	**168,371**	**5,831**	**16,255**	**77,010**	**1,764,496**

Fair Value

The Council's surplus properties have been assessed at a mixture of Levels 2 and 3 for valuation purposes: see the Accounting Policies note for an explanation of fair value levels. The fair value of surplus assets has been measured using the market approach technique, which uses prices and other relevant information generated by market transactions involving identical or comparable (i.e. similar) assets. As the future use of these assets is yet to be determined, the current use cannot be assumed to be highest and best. However, in estimating the fair value of surplus properties, the highest and best use of the properties has been adopted in accordance with the Code.

11. Heritage Assets

Heritage Assets are those assets that are intended to be preserved in trust for future generations because of their cultural, environmental or historic associations. Heritage Assets are preserved principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture, and this distinguishes them from other assets. The Council has three collections of Heritage Assets which are held in support of the primary objective of increasing the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the Council's history, culture and local area.

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 its authenticity. Any impairment is recognised and measured in accordance with the Council's general policies on impairment – see 'impairment' in the Accounting Policies note.

Disposal proceeds are disclosed separately in the notes to the financial statements and are accounted for in accordance with the statutory accounting requirements relating to capital expenditure and capital receipts: see 'disposal' in the Accounting Policies note. The Council's collections of Heritage Assets are accounted for as follows:

Reconciliation of the Carrying Value of Heritage Assets held by the Council

	Art & Artefacts	Civic Regalia	Outside Artwork	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or Valuation				
1 April 2024	**2,201**	**1,632**	**1,519**	**5,352**
Additions	0	0	266	**266**
Disposals	0	0	0	**0**
Revaluations	0	0	0	**0**
Reclassifications	0	0	0	**0**
31 March 2025	**2,201**	**1,632**	**1,785**	**5,618**

	Art & Artefacts	Civic Regalia	Outside Artwork	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or Valuation				
1 April 2025	**2,201**	**1,632**	**1,785**	**5,618**
Additions	0	0	19	**19**
Disposals	0	0	0	**0**
Revaluations	0	0	0	**0**
Reclassifications	0	0	0	**0**
31 March 2026	**2,201**	**1,632**	**1,804**	**5,637**

There has been investment in the year on the sculpture trail at Haigh Hall.

12. Investment Properties

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.

Income from Investment Properties is shown against Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure within the CI&ES. For 2025/26 this amounted to £2.350m (2024/25 2.270m), which is included within the £4.973m lease income shown in Note 39.

Fair Value

The Council's investment property portfolio has been assessed at Level 2 for valuation purposes (see Accounting Policies for a description of the fair value hierarchy). The fair value has been measured using the market approach technique, which uses prices and other relevant information generated by market transactions involving identical or comparable (i.e. similar) assets. In estimating the fair value of the Council's investment properties, the highest and best use of the properties has been adopted and is deemed to be their current use.

A breakdown of investment property types is shown below as at 31st March 2026:

Recurring Fair Value Measurements Using:	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	
	Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets	Other significant observable inputs	Significant unobservable inputs	Fair Value at 31 March 2026
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Airport Land Holding		11,318		**11,318**
Commercial Land		27,453		**27,453**
Commercial Units		1,120		**1,120**
Industrial Land and Units		16,035		**16,035**
Office Units		23		**23**
Total	**0**	**55,948**	**0**	**55,948**

Comparative year as at 31st March 2025:

Recurring Fair Value Measurements Using:	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	
	Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets	Other significant observable inputs	Significant unobservable inputs	Fair Value at 31 March 2025
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Airport Land Holding		11,044		**11,044**
Commercial Land		20,662		**20,662**
Commercial Units		1,105		**1,105**
Industrial Land and Units		8,009		**8,009**
Office Units		86		**86**
Total	**0**	**40,905**	**0**	**40,905**

Movement in Investment Properties

Sensitivity data has not been provided for the remaining portfolio of smaller assets, containing a mix of commercial land holdings, industrial sites, shops and advertising sites.

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

	2024/25	2025/26
	£000	£'000
Balance at start of the year	**40,391**	**40,905**
Additions:	71	2
Disposals	-1	-315
Net gains / losses (-) from fair value adjustments	445	15,356
Transfers:		
to (-) / from Property, Plant and Equipment	0	0
Balance at end of the year	**40,905**	**55,948**

The changes in fair value of investment property in 2025/26 is attributable to a £0.274m gain on the airport land holding, with the remaining changes attributable to the other assets.

13. Private Finance Initiative (PFI)

The Wigan Joint Service Centre (JSC) is under a 25-year PFI contract that began in 2011/12. The contract was for the construction and maintenance of the facility. The Centre is split between two sites:

- the Wigan Life Centre and Healthy Living Zone containing office accommodation, a swimming pool and a fitness suite.
- the Learning, Information and Neighbourhood Zone containing a library, office accommodation and registrars.

The PFI operator is still responsible for all building maintenance of the sites.

The contract specifies minimum standards for the services to be provided by the contractor, with deductions from the fee payable being made if facilities are unavailable or performance is below the minimum standards.

The building and equipment will be transferred to the Council at the end of the 25-year contract.

Payments

The Council makes monthly payments which comprise a service charge, a lease rental and an interest charge. The service provider throughout the contractual term will pay for the repair and replacement of the premises and fixture and fittings with the consent of the Council. 30% of the unitary payment is subject to an annual inflation increase in line with the RPI.

The Council adopted the IRFS16 Leasing Accounting Standard during the 2024/25 financial year and applying these principles require the lease within the PFI contract to be re-calculated on an annual basis to reflect appropriate changes in the index-linked inflation within the contract. This change in policy does not affect the cash value of past or future actual unitary charge payments, but re-measures the lease liability and impacts the split of the unitary charge.

Payments remaining to be made under the contract as at 31 March 2026 (excluding any estimation of performance deductions) are as follows:

	Repayment of Liability	Repayment of Interest	Payment for Services	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Payable in 2026/27	2,557	4,985	2,136	9,678
Within 2 – 5 years	9,686	16,575	12,453	38,714
Within 6 – 10 years	20,936	12,658	14,799	48,393
Within 11 – 15 years	7,010	871	1,798	9,679
Total	40,189	35,089	31,186	106,464

The comparative figures as at 31 March 2025 are shown below:

	Repayment of Liability	Repayment of Interest	Payment for Services	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Payable in 2025/26	1,063	4,978	3,284	9,325
Within 2 – 5 years	11,311	17,102	9,907	38,320
Within 6 – 10 years	20,171	13,618	16,610	50,399
Within 11 – 15 years	10,233	1,199	4,294	15,726
Total	**42,778**	**36,897**	**34,095**	**113,770**

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

The liability outstanding to pay the liability to the contractor for capital expenditure incurred is as follows, noting the re-measurement during the year for the implementation of IFRS16:

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	£'000	**£'000**	**£'000**
Balance at start of the year	38,385	42,778	40,189
IFRS16 Remeasurement	6,460	-1,394	0
Payments during the year	-2,067	-1,195	-2,557
Balance outstanding at year-end	**42,778**	**40,189**	**37,632**

The PFI liability represents the outstanding long-term liability to the contractor for capital expenditure. This is deemed to be an appropriate proxy for the fair value as the actual borrowing lies with the PFI provider and not the Council.

The fair value is defined as 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 change in liability in 2025/26 is attributable to the liability re-measurement requirement of IFRS16 and has been offset by an equal decrease in the value of PFI assets on the balance sheet (see note 10). Despite this change, the remaining payments will reduce the liability to nil by the final year of the contract.

The Council receives PFI grant from the Government to part fund the scheme, the annual grant is £6.023m. The Council is committed to making gross payments estimated at £106.463m (2024/25 £113.770m). However, the net cost to the Council after the PFI grant is £40.210m (2024/25 £45.253m).

14. Intangible Assets

The Council accounts for major items of software as intangible assets. The intangible assets are purchased licences and capitalised development costs.

All software is given 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 7 to 10 years, minor items of software are 3 to 5 years.

The carrying amount of intangible assets is amortised on a straight-line basis. The amortisation of £0.558m charged to revenue in 2025/26 was charged to the appropriate Service Revenue Account.

The movement on intangible asset balances during the year is as follows:

	2024/25	2025/26
	£'000	£'000
Balance at start of year:		
Gross carrying amounts	1,688	5,801
Accumulated amortisation	-358	-542
Net carrying amount at start of year	**1,330**	**5,259**
Additions:		
Purchases	4,113	1,498
Amortisation for the period	-184	-558
Removals:		
Write out gross carrying amounts of fully amortised assets	0	-374
Write out accumulated amortisation of fully amortised assets	0	374
Net carrying amount at end of year	**5,259**	**6,200**
Comprising:		
Gross carrying amounts	5,801	6,926
Accumulated amortisation	-542	-726
Total	**5,259**	**6,200**

The items of capitalised software / development costs are as follows:

	Carrying Amount		Remaining Amortisation Period
	31 March 2025	31 March 2026	
	£'000	£'000	
Civica Digital 360	22	0	0 Years
IT Transformation Costs	5,238	6,200	10 Years
Total	**5,259**	**6,200**	

15. Impairment Losses

During 2025/26, including Investment Property, the Council recognised total impairment losses of £0.039m (2024/25 £1.266m). Note 10 - Property Plant and Equipment analyses the net impairment movements between the Revaluation Reserve and Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services. The table below breaks down impairment losses by asset category:

Category	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000
Council Dwellings	0	0
Land & Buildings (including PFI)	374	39
Plant, Vehicles & Equipment	0	0
Infrastructure	0	0
Community Assets	2	0
Surplus Assets	890	0
Assets Under Construction	0	0
Assets Held for Sale	0	0
Investment Property	0	0
Intangible Assets	0	0
Right of Use Assets	0	0
Total	**1,266**	**39**

16. 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 Finance Requirement (CFR), a measure of the capital expenditure incurred historically by the Council that has yet to be financed.

2024/25		2025/26
£'000		**£'000**
556,383	**Opening Capital Financing Requirement**	592,496
7,590	**Right-of-use assets brought onto the Balance Sheet under IFRS16 at 01.04.2024**	0
	Capital Investment:	
91,107	Property, Plant and Equipment	104,428
266	Heritage Assets	19
4,113	Intangible Assets	1,498
8,687	Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	8,921
0	Loans	0
1,259	Right of Use Assets brought onto the balance sheet under IFRS16	366
6,460	Remeasurement of PFI Liability under IFRS16	-1,394
	Sources of Finance:	
-4,819	Capital Receipts	-2,638
-42,074	Government Grants and Other Contributions	-38,628
	Sums set aside from Revenue:	
-26,208	Direct Revenue Contributions	-26,486
-10,268	MRP	-15,476
592,496	**Closing Capital Financing Requirement**	**623,106**
	Explanation of Movements During Year	
36,112	Increase / Decrease (-) in underlying need to borrow (unsupported by Government financial assistance)	30,610
36,112	**Increase / Decrease (-) in Capital Financing Requirement**	**30,610**

17. Financial Instruments

Categories of Financial Instruments

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

Financial Assets	Non current				Current				Total 2025/26 £ 000
	Investments		Debtors		Investments		Debtors		
	2024/25	2025/26	2024/25	2025/26	2024/25	2025/26	2024/25	2025/26	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Fair Value through Profit & Loss	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Amortised Cost	6	6	40,958	39,207	19,698	26,478	58,184	61,830	**127,521**
Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income – designated equity instruments	47,800	41,400	0	0	0	0	0	0	**41,400**
Total Financial Assets	**47,806**	**41,406**	**40.958**	**39,207**	**19,698**	**26,478**	**58,184**	**61,830**	**168,921**
Assets not defined as financial instruments e.g. VAT, NDR, Council Tax, RIA	0	0	0	0	0	0	35,745	49,047	**49,047**
Total	**47,806**	**41,406**	**40,958**	**39,207**	**19.698**	**26,478**	**93,929**	**110,877**	**217,968**

Financial Liabilities	Non current				Current				Total 2025/26 £ 000
	Borrowings		Creditors		Borrowings		Creditors		
	2024/25	2025/26	2024/25	2025/26	2024/25	2025/26	2024/25	2025/26	
	£'000		£'000		£'000		£'000	£'000	
Fair Value through profit and loss	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Amortised Cost	-381,211	-412,014	-2,027	-45,080	-7,447	-29,375	-38,282	-44,580	**-472,299**
Total Financial Liabilities	**-381,211**	**-412,014**	**-2,027**	**-45,080**	**-7,447**	**-29,375**	**-38,282**	**-44,580**	**-472,299**
Items not defined as financial instruments e.g. VAT, NDR, Council Tax, RIA	0	0	-42,842	-37,809	0	0	-30,757	-23,799	**-61,608**
Total	**-381,211**	**-412,014**	**-44,869**	**-82,889**	**-7,447**	**-29,375**	**-69,039**	**-68,379**	**-533,907**

The Council has a 3.22% shareholding in Manchester Airport Holdings Limited. Under accounting standard IFRS 9 'Financial Instruments', investments in equity are to be classified as fair value through profit and loss unless there is an irrevocable election to designate the asset as fair value through Other Comprehensive Income.

The Manchester Airport Holdings Limited shareholding is a strategic investment and not held for trading, and therefore the Council has opted to designate them as fair value through Other Comprehensive Income. This means that there is no impact on the revenue budget and the decision to designate to fair value through Other Comprehensive Income is irrevocable. Any gains or losses on the valuation of the shareholdings will therefore be transferred to a Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve.

Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

	2024/25		2025/26	
	Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	**Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure**	**Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services**	**Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure**
	£'000	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
Net gains / losses on:				
Investments in equity instruments designated at fair value through Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	-2,800	0	-6,400
Total net gains / losses	**0**	**-2,800**	**0**	**-6,400**
Interest Revenue				
Financial assets measured at amortised cost	-6,749	0	-5,541	0
Other financial assets	-4,817	0	-4,340	0
Total Interest Revenue	**-11,566**	**0**	**-9,881**	**0**
Interest Expense	24,637	0	22,791	0
Total Interest Expense	**24,637**	**0**	**22,791**	**0**
Fee Expense				
Financial assets or financial liabilities that are not at fair value through profit or loss	1	0	0	0
Total Fee Expense	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities

Financial liabilities, financial assets represented by loans and receivables and long-term debtors and creditors are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost. Their fair value can be assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that will take place over the remaining term of the instruments (Level 2 inputs), using the following assumptions:

- estimated ranges of interest rates at 31 March 2026 for loans from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) and for short-term 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, carrying amount is assumed to approximate to fair value
- the fair value of trade and other receivables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount

The fair values calculated are as follows:

Financial Liabilities	2024/25		2025/26	
	Carrying amount	Fair value	Carrying amount	Fair value
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
PWLB borrowing	-386,363	-296,340	-439,395	-341,047
Long-term creditors	-41,715	-41,715	-37,675	-37,675

The difference between the carrying amount and the fair value measures the additional interest that the Council will pay over the remaining terms of the loans with the PWLB, against what would be paid if the loans were at prevailing market rates.

However, the Council has a continuing ability to borrow at concessionary rates from the PWLB rather than the markets. If the Council were to seek to realise the projected gain by repaying the loans to the PWLB, the PWLB would raise a penalty charge for early redemption in addition to charging a premium for the additional interest that now has to be paid.

The fair value calculation for early redemption including the penalty charge would be £366.867m (£324.780m in 2024/25). The fair value of the liabilities is lower than the carrying amount because the Council's portfolio of loans

include several fixed-rate loans where the interest rate payable is lower than the rates available for similar loans at the balance sheet date.

Financial Assets	2024/25		2025/26	
	Carrying amount	Fair value	Carrying amount	Fair value
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
At Fair Value through Other CI&E				
Long-Term Investments	47,800	47,800	41,406	41,406
At Fair Value through profit and loss				
Long-Term Investments	-	-	-	-
At Amortised Cost				
Cash & Cash Equivalents	19,698	19,698	13,130	13,130
Long-Term Debtors	40,957	43,631	39,207	40,819

The fair value of the assets is greater than the carrying amount because the Council's portfolio of investments include several fixed-rate loans where the interest rate receivable is higher than the rates available for similar loans at the balance sheet date.

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

Long-Term Investments

The value of investments held at 31 March 2026 is analysed below:

2024/25 £ 000		Input level in Fair Value Hierarchy	2025/26 £ 000
43,400	Shareholdings in: The Manchester Airports Group Plc	Level 2	37,500
4,400	Shareholdings in: Manchester Airport Car Park – C Shares	Level 2	3,900
6	Other Investments		6
47,806			**41,406**

Manchester Airport Group

The Council's shareholding in Manchester Airport Group is 3.22% as at 31 March 2025. The shares in this company are a strategic investment and not held for trading, therefore the Council has opted to designate it as fair value through Other comprehensive Income. This means that there is no impact on the revenue budget and the Council's decision to designate it is irrevocable. Any gains or losses on the valuation of the shareholding will therefore be transferred to a Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve.

The shares in this company are not traded in an active market; the fair value shown above has been based on valuation techniques that are observable for the asset on an open-market basis. The earnings-based method (EBITA) has been used based on data for comparable quoted companies operating in the same sector. These shares are subject to an annual valuation. In 2025/26 this has seen a decrease in value of £5.9m.

The Council holds an equity investment in Manchester Airport Car Park Ltd of £5.610m (along with the other nine Greater Manchester District Councils). This investment was to assist the funding of the capital build of a car park in return for the issue of 3 C shares in Manchester Airport Car Park Ltd. The value decreased by £0.5m to £3.9m. The shareholding will be classed as a financial instrument and held at fair value on the Council's Balance Sheet. Under IFRS 9 the shareholding will be designated as a strategic investment and not held for trading; therefore, the Council has opted to designate it as fair value through Other Comprehensive Income. This would mean there is no impact on the Revenue budget and the Council's decision to designate is irrevocable.

Long-Term Debtors

These are debtors which are not immediately due and payable but are repayable over a period of time. The following table shows the breakdown. The Code requires the disclosure of the fair value alongside the carrying value held on the Balance Sheet.

2024/25 Fair Value	2024/25 Carrying Value		2025/26 Fair Value	2025/26 Carrying Value
£000	**£000**		**£000**	**£000**
32,896	30,223	The Manchester Airports Group Plc	31,835	30,223
8,546	8,546	Manchester Airport – accrued interest	6,960	6,960
1,769	1,769	Renovation Loans	1,609	1,609
420	420	Housing – Insulation Loans	415	415
43,631	**40,957**		**40,819**	**39,207**

Short-Term Deposits

During the year, the Council invested its revenue balances, reserves and capital receipts externally in short-term deposits. At 31 March 2026 £43.175m was invested in this way (£29.890m at 31 March 2025) as follows:

2024/25		2025/26
£'000		**£'000**
13,890	Banks	0
16,000	Local Authorities	18,000
0	Money Market Funds	25,175
29,890		**43,175**

Please note that short-term deposits are held on the Balance Sheet under cash and cash equivalents.

Long-Term Borrowing

The tables below show the source of loans outstanding, the movements during the year and an analysis of current borrowings by maturity date.

2024/25	Source of Loan Outstanding	Increases in year	Decreases in year	2025/26
£'000		**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
-381,201	Public Works Loans Board	-30,803	-	- 412,003
-11	Individuals	-11	-	- 11
-381,212		**- 30,792**	**-**	**- 412,014**

2024/25	An Analysis by maturity is:	2025/26
£'000		**£'000**
-6,197	Over 1 year but not over 2 years	-75,284
-43,418	Over 2 years but not over 5 years	-40,514
-119,493	Over 5 years but not over 10 years	-97,115
-13,006	Over 10 years but not over 15 years	-5,008
-5,008	Over 15 years but not over 20 years	-7
-5,006	Over 20 years but not over 25 years	-5,004
-189,083	Over 25 years	-189,082
-381,212		**-412,014**

The accrued interest associated with PWLB loans is £1.194m. This is included under current liabilities and will be paid in 2026/27.

Short-Term Borrowing

At 31 March 2026 Short Term Borrowing outstanding was £29.375m (£7.447m in 2024/25) as follows:

2024/25		2025/26
£'000		**£'000**
-5,152	Public Work Loans Board	-26,197
-711	Accrued Interest – Public Work Loans Board	-1,194
-1,548	Temporary Loans	-1,949
-36	Accrued Interest – Temporary Loans	-35
-7,447		**- 29,375**

18. Other Long-Term Liabilities

Long Term Liabilities are liabilities which are payable beyond the next financial year. At 31 March 2026, these totalled £82.889m.

2024/25		Note	2025/26
£'000			**£'000**
-38,789	Pensions	**40**	-37,809
-41,715	PFI	**13**	-37,632
-5,239	IFRS16 Liabilities	**39**	-4,748
-1,174	Tenant/Contractor Retentions		-1,195
-1,980	Deferred Income (PFI)		-1,505
-88,897	**Balance as at 31 March**		**-82,889**

The PFI liability represents the outstanding long-term liability to the contractor for capital expenditure (see Note 13). A fair value disclosure has not been provided for the PFI liability as the actual borrowing lies with the PFI provider and not the Council. The fair value is defined as 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. There is no basis on which the Council can exchange a financial liability held by a third party, as they are not directly a market participant.

19. Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments

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

- credit risk – the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the Council
- liquidity risk – the possibility that the Council might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments
- market risk – the possibility that financial loss might arise for the Council because of changes in such measures as interest rates and stock market movements
- refinancing risk – the possibility that the Council might be required to renew a financial instrument on maturity at disadvantageous rates or terms

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 under policies approved in the annual Treasury Management Policy.

The Council has adopted CIPFA's Treasury Management in the Public Services "Code of Practice". In accordance with the Code the Council sets an annual Treasury Management Policy containing a number of measures to control financial instrument risks including;

- Approved methods of raising finance
- Limits on external borrowing
- Policy on sources and types of borrowing
- Investment Policy, including approved counterparties for lending purposes

Credit risk

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the Council's customers. This risk is minimised

through the annual Treasury Management Policy, which requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet identified minimum credit criteria.

The Council applies the creditworthiness service provided by Link Asset Services. This service employs a sophisticated approach incorporating:

- Credit ratings from all three credit rating agencies
- Credit watches and credit outlooks from all three rating agencies
- Credit Default Swap (CDS) spreads to give an early warning of likely changes in credit ratings

This modelling approach combines credit ratings, credit watches and credit outlooks in a weighted scoring system which is then combined with an overlay of CDS spreads to create colour-coded bands. These colour codes are used to indicate relative creditworthiness of counterparties and the suggested maximum investment period.

The annual Treasury Management Policy also imposes a maximum sum or percentage to be invested with financial institutions. Due to the current shortage of high-quality counterparties, a percentage limit was introduced to be utilised in periods of high investment balances.

The full investment policy for 2025/26 was approved by Council on 20th February 2025 and is available on the Council's website.

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

Financial Asset	Criteria	Maximum Investment £ 000	Or % Limit (if greater)
Deposits with Part Nationalised Banks	Short Term: F1	15,000	45%
Deposits with Banks	Long Term: A -		35%
Deposits with Building Societies	Short Term: F1	10,000	
Deposits with Money Market Funds / Ultra Short Dated Bond Funds	AAA by 2 or more rating agencies	45,000 Overall, 15,000 per MMF	
UK Government Gilts and Treasury Bills	UK Sovereign Rating	5,000 in total	

Deposits with Local Authorities	N/A	10,000 per LA	
Deposits with NHS Bodies	N/A	15,000	

There may be occasions when the counterparty ratings from one rating agency are marginally lower than these ratings but may still be used. In these instances, consideration will be given to the whole range of ratings available, or other topical market information, to support their use.

Amounts arising from Expected Credit Losses

We have assessed the Council's short- and long-term investments and concluded that the expected credit loss is not material; therefore, no allowances have been made.

A summary of the credit quality of the Council's investments at 31st March 2026 is shown below, along with the potential maximum exposure to Credit Risk, based on experience of default and un-collectability.

Deposits with Banks and other Financial Institutions	Amount as at 31st March 2026	Lowest LT Credit Rating	Historical Risk of Default	Product of Investment and historical risk
	£000		%	£000
Call Accounts				
Fixed Term Deposits				
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council	5,000	AA-	0.000%	0
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council	5,000	AA-	0.000%	0
Harlow District Council	5,000	AA-	0.001%	0
Harlow District Council	3,000	AA-	0.002%	0
	18,000			**0**

The following analysis summarises the Council's potential maximum exposure to credit risk for Trade Debtors based on the experience of the default and collectability risk over the last three financial years.

2024/25	Area	2025/26	Historical experience of default	Historical experience adjusted for market conditions	Estimated maximum exposure to default and un collectability
		A	B	C	A x B
£'000		£'000	%	%	£'000
93,929	Trade Debtors	124,225	0.89%	0.00%	1,102

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.

The Council does not generally allow credit for customers but some of the current balance is past its due date for payment.

The past-due amount can be analysed as follows:

2024/25		2025/26
£'000		£'000
15,625	Less than three months	15,625
1,965	Three to six months	1,965
3,228	Six months to one year	3,228
8,181	More than one year	8,181
28,999		**28,999**

Liquidity risk

The Council has a comprehensive cash flow management system that seeks to ensure that cash is available as needed. If unexpected movements happen, the Council has ready access to borrowing from the money markets and the Public Works Loans Board. There is no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments. Instead, the risk is that the Council will be bound to replenish a significant proportion of its borrowings at a time of unfavourable interest rates. The annual Treasury Strategy sets a maturity profile which ensures that loans mature across a spread of years.

The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is shown below:

2024/25 £ 000		2025/26 £ 000
-6,700	Up to 1 year	-26,197
-6,197	Over 1 year but not over 2 years	-75,284
-43,418	Over 2 years but not over 5 years	-40,514
-119,493	Over 5 years but not over 10 years	-97,115
-13,006	Over 10 years but not over 15 years	-5,008
-5,008	Over 15 years but not over 20 years	-7
-5,006	Over 20 years but not over 25 years	-5,004
-189,083	Over 25 years	-189,083
-387,911		**- 438,212**

Market risk

Interest rate risk

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

- borrowings 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
- investments at fixed rates – the fair value of the assets will fall.

The Council specifically has a policy on interest rate exposures which states:

- the Council is required to set upper limits to its exposures to the effects of changes in interest rates for both fixed interest rate and variable rate loans
- it has been Council policy to borrow at fixed rates of interest, and it is recommended that this will continue.

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

	2025/26 £ 000
Daily average investment balance (average rate of interest 5.04%)	58,966
Assuming interest rates 1% higher additional interest received	590
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate borrowings liabilities (no impact on Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement)	23,030

Price risk

The Council does not generally invest in equity shares, but does have a shareholding in Manchester Airport Holdings Ltd. The Council has elected to designate the shareholdings as Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. Any change in valuation is charged to the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve, therefore does not impact upon the CIES.

Foreign exchange risk

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

20. Short-Term Debtors

An analysis of debtors which fall due within one year is shown below:

2024/25		2025/26
£'000		**£'000**
61,676	Other Entities and Individuals	69,067
17,957	Central Government Bodies	26,521
9,262	NHS Bodies	7,461
5,034	Other Local Authorities	7,828
93,929	**Net Total**	**110,877**

21. Debtors for Local Taxation

The past due but not impaired amount for local taxation (Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates) can be analysed by age as follows:

2024/25		2025/26
£'000		**£'000**
11,409	Less than one year	11,480
5,548	One year to two years	7,228
16,550	More than two years	21,489
33,507		**40,197**

22. Cash and Cash Equivalents

The balance of cash and cash equivalents is made up of the following elements:

2024/25		2025/26
£'000		**£'000**
50	Cash held by the Council (Petty Cash)	37
26,872	Bank Current Accounts - Schools	18,830
-37,114	Bank Current Accounts - Council	-35,565
29,890	Short-term deposits	43,176
19,698	**Total Cash and Cash Equivalents**	**26,478**

The Cash Overdrawn element (£35.565m) is included within Cash and Cash Equivalents as it is deemed to be integral to the Council's cash management.

23. Cash Flow Adjustments Analysis

2024/25	Adjust Net Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services for Non Cash Movements	2025/26
£'000		**£'000**
-47,175	Depreciation	-54,650
-184	Amortisation	-558
-10,696	Impairment and Revaluation Losses	7,416
-10,911	Increase +/- decrease in Creditors	5,152
2,463	Increase +/- decrease in Debtors	18,367
81	Increase +/- decrease in Inventories	-192
1,794	Increase +/- decrease in Provisions	548
6,521	Movement in Pension Liability	11,944
-6,770	Carrying amount of non-current assets and non-current assets held for sale, sold or derecognised	-14,816
-40	Other non-cash items charged to net surplus and deficit on the provision of services	94
-64,916	**Total**	**-26,695**

2024/25 Restated	Adjust for Items Included in the Net Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services that are Investing and Financing Activities	2025/26
£'000		£'000
7,034	Sale of PPE	13,239
49.729	Capital Grants credited to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services	48.039
-342	Other adjustments	0
56,421	**Total**	**61,278**

As at 01/04/24	Financing Cashflows Restated	Non Cash Charges	As at 31/03/25	Reconciliation of liabilities arising from financing activities	As at 01/04/25	Financing Cashflows	Non Cash Charges	As at 31/03/26
£'000	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**		**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
386,363	-5,175	24	381,212	Long-term borrowing	381,212	50,802	-20,000	412,014
0	0	5,239	5,239	Long-term Lease Liabilities	5,239	0	-491	4,748
14,132	-6,685	0	7,447	Short-term borrowing	7,447	1,928	20,000	29,375
0	0	1,544	1,544	Short-term Lease Liabilities	1,544	-1,379	882	1,047
38,227	-1,905	6,143	42,465	On-Balance-Sheet PFI liabilities	42,465	-1,194	1,081	40,189
438,722	**-13,765**	**12,950**	**437,907**	**Total**	**437,907**	**50,157**	**1,472**	**487,373**

The 2024/25 in the table above has been restated to correct a signage error

24. Assets Held for Sale

These are assets that are being actively marketed for sale at a price that is reasonable to the current value. The sale is highly probable and likely to occur within 12 months.

	2024/25	2025/26
	£'000	£'000
Balance outstanding at start of the year	**1,249**	**1,053**
Assets newly classified as held for sale:		
Property, Plant and Equipment	312	1,328
Revaluation losses	-62	-75
Revaluation gains	140	0
Impairment losses	0	0
Assets declassified as held for sale:		
Property, Plant and Equipment	-375	-110
Assets sold	-271	-703
Other Movements	60	23
Balance outstanding at year-end	**1,053**	**1,516**

25. Creditors

An analysis of creditors which are due and payable within one year is shown below:

2024/25		2025/26
£'000		**£'000**
-47,798	Other Entities and Individuals	-45,713
-13,183	Central Government and NHS Bodies	-6,099
-5,804	Other Local Authorities	-16,365
-66,785	**Net Total**	**-68,177**

When grants are received in year which have conditions remaining, they are treated as Grants Receipts in Advance and are held under current liabilities on the Balance Sheet until the conditions are met.

2024/25		2025/26
£'000		**£'000**
-2,254	Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	-202
-2,254	**Net Total**	**-202**

26. Provisions

Short-Term Provisions

	Insurance Fund	Business Rates Appeals	Adult Services Supplier Refunds	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1 April 2025	**1,751**	**2,935**	**33**	**4,719**
Additional provisions made in 2025/26	850	0	0	**850**
Amounts used in 2025/26	-1,117	-2,046	-7	**-3,170**
Unused amounts reversed in 2025/26	0	0	0	0
Balance at 31 March 2026	**1,484**	**889**	**26**	**2,399**

Long-Term Provisions

	Insurance Fund
	£'000
Balance at 1 April 2025	**2,816**
Additional provisions made in 2025/26	1,773
Amounts used in 2025/26	0
Unused amounts reversed in 2025/26	0
Balance at 31 March 2026	**4,589**

These amounts have been set aside to cover the following potential liabilities:

Insurance

At 31 March 2026 the Council held an insurance provision of £6.073m. This is for future payments of claims made or yet to be made for incidents which occurred before 31 March 2026. These include incidents where a legal liability arises and incidents of damage to Council property. The costs of premium payments, settlement of claims and risk management are shown as increases to the provision in 2025/26. Potential settlement values are assessed by an independent actuary.

Business Rates Appeals

Following the introduction of the Business Rates Retention Scheme in April 2013 local authorities are now liable for their share of successful appeals and valuation changes as a result of checks and challenges to rateable values of business in the borough agreed by the VOA. Checks, challenges and appeals result in business rate refunds against amounts billed in previous years. The Council has set aside a provision for any potential liabilities based on the value of lodged checks, challenges and appeals at the balance sheet date and the likelihood of their success based on past trends.

For 2025/26, as part of the Greater Manchester 100% Business Rates retention pilot the Council is responsible for a 99% share of this liability, along with Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority being responsible for 1%.

27. Transfers to / from Earmarked Reserves

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund in earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans. It also shows the amounts used in year to meet General Fund expenditure in 2025/26.

	Balance at 31.3.24	Trans to Unusable reserves	In year realign.	Trans. Out	Trans. in	Balance at 31.3.25	In year realign.	Trans. Out	Trans. in	Balance at 31.3.26
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Organisational Transformation & Invest to Save Reserve	40,113	0	-10	-9,730	1,535	31,907	-1,500	-4,505	5,436	31,338
Community & Neighbourhood Investment Reserve	8,020	0	10	-1,951	508	6,587	0	-1,258	167	5,496
Corporate Risk Reserves	16,374	0	0	-5,334	0	11,040	0	-2,723	2,815	11,132
Schools Reserves	21,453	700	9,040	-11,206	4,497	23,784	0	-479	1,098	24,403
Grants Reserves	14,924	0	0	-5,735	2,858	12,047	0	-2,282	3,690	13,455
Total Usable Reserves Earmarked	**100,883**	**700**	**9,040**	**-33,956**	**9,398**	**85,365**	**-1,500**	**-11,247**	**13,206**	**85,824**

Details of the categories and purpose of other earmarked reserves are set out below.

Organisational Transformation and Invest to Save:

These reserves are held to support upfront ("pump-priming") investment in transformation initiatives that deliver service improvements, efficiencies, and better outcomes for residents. They enable the Council to invest in change programmes that generate future savings or enhance service delivery.

Community and Neighbourhood Investment:

These reserves represent funds earmarked to support investment in community partners. They recognise the importance of strong and resilient community assets in supporting service delivery and contributing to the Council's overall financial sustainability.

Corporate Risk and Budget Stabilisation:

These reserves are maintained to manage financial risks that could otherwise destabilise the Council's in-year budget position. They are used to address one-off costs, unforeseen pressures, or emerging risks, ensuring continuity of service delivery without disruption.

Schools Balances:

These Balances are not available to use to support the Council's General Fund.

- **Schools Balances – Delegated Fund (non DSG)**

This represents the total balances held by all maintained schools within the borough. These funds sit with schools and are not part of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

- **Schools Balances – Direct Funding (non DSG)**

This reserve relates to non-delegated funds which schools have received directly for specific investment in technology, equipment and learning resources. These balances are not DSG.

Grants

These reserves reflect the timing difference between receipt and application of external funding provided for specific purposes. The use of these funds is often subject to conditions set by the funding body and is not fully within the Council's discretion.

28. Usable Reserves

General Fund Balance: This is a statutory fund to hold Council balances to safeguard against risks identified in the Local Government Act.

Earmarked General Fund Reserves: Reserves set aside to fund specific future spend, as detailed in Note 27.

Housing Revenue Account: Represents balances remaining from the Housing Revenue Account held to fund future expenditure in connection with the Council's landlord function.

Major Repairs Reserve: A reserve to holds balances available for funding capital expenditure on the Council's housing stock.

Capital Grant Unapplied Reserve: This reserve holds capital grants and contributions received which have no outstanding grant conditions but have yet to be applied to meet the relevant capital expenditure.

Capital Receipts Reserve: This holds proceeds the Council has received from the sale of assets, which by statute can only be used to fund capital expenditure.

Movements in the Authority's usable reserves are detailed in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Movements within the Usable Capital Receipts Reserve are shown in Note 6.

29. Unusable Reserves

2024/25		2025/26
£'000		**£'000**
859,755	Capital Adjustment Account	876,230
297,279	Revaluation Reserve	373,520
31,976	Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve	25,576
-38,789	Pensions Reserve	-37,809
-6,069	Employee Accumulated Absences Account	-6,814
-7,686	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	-8,749
-9,740	Dedicated Schools Grant - Adjustment Account	-25,934
1,126,726	**Total Unusable Reserves**	**1,196,020**

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 charged with the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement, as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert fair value figures to a historical cost basis). The account is credited with the amounts set aside by the Council as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement. The account contains accumulated gains and losses on Investment Properties and gains recognised on donated assets that have yet to be consumed by the Council.

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

2024/25		2025/26 Movement	2025/26 Balance
£'000		**£'000**	**£'000**
844,900	**Balance at 1 April**		**859,755**
	Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the CIES:		
-47,175	Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	-54,650	
-11,140	Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	-7,939	
-184	Amortisation of Intangible Assets	-558	
445	Movements in the Market Value of Investment Property	15,356	
-8,687	Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	-8,921	
-6,770	Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CIES	-14,816	
-73,511	**Total Reversal of CIES Items**		**-71,528**
4,075	Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve		4,939
-69,436	**Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year**		**-66,588**
	Capital financing applied in the year:		
4,819	Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	2,638	
20,002	Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	20,000	
23,198	Capital grants and contributions credited to the CIES that have been applied to capital financing	19,013	
18,875	Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	19,615	
10,318	Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund	15,476	
6,207	Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA Balances	6,486	
83,419	**Total Capital Financing Applied**		**83,228**
961	Movement in the Donated Assets Account credited to the CIES	0	
-89	Write down of Long-Term Debtors	-164	
859,755	**Balance at 31 March**		**876,230**

Revaluation Reserve

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

- re-valued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost
- used in the provision of services and the gains are consumed through depreciation, or
- disposed of and the gains are realised

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

2024/25		2025/26 Movement	2025/26 Balance
£'000		**£'000**	**£'000**
240,635	**Balance at 1 April**		**297,279**
118,501	Upward revaluation of assets not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	207,534	
-57,781	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	-126,353	
60,719	Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services		**81,180**
-2,276	Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	-2,872	
-1,798	Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	-2,068	
-4,075	Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account		**-4,939**
297,279	**Balance at 31 March**		**373,520**

Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve

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

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

2024/25		2025/26
£'000		**£'000**
34,776	**Balance at 1 April**	**31,976**
-2,900	Revaluation of Shareholding in Manchester Airport	-5,900
100	Revaluation of Manchester Airport Car Park Shares	-500
31,976	**Balance at 31 March**	**25,576**

Pensions Reserve

The Pensions Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post-employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. The Council accounts for post-employment benefits in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs. However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed as the Council makes employer's contributions to pensions funds or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible. The Statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits are due for payment. Where the actuary estimate results in a surplus (net asset), as is the case for 2025/26, the Code requires disclosure of the lower of the surplus or the asset ceiling. The asset ceiling calculation is to restrict the amount of net asset (relative to funding obligations) that the Employer can disclose. This represents the present value of any economic benefits available in the form of refunds from the plan, or reductions in future contributions to the plan. This cannot be negative. For 2025/26 therefore, the asset ceiling adjustment requires disclosure of a net liability of £37.809m on the Defined Benefit Pension Scheme and corresponding reserve.

2024/25		2025/26
£'000		**£'000**
-46,877	**Balance at 1 April**	**-38,789**
243,430	Remeasurement of net defined benefit liability	97,355
-38,106	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the CIES	-36,239
44,627	Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	48,183
-241.863	Asset Ceiling Adjustment	-108,319
-38,789	**Balance at 31 March**	**-37,809**

Accumulated Absences Account

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

2024/25		2025/26 Movement	2025/26 Balances
£'000		**£'000**	**£'000**
-5,776	**Balance at 1 April**		**-6,069**
5,776	Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	6,069	
-6,069	Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	-6,814	
-293	Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CIES on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	-745	
-6,069	**Balance at 31 March**		**-6,814**

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 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as it falls due from Council Taxpayers and Business Rates payers compared with the statutory arrangements for paying across amounts to the General Fund from the Collection Fund.

2024/25		2025/26
£'000		**£'000**
-5,357	**Balance at 1 April**	**- 7,686**
-2,329	Amount by which Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates income credited to the CIES is different from Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	- 1,062
-7,686	**Balance at 31 March**	**-8,748**

Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account

Regulations for the treatment of deficits were introduced in 2020/21 and have been extended to the end of 2027/28. The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations allow deficits on the DSG balances to be separated from the Local Authority general fund. This is a temporary solution, and authorities are required to work towards recovery plans, all of which are subject to a number of critical factors, significantly the rise in Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs). The Council first recorded a deficit on DSG in 2023/24.

2024/25		2025/26
£'000		**£'000**
-700	**Balance at 1 April**	**-9,740**
-9,040	In-year increase in schools budget deficit	-16,194
-9,740	**Balance at 31 March**	**-25,934**

30. Agency Services

The Council is a billing authority for Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) and Council Tax. The Council collects Manchester Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept and Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services) on behalf of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA). The Council also collects precepts for the parishes of Shevington and Haigh. Only the elements of NDR and Council Tax that relate to the Council's income are included within the main financial statements. Total precepts on behalf of GMCA were £40.338m (2024/25 £36.713m).

The Council also collects superannuation payments of £12.968m (2024/25 £12.202m) from its employees on behalf of the Greater Manchester Pension Fund (administered by Tameside MBC), £9.126m (2024/25 £8.321m) on behalf of the Teachers' Pension Scheme (administered by Capita) and £0.020m (2024/25 £0.025m) on behalf of the NHS Pension Scheme.

31. Joint Operations

Pooled Budget: Better Care Fund

Since 2015/16, the Council has been in a joint arrangement with Wigan Borough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to pool resources to improve the Health and Social Care outcomes for the residents of the Borough.

The Health and Care Act 2022 made Integrated Care Systems formal, statutory bodies with power over NHS commissioning and spending at a local level. As such under the Act Wigan CCG was dissolved as at the 30/06/2022 with their powers, including over commission and funding, transferred to NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board (NHS GM ICB) from the 01/07/2022. The Section 75 agreement covering the Better Care Fund is now between Wigan Council and the NHS GM ICB.

The details of the Pooled Budget are shown in the table below:

2024/25	Better Care Fund	2025/26
£'000		**£'000**
	Funding Provided to the Pooled Budget	
-35,062	Revenue – ICB	-35,917
-20,680	Revenue – Wigan Council	-20,680
-4,968	Capital Allocation – Wigan Council	-6,049
-3,816	Capital Underspend from Previous Years – Wigan Council	-3,561
-64,526	**Total Funding**	**-66,207**
	Expenditure on behalf of Pooled Budget	
7,747	Revenue expenditure – ICB	7,947
47,995	Revenue expenditure – Wigan Council	48,650
5,223	Capital expenditure – Wigan Council	4,727
60,965	**Total Expenditure**	**61,324**
-3,561	**Total Underspend**	**-4,883**
	Allocated as agreed by the Joint Commissioning Finance Board:	
0	Revenue Underspend – ICB	**0**
-3,561	Capital Underspend – Wigan Council*	**-4,883**
-3,561	**Total Underspend**	**-4,883**

*Note – the capital underspend is included in the Council's accounts.

Joint Operations: Regional Adoption Agency – Together for Adoption

The Government announced changes to the provision of adoption services by proposing regional adoption agencies, with all local authorities belonging to a regional adoption agency by 2020.

As a consequence of this, it was agreed that these can be provided locally by local authority areas and brought together to form a single Regional Adoption Agency (RAA).

Wigan Council entered into a Partnership agreement with four other neighbouring authorities to create "Together for Adoption" RAA. The partnership combines:

- Wigan Council – 26.55% share
- Cheshire West & Chester Council – 19.97% share
- Warrington Borough Council – 16.06% share
- Halton Borough Council – 14.54% share
- St Helens Council – 22.88% share

The annual budget increased in 2025/26 to a value of £2.610m. The base increase represents inflationary increases specific to pay and VAA inflationary uplift rates only.

It remains a collective decision of the Board that any surplus or deficit generated at the end of each financial year will be distributed by reinvesting into the Together for Adoption Partnership, or to claw back the partner's share.

It was reported throughout 2025/26 that costs incurred would far exceed the £2.610m budget. This arose from an exceptional and sensitive case relating to pension strain costs. All local authority TFA Partners were informed of these costs, and the associated liabilities were apportioned based a % share to be funded in 2025/26.

The pooled budget is hosted by Wigan Council with all costs being incurred directly to Wigan in the first instance. The costs are then shared out based on the % formulae and recovered retrospectively at the end of each financial quarter.

Together for Adoption Regional Adoption Agency	2024/25 £ 000	2025/26 £ 000
Funding Provided to the Pooled Budget		
Revenue:		
Wigan Council	-651	-743
Cheshire West & Chester Council	-489	-559
Warrington Borough Council	-394	-450
Halton Borough Council	-356	-407
St Helens Council	-561	-641
Call upon reserves preserved from previous years and agreed by the Board	-232	-75
Total Funding	**-2,683**	**-2,875**
Expenditure on behalf of Pooled Budget		
Revenue – Wigan Council on behalf of Together for Adoption (Operational Costs)	630	597
Revenue – Wigan Council on behalf of Together for Adoption (Salary Costs)	1,963	2,188
Back Office Functions – supported by two Local Authority Partners (CW&C & Wigan)	91	91
Total Expenditure	**2,684**	**2,876**
Total Overspend	**-1**	**-1**

32. Members' Allowances

The Council paid the following amounts to elected members and independent appointed members of the Council during the year.

	2024/25	2025/26
	£'000	**£'000**
Allowances	1,473	1,524
Expenses	8	8
Total	**1,481**	**1,532**

33. Officers' Remuneration

The following table lists the remuneration paid to the Authority's senior employees (Senior Management, Statutory Officers and officers) as follows:

Name	Job Title	Financial Year	Salary, Fees and Allow. Note *	Employers Pension Contrib.	Total Remun. Incl. pension contrib.
			£	£	£
Alison McKenzie-Folan	Chief Executive	2025/26	211,744	39,749	250,493
		2024/25	205,178	37,548	242,726
Tony Clarke **(1)**	Director of Finance and Legal	2025/26	0	0	0
		2024/25	105,054	19,239	124,292
Sarah Johnston **(1)**	Director of Finance and Legal	2025/26	144,660	24,673	171,133
		2024/25	22,528	4,123	26,651
John McDonald **(1)**	Interim Section 151 Officer	2025/26	0	0	0
		2024/25	8,630	1,579	10,210
Stuart Cowley **(2)**	Director of Adult Social Care and Health	2025/26	168,418	30,820	199,238
		2024/25	163,196	29,865	193,061
Colette Dutton **(3)**	Director of Children's Services	2025/26	168,418	30,820	199238
		2024/25	140,174	25,652	165,826
Aiden Thatcher	Director of Place	2025/26	168,418	30,820	199,238
		2024/25	163,196	29,865	193,061
Paul Barton **(4)**	Director of Environment	2025/26	190,337	19,855	210,191
		2024/25	140,174	25,652	165,826
James Winterbottom	Director of Strategy and Innovation	2025/26	158,225	28,955	187,180
		2024/25	153,002	4,667	157,669
	Director of Public Health	2025/26	120,901	17,386	138,287
		2024/25	163,196	29,865	193,061
(4)	Director of Resident Services	2025/26	144,660	26,473	171,133
		2024/25	117,152	16,846	133,998
	Monitoring Officer - Assistant Director Legal, Governance & Elections	2025/26	110,444	20,589	131,033
		2024/25	104,095	19,049	123,144

*Salary, fees and allowances include basic pay plus any overtime, special responsibility allowance and accrued holiday pay. Election payments are not included in the above figures.

(1) Sarah Johnston is the S151 Officer for the Council from 3rd February 2025. Tony Clarke retired from this position on 31st December 2024. John McDonald was acting S151 Officer for the period 1st January 2025 to 2nd February 2025. As such none of these salaries are annualised but together represent the annual cost of the Council's statutory S151 position. In addition to the remuneration above, the council paid £146,000 capital cost to Greater Manchester Pension Fund during 2024/25 in respect of Tony Clarke's retirement. Payments of this nature are subject to an approved business case.

(2) Stuart Cowley is the Director of Social Services which is defined as a statutory post under Section 6 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1996.

(3) Collette Dutton is the Chief Education Officer which is defined as a statutory post under Section 532 of the Education Act 1970.

(4) Paul Barton was the Director of Environment until 31st December 2025. During 2025/26 the Environment Directorate merged with the Customer Directorate to become Resident Services. During 2025/26 the Council paid £81,000 in respect of redundancy costs for Paul Barton which are included within the remuneration above.

Other Senior Officers

To provide further analysis, the remaining emoluments have been separated between Senior Officers and Leadership Heads, Deputies and Assistants in Schools and Colleges.

The Chief Officers whose individual remuneration has been declared in Table A are not included in this banding table. The Authority's other senior employees receiving more than £50,000 remuneration (excluding employer's pension contributions) were paid the following amounts. Redundancy payments are included in the following amounts:

Number of Employees	Remuneration Band	Number of Employees
2024/25		**2025/26**
142	£50,000 - £54,999	157
106	£55,000 - £59,999	123
46	£60,000 - £64,999	60
22	£65,000 - £69,999	32
24	£70,000 - £74,999	27
5	£75,000 - £79,999	12
2	£80,000 - £84,999	1
1	£85,000 - £89,999	2
2	£90,000 - £94,999	0
4	£95,000 - £99,999	1
6	£100,000 - £104,999	4
5	£105,000 - £109,999	1
0	£110,000 - £114,999	9
2	£115,000 - £119,999	2
0	£120,000 - £124,999	2
367		**433**

Schools and Colleges Leadership – Heads, Deputies and Assistants

The number of school and college employees receiving more than £50,000 remuneration, (excluding employer's pension contributions) were paid the following amounts:

Number of Employees	Voluntary Aided and Foundation School Employees included in previous column Total	Remuneration Band	Number of Employees	Voluntary Aided and Foundation School Employees included in previous column Total
2024/25	**2024/25**		**2025/26**	**2025/26**
277	145	£50,000 - £54,999	366	214
170	107	£55,000 - £59,999	243	102
78	37	£60,000 - £64,999	106	68
47	28	£65,000 - £69,999	69	35
26	9	£70,000 - £74,999	43	26
37	26	£75,000 - £79,999	23	11
14	8	£80,000 - £84,999	30	19
19	6	£85,000 - £89,999	20	8
8	4	£90,000 - £94,999	11	6
5	3	£95,000 - £99,999	6	3
2	1	£100,000 - £104,999	5	3
2	1	£105,000 - £109,999	3	0
3	2	£110,000 - £114,999	3	2
0	0	£115,000 - £119,999	2	1
1	1	£120,000 - £124,999	1	1
0	0	£125,000 - £129,999	2	1
1	1	£130,000 - £134,999	0	0
0	0	£135,000 - £139,999	0	0
0	0	£140,000 - £144,999	1	1
690	**379**		**838**	**457**

Redundancy payments are included in the remuneration.

Exit Packages – Contractual obligation on termination of employment

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

Exit Package Cost Band (including special payments)	Number of Compulsory Redundancies*		Number of Other Departures Agreed		Total Number of Exit Packages		Total Cost of Exit Packages in Each Band £000	
	2024/25	2025/26	2024/25	2025/26	2024/25	2025/26	2024/25	2025/26
0 - £20,000	2	5	106	57	108	62	815	418
£20,001 - £40,000	0	1	25	10	25	11	709	323
£40,001 - £60,000	0	0	17	3	17	3	840	151
£60,001 - £80,000	0	0	9	1	9	1	638	77
£80,001 - £100,000	0	0	8	0	8	0	697	0
£100,001 - £150,000	0	0	8	2	8	2	980	250
£150,001 - £200,000	0	0	3	3	3	3	506	488
£200,001 - £250,000	0	0	1	0	1	0	207	0
£250,001 - £300,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£300,001 - £350,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**2**	**6**	**177**	**76**	**179**	**82**	**5,392**	**1,707**

The total cost of £1.707m for exit packages has been charged to the authority's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the current year.

During 2025/26 the Council took steps to identify future savings through an early exit opportunity offered to the Resident Services division within the Council. Early exits such as these represent a one-off cost that must pay back in under two years. In 2025/26 £0.375m of the exit cost identified in this disclosure relate to this scheme. These exits pay back through ongoing base budget savings in 12-24 months.

Termination Benefits

The Council terminated the contracts of a number of employees in 2025/26, incurring liabilities of £0.061m (£0.001m in 2024/25). Further details on the overall number of exit packages and the total cost per band is disclosed in the tables above.

Termination benefits are payable to employees across all Council services whose employment has been terminated by the Council, not at the employee's request. The number of compulsory redundancies can be seen in the exit packages table above.

34. Audit Costs

In 2025/26 Wigan Council incurred the following costs in relation to the audit of the Statement of Accounts, certification of grant claims and non-audit services provided by the Council's auditors:

	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000
Fees payable with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor	371	381
Fees payable with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor - Additional fee	0	0
Fees payable in respect of other services provided by the external auditor during the year - Variation Fees & Additional Fees relating to 23/24 and 24/25 audits	129	195
Total	**500**	**576**

35. Dedicated Schools Grant

The Council's expenditure on schools is financed primarily by Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) provided by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). DSG is ring-fenced and can only be used to finance expenditure that is included in the Schools' Budget, as defined in the School Finance and Early Years (England) Regulations 2023. The balance on the DSG is separate to the general fund reserves of the council. The schools' budget includes elements for a range of educational services provided on an authority-wide basis and for the Individual Schools Budget (ISB), which is divided into a budget share for each Council-maintained school.

Details of the deployment of DSG receivable for 2025/26 are as follows:

Notes		Central Expenditure	Individual Schools Budget	Total
		£'000	£'000	£'000
A	Final DSG for 2025/26 before Academy and High Needs recoupment			**404,670**
B	Academy and High Needs figure recouped for 2025/26			**103,978**
C	Total DSG after Academy and High Needs recoupment for 2025/26			**300,692**
D	Plus: Brought forward from 2024/25			**0**
E	Less: Carry forward to 2026/27 agreed in advance by School's Forum			**0**
F	Agreed initial budgeted distribution in 2025/26	84,337	216,354	**300,692**
G	In Year Adjustments	363		**363**
H	Final budgeted distribution for 2025/26	84,700	216,354	**301,055**
I	Less: Actual central expenditure	100,894		**100,894**
J	Less: Actual ISB deployed to schools		216,354	**216,354**
K	Plus: Local authority contribution for 2025/26	0		**0**
L	In Year Carry forward to 2026/27	-16,194	0	**-16,194**
M	Plus/Minus: Carry forward to 2026/27 agreed in advance			**0**
N	Carry forward to 2026/27			**0**
O	DSG Unusable Reserve at the end of 2024/25			**-9,740**
P	Addition to DSG Unusable Reserve at the end of 2025/26			**-16,194**
Q	Total of DSG Unusable Reserve at the end of 2025/26			**-25,934**
R	**Net DSG position at the end of 2025/26**			**-25,934**

The DSG carry-forward can be analysed as follows:

2024/25 £000		2025/26 £000
3,396	Schools Block	3,470
-16,023	High Needs Block	-34,028
2,887	Early Years Block	4,624
-9,740		**-25,934**

This balance has been identified separately from general reserves that are at the full disposal of the authority in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, as amended (Regulation 7 [4]).

There is currently a statutory override in place which allows the Council to carry a negative reserve for DSG in respect of the High Needs Deficit, as disclosed in Note 29. This override has been extended to 31 March 2028. In June 2026 the Council submitted the Local Area SEND Reform Plan to the Department for Education (DfE). Approval of this plan by the DfE will mean that the local authority will be eligible to receive a High Needs Stability Grant in 2026/27. This grant will cover 90% (£23.341m) of the local authorities' overall DSG deficit as at the 31/03/2026. This will still leave a deficit amount of £2.593m to be funded by Wigan Council. Further details is given in Note 41.

The LA reports regularly to Schools Forum and has set up a working group to monitor the progress of the transformation plan. This plan will ultimately look to deliver efficiencies and reduce demand on the High Needs Block.

Comparative details of the deployment of DSG receivable for 2024/25 are as follows:

Notes		Central Expenditure	Individual Schools Budget	Total
		£'000	£'000	£'000
A	Final DSG for 2024/25 before Academy and High Needs recoupment			**360,525**
B	Academy and High Needs figure recouped for 2024/25			**95,022**
C	Total DSG after Academy and High Needs recoupment for 2024/25			**265,503**
D	Plus: Brought forward from 2023/24			**0**
E	Less: Carry forward to 2025/26 agreed in advance by School's Forum			**0**
F	Agreed initial budgeted distribution in 2024/25	61,704	203,800	**265,503**
G	In Year Adjustments	-130	0	**-130**
H	Final budgeted distribution for 2024/25	61,573	203,800	**265,373**
I	Less: Actual central expenditure	70,614		**70,614**
J	Less: Actual ISB deployed to schools		203,800	**203,800**
K	Plus: Local authority contribution for 2024/25	0		**0**
L	In Year Carry forward to 2025/26	-9,040	0	**-9,040**
M	Plus/Minus: Carry forward to 2025/26 agreed in advance			**0**
N	Carry forward to 2025/26			**0**
O	DSG Unusable Reserve at the end of 2023/24			**-700**
P	Addition to DSG Unusable Reserve at the end of 2024/25			**-9,040**
Q	Total of DSG Unusable Reserve at the end of 2024/25			**-9,740**
R	**Net DSG position at the end of 2024/25**			**-9,740**

36. Grant Income

The Council credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2025/26:

2024/25 £000	Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income	Awarding Body	2025/26 £000
-45,086	Capital Grants	Various	-48,039
-35,208	Section 31 Grant Business Rates Reliefs	MCHLG	-33,339
0	Recovery Grant	MHCLG	-7,045
0	Extended Producer Responsibility Grant	DFE	-6,983
-6,023	Private Finance Initiative	MHCLG	-6,023
-1,798	Other Grants	Various	-2,980
0	Children's Social Care Prevention Grant	MHCLG	-2,117
-2,149	New Homes Bonus	MHCLG	-1,489
-90,265	**Total**		**-108,015**

2024/25 £000	Credited to Services	Awarding Body	2025/26 £000
-264,191	Dedicated Schools Grant	DFE	-300,250
-38,015	Social Care Grant	MHCLG	-44,904
-35,494	Rent Allowance Subsidy	DWP	-36,597
-13,246	Pupil Premium Grant	DFE	-26,327
-28,844	HRA Rent Rebates	DWP	-21,398
-16,763	Additional Better Care Fund	DWP	-20,680
-7,943	Teachers' Pay and Superannuation Grant	MHCLG	-8,187
-6,966	Market Sustainability & FCC Fund	DHSC	-6,966
-2,719	Universal Infant Free School Meals	DFE	-5,356
-	Household Support Fund	DWP	-4,967
-4,626	Core Schools Budget Grant	DFE	-4,881
-	Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery	DHSC	-3,354
-	National Insurance Contributions Grant	DFE	-3,094
-2,753	Contributions – General	HO	-2,820
-	Children and Families Grant	DFE	-2,649
-2,635	EFA - Post 16-19 Funding	DFE	-2,529
-368	General Education Grants	DFE	-2,403

-1,037	Homelessness Grant Funding	MHCLG	-2,038
-	Schools Budget Support Grant	DFE	-1,847
-1,124	GMCA Adult Education Grant	MHCLG	-1,518
-1,067	Asylum Dispersal Grant	HO	-1,435
-1,345	Holiday Activities & Food Programme	DFE	-1,361
-1,469	PE & Sports Grants	VARIOUS	-1,330
-1,109	Rough Sleeping Initiative	MHCLG	-1,322
-	Trailblazer Grant Funding	GMCA	-1,234
	Apprentice Levy Funding	DFE	-1,123
-1,345	UKSPF	GMCA	-1,191
-690	Non HRA Rent Rate Subsidy	DWP	-1,113
-	Live Well Grant Funding	GMCA	-1,076
-30,418	Other Grants	VARIOUS	-13,394
-464,168	**Total**		**-527,343**

37. Related Parties

In accordance with the Code, the Council is required to disclose material transactions with related parties. Related parties are bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence the Council or to be controlled or influenced by the Council. Disclosure of these transactions allows readers to assess the extent to which the Council might have been constrained in its ability to operate independently or might have secured the ability to limit another party's ability to bargain freely with the Council. This note exemplifies those transactions between related parties and the Council.

Central Government

Central Government has significant influence over the general operations of the Authority. It is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Council operates, provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties (e.g., Council Tax bills, Housing Benefits). Details of grant transactions with Government departments are set out in Note 36 (Grant Income).

Members of the Council

Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. The total of Members' allowances paid in 2025/26 is shown in Note 32. Members are required to declare and maintain up-to-date disclosures of any such interests, including related parties, and to notify the Council promptly of any changes. Details of Members' interests, both pecuniary and non-financial are recorded in the Register of Members' Interests, which is open to public inspection at Wigan Town Hall on appointment and is available on the Council's website.

In the 2025/26 financial year, two members declared interests in organisations with which the Council had material transactions totalling £1.058m. All contracts were entered into in full compliance with the Council's standing orders

Chief Officers

The Council operates a Code of Conduct whereby individual Chief Officers are required to disclose any pecuniary and non-financial interests with related parties. In addition, the Council necessitates Chief Officers to make a declaration of any related parties on an annual basis. During 2025/26, no Chief Officers declared a related party transaction.

All Chief Officer remuneration payments are included in detail in Note 33 (Officers' Remuneration).

Joint Services and Partnerships:

Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA)

As a result of an agreement reached between the ten Greater Manchester Councils and Central Government, the Combined Authority has taken over arrangements for the coordination of a range of policy issues including economic development and regeneration for Greater Manchester, and has responsibility for the exercise of new powers for the Greater Manchester Mayoral Function and function for the prioritisation of transport investment.

During 2025/26 the following amounts were paid or accrued to the GMCA:

- Passenger Transport Levy £24.427m (2024/25 £23.657m)
- Business Rates Retention Pilot Gain £1.902m (2024/25 £2.321m)
- District Economic Regeneration Contribution £0.889m (2024/25 £0.963m)
- Supplies and Services: £0.821m (2024/25 £0.521m)

The Council also receives a number of grants from GMCA which can be seen in Note 36 Grants.

Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA)

The Association is a partnership between the ten local authorities within the Greater Manchester area. The ten co-operate on a number of issues both statutory and non-statutory, where there is the possibility of improving service delivery by working together. The expenditure incurred is contained within the relevant service headings in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. During 2025/26 this amounted to £0.171m (2024/25 £0.167m).

Assisted Organisations

The Council has pooled budget arrangements with the NHS Integrated Care Board (GM ICB) in order to improve the Health and Social Care outcomes for the residents of the Borough. As part of this integration, the Chief Executive of Wigan Council is also a separately appointed Place Lead for the Integrated Care Board.

The Council also entered a pooled budget arrangement on 1 September 2017 with four other neighbouring local authorities to create 'Together for Adoption' Regional Adoption Agency to provide local adoption services. Further details are included in Note 31 (Joint Operations).

38. Related Businesses and Companies

Wigan Metropolitan Development Company Limited

This is a company limited by guarantee without share capital. Under the Articles of Association, the Council is entitled to appoint up to 14 of the members of the Company, with up to a further three members appointed by the Board as independent members.

The liability of members is limited. In the event of the company being wound up, each member undertakes to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards its debts and liabilities. Any surplus assets remaining on dissolution cannot be distributed to members but must be transferred to an organisation with similar objectives, which may include the Council or another appropriate body.

The company either directly or through its subsidiaries Wigan Metropolitan Development Company (Property) Limited and Wigan Metropolitan Development Company (Investment) Limited manages offices and industrial units and promotes regeneration within the borough of Wigan.

Wigan Metropolitan Development Company (Property) Limited has ceased active trading. Therefore, figures reported in this note relate to the trading company of Wigan Metropolitan Development Company (Investment) Limited for the financial year 2025/26

The Council manages surplus cash balances on behalf of the company. The amount deposited with the Council at 31 March 2026 was £1.530m (2024/25 £1.530m).

The latest company accounts will be published on Companies House later this year. Copies of the accounts are available at Wigan Investment Centre, Waterside Drive, Wigan, Lancashire, WN3 5BA.

Leigh Sports Village Limited

This is a company limited by shares. The Council is the only shareholder. The Council has the ability to dissolve the company and to procure the distribution of its assets, although the Council does not have direct liability for the losses of the company. The company manages the facilities at the Leigh

Sports Village site. In 2025/26 the Council paid the company £2.907m (2024/25 £1.385m), split between £0.871m on Services (2024/25 £0.510m) and £2.036m on general support (2024/25 £0.876m).

The company returned a draft pre-tax profit of £0.810m in 2025/26 (2024/25 £0.335m loss). Copies of the accounts are available at Leigh Sports Stadium, Sale Way, Leigh, Lancashire, WN7 4JY.

Douglas Valley Community Limited

This is a company limited by guarantee without share capital. The Council has the right to nominate 4 out of 12 members of the company. The Council paid £0.01m to Douglas Valley Community Limited in 2025/26 for services provided (2024/25 £0.003m).

Douglas Valley Properties Limited (DVP)

This is a company limited by guarantee without share capital. The Council has the right to nominate 3 out of the 9 members of the company. Each member has one vote, and all members also serve as directors of the company. The Council and Douglas Valley Community Limited must consent to the acquisition of any interest in land or premises by the Company and further, that the Council and Douglas Valley Community Limited may determine what the Company may do with its profits. The Council has not made payments to the company in 2025/26.

The company has ceased active trading and has had no activity during 2025/26. The company will be wound up in 2026/27.

Details of other companies where the Council has a minority interest are:

Company
Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire & Merseyside
Manchester Airport Group
North West Evergreen (GP) Limited
NPS North West Limited
S&W TLP Education Partnership Limited
Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation

39. Leases

Authority as lessee:

During 2025/26 the Council continued to lease vehicles, plant, equipment & property.

Lease repayments on vehicles, plant, equipment and property paid in 2025/26 were £1.617m (2024/25 repayments £2.147m).

The Council was committed as at 31 March 2026 to future principal lease payments of £8.841m under these operating leases, measured at the undiscounted amounts of expected cash payments, across the following periods:

2024/25 Total		Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Property	2025/26 Total
£'000s		**£'000s**	**£'000s**	**£'000s**
1,778	Lease payments due within 1 year	422	768	1,190
3,254	Lease payments between 1 and 5 years	525	2,024	2,549
5,086	Lease payments after 5 years	0	5,102	5,102
10,118	**Total Leases**	**947**	**7,894**	**8,841**

Where leases are at a market rent, and rent reviews are carried out at least once every 5 years, or where the lease has a short enough term that material increases in value are unlikely to arise (e.g. for Vehicle Leases), the authority values the Right-of-Use Asset using the cost model. That is, the Right-of-Use Asset is held at the depreciated lease liability value, where the valuation is re-calculated after any changes to the lease.

Where leases are not suitable for the cost model (because they are not at market rent, or rent reviews are further than 5 years apart), the authority values the Right-of-Use Assets using the revaluation model. Here, the Right-of-Use Assets are held at current value and revalued as part of the authority's 5-year rolling asset valuation programme and indexed in the intervening years.
All assets valued under the cost model and all assets valued under the revaluation model where there is a building element are depreciated on a

straight-line basis over the length of the lease or the life of the asset, whichever is shortest.

Change in value of Right-of-Use assets held by the authority:

Total 2024/25		Other Land and Buildings	Plant, Vehicles & Equipment	Infrastructure	Total 2025/26
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
7,590	**Balance at 1 April**	12,574	1,708	27	**14,308**
2,219	Additions	63	725	0	**788**
5,461	Re-classifications	-11	0	0	**-11**
488	Revaluations	-3,076	-79	0	**-3,155**
0	Indexation	-23	0	0	**-23**
-1,424	Depreciation & Amortisation	-675	-811	-0	**-1,486**
-26	Disposals	0	0	0	**0**
14,308	**Balance at 31 March**	**8,853**	**1,542**	**26**	**10,421**

Movement in IFRS16 Lease Liabilities on the Balance Sheet:

		Short Term £ 000	Long Term £ 000	Total 2025/26 £ 000
7,590	**Balance as at 1st April**	1,544	5,239	**6,783**
1,074	New leases capitalised in 2025/26	104	684	**788**
0	In Year Revaluations	52	734	**787**
-1,855	Lease Principal Repayments	-1,379	0	**-1,379**
-26	Disposals	-321	-862	**-1,183**
0	Movement of lease principals due less than 12 months from 31.03.2026 from Long Term Liabilities to Short Term Liabilities	1,047	-1,047	**0**
6,783	**Balance as at 31st March**	**1,047**	**4,748**	**5,795**

The authority incurred the following expenses and cash flows in relation to leases:

2024/25	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)	2025/26
£'000		**£'000**
243	Interest Expense on Lease Liabilities	238
1,410	Expense relating to Exempt Short-Term Leases	1,119
21	Expense relating to Exempt Low-Value Leases	277
0	Variable Lease Payments not included in the measurement of Lease Liabilities	0
-208	Income from sub-letting Right-of-Use Assets	-303
0	(Gains) or Losses arising from sale and leaseback transactions	0
1,466	**Total**	**1,331**

2024/25	Cashflow Statement	2025/26
£'000		**£'000**
2,108	Total Cash Outflow for IFRS16 Leases	1,616
2,108	**Total**	**1,616**

Authority as lessor:

The Council acts as lessor for numerous commercial and industrial land and property assets in the borough and the rent receivable in respect of these operating leases for the year 2025/26 was £4.981m (2024/25 £4.600m).

The future minimum lease payments receivable are:

2024/25 Total		2025/26 Total
£'000s		**£'000s**
2,897	Lease income receivable within 12 months (2026/27)	3,312
10,644	Lease income receivable between 1 year and 5 years (2027/28 to 2030/31)	12,193
178,717	Lease income receivable after 5 years (after 2030/31)	183,381
192,258	**Total Leases**	**198,885**

Of the minimum lease payments receivable after 2030/31 of £183.381m, £105.565m is in respect of leases which are due to expire more than 50 years after 31 March 2026.

40. Pension Schemes

Pension Schemes Accounted for as Defined Contribution Schemes:

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

The scheme is a multi-employer defined benefit scheme. The scheme is unfunded, and the Department for Education uses a notional fund as the basis for calculating the employers' contribution rate paid by local authorities. Valuations of the notional fund are undertaken every three years.

The Council is not able to identify its share of the underlying financial position and performance of the scheme with sufficient reliability for accounting purposes. For the purposes of this Statement of Accounts, it is therefore accounted for on the same basis as a defined contribution scheme.

In 2025/26 the Council paid £26.19m (£25.0m in 2024/25) to Capita Teachers' Pensions in respect of teachers' retirement benefits. The Council is not liable to the scheme for any other entities' obligations under the plan. There were no contributions remaining payable at the year end. The expected contribution in 2026/27 is estimated to be between £26.714m and £27.238m.

NHS Staff Pension Scheme

During 2025/26, NHS staff have continued to work within the Council and have maintained their membership in the NHS Pension Scheme. The scheme provides these staff with specified benefits upon their retirement, and the Council contributes towards the costs by making contributions based on a percentage of members' pensionable salaries.

The scheme is an unfunded defined benefit scheme. However, the Council is not able to identify its share of the underlying financial position and performance of the scheme with sufficient reliability for accounting purposes. For the purpose of this Statement of Accounts, it is therefore accounted for on the same basis as a defined contribution scheme.

In 2025/26, the Council paid £0.024m to the NHS Pension Scheme (£0.033m in 2024/25) in respect of former NHS staff retirement benefits. There were no contributions remaining payable at the year end. The expected contribution in 2026/27 is estimated to be £0.025m.

Defined Benefit Pension Schemes:

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 Local Government Pension Scheme

Non-teaching employees other than teachers are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme administered by Tameside MBC on behalf of the Greater Manchester councils. This is a funded scheme, meaning that the Council and employees pay contributions into a fund calculated at a level intended to balance the pensions liabilities with investment assets.

The cost of retirement benefits is recognised in the reported Net Cost of Service when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge the Council is required to make against Council Tax is based on cash payable in the year, so the real cost of the post-employment / retirement benefits is reversed out of the General Fund balance via the Movements in Reserves Statement.

The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the General Fund Balance through the Movement in Reserves Statement during the year:

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

2024/25		2025/26
£'000		**£'000**
	Cost of Services:	
34,609	Current service cost	25,690
3,640	Past service cost (including curtailments)	8,278
0	Effect of settlements	428
38,249	**Total Service Cost**	**34,396**
	Financing and Investment Income & Expenditure:	
-88,259	Interest income on scheme assets	-109,603
73,723	Interest cost on defined benefit obligation	76,676
14,393	Interest on the effect of the asset ceiling	34,770
-143	**Total Net Interest**	**1,843**
38,106	**Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services**	**36,239**
	Remeasurements of the Net Defined Liability Comprising:	
-14,406	Return on plan assets (excluding amounts included in net interest)	79,775
2,671	Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	-5,580
237,053	Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	25,878
18,112	Other experience and actuarial adjustments	-2,718
311,162	Impact of Asset Ceiling	-108,319
554,592	**Total Remeasurements Recognised in Other Comprehensive Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement**	**-10,964**

Movement in the Reserves Statement - General Fund

2024/25		2025/26
£'000		**£'000**
-38,106	Reversal of net charges made to the surplus / deficit on the provision of service	-36,239
39,617	Employers' contributions payable to the scheme	43,285
5,010	Retirement benefits payable to pensioners	4,898
6,521	**Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for Pensions in the year**	**11,944**

Asset Ceiling

Following the pensions valuation by the Council's actuary, Hymans Robertson LLP, the Council determined that the fair value of its pension plan assets outweighed the present value of the plan obligations at 31 March 2026, resulting in a pension plan asset. IAS 19 Employee Benefits requires that, where a pension plan asset exists, it is measured at the lower of:

- The surplus in the defined benefit plan; and
- The asset ceiling

The asset ceiling is the present value of any economic benefits available in the form of refunds from the plan or reductions in future contributions to the plan. The Council's actuary has calculated the asset ceiling as the net present value of future service costs less net present value of future contributions.

The calculated asset ceiling for 2025/26 results in greater future service costs than future service contributions so the economic benefit is floored at £nil (£nil in 2024/25). The adjustment has been recognised within other comprehensive income and expenditure of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

There is no legal right of offset for the unfunded pension obligations, which include Teachers' Discretionary Benefits, and therefore the net defined benefit liability for these is not impacted by the asset ceiling adjustment. The net defined benefit liability for the unfunded pension obligations is £37.809m for 2025/26 (£38.789m for 2024/25) and is reported separately on the balance sheet.

Asset Ceiling Reconciliation

The following table is a reconciliation of the effect of the asset ceiling position.

	2024/25	2025/26
	£'000	£'000
Opening value of the additional liability (Asset Ceiling) at 1 April	-296,769	-599,902
Interest on the effect of the asset ceiling	-14,393	-34,770
Changes in the effect of the Asset Ceiling	**-311,162**	**-634,672**
Additional Liability / Actuarial gains or losses on asset ceiling	-285,914	-108,319
Closing position at 31 March / Impact of the asset ceiling at 31 March	**-597,076**	**-742,991**

Reconciliation of the present value of the scheme liabilities (Defined Benefit Obligation)

	Funded Liabilities: Local Government Pension Scheme	
	2024/25	2025/26
	£'000	£'000
Opening present value of funded liabilities	**1,478,929**	**1,293,418**
Opening present value of unfunded liabilities	**46,877**	**38,789**
Current Service Cost	34,609	25,690
Effect of settlements		-1,116
Interest Cost	73,723	76,676
Contributions from scheme participants	12,946	13,727
Remeasurement gain		
Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	-2,671	5,580
Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	-237,053	-25,878
Other experience and actuarial adjustments	-18,112	111,267
Past Service Costs	3,640	8,278
Funded Benefits Paid	-55,671	-61,211
Unfunded Benefits Paid	-5,010	-4,898
Closing present value of funded liabilities	**1,293,418**	**1,442,513**
Closing present value of unfunded liabilities	**38,789**	**37,809**
Closing fair value of scheme liabilities at 31 March	**1,332,207**	**1,480.322**

Reconciliation of movements in fair value of the scheme assets

	Local Government Pension Scheme	
	2024/25	**2025/26**
	£'000	**£'000**
Opening fair value of scheme assets	**1,822,575**	**1,893,320**
Effect of Settlements	0	-1,544
Interest Income	88,259	109,603
Remeasurement gain		
Return on plan assets excluding amounts included in net interest	-14,406	79,775
ontributions from employer in respect of funded benefits paid into the scheme	39,617	43,285
Contributions from employer in respect of unfunded benefits paid into the scheme	5,010	4,898
Contributions from employees into the scheme	12,946	13,727
Funded Benefits Paid	-55,671	-61,211
Unfunded Benefits Paid	-5,010	-4,898
Other experience	0	108,549
Closing fair value of scheme assets at 31 March	**1,893,320**	**2,185,504**

In 2025/26 one school transferred to Academy status.

Local Government Pension Scheme assets comprised:

Assets in the Greater Manchester Pension Fund are valued at fair value, and consist of equities, bonds, property and cash. The table below sets out the value and proportion of assets held in the said classes together with the prices quoted in the market

	Quoted	Unquoted	Total	Percentage of Total Assets	Quoted	Unquoted	Total	Percentage of Total Assets
	2024/25 £'000	**2024/25 £'000**	**2024/25 £'000**	**2024/25 %**	**2025/26 £'000**	**2025/26 £'000**	**2025/26 £'000**	**2025/26 %**
Equity Securities								
Consumer	125,175		**125,175**	**7**	146,594		**146,594**	**7**
Manufacturing	91,648		**91,648**	**5**	116,080		**116,080**	**5**
Energy and utilities	112,148		**112,148**	**6**	110,270		**110,270**	**5**

Financial Institutions	176,164		**176,164**	**9**	189,758		**189,758**	**9**
Health and care	88,005		**88,005**	**5**	106,103		**106,103**	**5**
Information Technology	99,275		**99,275**	**5**	134,396		**134,396**	**6**
Other	25,438		**25,438**	**1**	29,478		**29,478**	**1**
Debt Securities								
Corporate bonds (investment grade)	61,428		**61,428**	**3**	65,111		**65,111**	**3**
UK Government	83,645		**83,645**	**4**	98,097		**98,097**	**4**
Other	77,028		**77,028**	**4**	70,673		**70,673**	**3**
Private Equity - All		119,200	**119,200**	**6**		122,674	**122,674**	**6**
Real Estate								
UK Property		98,792	**98,792**	**5**		125,824	**125,824**	**6**
Investment Funds and Unit Trusts								
Equities	34,159		**34,159**	**2**	112,059		**112,059**	**5**
Bonds	190,290		**190,290**	**10**	216,516		**216,516**	**10**
Infrastructure		158,762	**158,366**	**8**		178,312	**178,312**	**8**
Other	49,850	245,783	**295,633**	**16**	48,586	256,857	**305,444**	**14**
Derivatives - Other	-1,153		**-1,153**	**0**	-11,066		**-11,066**	**-1**
Cash and Cash Equivalents - All	57,685		**57,685**	**3**	69,182		**69,182**	**3**
Totals	**1,270,785**	**622,537**	**1,893,322**	**100**	**1,501,837**	**683,667**	**2,185,504**	**100**

Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates and 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 are based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2026.

The significant assumptions used by the actuary have been:

Mortality Assumptions

2024/25		2025/26
	Longevity at 65 for current pensioners: *	
19.8 years	Male	20.5
23.1 years	Female	23.8
	Longevity at 65 for future pensioners: *	
20.9 years	Male	21.7
24.8 years	Female	25.3
	Other Assumptions:	
3.55%	Rate of increase in salaries (Salary Increases)	4.50%
2.75%	Rate of increase in pensions (Pension Increases)	3.00%
5.80%	Rate of discounting scheme liabilities (Discount Rate)	6.20%
50%	Take-up of option to convert annual pension into retirement grant	60%

*Life Expectancy is based on the Fund's VitaCurves with improvements in line with the latest Continuous Mortality Investigation results tailored to fit the membership profile of the fund.

An allowance is included for future retirements to elect to take 60% of the maximum additional tax-free cash up to the HRMC limits.

Sensitivity Analysis

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 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.

The weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation for scheme members is 19 years.

Change in Assumption at 31 March 2026	Approximate % increase to Employer Liability	Approximate monetary amount
	£'000	£'000
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	2%	23,103
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4%	59,213
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	931
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate (CPI)	1%	22,145

Impact on the Council's cash flow – Local Government Pension Scheme

The objectives of the scheme are to keep employer's contributions at as constant a rate as possible. The Council has agreed a strategy with the scheme's actuary to achieve a funding level of 100% over the next 3 years where market conditions allow. Funding levels are monitored on an annual basis. The next triennial valuation will take effect from 1 April 2028.

The scheme has taken account of the national changes to the scheme under the Public Pensions Services Act 2013. Under the Act, the Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales and other main existing public service schemes may not provide benefits in relation to service after 31 March 2014 (or service after 31 March 2015 for other main existing public service pension schemes in England and Wales). The Act provides for scheme regulations to be made within a common framework, to establish new career average revalued earnings schemes to pay pensions and other benefits.

The Council estimates paying £32.657m contributions to the scheme for the period to 31 March 2026.

Virgin Media Ltd vs NTL Pension Trustees update

In June 2023, the High Court ruled in the case of Virgin Media Ltd v NTL Pension Trustees. The case is relevant to defined benefit pension schemes that were contracted out between April 1997 and 2016. From 6 April 1997, contracted out schemes were required to provide pensions for members that were at least broadly equivalent to those set out in a reference scheme test (known as section 9(2B) rights) and this had to be certified by the scheme's actuary. Any amendments to rights could only be made if the scheme's actuary was notified of the change and confirmed to the trustees in writing that the scheme would continue to satisfy the reference scheme test if the alterations were made. The Virgin Media case concerned the validity of an amendment to section 9(2B) rights where no confirmation from an actuary was obtained.

The ruling was that the pension scheme amendments were invalid if they were not accompanied by the correct actuarial confirmation. The case was appealed but in July 2024 the Court of Appeal upheld the original High Court decision. The ruling is case law and therefore is expected to apply across all other schemes. For LGPS, there is potential for additional pension liabilities to arise as a consequence, and the historical rule amendments are in the process of being reviewed.

Recognising the increased uncertainty brought about by the Court of Appeal judgement, and the need for clarity, in June 2025 the government announced that it will introduce legislation to give affected pension schemes the ability to retrospectively obtain written actuarial confirmation that historic benefit changes met the necessary standards. Scheme obligations will otherwise be unaffected, and the government will continue to maintain its robust framework for the funding of defined benefit pension schemes in order to protect people's hard-earned pensions. Given the June 2025 announcement, the Virgin Media case is unlikely to have an impact on LGPS liabilities. The council will continue to monitor developments.

41. Contingent Assets

Equity Loan Scheme

The Council operates an Equity Loan scheme to assist people to purchase a property. Eligible applicants secure a conventional mortgage with a high

street lender for 70% of the full market value. The Council then secures a second charge or “equity loan” for the remaining percentage (30%) against the property.

Repayment of the equity loan will occur when the property is re-sold in the future or if the occupier decided to acquire the additional 30% equity. The repayment sum will be linked to the property value and will depend on the value at the time of repayment. The repayment sums will be classed and treated as Section 106 contributions. As at 31 March 2026, 225 equity loans were outstanding totalling £11.259m and possible repayment dates range from 2043 to 2054.

High Needs Stability Grant

As the Government reforms the SEND system in England, they are supporting local authorities through DSG deficits. This will involve addressing deficits accumulated up to 2025/26. In 2026/27, local authorities with a SEND deficit will be eligible for High Needs Stability Grant which is intended to cover 90% High Needs DSG deficit accrued by the end of 2025/26. The estimated total DSG deficit at the end of 2025/26 is £25.934m. Based on the 90% funding rate, this would result in an estimated additional £23.341m in funding allocation. The Government will provide further details on support for deficits arising in 2026/27.

42. Contingent Liabilities

For 2025/26, the Council has no Contingent Liabilities.

43. Events after the Reporting Period

The Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Director of Finance and Legal on 30th June 2026. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or notes. Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31 March 2026, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in

all material respects to reflect the impact of this information. There are no events after the reporting period to disclose in the 2025/26 accounts.

44. Accounting Policies

General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2025/26 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2026. The Council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. These regulations require the Accounts to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices.

These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2025/26 (the Code) and the Service Reporting Code of Practice 2025/26, 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.

Going Concern

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the services of the Council will continue to operate for the foreseeable future.

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 the sale of goods or the provision of services is recognised in accordance with the terms and conditions and performance obligations specified in the contract.

- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed – where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption, they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.

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

- Interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.

- Where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

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

Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

Service revenue accounts, support services and trading accounts are debited with the following amounts to record the real cost of holding non-current assets during the year:

- depreciation attributable to the assets used by the relevant service.

- revaluation and impairment losses used by the service where there are no accumulated gains in the Revaluation Reserve against which they can be written off.

- amortisation of intangible assets attributable to the service.

The Council is not required to raise Council Tax to cover depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisations. However, it is required to make an annual provision from revenue to contribute towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement. This should be equal to either:

- an amount calculated on a prudent basis determined by the Council in accordance with statutory guidance or,

- equal to at least 2.5% of the underlying amount measured by the adjusted Capital Financing Requirement, excluding amounts attributable to Housing Revenue Account (HRA) activity.

Depreciation, impairment and revaluation losses and amortisations are therefore replaced by revenue provision in the General Fund Balance (Minimum Revenue Provision), by way of an adjusting transaction within the Capital Adjustment Account for the difference between the two. There is no requirement to make a repayment of housing debt.

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.

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. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements (or any form of leave, e.g. time off in lieu) earned by employees but not taken before the year-end which employees can carry forward into the next financial year. The accrual is made at the wage and salary rates applicable in the following accounting year, being the period in which the employee takes the benefit. The accrual is charged to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, then reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement so that holiday benefits are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs.

Termination Benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Council to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy. They are charged on an accruals basis to the appropriate service.

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.

Pensions

The Council contributes to three different pension schemes;

- Teachers' Pension scheme (unfunded) administered by Capita Teachers' Pensions on behalf of the Department for Education
- Local Government scheme (funded) administered by Tameside MBC
- NHS Pension scheme (unfunded)

All schemes provide defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees worked for the Council. However, the arrangements for the Teachers' and NHS schemes mean that liabilities for these benefits cannot be identified. These schemes are therefore accounted for as if it were defined contribution schemes. No liability for future payments of benefits is recognised in the Balance Sheet, and the relevant service lines are charged with the employer's contributions payable to the schemes.

The Local Government Pension Scheme

The Local Government scheme is accounted for as a defined benefits scheme.

The liabilities of the Greater Manchester pension scheme attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method. This is 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 and projections of earnings for current employees. Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate (based on the indicative rate of return on high quality corporate bonds).

The assets of the Greater Manchester 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
- utilised securities – current bid price

- property – market value

The change in the net pensions' liability/asset is analysed into seven components:

Current service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year. This is allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the revenue accounts of 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. This is debited to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the relevant service heading.

Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset) – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability (asset) that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. This is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined obligation at the beginning of the period, taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability (asset) during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.

Expected return on plan assets – the annual investment return on the fund assets attributable to the Council, based on an average of the expected long-term return. This is credited to Financing and Investment Line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

Contributions paid to the pension fund – cash paid as employer's contributions to the fund.

Effect of the Asset Ceiling – IAS19 requires that where an asset exists it is measured at the lower of the surplus in the plan or the asset ceiling. The asset ceiling is the present value of any economic benefits available in the form of refunds from the plan, or reductions in future contributions to the plan.

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 (including teachers) are accrued in the year of the decision to make the award and accounted for using the same policies as are applied to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Events After the Balance Sheet Date

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:

- events which provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is adjusted to reflect such events.

- events which 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.

Financial Assets

Financial assets (e.g. investments and debtors) are classified into three types:

- Amortised cost
- Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income (FVOCI)
- Fair Value through Profit and Loss (FVPL)

The categorisation of financial assets into these types are dependent on the reason for holding the assets (to collect cash flows, to sell assets or achieve objectives by other means).

Amortised Cost

These assets relate to financial instruments where the amounts received are solely principal and interest and the assets are held to generate cashflows. The interest received on these assets are spread evenly over the life of these instruments. Any gain or loss in the value of these assets is recognised in the net surplus/deficit on the net provision of services at the point of derecognition (disposal) or reclassification.

Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income (FVOCI)

These assets relate to the financial instruments where the amounts received are solely principal and interest, but they are held to collect cash and sell the assets. The interest received on these assets are spread evenly over the life of these instruments.

Changes in the fair value of these assets are charged to the Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. Cumulative gains and losses are charged to the surplus/deficit on provision of services when they are disposed of. Where these assets are treated as capital expenditure the gain or loss is reversed to an unusable reserve – the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve.

Fair Value through Profit and Loss (FVPL)

These assets relate to the financial instruments where the amounts received are not solely principal and interest. Dividends received are accounted for at the point they are declared.

Changes in fair value are charged to the surplus/deficit on the net provision of services as they occur. Where these assets were treated as capital expenditure the gain or loss is reversed through the Movement in Reserves Statement and charged to an unusable reserve – the Capital Adjustment Account.

An equity instrument that has been classified as FVPL can be designated as FVOCI if it is not held for trading (e.g. Strategic Investment). Once a designation has been made it cannot be reversed. Any gains or losses would be held in the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve.

The Council has a 3.22% shareholding in Manchester Airport Holdings Ltd which is classified at fair value through Other Comprehensive Income. The investment in Manchester Airport Holdings Ltd and Manchester Airport Car Park Ltd are equity instruments and as such, the default valuation method is that any gains and losses on changes in fair value would be recognised through profit and loss.

The Manchester Airport Holdings Ltd and Manchester Airport Car Park Ltd shareholdings are strategic investments and are not held for trading,

therefore the Council has opted to designate them as fair value through Other Comprehensive Income. This means there is no impact on the revenue budget and the gains and losses on the valuation of the shareholdings will therefore be transferred to the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve.

Credit Loss

The Council will recognise a loss allowance for expected credit losses, if applicable, on assets where cash flows are solely principal and interest. This does not apply where the Counterparty is central government or other local authority.

At each year end the loss allowance for a financial instrument is calculated as equal to the lifetime of expected credit losses if the credit risk on that financial instrument has increased significantly since initial recognition. If at year end the credit risk has not increased significantly since initial recognition the loss allowance is measured at an amount equal to twelve month expected credit losses. Where the financial asset was treated as capital expenditure any losses will be reversed via the Movement in Reserves Statement to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Where the Council has made a number of loans to individuals at less than market rates of interest (these are known as soft loans) a loss is recorded in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (debited to the appropriate service) for the present value of the interest that will be foregone over the life of the instrument, resulting in a lower amortised cost than the outstanding principal. Interest is credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement at a marginally higher effective rate of interest than the rate receivable from the voluntary organisations, with the difference serving to increase the amortised cost of the loan in the Balance Sheet.

Statutory provisions require that the impact of soft loans on the General Fund Balance is the interest receivable for the financial year – the reconciliation of amounts debited and credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net gain required against the General Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Where assets are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a past event that payments due under the contract will not be made, the asset is written

down and a charge made to the relevant service (for receivables specific to that service) or the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the revised future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate.

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

Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities (e.g. borrowings and creditors) 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 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments over the life of the instrument to the amount at which it was originally recognised. For most of the borrowings that the Council has, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable and interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement.

Gains and losses on the re-purchase or early settlement of borrowing are credited and debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year of re-purchase/settlement. However, where re-purchase 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 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement 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 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, 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. The reconciliation of amounts charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net charge required against the General Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Government Grants and Contributions

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

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

Amounts recognised as due to the Council are not credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement until conditions attached to the grant or contribution have been satisfied. Conditions are stipulations that specify that the future economic benefits or service potential 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 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where capital grants are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Where the grant has yet to be used to finance capital expenditure, it is posted to the Capital Grants Unapplied reserve. 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.

Inventories and Long-Term Contracts

Inventories are included in the Balance Sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value. The cost of inventories is assigned using either the First in First Out (FIFO) or Weighted average costing formula. 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.

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.

Intangible assets are measured initially at cost. Amounts are only re-valued 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 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. 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 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Any gain or loss arising on the disposal or abandonment of an intangible asset is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where expenditure on intangible assets qualifies as capital expenditure for statutory purposes, amortisation, impairment losses and disposal gains and losses are not permitted to have an 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 the Capital Receipts Reserve.

Leases

The Authority as Lessee:

Under IFRS 16 Leases, leases for items of low value (below the council's de minimis level of £10k) and leases that are for less than 12 months do not need to be capitalised onto the balance sheet.

Leases which are above the de minimis threshold and are for 12 months or longer are capitalised under IFRS16 regulations. The total lease liability is calculated using Net Present Value (NPV), measuring the lease liability at the present value of the lease payments outstanding at the point of capitalisation, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease, if that rate can be readily determined. If that rate cannot be readily determined, the authority uses PWLB rate at the date of the lease as the incremental borrowing rate.

This figure is capitalised on to the balance sheet as a Right-of-Use Asset and a corresponding liability.

Where leases are at a market rent, and rent reviews are carried out at least once every 5 years, or where the lease has a short enough term that material increases in value are unlikely to arise (e.g for Vehicle Leases), the authority values the Right-of-Use Asset using the cost model. That is, the Right-of-Use Asset is held at the depreciated lease liability value, where the valuation is re-calculated after any changes to the lease.

Where leases are not suitable for the cost model (because they are not at market rent, or rent reviews are further than 5 years apart), the authority values the Right-of-Use Assets using the revaluation model. Here, the Right-of-Use Assets are held at current value and revalued as part of the authority's 5-year rolling asset valuation programme, indexed in the intervening years.

All assets valued under the cost model and all assets valued under the revaluation model where there is a building element are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the length of the lease or the life of the asset, whichever is shortest.

Rentals paid for leases capitalised under IFRS16 are split between the principal repayment, which is treated as a voluntary revenue provision towards the capitalised cost of the lease, and the interest element, which is charged to the Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure element of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES).

Leases not Capitalised under IFRS16

Rentals paid under leases not capitalised under IFRS16 - due to being below the authority's de minimis level of £10,000 or due to being for fewer than 12 months - are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as an expense of the services benefitting from use of the leased property, plant or equipment.

The Authority as Lessor

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 other operating expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when relating to Investment Property, and to net cost of service for rental income received for other asset classes.

Joint Operations

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

- its assets, including its share of any assets held jointly
- its liabilities, including its share of any liabilities incurred jointly

- its revenue from the sale of its share of the output arising from the joint operation
- its share of the revenue from the sale of the output by the joint operation
- its expenses, including its share of any expenses incurred jointly.

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.

Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and Similar Contracts

PFI and similar contracts are agreements to receive services, where the responsibility for making available the property, plant and equipment needed to provide the services passes to the PFI contractor.

As the Council is deemed to control the services that are provided under its PFI schemes, and as ownership of the property, plant and equipment will pass to the Authority at the end of the contracts for no additional charge, the Council carries the assets used under the contracts on its Balance Sheet as part of Property, Plant and Equipment.

The original recognition of these assets at fair value (based on the cost to purchase the property, plant and equipment) was balanced by the

recognition of a liability for amounts due to the scheme operator to pay for the capital investment.

Non-current assets recognised on the Balance Sheet are re-valued and depreciated in the same way as property, plant and equipment owned by the Council.

The amounts payable to the PFI operators each year are analysed into the following elements:

- **fair value of the services received during the year** – debited to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

- **finance cost** – an interest charge of 12% on the outstanding Balance Sheet liability, debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

- **payment towards liability** – applied to write down the Balance Sheet liability towards the PFI operator (the profile of write-downs is calculated using the same principles as for a lease)

- **life cycle costs** – proportion of the amounts payable are treated as revenue expenditure and part of the services element of the unitary payment. Regular replacements of components are treated as part of the lease rentals

With effect from 1 April 2024, IFRS16 applies to service concession arrangements. Under IFRS16 the lease liability is required to be re-measured where indexation (or other changes in rate) affects future service concession payments. Rather than expensing the increased payment, the net present value of future payments that comprise the liability is re-calculated based on the revised level of payment.

The cost of the PFI is partly funded from Government Grant. This grant is treated as non-specific and credited to the Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income line on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets:

Provisions

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Council a legal or constructive obligation which will likely require 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 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year that the Council becomes aware of the obligation and are measured at the best estimate at the balance sheet date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

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

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

Contingent Liabilities

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

Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts.

Contingent Assets

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

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

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.

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. De minimis levels of £6,000 for vehicles, plant and equipment and £10,000 for land and buildings are in place for the acquisition and creation of Property, Plant and Equipment. A de minimis level of £6,000 is also in place for the capitalisation of expenditure for repairs. 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

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 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, 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 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, 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, Community Assets and Assets Under Construction** – depreciated historical cost

- **Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment** – depreciated historical cost

- **Surplus Assets** - the current value measurement base is fair value, estimated at highest and best use from a market participant's perspective

- **Specialised Operational Assets** – current value, however because of their specialist nature they are measured at depreciated replacement cost which is used as an estimate of current value. Examples include schools, libraries and leisure centres.

- **Dwellings** – current value determined using the basis of existing use value for social housing (EUV-SH)

- **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 current value because of the specialist nature of an asset, depreciated replacement cost (DRC) is used as an estimate of current value. Where non-property assets that have short useful lives or low values (or both), depreciated historical cost basis is used as a proxy for current value.

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at current value are re-valued every five years, with annual indexation applied to assets during the four intervening years. Where indices cannot be obtained without undue cost or effort, assets are revalued using a quinquennial revaluation with a desktop revaluation in year three. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains.

Where decreases in value are identified, they are accounted for by:

- where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains)

- where there is no balance in the Revaluation Reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

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

Impairment

Assets are 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 by:

- where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains)

- where there is no balance in the Revaluation Reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

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

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. The asset is re-valued immediately before reclassification and then carried at the lower of this amount and fair value less costs to sell. Where there is a subsequent decrease to fair value less costs to sell, the loss is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Gains in fair value are recognised only up to the amount of any previous losses recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services.

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

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

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

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts. A proportion of receipts relating to housing disposals (75% for dwellings, 50% for land and other assets, net of statutory deductions and allowances) is payable to the Government.

The balance of receipts is required to be credited to the Capital Receipts Reserve and can then only be used for new capital investment or set aside to reduce the Council's underlying need to borrow (the capital financing requirement). Receipts are appropriated to the Reserve from the 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 Property Plant and Equipment assets are fully provided for under separate arrangements for capital financing. Amounts are appropriated to the Capital Adjustment Account from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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 by allocating the value of the asset in the Balance Sheet over the periods expected to benefit from their use according to the following policy:

- newly acquired assets are depreciated in the year of acquisition.
- newly acquired vehicles, plant and equipment are depreciated in the year of acquisition on a pro-rata basis.
- Assets are not subject to depreciation in the year of disposal.

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- **Council Dwellings** – dwellings are split into their component elements, such as kitchens, roofs, windows, electrics, heating systems, and so on, and the residual value of the property. The components are then depreciated on a straight-line basis over their useful lives, whilst the host residual value is depreciated on a straight line basis over 125 years.
- **Other Buildings** – straight line allocation over the life of the property as estimated by the valuer, these can range from 10 to 70 years.
- **Vehicles, Plant and Equipment** – straight line allocation over a period of between 3 and 25 years, the asset's estimated remaining life.
- **Highways Infrastructure (carriageways, footways & cycleways)** – straight line allocation over 25 years.
- **Street Lighting** - straight line allocation over 40 years
- **Public Open Space Infrastructure** – straight line allocation over 20 years.
- **Bridges & Other Structures** – straight line allocation over 80 years.
- **Right-of-Use Assets** – straight line over the length of the lease, or the asset's useful life, whichever is shortest.

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.

Fair Value

The Council measures some of its non-financial assets, such as surplus assets and investment properties and some of its financial instruments at fair value at each reporting date. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset 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:

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

The Council measures the fair value of an asset or liability on the same basis that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability (assuming those market participants were acting in their economic best interest).
When measuring the fair value of a non-financial asset, the Council 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 Council uses appropriate valuation techniques for each circumstance, maximising the use of relevant known data and minimising the use of estimates or unknowns. This takes into account the three levels of categories for inputs to valuations for fair value assets:

- **Level 1** – quoted prices in active markets for identical assets that the Council 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 where market data is not available.

A sensitivity analysis is be carried out on those assets assessed as Level 3 where the value exceeds £250k and where significant changes in unobservable inputs would result in a material change in fair value.

Investment Properties

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 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. 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 and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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.

Heritage Assets

Heritage Assets are recognised and measured in accordance with the Authority's accounting policies on property, plant and equipment. However,

some of the measurement rules are relaxed in relation to heritage assets as detailed below.

Acquisitions are initially recognised at cost, and donations are recognised at valuation in accordance with the authority's policy on acquisitions and disposals. The assets are deemed to have indeterminate lives and a high residual value; hence the Authority does not consider it appropriate to charge depreciation.

Arts and Artefacts Collection

The total museum collection comprises of an estimated 35,000 objects. This includes well over 4,000 paintings, prints, sketches, musical instruments, decorative arts, pewter and glass items, coins and jewellery. The collection contains approximately 55 Egyptian artefacts, some of which were revalued by The Manchester Museum and external experts in 2015. The museum collection also contains the Drumcroon art collection which was transferred to the museum in May 2015. This collection has been revalued in 2024 by Bonhams. When donations to the collection occur, they are initially recognised at insurance valuation.

There is a large collection of social industrial and educational items held in the museum collection, illustrating domestic, civic, religious, leisure and working life in Wigan Borough from the 17th century to present day alongside collections of geology, natural history and archaeology covering a longer historical period. Due to the low value of these individual items, they are not recognised on the balance sheet, but some details are available on the museums database. Only the items over £5,000 are included on the Authority's Balance Sheet and reported at insurance value.

The Museum will occasionally dispose of heritage assets in accordance with the Museum Code of Ethics and with approval by the Council if they are not deemed to be relevant to the borough, do not comply with collecting policies or would be better placed in another museum.

Civic Regalia

Items of civic regalia are objects relating to duties of civic office. Examples of civic regalia are the mayoral chains, corporation mace, caskets, badges and other items commemorating civic duty. Civic Regalia are reported in the balance sheet at insurance valuation. These items are available for the public to view; prior arrangements must be made with the Democratic Services Manager. Tel: 01942 827121.

Public / Outside Art

Throughout the borough are numerous items of Outside Public Art/Statues. These items are owned by the Council but have been funded by various external funding sources, e.g. Lottery Fund, European Regional Development Fund, Single Regeneration Budget and private developers. These assets are included in the balance sheet at cost.

Other Heritage Assets

The Council has numerous Cenotaphs, War Memorials and Ancient Crosses within the borough which would fall under the Heritage Assets definition. Due to the historic nature of these assets, no cost or insurance valuation is available and obtaining valuations would involve a disproportionate cost in comparison to the benefits to the users of the Authority's financial statements. Consequently, the Authority does not recognise these assets on the balance sheet.

All items of Heritage Assets are available for the public to view, but prior arrangements must be made. For further information of the museum collection contact the Lead Officer – Museums at Wigan Museum, Library Street, Wigan WN1 1NU. Tel: 01942 828128. Email: wiganmuseum@wigan.gov.uk

Schools

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom confirms that the balance of control for local authority-maintained schools

(i.e. those categories of school identified in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, as amended) lies with the local authority. The Code also stipulates that those schools' assets, liabilities, reserves and cash flows are recognised in the local authority financial statements (and not the Group Accounts). Therefore, schools' transactions, cash flows and balances are recognised in each of the financial statements of the authority as if they were the transactions, cash flows and balances of the authority.

Schools' Non-Current Assets

The Council recognises schools' non-current assets (school buildings and playing fields) on its Balance Sheet where it has direct ownership of the assets, there is formal agreement or evidence that the rights of ownership have been transferred or that these are no longer substantive. Where the non-current assets used by the school are owned by an entity other than the Council, school or school Governing Body then it is not included on the Council's Balance Sheet. The exception is where the entity has transferred the rights of use of the asset to the Council, school or school Governing Body.

Community schools are owned by the Council and are, therefore recognised on the Balance Sheet.

The legal title of ownership of Voluntary aided and Voluntary Controlled schools lies with the respective Diocese with no rights if ownership transfer to the school or governing bodies, therefore these schools are not recognised on the Balance Sheet.

Where the ownership of a Foundation school lies with a charitable trust, the school or the schools Governing Body, the school is not recognised on the Council's Balance Sheet.

When a maintained school converts to an Academy, the school non-current assets held on the Council's balance sheet are treated as a disposal. The carrying value of the asset is written off to Other Operating Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Any revaluation gains accumulated for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute (REFCUS)

Expenditure incurred during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provisions but does not result in the creation of a non-current fixed asset has been charged to relevant service account 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 so there is no impact on the level of Council Tax.

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 score against the Surplus and Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. 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 and retirement and employee benefits and they do not represent usable resources for the Council.

Accounting for Council Tax

While the Council Tax income for the year credited to the Collection Fund is the accrued income for the year, regulations determine when it should be released from the Collection Fund and transferred to the Council's General Fund or paid out from the Collection Fund to the major preceptors.

The Council Tax income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the Council's share of the Collection Fund's accrued income for the year. Revenue related to council tax shall be

measured at the full amount receivable (net of any impairment losses) as they are non-contractual, non-exchange transactions and there can be no difference between the delivery and payment dates.

The cash collected by the Council from Council Taxpayers belongs proportionately to all the major preceptors. The difference between the amounts collected on behalf of the other major preceptors and the payments made to them is reflected as a debtor or creditor balance as appropriate.

National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR)

The NNDR income for the year credited to the Collection Fund is the accrued income for the year. Regulations determine when it should be released from the Collection Fund and paid out to major preceptors and the Government. The amount credited to the General Fund under statute is the Council's estimated share of NNDR for the year from the National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) 1 return.

The NNDR income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the Council's share of the Collection Fund's accrued income for the year from the NNDR 3 return. Revenue relating to non-domestic rates shall be measured at the full amount receivable (net of any impairment losses), as they are non-contractual, non-exchange transactions and there can be no difference between the delivery and payment dates.

VAT

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.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 March 2026

2024/25 £ 000		Notes	2025/26 £ 000
	Expenditure		
35,200	Repairs & Maintenance	**1**	33,995
27,613	Supervision & Management	**2**	28,715
2,361	Rents, Rates, Taxes and Other Charges	**3**	1,142
23,060	Depreciation and Impairment of Non-Current Assets	**4/5**	24,274
110	Gain (-) or loss on Revaluation of Stock	**4/5**	112
592	Movement in the Allowance for Bad Debts	**7**	970
88,935	**Total Expenditure**		**89,207**
	Income		
-104,758	Dwelling Rents	**8/9**	-106,188
-361	Non-dwelling Rents	**10**	-307
-1,857	Charges for Services & Facilities	**11**	-1,801
-1,382	Contributions towards Expenditure	**12**	-1,981
-108,358	**Total Income**		**-110,276**
-19,423	**Net Cost of HRA Services as included in the whole authority Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement**		**-21,069**
	HRA share of the operating income and expenditure included in the whole authority Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement:		
-1,273	Gain (-) or loss on sale of HRA non-current assets	**13**	-1,766
12,614	Interest payable and similar charges	**6/14**	12,822
-646	HRA Interest and investment income	**15**	-497
16	Gain (-) or loss on the Revaluation of HRA Investment Property		-100
-3,676	Capital grants and contributions receivable		-1,831
-12,388	**Surplus (-) or deficit for the year on HRA services**		**-12,441**

MOVEMENT ON THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT STATEMENT

2024/25 £ 000		Notes	2025/26 £ 000
-16,429	**Housing Revenue Account surplus brought forward**		**-19,670**
-12,388	Surplus (-) or deficit for the year on the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement		-12,441
9,147	Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under the legislative framework	**16**	9,965
0	Transfers to / (from) Earmarked Reserves	**17**	0
-19,670	**Balance on the HRA at the end of the current year**	**20**	**-22,146**

NOTES TO THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

Under Section 74 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Council is required to keep a separate account in respect of the provision of council dwellings.

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

1. Repairs & Maintenance

This is the cost of undertaking programmed and day to day responsive repairs to the properties within the HRA.

2. Supervision & Management

Supervision and Management within the HRA represents the ongoing revenue costs incurred by the authority in managing and administering its housing stock and landlord services. This includes expenditure on tenancy management, rent collection, housing staff and support services, estate management, and associated administrative and overhead costs. These costs reflect the day-to-day operation of housing services and the delivery of core landlord functions.

3. Rents, Rates and Other Charges

Rents rates and other charges within the Housing Revenue Account includes all costs payable by the Council in respect of properties held within the HRA. This comprises items such as tenants' contents insurance, legal liability and premises insurance, the cost of Council Tax on void properties, and a range of

other minor property-related charges, including feasibility costs associated with potential new build schemes.

4. Depreciation, Impairment, and Revaluation Charges

The depreciation and impairment charges for 2025/26 are as follows:

2024/25 £ 000		2025/26 £ 000
22,270	Depreciation on Property, Plant and Equipment – Dwellings	24,176
107	Depreciation on Property, Plant and Equipment – Other Land and Buildings	89
7	Depreciation on Property, Plant and Equipment – Surplus Assets / Vehicles, Furniture and Equipment	9
22,384	**Total Depreciation**	**24,274**
676	Impairment	0
110	Revaluation Adjustment (Gain - / Loss +)	11
23,170	**Total Depreciation, Impairment and Revaluation**	**24,285**

The opening net book value of dwellings was £1,014.311m and increased by £35.983m during 2025/26 to £1,050.294m (2024/25 £938.872m increased by £75.438m to £1,014.311m).

5. Capital Asset Charges Accounting Adjustment

The costs of impairment are included as charges to the HRA Income and Expenditure Account. The effect of the capital asset charges accounting adjustment is that the impairment cost is reversed out of the HRA in the Movement on HRA Statement as this is not a cost that is to be borne by the HRA tenants. Impairment charges relate to the revaluation of a non-dwelling asset pending demolition. For 2025/26 there was no impairment charge for the HRA.

6. Debt Management Expenses

This is the total cost of managing the HRA debt portfolio. The cost for 2025/26 was £52k (2024/25 £54k).

7. Movement in the Allowance for Bad Debts

Contributions towards the HRA Allowance for uncollectable rent arrears Bad Debts amounted to £970k compared with £592k in 2024/25.

Cumulative provisions held are as follows:

Cumulative provisions for uncollectable debts	£ 000	%
31 March 2025	7,452	74.00
31 March 2026	7,881	71.00

Rent Arrears are analysed below:

2024/25		2025/26
£'000		**£'000**
6,177	Current Tenants Arrears	6,452
3,808	Former Tenants Arrears	4,552
71	Overpaid Housing Benefit	60
10,055	**Total Arrears**	**11,064**

8. Dwelling Rents

This is the total income due for the year after allowing for rent lost on void properties. In 2025/26 the void property rent loss was 2.41%, consistent with 2024/25.

9. Stock Numbers and Valuations

The opening stock at 1 April 2025 was 21,303 properties, with a closing stock at 31 March 2026 of 21,165. The movements in stock are as follows:

	2024/25	2025/26
Opening Stock	**21,327**	**21,303**
Disposals		
Right to Buys	-95	-164
Right to Buy (RCGF, S11(6) Exemption)	-4	-4
Conversions	0	0
Pending Demolition / Demolished	-18	0
Re-classified Dwellings (GF)	0	-1
Re-classified Dwellings (as Surplus Assets)	0	0
Total Disposals	**-117**	**-169**
New Additions		
New Build / Acquisitions / Returned to Stock	93	18
Assets Under Construction	0	0
Reclassified (from PPE other land and buildings)	0	11
Conversions	0	2
Total Additions	**93**	**31**
Closing Stock	**21,303**	**21,165**

2024/25	Stock by Property Type	2025/26
£'000		**£'000**
12,980	House	12,823
2,965	Bungalow	2,964
5,358	Flat	5,378
21,303	**Total Closing Stock**	**21,165**

The Valuation of Stock is as follows:

	31.03.25	31.03.26
	£'000	**£'000**
Property, Plant and Equipment – Dwellings	1,014,311	1,050,294
Property, Plant and Equipment – Other Land and Buildings	5,633	4,553
Property, Plant and Equipment – Assets Under Construction	1,858	2,254
Property, Plant and Equipment – Plant and Equipment	32	23
Property, Plant and Equipment – Surplus	913	1,375
Intangible Assets	0	0
Assets Held for Sale	449	196
Investment Property	365	468
Total HRA Assets	**1,203,560**	**1,059,163**

The dwelling values within the above table are on the basis of Social Housing Use.

10. Non-Dwelling Rents

This is rental income from garages and shops.

11. Charges for Services and Facilities

Amounts charged to tenants in respect of items such as heating, lighting, caretaking, wardens etc.

12. Contributions towards Expenditure

Various contributions including:

- Tenants' rechargeable repairs
- Settlement of insurance claims
- Income from Solar Panels

13. Gain or Loss on Sale of HRA Non-Current Assets

This is made up of the gain or loss on the disposal of dwellings under Right to Buy (a gain on disposal of £1.766m), and the gain or loss on disposal of any non-dwelling HRA assets disposed in year.

14. Interest Payable and Similar Charges

This is interest payable on the HRA debt outstanding.

Interest charges for 2025/26 were £12.770m compared to £12.562m in 2024/25. During 2025/26 the debt repaid amounted to £3.5m. As at 31 March 2026 the amount of HRA debt outstanding was £311.310m (2024/25 £308.223m).

15. HRA Interest and Investment Income

This comprises interest on cash balances.

16. Adjustment between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under statute

This comprises of the reversal of the charge for impairment, revaluation of assets and the capital grants credited to the HRA Statement.

17. Transfers to / (from) Earmarked Reserves

This comprises movements between the HRA and Earmarked Reserves. In 2025/26 there were no transfers to or from the HRA and Earmarked Reserves (2024/25 nil).

18. Funding HRA Capital Expenditure

2024/25 £ 000		2025/26 £ 000
20,002	Contributions from the Major Repairs Reserve	20,000
7,000	Borrowing	0
5,055	Revenue Contributions to Capital Expenditure	6,407
4,172	Usable Capital Receipts	2,638
3,844	Other Grants and Contributions	1,964
40,072	**Total Funding**	**31,009**

The majority of Government Grant income received in 2025/26 comprised £1.784m from the GMCA Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund. In addition, £2.638m of capital receipts were utilised, including £329k of RTB receipts applied to new build developments and £2.309m of general capital receipts used to support the wider capital programme.

Summary of Capital Receipts

2024/25 £ 000		2025/26 £ 000
-6,155	Disposal of Dwellings (Right to Buy)	-11,314
-433	Disposal of HRA Land & Other Receipts	-669
-6,588	**Total Capital Receipts**	**-11,983**

Capital receipts refer to the funds generated from the sale of capital assets and are primarily used to finance capital expenditure. In 2025/26, the '1:4:1' share of capital receipts from Right to Buy (RTB) sales totalled £4.98m. This funding is ring-fenced for new housing development and must be utilised within five years.

Following changes to RTB discounts in November 2024, there was a surge in applications that is still being processed. As a result, RTB sales increased in 2025/26 and are expected to remain elevated in 2026/27. Thereafter, sales are projected to fall sharply, potentially dropping to around 10% of typical levels.

19. Transfer to / from Major Repairs Reserve

This transfer into the Major Repairs Reserve is in respect of depreciation on non-dwelling assets.

Major Repairs Reserve Movements

2024/25 £ 000		2025/26 £ 000
6,488	**Opening Balance at 1 April**	**5,269**
22,384	Transfers into the MRR	24,274
-20,052	Expenditure charged to the MRR	-20,000
0	Appropriation Charges	-105
-3,551	Loan Repayments	-3,533
5,269	**Closing Balance at 31 March**	**5,905**

This is a statutory reserve maintained to show how the HRA Major Repairs Allowance funding has been used. The reserve commenced the financial year with a balance of £5.269m (2024/25 £6.488m).

In 2025/26 funding of £24.274m was received (2024/25 £22.384m), which was used in part during the financial year to pay for major refurbishment works to Council dwellings & debt repayments. The reserve has a £5.905m balance to carry forward to 2026/27 (2025/26 £5.269m).

20. Balance at 31 March 2026

£2.476m was transferred to general HRA reserves (2024/25 £3.240m). The reserve balance stands as £22.146m to be carried forward into 2026/27 for use in future years (2025/26 £19.670m).

THE COLLECTION FUND STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

The Collection Fund reflects the statutory requirement for billing authorities to establish and maintain a separate fund for the collection and distribution of amounts due in respect of Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates (NDR). There is no requirement for a separate Collection Fund balance sheet, however the relevant transactions are incorporated into the Council's balance sheet.

The transactions of the Collection Fund are wholly prescribed by legislation. Billing authorities have no discretion to determine which receipts and payments are accounted for within the fund and which outside.

Business Rates 2024/25 Restated	Council Tax 2024/25 Restated	Total 2024/25		Business Rates 2025/26	Council Tax 2025/26	Total 2025/26
£'000	**£'000**	**£'000**		**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
			Income			
0	-191,566	-191,566	Council Tax Receivable	0	-201,162	-201,162
-80,244	0	-80,244	Income from Business Ratepayers	-86,827	0	-86,827
-1,371	0	-1,371	Transitional Protection Payments	215	0	215
-81,616	**-191,566**	**-273,181**		**-86,612**	**-201,162**	**-287,774**
			Precepts, Demands and Shares			
83,752	152,077	235,829	Wigan Council	88,573	160,918	249,491
0	25,092	25,092	Greater Manchester Mayoral – Police and Crime Commissioner	0	26,652	26,652
846	7,949	8,795	Greater Manchester Mayoral – Fire Service	895	8,499	9,394
0	3,108	3,108	Greater Manchester Mayoral – Mayor	0	4,215	4,215
-2,427	-1,348	-3,775	Contribution towards previous years Collection Fund surplus	-3,174	565	-2,609
82,171	**188,878**	**269,049**		**86,294**	**200,849**	**287,143**
			Charges to Collection Fund			
949	1,882	2,830	Increase / Decrease (-) in Bad Debt Provision	-4	1,651	1,647
843	0	843	Increase / Decrease (-) in Provision for Appeals	-2,067	0	-2,067
4,586	0	4,586	Write-offs charged to the Collection Fund	1,571	443	2,014
134	0	134	Interest Charged to the Collection Fund	86	0	86
-2,835	0	-2,835	RV List Amendments charged to Provision	0	0	0
367	0	367	Cost of Collection	364	0	364
4,044	**1,882**	**5,926**		**-50**	**2,094**	**2,044**

4,599	-2,806	1,793	Surplus (-) / Deficit arising in the year	-368	1,781	1,413
4,509	1,105	5,614	Surplus (-) / Deficit b/fwd 1 April	9,108	-1,701	7,406
9,108	**-1,701**	**7,407**	**Surplus (-) / Deficit c/fwd 31 March**	**8,740**	**80**	**8,820**
			Allocated to:			
9,018	-1,369	7,649	Wigan Council	8,652	61	8,713
0	0	0	Central Government	0	0	0
0	-227	-227	Greater Manchester Mayoral – Police and Crime Commissioner	0	10	10
91	-72	19	Greater Manchester Mayoral – Fire Service	88	4	92
0	-33	-33	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	0	5	5
9,108	**-1,701**	**7,407**	**Total Shares Allocated**	**8,740**	**80**	**8,820**

The prior year comparators have been restated to reflect reclassification within the table; this has no impact on the overall total.

NOTES TO THE COLLECTION FUND

1. Council Tax

Collection Fund deficits or surpluses declared by the billing authority in relation to Council Tax are apportioned to the relevant precepting authorities in the subsequent financial year. The precepting bodies are the Police and Crime Commissioner for Greater Manchester, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority and Greater Manchester Combined Authority (Mayor).

The proportions were as follows:

2024/25 %		2025/26 %
80.79%	Wigan Council	80.35%
13.33%	Police Crime and Commissioner for Greater Manchester	13.31%
4.22%	Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority	4.24%
1.66%	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	2.10%

Council Tax charges are calculated by estimating the amount of income required from the Collection Fund by the Council and precepting authorities for the forthcoming year and dividing this by the Council Tax base (i.e. the number of Band D equivalent dwellings).

The Council Tax base for 2025/26 was 98,600 (97,900 in 2024/25). This was calculated as follows:

Tax Base

Council Tax Bands (No. of Properties)			
Band	**Number of chargeable dwellings**	**Multiplier**	**Band D equivalent dwellings**
A	46,159	6/9	30,773
B	28,993	7/9	22,550
C	22,623	8/9	20,109
D	12,324	9/9	12,324
E	7,375	11/9	9,014
F	1,896	13/9	2,739
G	592	15/9	987
H	52	18/9	104
Total Band D Equivalent	**120,014**		**98,600**

The average Council Tax for Band D dwellings for the Council and major precepting authorities was £2,058.74 (2024/25 £1,914.15).

2024/25:

Council Tax Bands (No. of Properties)			
Band	**Number of chargeable dwellings**	**Multiplier**	**Band D equivalent dwellings**
A	45,904	6/9	30,602
B	28,723	7/9	22,340
C	22,452	8/9	19,957
D	12,369	9/9	12,369
E	7,229	11/9	8,836
F	1,887	13/9	2,726
G	585	15/9	975
H	48	18/9	95
Total Band D Equivalent	**119,197**		**97,900**

2. Non-Domestic Rates

The Council collects NDR for its area based on local rateable values provided by the Valuation Office. The Rateable Value is multiplied by a multiplier rate set by Central Government. From 2017/18, the Council will retain 99% of Business Rates collected locally (previously 49%) as part of the 100% Business Rate Retention Pilot. The increased rates are in lieu of Revenue Support Grant and Public Health Grant.

The total non-domestic rateable value at the year-end was £222,263,034 (2024/25 £223,297,802).

The national multipliers are as follows:

	2024/25	2025/26
Standard Business rate	54.6p	55.5p
Small Businesses rate	49.9p	49.9p

Wigan Council is part of the Greater Manchester 100% business rates pilot. Authorities receive 99% of their Business Rates income in lieu of Revenue Support Grant and Public Health Grant. The Business Rates shares payable for 2025/26 were estimated before the start of the financial year as £88.572m to Wigan Council (99%) and £0.894m to Greater Manchester Fire (1%).

Any year-end surplus or deficit will be shared between the two bodies in the proportions mentioned above and taken into account in their budget processes in the following year.

3. Contributions to Collection Fund Surpluses and Deficits

The Council under statute has to prepare an estimate each January of the surplus or deficit expected to arise at the end of the financial year. In January 2025, it was estimated that the following amounts would arise at the end of 2024/25 and therefore be due to/(from) the preceptors in 2025/26.

	Estimated Surplus Council Tax	Estimated Deficit NNDR
	£'000	**£'000**
Wigan Council	-457	3,142
Greater Manchester Mayoral – Fire Service & Mayor	-33	32
Greater Manchester Mayoral – Police and Crime Commissioner	-75	0
Total	**-565**	**3,174**

GLOSSARY

A

ACCRUALS

The concept that income and expenditure are recognised as they are earned or incurred, not as money is received or paid.

ACCUMULATED ABSENCES

Leave, Flexitime and Time in Lieu that has not been taken at the end of the financial year.

ACTUARY

An actuary is a business professional who deals with the financial impact of risk and uncertainty.

AGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

Services performed by or for another Authority or public body, where the agent is reimbursed for the cost of the work done.

AMORTISATION

The measure of the consumption or other reduction in the useful economic life of an intangible asset, whether arising from use, passage of time or obsolescence through technological or other changes.

B

BUDGET

A statement defining in financial terms the Authority's plans over a specified period. The budget is prepared as part of the process of setting the Council Tax.

C

CAPITAL ADJUSTMENT ACCOUNT

This provides a balancing mechanism between the different rates at which assets are depreciated under the Code and are financed through the capital control system.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Expenditure on the acquisition of fixed assets such as land, buildings, vehicles and equipment which are of long term value, or expenditure which adds to and not merely maintains the value of existing fixed assets.

CAPITAL FINANCING COSTS

Each service is charged with an annual capital charge to reflect the cost of fixed assets used in the provision of services.

CAPITAL FINANCING REQUIREMENT

This measures the underlying need to borrow to finance capital expenditure.

CAPITAL RECEIPTS

Money received from the sale of capital assets such as land, buildings and vehicles which may be used to repay outstanding debt or to finance new assets.

COLLECTION FUND

The Collection Fund is a separate statutory fund which details the transactions in relation to Non-domestic Rates and the Council Tax and the distribution to preceptors and the General Fund. The Collection Fund is consolidated with the other accounts of the Authority.

CORPORATE AND DEMOCRATIC CORE

The corporate and democratic core is concerned with the costs of corporate policy making and member-based activities. Other costs relate to the general running of the Authority including corporate management, public accountability and treasury management.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

This is concerned with the Council's accountability for the stewardship of resources, risk management and relationship with the community. It also encompasses policies on whistle blowing, fraud and corruption.

COUNCIL TAX

This is a banded property tax levied on domestic properties in the Borough. The banding is based on estimated property values.

CREDITORS

Amounts owed by the Authority for work done, goods received or services rendered but for which payment has not been made at the balance sheet date.

D

DEBTORS

Amounts owed to the Authority for work done, goods received or services rendered but for which payment has not been received at the balance sheet date.

DEFERRED LIABILITIES

These are liabilities which are payable beyond the next year and are primarily mortgage repayments and transferred debt.

DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEME

A defined benefit pension scheme is one where retirement benefits are determined independently of the investments of the scheme and employers have obligations to make contributions where assets are insufficient to meet employee benefits. The Local Government scheme is classified as a defined benefit scheme.

DEPRECIATION

The measure of the wearing out, consumption or other reduction in the useful economic life of a fixed asset, whether arising from use, passage of time or obsolescence through technological or other changes.

DONATED ASSETS

Assets transferred at nil value or acquired at less than fair value.

F

FAIR VALUE

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.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

This is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity of another. The term covers both financial assets (e.g. loans receivable) and financial liabilities (e.g. borrowings).

FUNDED PENSION SCHEME

A funded pension scheme is one in which the future liabilities for pension benefits are provided for by the accumulation of assets held externally to the employer's business.

H

HERITAGE ASSETS

These are held by the Council principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

The Housing Revenue Account is a statutory account maintained separately from General Fund services. It includes all revenue expenditure and income relating to the provision, maintenance and administration of Council Housing and associated areas.

I

IMPAIRMENT

A reduction in the value of a non-current asset below its carrying amount on the balance sheet.

INTANGIBLE ASSETS

These are assets that have no physical substance, for example computer software licences.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARD (IFRS)

Defined Accounting Standards that must be applied by all reporting entities to financial statements in order to provide a true and fair view of their financial position and enables a standardised method of comparison with the financial statements of other entities.

L

LOCAL AUTHORITY (SCOTLAND) ACCOUNTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LASAAC)

Is an independent committee that develops and promotes proper accounting practice for Local Government

M

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN (MTFP)

A financial plan detailing projected expenditure and available resources over a period of three years.

MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION (MRP)

This is the minimum amount which must be set aside from revenue as provision for debt repayment. For this Authority it is currently 2.5% of the internal and external debt outstanding at the start of the year.

N

NON-DOMESTIC RATES (NDR)

These are often referred to as Business Rates and are a levy on business properties based on a national rate in the pound applied to the 'rateable value' of the property. The Government determines the national rate poundage, and Local Authorities collect the sums due, with distribution made in accordance with rules governing the Business Rates retention scheme.

NET-BOOK VALUE

The amount at which fixed assets are included in the balance sheet, either at historical cost or current cost less cumulative depreciation.

NET REALISABLE VALUE

The market value of the asset in its existing use (or open market value in the case of a non-operational asset), less any expenses incurred in realising the asset.

NON-DISTRIBUTED COSTS

Costs incurred by the Authority which are excluded from service costs. These include past service costs relating to changes in pension regulations, the costs associated with unused shares of IT facilities and impairment losses relating to assets under construction.

P

POOLED BUDGETS

Where services provided are closely linked, for example health and social care, partnership agreements are set up whereby the service provision is funded jointly by two or more partner organisations.

PRECEPTS

An amount of money levied by one authority (the precepting authority), which is collected by another authority (the collecting authority) as part of the council tax.

PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE (PFI)

A partnership between the private and public sectors which uses private sector financing to provide public sector assets. The partnership has to meet certain criteria in order to qualify for Central Government subsidy.

PROVISIONS

An amount set aside to provide for a liability which is likely to be incurred but the exact amount and date it will arise is uncertain.

PRUDENTIAL BORROWING

The set of rules governing local authority borrowing in the UK. Under prudential borrowing, the amount of debt and other liabilities most local authorities can incur is no longer capped by an upper limit. Instead borrowing must conform to the Prudential Code which (among other things) requires that borrowing be affordable and prudential.

R

RESERVES

A reserve is an amount set aside for a specific purpose in one financial year and carried forward to meet expenditure in future years.

REVALUATION RESERVE

This records unrealised gains made by the Council arising from increases in the value of Property, Plant and Equipment.

REVENUE EXPENDITURE

This is the day to day running costs the Authority incurs in providing the service.

REFCUS

Revenue expenditure funded by capital under statute.

S

SECTION 106

A legally binding agreement or planning obligation with a landowner in association with the granting of planning permission.

U

UNFUNDED PENSION SCHEME

This is one in which liabilities for pension benefits are charged to the employer's revenue account in the year in which they arise and are not financed from investments held.

V

VOLUNTARY REVENUE PROVISION (VRP)

The VRP is a voluntary revenue contribution for the repayment of debt. It recognises the shorter life span of a number of assets i.e. vehicles that would become obsolete before the original debt has been repaid.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

REGULATORY BODIES, OTHER BODIES AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

C

Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)

The leading professional body for public sector accounting which sets accounting standards for the public sector. CIPFA advises central government and other bodies on local government and public sector finance matters.
https://www.cipfa.org/

Code of Practice on Local Government Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25

Detailed guidance on the proper accounting treatment to be used in the preparation of local authority statement of accounts.

D

Department for Education (DFE)
UK government department with responsibility for infant, primary and secondary education.
http://www.education.gov.uk/

Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
This government department integrates environmental, social and economic objectives. DEFRA promotes sustainable development as the way forward for Government.
https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
UK government department with responsibility for welfare and pension policy. https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions

G

Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA)

The ten authorities in Greater Manchester are the first in the country to develop a statutory Combined Authority which will co-ordinate key economic development, regeneration and transport functions. The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) was established on the 1 April 2011.
https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/

H

His Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC)
HMRC is the body with the legal responsibility for collecting the bulk of tax revenue.
http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/

Homes England (HE)
The HE is the national housing and regeneration delivery agency for England and also has regulatory responsibility for social housing providers. https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/homes-and-communities-agency

Home Office (HO)
The Home Office is the lead government department responsible for immigration and passports, drugs policy, crime, counterterrorism and police. https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office

I

International Accounting Standards Board (IASB)
The independent standard setting body that are responsible for the development and publication of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and International Accounting Standards (IAS).

M

Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG)

DLUHC issues government lead initiatives on issues such as fire prevention, emergency planning and training. CLG is also a major funding source.
https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government

O

Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (OFSTED)

Inspects and regulates educational services in the UK and promotes educational, economic and social well-being of children, young people and adult learners.
http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/

P

Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)

This is a government agency which provides long-term loans to public bodies at more economical rates than what would be obtained commercially.
https://www.dmo.gov.uk/responsibilities/local-authority-lending-pwlb/about-pwlb/

R

Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)

Accrediting body for the surveying profession. Surveyors who value our properties must be RICS accredited.
http://www.rics.org/uk/

S

Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE)

SOLACE is the representative body for senior strategic managers working in the public sector. The society promotes effective local government and provides professional development for its members.
http://www.solace.org.uk/

T

Teachers' Pension Agency (TPA)
The agency administers the Teachers' pension scheme in England and Wales on behalf of the Department for Education.
https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/

V

Valuation Office Agency (VOA)
The VOA is an executive agency of HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) who provides the Government with the valuations and property advice required to support taxation and benefits. They also deliver a range of statutory and non-statutory valuations and surveying services to public sector bodies.
http://www.voa.gov.uk/

FUNDING

D

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

The Council's expenditure on schools is funded primarily by grant monies provided by the DfE. DSG is ring-fenced and can only be applied to meet expenditure included in the school's budget, as defined in the School Finance (England) Regulations 2012.

N

Non-Domestic Rate (NDR)

The operation of NDR follows a similar process to Council Tax where an assessment of the receipts which can be raised will be forecast by the Council and this will be shared between the Council, The Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Greater Manchester Mayor for Police and Fire Services. Any year end surplus or deficits will be shared between the three bodies and considered in their budget processes in the following year.

S

SCHEMES

Local Government Pension Scheme (Greater Manchester Pension Fund)
This is a defined benefit scheme meaning that the authority and employees pay contributions into a fund. Contributions are calculated at a level intended to balance the pension liabilities with investment assets. This scheme is administered by Tameside Council on behalf of the authority and other public sector organisations in Greater Manchester.

Teachers' Pension Scheme
Teachers employed by the Council are members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme administered by the Teachers' Pension Agency (TPA). It provides teachers with defined benefits upon retirement, and the council

contributes towards those costs by making contributions based on members' pensionable salaries.

NHS Pension Scheme
The Scheme provides these staff with specified benefits upon their retirement, and the Council contributes towards the costs by making contributions based on a percentage of members' pensionable salaries.

OTHER TERMS OF REFERENCE

I

ICB (Integrated Care Board)
Integrated care boards (ICBs) replaced clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) in the NHS in England from 1 July 2022. Wigan falls under the Greater Manchester ICB. This new NHS organisation, overseen by a Board, is in charge of NHS expenditure and making sure services are in place to put plans into action. Made up of representatives from the NHS and local councils, they're responsible for making decisions about health services in their area.

L

LMS (Local Management of Schools)
Under this programme, the schools within the authority have the responsibility of effectively managing their own bank account.

S

SEN (Special Educational Needs)
There are a number of SEN projects running across the Council. The ultimate aim of the schemes is to ensure that every child with special educational needs reaches their full potential in school and can make a successful transition to adulthood. The Council does this by promoting the welfare and interests of disabled children and offering advice for parents, teachers and other professionals working with children with special educational needs.