

# APPENDIX A(i)

## West Devon Borough Council

### Draft Statement of Accounts (Un-audited)

**2014/2015**

This information can be made available in large print, Braille, tape format or other languages upon request. West Devon Borough Council is committed to reflecting the full diversity of our community and to promoting equality of opportunity for everyone.



**West Devon  
Borough  
Council**

# **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2014/2015**

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# **Section 1**

## **Explanatory Foreword**

# EXPLANATORY FOREWORD

## INTRODUCTION

1. Each year West Devon Borough Council publishes a Statement of Accounts that incorporates all the financial statements and disclosure notes required by statute.
2. The Statement of Accounting Policies summarises the framework within which the Authority's accounts are prepared and published. This foreword intends to give a general guide to the significant matters reported in the statements and provides a summary of the overall financial position.

## REVIEW OF THE YEAR

### THE REVENUE BUDGET

#### 3. Financial Performance against Budget in 2014/2015

There is a revenue underspend of £70,000 at the year end. This represents a significant achievement. This successful outcome is the result of much hard work by Council Members, officers and partner organisations.

The budget monitoring report to the Resources Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2015 anticipated an underspend of £15,000 for the year. It is pleasing to note that the Council's budget monitoring throughout the year was accurate in forecasting the year end position.

4. The financial standing of the Authority remains sound and sustainable when moving forward despite significant pressures associated with Government funding reductions. General Fund Reserves (Unearmarked Revenue Reserves) have increased by £70,000 and stand at £1,023,000. This is a level which is considered prudent and not excessive as it is sufficient to cover just under two months of continuing operations. The movement in Reserves is detailed in Section 2a.
5. The Medium Term Financial Strategy recommends a minimum level of general fund reserves of £750,000. Revenue reserves may be used to finance capital or revenue spending plans. The table below reconciles the movement on the reserves:

<b>The Use of Unearmarked Revenue Reserves</b>	<b>2014/15</b>
Balance B/fwd 1.4.2014	953
Revenue Outturn Underspend	70
Unearmarked revenue reserves at 31.3.2015 (see Section 2a)	<b>1,023</b>
Earmarked revenue reserves (see note 6 to the financial statements)	<b>1,023</b>

6. In addition to the £2.046m of usable revenue reserves set out in the table above, the Authority has £0.484m in a capital receipts reserve which is available to fund future capital expenditure. These two totals represent the £2.53m of Usable Reserves which are shown in the Balance Sheet.
7. The table below shows a reconciliation of the position shown at the bottom of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account, to that of the year end underspend of £70,000.

	<b>£000</b>
<b>Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>	<b>5,667</b>
Surplus on the revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment	(17)
Remeasurements of the net defined benefit pension liability	(3,921)
The detail of the items below are shown in Note 4 'Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations'	
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account	(751)
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	-
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserve	-
Adjustments primarily involving the Pensions Reserve	(730)
Adjustments primarily involving the Council Tax Collection Fund Adjustment Account	143
Adjustments primarily involving the Business Rates Collection Fund Adjustment Account Capital Adjustment Account	439
Adjustments primarily involving the Accumulated Absences Account	7
Transfers from earmarked reserves	(907)
<b>Underspend for the 2014/15 financial year</b>	<b>(70)</b>

8. The table below shows the main variations from the budget set for 2014/15, which total the £70,000 underspend against the budget.

<b>ANALYSIS OF VARIATIONS</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b>Increases in expenditure/reduction in income</b>	
Planning – specialist legal advice on planning issues and appeal and other costs. An amount of £30,000 related to a reserve bid for an additional planning officer which was reported to the Resources Committee on 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2014 and 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2015.	74
Business Rates – The Council has increased its bad debt provision for business rates from £82,000 in 13/14 to £223,000 in 14/15. The Council's share of this cost is 40% (£56,000).	56
Land Charges – settlement of a national legal claim regarding personal searches which affected all Councils providing a Land Charges service. In addition, land charges income was underachieved by £22,000 (Budgeted income of £110,000 in 14/15 and actual income received was £88,000).	37
Tavistock Business Centre – A capital budget was set aside for the replacement boiler, but this has been treated as revenue expenditure as it was a replacement (rather than an enhancement) of the existing boiler.	30
Tamar Valley Mining Heritage project – On-going legacy implications for the Borough Council, following the completion of the capital work in March 2013, as per a report to the Resources Committee in November 2012.	22
External valuation advice on the Council's Asset valuations	18
Tourist Information Centre (TIC) – The Council has not yet benefited from the full savings as the Council is not able to surrender its lease with the Town Council.	12
<b>Reductions in expenditure/additional income</b>	
Other staffing expenses relating to pension strain costs	(65)
Housing Benefit – mainly recoveries of overpayments (in 2014/15 £13 million was paid in Housing Benefit)	(50)
Additional recycling income (budgeted amount was £447,000)	(44)
The budget for the waste management contract was underspent due to the need to set the budget before actual inflation rates were known and higher estimations of inflationary trends were used.	(34)
Council Tax Benefit – at 1 April 2013 the national Council Tax Benefit scheme ceased. Since that date there are claimants who have had their Council Tax Benefit reduced following reductions in the Council Tax banding of their house. Since the national scheme has ceased, this income is retained by Billing Authorities.	(29)
Engineering – mainly salary underspends	(24)
Additional estate management income – high occupancy rates	(16)
Outdoor sports and recreation – mainly salary underspends	(15)
Small items	(42)
<b>TOTAL SURPLUS</b>	<b>(70)</b>

## **TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME (T18)**

9. West Devon Borough Council and South Hams District Council have been shared service partners since 2007. As two of the very first Councils to share a Chief Executive, the Councils have been bold in challenging the traditional local government model and have always been at the forefront of radical change and innovation. Shared services (through sharing staff) has now yielded over £7.7 million in savings across the two Councils since 2007, with each Council generating ongoing savings of over £700,000 every year.
10. Having a successful track record of reducing costs through shared services whilst improving services, the two Councils have embarked on a joint Transformation change programme in December 2013. The Councils continue to face significant reductions in Central Government funding and the Transformation Programme will develop the financial resilience of the Councils and reduce the reliance on making annual budget reductions that inevitably impact on front line services.
11. The Councils are pioneering a new model for local government which is transferrable to other local authorities irrespective of the scale, acting as a catalyst for extending shared services, without undermining each participating Councils' democratic sovereignty.
12. In December 2014, the Council agreed the updated business case for the Transformation Programme. An investment budget of £2.83 million has been approved, to deliver annual recurring revenue savings of £1.64 million. The payback period for the Programme is 2.75 years.
13. The Transformation Programme has received the backing of Central Government and the Council was awarded £266,000 of Government funding towards the upfront investment costs.
14. The Council will provide its services in an entirely new way by becoming more flexible and customer focused using the latest technology. Services will be redesigned around our customers and communities and as a consequence all departmental silos will be removed. This will involve re-engineering over 500 business processes and sharing all of our corporate services and information technology systems. The first phase of the programme (Support Services) went live in September 2014. The main phase of the programme will go live in June 2015, with a smaller phase later in 2015/16.
15. At its heart, the transformation programme is one of cultural change. People's lives are constantly changing and we must change with them. The radical transformation will be the most significant change in the way that the Councils work for more than 40 years. The Councils' non-manual workforce will be 30% smaller, with all staff roles changing to be flexible and responsive to the needs of the customer. Officers from different areas of the Councils will work within communities to improve the service for the customer and reduce the need for office accommodation.

16. Residents and businesses will also be able to access the Councils' services online 24/7, with many of their transactions becoming fully automated, improving response times whilst reducing staff input. Those who prefer will still be able to contact the Councils in the traditional ways, such as by phone or visit.

## THE COUNCILS STRIKE GOLD AND SILVER AT NATIONAL AWARDS

17. West Devon Borough Council and South Hams District Council were recognised on a national stage in March 2015, receiving the Gold Award for 'Delivering through Efficiency' and the Silver Award for 'Council of the Year' at the Improvement and Efficiency Social Enterprise Awards (iESE). The awards celebrate Councils who are developing new ways of working and transforming public service delivery to improve services and reduce costs.

## PENSION LIABILITY

18. International Accounting Standard 19 (IAS19) requires Local Authorities to recognise pension assets and liabilities within their accounts. The pension fund liability at 31 March 2015 is estimated at £22 million which compares with £17.5 million at 31 March 2014. The deficit is derived by calculating the pension assets and liabilities at 31 March 2015. This has resulted in an overall actuarial loss for the year of £3.921m which has been charged to the Consolidated Income and Expenditure Account.

## CAPITAL SPENDING

19. The Authority spent £473,058 on capital projects. The main areas of expenditure were as follows:
- Housing renovation grants and disabled facility grants
  - Community projects, namely village hall and parish project grants
20. The capital programme is funded from capital receipts, capital grants and external contributions and earmarked reserves. An analysis of the programme and how it is funded is shown below:

<b>Funding:</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>Spent on:</b>	<b>£000</b>
Earmarked Reserves	0	Fixed Assets	10
Capital Grants	186	Intangible Assets	95
Capital Receipts and Funds Reserves	287	Revenue Expenditure Funded From Capital (REFCUS)	368
	<b>473</b>		<b>473</b>



21. The Authority maintains both capital and revenue reserves. The provision of an appropriate level of balances is a fundamental part of prudent financial management enabling the Authority to build up funds to meet known and potential financial commitments.
22. There are a number of Unusable Reserves which include the Revaluation Reserve, Capital Adjustment Account and Pensions Reserve which are subject to complex accounting arrangements. The Revaluation Reserve and Capital Adjustment Account are used primarily to account for changes in fixed asset values associated with revaluations and new capital expenditure and as such cannot be used to finance capital or revenue expenditure.
23. When reviewing the amount of overall reserves held, consideration should be given to the possible implications of the Pension Fund deficiency disclosed within the notes to the balance sheet. The requirement to recognise the net pension liability in the balance sheet has reduced the reported net worth of the Authority by £22 million at 31 March 2015. This disclosure follows the implementation of the International Reporting Standards (IAS 19). This standard requires local authorities and other businesses to disclose pension assets and liabilities within the balance sheet.
24. It is important to gain an understanding of the accounts to appreciate the nature of this reported deficiency, which is based on a “snapshot” of pension assets and liabilities at the year end. This is quite different from the valuation basis used for the purposes of establishing the employer’s contribution rate and fund shortfall, which are calculated using actuarial assumptions spread over a number of years.

## **LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FUTURE**

25. Overall, the Council’s finances remain strong. In order to maintain this position, the Council operates continuous monitoring of both income and expenditure. This ensures that services are delivered within approved budgets, and value for money is achieved for our residents. In addition, a planning mechanism is in place focusing not only on one year, but also on the longer term. The Council’s Medium Term Financial Strategy will be considered by the Hub Committee at its 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 meeting.

26. **Localisation of Business Rates**

The Local Government Finance Act 2012 introduced a Business Rates Retention Scheme (BRRS) that enabled local authorities to retain a proportion of the Business Rates generated in their area, with effect from 1 April 2013.

There is a risk of volatility in the system because Councils are exposed to any loss of income if businesses go into decline. However, the BRRS allows Authorities to voluntarily form a 'pool'. Pooling mitigates each Authority's exposure to Business Rate income volatility as the risks are spread over a larger pool. In 2014/2015, West Devon Borough Council agreed to be part of a Devonwide pooling arrangement and the pooling gain achieved in the second year has equated to £39,927.

In line with good financial management principles, a provision has been made in the Accounts for likely refunds of business rates as a result of appeals, against the rateable value of business properties. The appeals provision is based on the total value of outstanding appeals at the year end as advised by the Valuation Office Agency and on advice from them about the likely success rate of appeals.

27. **Trading Company**

West Devon Borough Council and South Hams District Council have set up a trading company, Servaco Limited, on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2014. This is a company limited by shares. The company has not traded in 2014/15 and a set of statutory accounts will be filed with Companies House for the period 4<sup>th</sup> September 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

- 28. The following pages explain the Council's financial position in detail including further details of the Authority's activities, cash flows and reserves. Further information on the Council's service priorities and issues can be found on the Council's website under "Your Council".
- 29. The un-audited Statement of Accounts for 2014/2015 were authorised for issue by the Finance Community of Practice Lead (S151 Officer) on 30 June 2015. This was also the date up to which events after the reporting date were considered. There are currently no events which took place after 31 March 2015 which require disclosure.

Lisa Buckle, Bsc ACA Finance Community of Practice Lead (S151 Officer)

## **Section 2**

# **Core Financial Statements**

**SECTION 2A. MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT**

**Movement in Reserves Statement for 2014/2015**

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Authority, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other reserves. The Surplus or (Deficit) on the Provision of Services line shows the true economic cost of providing the Authority's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance for Council Tax setting purposes. The Net Increase/Decreases before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves line shows the statutory General Fund Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves undertaken by the Authority.

	General Fund Balance	Earmarked General Fund Reserves	Capital Receipts Reserve	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Balance at 31 March 2014 carried forward</b>	953	1,930	743	3,626	2,175	5,801
<u>Movement in Reserves during 2014/15</u>						
Surplus or (deficit) on provision of services	(1,729)	-	-	(1,729)	-	(1,729)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-	-	(3,938)	(3,938)
<b>Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>	(1,729)	-	-	(1,729)	(3,938)	(5,667)
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (Note 5)	892	-	(259)	633	(633)	-
<b>Net Increase/(Decrease) before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves</b>	(837)	-	(259)	(1,096)	(4,571)	(5,667)
Transfers (to) / from Earmarked Reserves (Note 6)	907	(907)	-	-	-	-
<b>Increase/(Decrease) in Year</b>	70	(907)	(259)	(1,096)	(4,571)	(5,667)
<b>Balance at 31 March 2015</b>	<b>1,023</b>	<b>1,023</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>2,530</b>	<b>(2,396)</b>	<b>134</b>

**SECTION 2A. MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT**

**Movement in Reserves Statement for 2013/2014 (Comparative for 13/14)**

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Authority, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other reserves. The Surplus or (Deficit) on the Provision of Services line shows the true economic cost of providing the Authority's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance for Council Tax setting purposes. The Net Increase/Decreases before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves line shows the statutory General Fund Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves undertaken by the Authority.

	General Fund Balance	Earmarked General Fund Reserves	Capital Receipts Reserve	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Balance at 31 March 2013 carried forward</b>	1,030	664	1,055	2,749	3,456	6,205
<u>Movement in Reserves during 2013/14</u>						
Surplus or (deficit) on provision of services	(2,489)	-	-	(2,489)	-	(2,489)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-	-	2,085	2,085
<b>Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>	(2,489)	-	-	(2,489)	2,085	(404)
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	3,678	-	(312)	3,366	(3,366)	-
<b>Net Increase/(Decrease) before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves</b>	1,189	-	(312)	877	(1,281)	(404)
Transfers (to) / from Earmarked Reserves (See Note 6 – 2013/14 comparative)	(1,266)	1,266	-	-	-	-
<b>Increase/(Decrease) in Year</b>	(77)	1,266	(312)	877	(1,281)	(404)
<b>Balance at 31 March 2015</b>	<b>953</b>	<b>1,930</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>3,626</b>	<b>2,175</b>	<b>5,801</b>

## SECTION 2B. COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

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

2013/14				2014/15		
Gross Expenditure £'000	Gross Income £'000	Net Expenditure £'000		Gross Expenditure £'000	Gross Income £'000	Net Expenditure £'000
-	(20)	(20)	Public Health	-	(20)	(20)
1,297	(272)	1,025	Central services to the public	1,249	(461)	788
7,406	(1,999)	5,407	Cultural, environmental, regulatory and planning services	7,085	(2,007)	5,078
660	(985)	(325)	Highways and transport services	737	(1,050)	(313)
15,815	(14,926)	889	Housing services	15,554	(14,631)	923
4,355	(3,188)	1,167	Corporate & Democratic Core	4,043	(3,301)	742
102	-	102	Non Distributed Costs	534	-	534
1,950	-	1,950	Material Item (Note 3)	2,083	(447)	1,636
<b>31,585</b>	<b>(21,390)</b>	<b>10,195</b>	<b>Cost Of Services</b>	<b>31,285</b>	<b>(21,917)</b>	<b>9,368</b>
1,064	-	1,064	Other Operating Expenditure (Note 7)	1,198	-	1,198
874	(28)	846	Financing & Investment Income (Note 8)	847	(41)	806
3,229	(12,845)	(9,616)	Taxation & Non specific Grant Income (Note 9)	3,522	(13,165)	(9,643)
<b>36,752</b>	<b>(34,263)</b>	<b>2,489</b>	<b>(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services</b>	<b>36,852</b>	<b>(35,123)</b>	<b>1,729</b>
		(820)	(Surplus) or deficit on revaluation of non current assets			17
		(1,265)	Actuarial (gains) /losses on pension assets/liabilities			3,921
		<b>(2,085)</b>	<b>Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>			<b>3,938</b>
		<b>404</b>	<b>Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>			<b>5,667</b>

**SECTION 2C. BALANCE SHEET**

<b>31 March 2014</b>		<b>Notes</b>		<b>31 March 2015</b>
<b>£000</b>				<b>£000</b>
21,742	Property, Plant & Equipment	10		21,126
62	Intangible Assets	11		126
2	Long Term Investments	T.A*		2
142	Long Term Debtors	12		139
<b>21,948</b>	<b>Long Term Assets</b>			<b>21,393</b>
6	Inventory			-
3,094	Short Term Debtors	12		2,634
3,274	Cash and Cash Equivalents	13		7,245
<b>6,374</b>	<b>Current Assets</b>			<b>9,879</b>
(2,387)	Short Term Creditors	14a		(6,042)
-	Provisions	14b		(18)
(16)	Short Term Borrowing	T.A*		(16)
<b>(2,403)</b>	<b>Current Liabilities</b>			<b>(6,076)</b>
(37)	Other Long Term Creditors	14		(315)
(2,100)	Long Term Borrowing	T.A*		(2,100)
(17,498)	Pension Fund Liabilities	T.A*		(22,149)
(483)	Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	27		(498)
<b>(20,118)</b>	<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>			<b>(25,062)</b>
<b>5,801</b>	<b>Total Net Assets</b>			<b>134</b>
3,626	Usable Reserves	15		2,530
2,175	Unusable Reserves	16		(2,396)
<b>5,801</b>	<b>Total Reserves</b>			<b>134</b>

\*T.A – See details in the Technical Appendix to the financial statements

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

*The unaudited accounts were issued on 30th June 2015.*

## SECTION 2D. CASH FLOW STATEMENT

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

<b>2013/14 £000</b>		<b>2014/15 £000</b>
<b>(2,489)</b>	<b>Net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services</b>	<b>(1,729)</b>
2,841	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non cash movements (Note 17a)	2,984
978	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	4,691
<b>1,330</b>	<b>Net cash flows from Operating Activities</b>	<b>5,946</b>
(68)	Net Interest (Note 17b)	(55)
(591)	Investing Activities (Note 18)	(3,527)
(184)	Financing Activities (Note 19)	1,607
<b>487</b>	<b>Net increase or decrease in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>3,971</b>
2,787	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	3,274
<b>3,274</b>	<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period (Note 13)</b>	<b>7,245</b>



## **Section 3**

# **Notes to the Financial Statements**

<b>Notes to the Financial Statements</b>	
<b>1</b>	Accounting Standards That Have Been Issued But Have Not Yet Been Adopted
<b>2</b>	Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies
<b>3</b>	Material Items of Income and Expenditure
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<b>10</b>	Property, Plant and Equipment
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<b>13</b>	Cash and Cash Equivalents
<b>14</b>	Creditors
<b>15</b>	Usable Reserves
<b>16</b>	Unusable Reserves <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revaluation Reserve</li> <li>• Capital Adjustment Account</li> <li>• Pensions Reserve</li> <li>• Collection Fund Adjustment Account</li> <li>• Accumulated Absences Account</li> </ul>
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## **NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

### **1. ACCOUNTING STANDARDS THAT HAVE BEEN ISSUED BUT HAVE NOT YET BEEN ADOPTED**

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16 (the Code) introduces changes in accounting policies that will have to be adopted fully by the authority in the 2015/16 financial statements i.e. from 1 April 2015.

The Authority is required to disclose information relating to the impact of the accounting change on the financial statements as a result of the adoption by the Code of a new / amended standard that has been issued, but is not yet required to be adopted by the Authority. For 2015/16 there are no standards issued not adopted that are expected to have a material impact on the 2015/16 statement of accounts.

### **2. CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 33, the Authority has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. The critical judgements made in the Statement of Accounts are:

- The cost drivers used to apportion Shared Service costs are appropriate and result in recharges which fairly reflect actual workloads and costs.
- The Local Government Finance Act 2012 introduced a business rates retention scheme that enabled local authorities to retain a proportion of the business rates generated in their area, with effect from 1 April 2013. Provision is made for likely refunds of business rates as a result of appeals, against the rateable value of business properties. The appeals provision is based on the total value of outstanding appeals at the year end as advised by the Valuation Office Agency. Using this information an assessment was made about the likely success rate of appeals and their value.

## SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

### 3. MATERIAL ITEMS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Where items of income and expenditure are material, the Authority should disclose their nature and amount separately (International Accounting Standard 1: Presentation of Financial Statements).

The following material item was included on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2014/15. This expenditure relates to the upfront investment costs for the Council's Transformation Programme (T18). This is explained in detail in the Explanatory Foreword to the Accounts. There were no such items in 2013/14.

<b>Transformation Programme (T18) Investment Costs</b>	<b>£000's Direct</b>	<b>£000's Recharges</b>	<b>£000's Total</b>
<b>GROSS REVENUE EXPENDITURE</b>			
ICT technology, implementation and workstream development	12	293	305
ICT workstation costs and infrastructure	24	98	122
Training	-	33	33
Accommodation	15	-	15
Implementation and design of the future operating model	-	144	144
Redundancy payments	582	733	1,315
Pension Stain cost (capitalised cost) See <b>Note a</b> below	149	-	149
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>1,301</b>	<b>2,083</b>
<b>GROSS REVENUE INCOME</b>			
Shared Service Recharge to South Hams District Council	-	(181)	(181)
Transformation Challenge Award (Government grant funding)	(266)	-	(266)
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>(266)</b>	<b>(181)</b>	<b>(447)</b>
<b>NET REVENUE EXPENDITURE</b> (as shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement)	<b>516</b>	<b>1,120</b>	<b>1,636</b>

**Note a** : This is to recognise the long term pension liability arising from the Transformation Programme, which is due to timing differences where these figures have not yet been recognised in the Actuaries Pension Statement. Further information is provided in Note 1 'Assumptions

### 4. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

The unaudited Statement of Accounts for 2014/2015 was authorised for issue by the Community of Practice Lead for Finance (S151 Officer) on 30 June 2015. This is also the date up to which events after the reporting date have been considered. There are no events which took place after 31 March 2015 which require disclosure.

**SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

**5A. ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATIONS**

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

2014/15	Usable Reserves				
	General Fund Balance	Earmarked Reserves	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Usable Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account:</b>					
<u>Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income &amp; Expenditure (I&amp;E) Statement:</u>					
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non current assets	539				539
Revaluation losses on Property Plant and Equipment					
Amortisation of intangible assets	31				31
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	154				154
Amounts of non current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive I&E Statement	86				86
<u>Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive I&amp;E Statement:</u>					
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	(42)				(42)
Capital grants and contributions applied					
Adjusting amounts written out of the revaluation reserve	(17)				(17)
<b>Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grants unapplied Account:</b>					
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive I&E Statement					
<b>Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:</b>					
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure			(259)		(259)
<b>Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve:</b>					
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive I & E Statement	1,568				1,568
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(838)				(838)
<b>Adjustments involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account:</b>					
Amount by which council tax income credited to the Comprehensive I & E Statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(143)				(143)
Amount by which business rates income credited to the Comprehensive I & E Statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(439)				(439)
<b>Adjustment involving the Accumulated Absences Account</b>					
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive I & E Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(7)				(7)
<b>Total Adjustments</b>	<b>892</b>		<b>(259)</b>		<b>633</b>

**SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

**5B. ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATIONS  
(COMPARATIVE FOR 2013/2014)**

Comparative 2013/14	Usable Reserves				
	General Fund Balance	Earmarked Reserves	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Usable Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account:</b>					
<u>Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income &amp; Expenditure (I&amp;E) Statement:</u>					
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non current assets	505				505
Revaluation losses on Property Plant and Equipment	1,950				1,950
Amortisation of intangible assets	30				30
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	491				491
Amounts of non current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive I&E Statement					0
<u>Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive I&amp;E Statement:</u>					
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment					
Capital grants and contributions applied	(178)				(178)
<b>Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grants unapplied Account:</b>					
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive I&E Statement					
<b>Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:</b>					
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure			(312)		(312)
<b>Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve:</b>					
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive I & E Statement	1,589				1,589
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(1,040)				(1,040)
<b>Adjustments involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account:</b>					
Amount by which council tax income credited to the Comprehensive I & E Statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(15)				(15)
Amount by which business rates income credited to the Comprehensive I & E Statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	346				346
<b>Adjustment involving the Accumulated Absences Account</b>					
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive I & E Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements					
<b>Total Adjustments</b>	<b>3,678</b>		<b>(312)</b>		<b>3,366</b>

## SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

### 6. TRANSFERS TO/FROM EARMARKED RESERVES

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund balance in earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from earmarked reserves to meet General Fund expenditure in 2014/15

<b>2014/2015 EARMARKED RESERVES</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March 2014</b>	<b>Transfers Out 2014/15</b>	<b>Transfers In 2014/15</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March 2015</b>
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Transformation Programme (T18)	(800)	800	-	-
Business Rates Retention Scheme	(321)	-	-	(321)
Car Parking Maintenance	(252)	-	(66)	(318)
Sparsity Grant and additional Revenue Support Grant	(57)	57	-	-
Local Authority Business Growth Incentive (LABGI)	(43)	22	-	(21)
Habitats Earmarked Reserve	(42)	18	-	(24)
Waste Management	(40)	40	-	-
Revenue Grant	(34)	34	-	-
New Homes Bonus 12/13	(27)	27	-	-
New Homes Bonus 13/14	(85)	85	-	-
New Homes Bonus 14/15	-	1,254	(1,254)	-
Cannons Meadow	(24)	3	-	(21)
County Election	(24)	-	-	(24)
Landscape Maintenance	(20)	-	-	(20)
Fifth Wave Neighbourhood	(20)	-	(30)	(50)
DCLG Business Support Scheme	(20)	7	-	(13)
DCC Public Health	(20)	-	(20)	(40)
Devon County Council – TAP Funds	(10)	4	(43)	(49)
Economic Grant Initiatives	-	-	(16)	(16)
Flood Works	-	-	(20)	(20)
Other Reserves below £15,000	(91)	22	(17)	(86)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(1,930)</b>	<b>2,373</b>	<b>(1,466)</b>	<b>(1,023)</b>

**Transformation Programme (T18)** - The Council has funded the investment costs for the Transformation Programme in 2014/15, where funding was set aside in previous years for this purpose. The Transformation Programme is described in the Explanatory Foreword.

**Business Rates Retention Scheme** - The non domestic rates reserve covers any possible funding issues from the new accounting arrangements.

**Car Parking Maintenance** - In line with the Council's car parking strategy, a car parking maintenance reserve is maintained to ensure that major planned works on car parks can be carried out at the appropriate time, in line with a cyclical programme of maintenance and repairs.



**SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

<b>2013/2014 Comparatives EARMARKED RESERVES</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March 2013</b>	<b>Transfers Out 2013/14</b>	<b>Transfers In 2013/14</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March 2014</b>
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Transformation Programme (T18)	0	60	(860)	(800)
Business Rates Retention Scheme	0		(321)	(321)
Car Parking Maintenance	(182)		(70)	(252)
New Homes Bonus 13/14	0	953	(1,038)	(85)
Sparsity Grant and additional Revenue Support Grant	0		(57)	(57)
Local Authority Business Growth Incentive (LABGI)	(43)			(43)
Habitats Earmarked Reserve	(51)	9		(42)
Waste Management	(40)			(40)
Revenue Grant	(34)			(34)
New Homes Bonus 12/13	(52)	25		(27)
Contingency Funding 13/14			(25)	(25)
Cannons Meadow	(27)	3		(24)
County Election	(73)	49		(24)
Landscape Maintenance	(20)			(20)
Fifth Wave Neighbourhood	(20)			(20)
DCLG Business Support Scheme	0		(20)	(20)
DCC Public Health 102505	0		(20)	(20)
Other Reserves below £15,000	(122)	73	(27)	(76)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(664)</b>	<b>1,172</b>	<b>(2,438)</b>	<b>(1,930)</b>

**SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

**7. OTHER OPERATING EXPENDITURE**

<b>2013/14</b>		<b>2014/15</b>
<b>£000</b>		<b>£000</b>
1,052	Parish council precepts	1,100
-	Loss on disposal of non-current asset	86
12	Pension Administration costs	12
<b>1,064</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,198</b>

**8. FINANCING AND INVESTMENT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

<b>2013/14</b>		<b>2014/15</b>
<b>£000</b>		<b>£000</b>
96	Interest payable and similar charges	96
778	Pensions interest cost and expected return on pension assets	752
(28)	Interest receivable and similar income	(42)
<b>846</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>806</b>

**9. TAXATION AND NON SPECIFIC GRANT INCOME**

<b>2013/14</b>		<b>2014/15</b>
<b>£000</b>		<b>£000</b>
Restated*	Council Tax	
(4,851)	Income (inc Parish Precepts)	(5,023)
(134)	Collection Fund Adjustment	(142)
(76)	Collection Fund – Distribution of Surplus	0
120	Support Grant to Parishes	103
	Business Rates	
(4,100)	Income	(4,083)
2,882	Tariff	2,938
(24)	Pooling Gain	(28)
	Levy	18
347	Transfer of Collection Fund Deficit	24
	Non-ringfenced government grants	
(259)	Small Business Rate Relief Grant	(448)
(2,437)	Revenue Support Grant	(1,700)
(46)	Rural Services Support Grant	-
(1,038)	New Homes Bonus	(1,254)
0	Capital grants and contributions	(48)
<b>(9,616)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>(9,643)</b>

\* Restated to show the breakdown of Business Rates figures in 2013/14

SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

10. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Infrastructure Assets	Community Assets	Total Property, Plant and Equipment	Total Property, Plant and Equipment (comparative 31/03/14)
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Cost or Valuation</b>						
At 1 April 2014	20,731	2,349	1,074	83	24,237	26,903
Additions	10	-	-	-	10	-
Derecognition - Disposals	(88)	(856)	-	-	(944)	-
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	(157)
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-	(2,509)
Other movements in Cost or Valuation	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>As at 31 March 2015</b>	<b>20,653</b>	<b>1,493</b>	<b>1,074</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>23,303</b>	<b>24,237</b>
<b>Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment</b>						
At 1 April 2014	(36)	(2,219)	(240)	-	(2,495)	(3,525)
Depreciation charge	(429)	(89)	(21)	-	(539)	(505)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	977
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services						558
Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services						
Derecognition – disposals	1	856			857	
<b>As at 31 March 2015</b>	<b>(464)</b>	<b>(1,452)</b>	<b>(261)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(2,177)</b>	<b>(2,495)</b>
<b>Net Book Value</b>						
<b>At 31 March 2015</b>	<b>20,189</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>21,126</b>	<b>21,742</b>
<b>At 31 March 2014</b>	<b>20,695</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>21,742</b>	<b>23,378</b>

## **SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

Non-Specialised operational properties were valued on the basis of existing use value (EUV). Specialised operational properties were valued on the basis of depreciated replacement costs (DRC). A de minimus level of £10,000 was set. Infrastructure assets are on a historical cost (HC) basis, whilst vehicles, plant and equipment are held on historical costs as a proxy for current value.

The Council's offices at Kilworthy Park, Tavistock have been valued at "existing use value" except for the more recently constructed council chamber "pod" which was designed specifically to meet the Council's requirements for public enquiry space on the ground floor and a council chamber on the first floor. The accommodation is effectively a self-contained unit and due to the specialist nature, this part of the property has been valued to "depreciated replacement cost". As the Council's Transformation Programme (T18) progresses, the valuation basis will be analysed to ensure that the basis reflects the current operational changes.

### **10a. Capital Commitments**

There were no significant contracts for future capital expenditure as at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2015.

### **11. Intangible Assets**

The Authority accounts for its software as intangible assets, to the extent that the software is not an integral part of a particular IT system and accounted for as part of the hardware item of Property, Plant and Equipment. The intangible assets would include both purchased licenses and internally generated software.

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 Authority. The useful lives assigned to the major software suites used by the Authority is 3 years.

The carrying amount of intangible assets is amortised on a straight-line basis. The amortisation of £30,771 charged to revenue in 2014/15 was charged to the IT Administration cost centre and then absorbed as an overhead across all the service headings in the Net Expenditure of Services. It is not possible to quantify exactly how much of the amortisation is attributable to each service heading.

## SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

The movement on Intangible Asset balances during the year is as follows:

	2013/14	2014/15
	£000	£000
Balance at start of year:		
• Gross carrying amounts	973	973
• Accumulated amortisation	(881)	(911)
<b>Net carrying amount at start of year</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>62</b>
Assets reclassified	0	0
Disposals – write out gross value	0	(831)
Disposals – write out accumulated amortisation		831
Additions	0	95
Impairment losses recognised or reversed directly in the Revaluation Reserve	0	0
Amortisation for the period	(30)	(31)
<b>Net carrying amount at end of year</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>126</b>
<b>Comprising:</b>		
• Gross Carrying amounts	973	237
• Accumulated amortisation	(911)	(111)
	<b>62</b>	<b>126</b>

## 12. Debtors

	Short Term	
31 March 2014		31 March 2015
£000		£000
1,187	Central government bodies	629
727	Other local authorities	963
0	NHS bodies	9
0	Public corporations and trading funds	0
1,180	Other entities and individuals	1,033
<b>3,094</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,634</b>
	Long Term	
10	Other entities and individuals	-
132	Other local authorities	139
<b>142</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>139</b>

## 13. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

The balance of Cash and Cash Equivalents is made up of the following elements:

31 March 2014		31 March 2015
£000		£000
1,274	Bank current accounts	1,245
0	Current account overdraft	0
0	Money Market Funds	4,000
2,000	Short Term Deposits	2,000
<b>3,274</b>	<b>Total Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>7,245</b>

## SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

### 14. CREDITORS

31 March 2014	Short Term	31 March 2015
£000		£000
301	Central government bodies	448
490	Other local authorities	1,559
2	NHS bodies	2
1,594	Other entities and individuals	4,033
<b>2,387</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>6,042</b>
	<b>Long Term</b>	
<b>37</b>	Other entities and individuals	<b>315</b>

### 15. USABLE RESERVES

Movements in the Authority's usable reserves are detailed in the Movement in Reserves Statement in Section 2a.

### 16. UNUSABLE RESERVES

31 March 2014		31 March 2015
£000		£000
5,701	Revaluation Reserve	5,684
14,261	Capital Adjustment Account	13,769
(17,498)	Pensions Reserve	(22,149)
134	Collection Fund Adjustment Account Council Tax	277
(347)	Collection Fund Adjustment Account NNDR	92
(76)	Accumulated Absences Account	(69)
<b>2,175</b>	<b>Total Unusable Reserves</b>	<b>(2,396)</b>

#### Revaluation Reserve

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

- Revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost
- Used in the provision of services and the gains are consumed through depreciation, or
- Disposed of and the gains are realised.

The 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.

**SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

<b>2013/14 £000</b>		<b>2014/15 £000</b>
<b>4,982</b>	<b>Balance at 1 April</b>	<b>5,701</b>
820	Upwards/(Downward) revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	-
(101)	Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	-
-	Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	(17)
<b>5,701</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>5,684</b>

Capital Adjustment Account

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

<b>2013/14 £000</b>		<b>2014/15 £000</b>
<b>16,646</b>	<b>Balance at 1 April</b>	<b>14,261</b>
	Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:	
(505)	• Charges for depreciation and impairment of non current assets	(539)
(1,950)	• Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	0
(30)	• Amortisation of intangible assets	(31)
(491)	• Revenue expended from capital under statute (REFCUS)	(154)
0	• Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(86)
<b>(2,976)</b>		<b>(810)</b>
101	Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	17
-	Net written out amount of the cost of non current assets consumed in the year	-
	Capital financing applied in the year:	
312	• Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	259
178	• Capital grants, credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital financing	-
-	• Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	-

### SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

-	• Revenue contribution to finance capital	-
-	• Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund (Minimum revenue provision)	42
<b>591</b>		<b>318</b>
<b>14,261</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>13,769</b>

#### 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 Authority 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 Authority makes employer's contributions to pension funds or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible. The debit balance on the Pensions Reserve therefore shows a substantial shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the Authority has set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid.

2013/14		2014/15
£000		£000
<b>(18,214)</b>	<b>Balance at 1 April</b>	<b>(17,498)</b>
1,265	Actuarial gains or (losses) on pensions assets and liabilities	(3,921)
(1,589)	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(1,419)
1,040	Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	838
-	Provision for strain payments	(149)
<b>(17,498)</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>(22,149)</b>

#### Collection Fund Adjustment Account Council Tax

The Collection Fund Adjustment Account manages the differences arising from the recognition of Council Tax income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as it falls due from council tax payers compared with the statutory arrangements for paying across amounts to the General Fund from the Collection Fund.

2013/14		2014/15
£000		£000
<b>119</b>	<b>Balance at 1 April</b>	<b>134</b>
15	Amount by which Council Tax income credited to the Comprehensive income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	143
<b>134</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>277</b>



## SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

### Collection Fund Adjustment Account Business Rates

The Business Rates (NNDR) Collection Fund Adjustment Account manages the differences arising from the recognition of Business Rates income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as it falls due from ratepayers, compared with the statutory arrangements for paying across amounts to the General Fund from the Collection Fund.

<b>31 March 2014</b>		<b>31 March 2015</b>
<b>£000</b>		<b>£000</b>
-	<b>Balance at 1 April</b>	(347)
(347)	Amount by which non domestic rates income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from non domestic rates income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	439
<b>(347)</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>92</b>

## 17. CASH FLOW STATEMENT – OPERATING ACTIVITIES

### a) ADJUSTMENTS TO NET SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON THE PROVISION OF SERVICES FOR NON CASH MOVEMENTS.

<b>2013/14 £000</b>		<b>2014/15 £000</b>
535	Depreciation	539
1,950	Impairment, downward valuations & revaluation reversals	0
23	(Increase)/decrease in creditors	(2,708)
(635)	Increase/(decrease) in debtors	443
2	Increase/(decrease) in inventories	0
1,589	Movement in pension liability	1,419
312	Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute (REFCUS) financed from capital receipts	154
(1,266)	Contributions to reserves	(907)
331	Other non cash items charged to the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services	4,044
<b>2,841</b>		<b>2,984</b>

### b) THE CASH FLOWS FOR OPERATING ACTIVITIES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

<b>2013/14 £000</b>		<b>2014/15 £000</b>
28	Interest received	41
(96)	Interest paid	(96)
<b>(68)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>(55)</b>

**SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

**c) CASH FLOW STATEMENT – ADJUSTMENTS TO NET SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON THE PROVISION OF SERVICES THAT ARE INVESTING AND FINANCING ACTIVITIES**

<b>2013/14 £000</b>		<b>2014/15 £000</b>
-	Proceeds from sale of Property, Plant & Equipment & Investment Properties	-
2,841	Other non-cash items charged to the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services	2,984
<b>2,841</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,984</b>

**18. CASH FLOW STATEMENT – INVESTING ACTIVITIES**

<b>2013/14 £000</b>		<b>2014/15 £000</b>
(86)	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	0
(1,000)	Net (increase)/decrease in investments	(4,000)
495	Other receipts from investing activities	473
<b>(591)</b>	<b>Net cash flows from investing activities</b>	<b>(3,527)</b>

**19. CASH FLOW STATEMENT – FINANCING ACTIVITIES**

<b>2013/14 £000</b>		<b>2014/15 £000</b>
520	Net NNDR Receipts Paid to/(received) from Central Government	139
(704)	Net Council Tax receipts paid to/(received) from major preceptors	1,468
<b>(184)</b>	<b>Net cash flows from financing activities</b>	<b>1,607</b>

**20. AMOUNTS REPORTED FOR RESOURCE ALLOCATION DECISIONS**

The analysis of income and expenditure by service on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is that specified by the Best Value Accounting Code of Practice. However, decisions about resource allocation are taken by the Resources Committee on the basis of budget reports analysed across committees. These reports are prepared on a different basis from the accounting policies used in the financial statements. In particular:

- No charges are made in relation to capital expenditure (whereas depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses in excess of the balance on the Revaluation Reserve and amortisations are charged to services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement)
- The cost of retirement benefits is based on cash flows (payment of employer's pensions contributions) rather than current service cost of benefits accrued in the year
- Expenditure on some support services is budgeted for centrally and not charged to committees

## SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	Central Services	Cultural, Environmental I & Planning	Highways, Roads & Transport	Housing	Corporate & Democratic Core	Public Health	Non Distributed Costs	Material Items	Total 2014/15	Total 2013/14
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Fees, Charges & Other Service income	(296)	(1,908)	(1,050)	(152)	(3,295)	(20)	0	(181)	(6,902)	(7,044)
Government grants and contributions	(165)	(99)	0	(14,479)	(6)	0	0	(266)	(15,015)	(14,346)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(461)</b>	<b>(2,007)</b>	<b>(1,050)</b>	<b>(14,631)</b>	<b>(3,301)</b>	<b>(20)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(447)</b>	<b>(21,917)</b>	<b>(21,390)</b>
Employee expenses (inc FRS 17)	442	1,983	138	474	2,501	0	534	1,465	7,537	6,462
Other service expenses	79	3,842	468	14,882	1,300	0	0	618	21,189	20,629
Support Service recharges	728	1,260	131	198	242	0	0	0	2,559	2,544
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,249</b>	<b>7,085</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>15,554</b>	<b>4,043</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>2,083</b>	<b>31,285</b>	<b>29,635</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>5,078</b>	<b>(313)</b>	<b>923</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>(20)</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>1,636</b>	<b>9,368</b>	<b>8,245</b>

## 21. TRADING OPERATIONS

The Building (Local Authority Charges) Regulations 1998 requires the disclosure of information regarding the setting of charges for the administration of the building control function. Building Regulations Control Services operate as a separate trading unit and the Summary Accounts for the year will be detailed in the Devon Building Control Partnership Accounts, which can be found at the following website:

<http://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=16096>

## 22. BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

The Tavistock Business Improvement District (BID) was set up in Tavistock on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011 for the purpose of providing additional services or improvements to the Tavistock BID area. The BID is funded in part by a levy which is based on the rateable value of each property within the BID area and this is charged in addition to the non-domestic rates. West Devon Borough Council acts as agent for the BID Company.

## SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

### 23. AGENCY SERVICES

(a) The Authority carried out civil parking enforcement service on behalf of Devon County Council. The staffing and other costs incurred were reimbursed by Devon County Council. This arrangement ceased in 2014/15.

	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000
Expenditure incurred in carrying out the civil parking enforcement service	49	-
Management fee payable by Devon County Council	(49)	-
Net surplus arising on the agency arrangement	-	-

(b) The Authority collect land charge search fees on behalf of Devon County Council. These fees are reimbursed to the County Council on a periodic basis. The amount collected was £17,000 in 2014/15 (£15,000 in 2013/14).

(c) The Authority Acts as an agent for Devon County Council, Devon and Cornwall Police Authority and Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority in the collection of council tax and for Central Government for the collection of Non Domestic Business Rates. Details can be found in the Collection Fund on pages 56 to 59.

(d) Under the provisions of The Business Improvements Districts (England) Regulations 2004, the Authority provides agency services for the Tavistock BID.

### 24. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

The Authority has paid the following amounts relating to Members' Allowances:

	2013/14 £'000	2014/15 £'000
Members' Allowances	169	167
Travelling & Subsistence	23	15

The current allowance scheme can be found on the Authority's website at:  
<http://wdbcweb.swdevon.lan/article/3695/Councillor-Allowances>

### 25. OFFICERS' REMUNERATION

Regulation 4 of the Accounts and Audit (Amendment No.2) (England) Regulations 2009 [SI 2009 No. 3322] introduced a legal requirement to increase transparency and accountability in Local Government for reporting remuneration of senior employees.

A senior employee (England & Wales) is defined as an employee whose salary is more than £150,000 per year, or one whose salary is at least £50,000 (England) per year (to be calculated pro rata for a part-time employee) and who is:

- The designated head of paid service, a statutory chief officer or a non-statutory chief officer of a relevant body, as defined under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989

**SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

- The head of staff for a relevant body which does not have a designated head of paid service; or
- Any person having responsibility for the management of the relevant body, to the extent that the person has power to direct or control the major activities of the body, in particular activities involving the expenditure of money, whether solely or collectively with other persons.

The salary costs of the Senior Leadership Team members and Statutory Officers (Section 151 Officer & Monitoring Officer) employed by West Devon Borough Council are shared with South Hams District Council.

**The remuneration paid to the Authority's senior employees for the year 2014/15:**  
(All Shared Roles with South Hams District Council)

	<b>Salary</b>	<b>Benefits</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Employers Pension Contribution (common rate 18.8%)</b>	<b>Total Remuneration Inc Employers Pension Contribution</b>
Executive Director Strategy & Commissioning, Head of Paid Service (started 1 February 2015)	15,862	68	15,930	2,903	18,833
Head of Service (Finance & Audit) S151 Officer / Finance CoP Lead	62,620	124	62,744	11,459	74,203
Head of Service (Environment Services) / Commercial Services Group Manager	63,252	3,659	66,911	11,575	78,486
Head of Service (ICT & Customer Services) Left 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2014	26,828	2,164	28,992	4,909	33,901
Head of Service (Planning, Economy & Community) Left 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2015	50,578	2,085	52,663	9,256	61,919
Monitoring Officer	45,030	647	45,677	8,241	53,918

West Devon Borough Council has no other officers earning over £50,000.

## SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

### Note 1: Senior Management Team Restructure

In June 2014, West Devon Borough Council and South Hams District Council (SHDC) agreed to move forward with a radical Senior Management Team Restructure and to operate without a Chief Executive. An Executive Director Model has been adopted by both Councils and Senior Leadership Team responsibilities will be shared between two Executive Directors, supported by four Group Managers to reflect the requirements of the new operating model for the Transformation Programme. All six posts within the Senior Leadership Team were appointed to through an external recruitment exercise with open competition. The annual savings from the restructure of the Senior Management Team are £280,000 shared between the two Councils.

### Note 2: Shared Services

In 2014/15, West Devon Borough Council received a reimbursement of salary costs amounting to £180,000 (2013/14 £262,700) from South Hams District Council, in respect of shared members of the Senior Leadership Team employed by West Devon Borough Council.

Similarly, West Devon Borough Council contributed £209,000 (2013/14 £203,300) to South Hams District Council for salary costs in respect of shared members of the Senior Leadership Team who are employed by South Hams District Council.

### Senior Officer Remuneration for the year 2013/14:

	Salary	Benefits	Total	Employers Pension Contribution	Total Remuneration Inc Employers Pension Contribution
Chief Executive	£115,000	£271	£115,271	£21,045	£136,316
Head of Service (Finance & Audit) S151 Officer	£46,497	£240	£46,737	£8,509	£55,246
Head of Service (ICT & Customer Services)	£62,620	£311	£62,931	£11,459	£74,390
Head of Service (Environment Services)	£62,620	£55	£62,675	£11,459	£74,134
Head of Service (Planning, Economy & Community)	£62,620	£333	£62,953	£11,459	£74,412
Acting S151 Officer	£15,866	£72	£15,938	£1,903	£17,841
Monitoring Officer	£41,250	£29	£41,279	£7,549	£48,828

West Devon Borough Council has no other officers earning over £50,000.

## SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

### EXIT PACKAGES

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 (incl special payments)	No of Voluntary Redundancies		No of Compulsory Redundancies		No of other departures agreed		Total No of exit packages by cost band		Total cost of exit packages in each band	
	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15
£0 - £20,000	-	14	1	2	-	3	1	19	£6,860	£169,264
£20,001 - £40,000	-	12	1	1	1	-	2	13	£47,063	£358,224
£40,001 - £60,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£60,001 - £80,000	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	£71,419
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>£53,923</b>	<b>£598,907</b>

#### Note 1: Transformation Programme (T18)

West Devon Borough Council and South Hams District Council are pioneering an innovative new working model to protect local services. Costs are being reduced by redesigning services around customers using new technology, while a smaller agile workforce reduces the amount of office space required. The Councils will operate in the future with a 30% reduction in staffing numbers for its non manual workforce. As part of the Transformation Programme, expressions of interest for voluntary redundancy were invited. Staff were recruited into the new operating model following a behavioural framework assessment. See paragraphs 9 to 17 of the Explanatory Foreword for further information.

#### Note 2: Senior Management Team Restructure

In June 2014, West Devon Borough Council (WDBC) and South Hams District Council (SHDC) agreed to move forward with a radical Senior Management Team Restructure and to operate without a Chief Executive. An Executive Director Model has been adopted by both Councils and Senior Leadership Team responsibilities will be shared between two Executive Directors, supported by four Group Managers to reflect the requirements of the new operating model for the Transformation Programme. All six posts within the Senior Leadership Team were appointed to through an external recruitment exercise with open competition. The annual savings from the restructure of the Senior Management Team are £280,000 shared between the two Councils.

#### Note 3: Shared services

West Devon Borough Council contributed £466,000 in 2014/2015 (£nil 2013/2014) to the South Hams District Council exit package costs. Conversely, West Devon Borough Council received £138,000 in 2014/2015 (£nil 2013/2014) from South Hams District Council for exit package costs for the 2014/15 period.

## SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

### 26. EXTERNAL AUDIT COSTS

The Authority incurred the following fees relating to external audit and inspection:

<b>Audit Fees</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>
Fees payable to Grant Thornton with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor	51,628	51,628
Fees payable to Grant Thornton for the certification of grant claims and returns	7,787	7,120
Fees payable in respect of other services provided by the appointed auditor	1,050	900
Rebate from Grant Thornton in relation to 2012/13 audit fee		(7,065)
Rebate from Grant Thornton in relation to 2013/14 audit fee		(5,306)
<b>Total Audit Fees</b>	<b>60,465</b>	<b>47,277</b>

### 27. GRANT INCOME

The Authority credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2014/15:

	<b>2013/14*</b> <b>(Restated – see Note 1 below)</b>	<b>2014/15</b>
<b>Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income</b>		
<b>Capital Grants &amp; Contributions</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Disabled Facility Grants	(178)**	(186)
**Note 2 – This figure has been restated, as the 13/14 Accounts disclosed this figure as Private Sector Renewal Grants		
Section 106s	-	(68)
<b>Non ring-fenced Government grants &amp; contributions:</b>		
Revenue Support Grant	(2,437)	(1,700)
New Homes Bonus Grant	(1,038)	(1,254)
Small Business Rates Relief	(259)	(448)
Rural Services Support Grant	(46)	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>(3,958)</b>	<b>(3,656)</b>
<b>Credited to Services</b>		
Rent Allowance Subsidy	(13,422)	(14,625)
Housing Benefit and Council Tax benefit administration subsidy	(318)	(280)
Business Rates cost of collection allowance	(84)	(85)
Transformation Challenge Award funding from DCLG	-	(266)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(13,824)</b>	<b>(15,256)</b>

\*Note 1 – The Grant Income note has been expanded in 2014/15, with comparatives for 2013/14 also being added to the note.



## SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

The Authority has received a number of grants, contributions and donations that have yet to be recognised as income as they have conditions attached to them that may require the monies or property to be returned to the giver. The balances at the year end are as follows:

	<b>31 March 2014</b>	<b>31 March 2015</b>
<b>Capital Grants Receipts in Advance</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Land Stabilisation	(10)	(10)
Hayedown	(20)	(20)
Section 106s	(453)	(468)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(483)</b>	<b>(498)</b>

## 28. RELATED PARTIES

The Authority is required to disclose material transactions with related parties – bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence the Authority or to be controlled or influenced by the Authority. Disclosure of these transactions allows readers to assess the extent to which the Authority 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 Authority.

### CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

Central Government has effective control over the general operations of the Authority – it is responsible for providing the statutory framework, within which the Authority operates, provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants, and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Authority has with other parties (e.g. council tax bills, housing benefits). Grants received from government departments are detailed in Note 9 and 27.

### MEMBERS

Members of the Council have direct control over the Authority's financial and operating policies. The Borough Solicitor acts as Monitoring Officer and keeps a register of Members' interests, which is available for public inspection. A questionnaire in respect of related party transactions was issued to all Members and Senior Officers. No material transactions with related parties during the year have been identified, other than those disclosed above or elsewhere, i.e. government grants, etc.

### iESE

West Devon Borough Council and South Hams District Council have a relationship with iESE Transformation Ltd. (iESE) which sees the latter providing consultancy support services to the Councils as part of their T18 Transformation programme. The nature of this relationship is similar to an in-house arrangement on the basis that the Councils have become Public Body Members of the Company meaning that the arrangements are not subject to the EU Directives concerning procurement (the Teckal Exemption). There is no requirement for Public Body Members to provide any funding or support for the Company other than as set in contracts for services entered into with the Company.

## SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

### 29. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND CAPITAL FINANCING

Total capital expenditure in 2014/15 amounted to £473,058. How this is financed is shown below:-

	2013/14 £000		2014/15 £000
Earmarked Reserves	-	Earmarked Reserves	-
Capital Grants	178	Capital Grants	186
External Contributions	-	External Contributions	28
Capital Receipts and Funds Reserves	312	Capital Receipts and Funds Reserves	259
	<b>490</b>		<b>473</b>

The Authority's Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) for the year is shown below.

CFR (£m)	31 March 2014 Actual	31 March 2015 Actual
Actual	£1,842,000	£1,799,000

The borrowing activity is constrained by prudential indicators for net borrowing and the CFR, and by the authorised limit. The Minimum Revenue Provision was applied in 2014/15 and was calculated at £42,000 per year. This is the borrowing of £2.1 million, divided by the life of the asset of 50 years, which equates to £42,000 per annum.

### 30. LEASES

#### Authority as Lessee

The Authority has, in the past, acquired some assets through operating leases. These have included vehicles and printers. However, all remaining material operating leases have ceased and no lease payments have been made since 2009/10.

#### Authority as Lessor

The Authority leases various industrial units and commercial properties to external organisations. The gross value of assets held for use in operating leases was £3m as at 31 March 2015.

The authority has also granted a lease to the Wharf Building. The lease is for 35 years from December 1994 and was originally granted to The Wharf Community Arts Centre Limited but has now been transferred to CAM (The Wharf) Limited. The arrangement is accounted for as an operating lease and a peppercorn rent is charged.

### 31. TERMINATION BENEFITS

The details of the Shared Service arrangements are explained on Page 2 of the Explanatory Foreword to the Accounts. Please also see note 25 on exit packages.

## SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

### 32. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The Council had no contingent liabilities at 31 March 2015.

### 33. 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 Authority about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates.

The Statement of Accounts contains estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the Authority about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates.

The items in the Authority's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2015 for which there are significant risks of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Uncertainties</b>	<b>Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions</b>
Property, Plant and Equipment	Assets are depreciated over useful lives which are estimated annually.	If the useful life of assets is reduced, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the asset falls. If the depreciation lives of the assets were to change by 1 year across all assets, this would have a £7,500 impact on the Council's finances.
Pensions Liability	<p>Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgments relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Authority with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.</p> <p>The value of pension assets is estimated based upon information available at the Balance Sheet date, but these valuations may be earlier than the Balance Sheet date. The actual valuations at the Balance Sheet date, which may not be available until some time later, may give a different value of pension assets, but this difference is not considered to be material.</p>	<p>The effects on the net pension liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured. For example, a 0.1% increase in the discount rate assumption would result in a decrease in the pension liability of £799,000.</p> <p>The assumptions interact in complex ways. For example, in 2014/15, the Authority's actuaries advised that the pension liability had increased by £5.2 million as a result of a change in "financial assumptions".</p> <p>Please refer to the Technical Appendix for further information about the assumptions used by the actuaries.</p>

**SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Uncertainties</b>	<b>Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions</b>
	<p>For 2014/15, the Actuary has calculated the capitalised cost of the strain liability for 2 former employees who had left the Council's employment at £47,000. However, to this figure, the Council has added a further cost of £149,000 to increase the provision for those employees who were over 55 and left the Council's employment under either voluntary or compulsory redundancy as part of the Transformation Programme.</p> <p>The capitalized cost which is based on actual assumptions differs from the cash cost payable to the Pension Fund by the Council. The figure of £149,000 was estimated from the cash costs that had previously been calculated for each employee in question.</p>	
<b>Arrears</b>	<p>The Authority makes a provision every year for the impairment of doubtful debts for Council Tax, Business Rates, Housing Benefit and Sundry Debt. For example at 31 March 2015, the Authority had a balance of Sundry Debtors of £477,000. A review of significant balances suggested that an impairment for doubtful debts of 32% (£151,000) was appropriate.</p>	<p>The impairment for doubtful debts is reviewed annually in order to respond to changes in collection rates. If Council Tax arrears were to change by 1%, this would have an impact of £2,500 on the Council's finances.</p>

**34. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**A. General Principles**

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Authority's transactions for the 2014/15 financial year and its position at the year end of 31 March 2015. The Authority is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011. 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 2014/15 and the Service Reporting Code of Practice 201/15, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) (and statutory guidance issued under section 12 of the 2003 Act). The accounting convention adopted in the Statement of Accounts is principally historical cost, modified by the revaluation of certain categories of non-current assets and financial instruments.

The accounting policies are applicable to all of the Council's transactions including those of the Collection Fund (council tax and business rates).

## SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

### **B. 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 is recognised when the Authority transfers the significant risks and rewards of ownership to the purchaser and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Authority.
- Revenue from the provision of services is recognised when the Authority can measure reliably the percentage of completion of the transaction and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Authority.
- 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.
- The Council operates a de minimis policy for accruals which is currently £1,000 for revenue expenditure and £5,000 for capital expenditure. Accruals are not made for transactions below these limits.

### **C. Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are investments that 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 Authority's cash management. Our policy is shown in the following table:

Type of Investment	Settlement Terms	Gain/Loss on Sale	Cash Equivalent
Money Market Fund	T + 0	x	✓
Call Account	T + 0	x	✓
Notice Deposit	Maturity	x	x
Term Deposit	T + 7 days	x	✓
Other Term Deposits	Maturity up to 3 months	x	✓

## **SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

**Key: T = trade date**

### **D. Material Items**

When items of income and expense are material, their nature and amount is disclosed separately, either on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement or in the notes to the accounts, depending on how significant the items are to an understanding of the Authority's financial performance.

### **E. 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 Authority'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.

### **F. Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets**

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

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

The Authority is not required to raise council tax to fund depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisations. Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisations are therefore replaced by the contribution in the General Fund Balance, by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

### **G. 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 Authority.

### **SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

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, but then reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement so that holiday benefits are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs.

#### **Termination Benefits**

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Authority to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy and are charged on an accruals basis to the Non Distributed Costs line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when the Authority is demonstrably committed to the termination of the employment of an officer or group of officers or making an offer to encourage voluntary redundancy.

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

#### **Post Employment Benefits**

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

The Local Government Scheme is accounted for as a defined benefits scheme in the following way:

- The liabilities of the Devon County Council Pension Fund attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc, and projections of projected earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices
- The assets of the pension fund attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:
  - quoted securities – current bid price
  - unquoted securities – professional estimate
  - unitised securities – current bid price
  - property – market value.

## **SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

### **The Local Government Scheme**

The Local Government Scheme is accounted for as a defined benefits scheme in the following way:

- The liabilities of the Devon County Council Pension Fund attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates etc and estimates of projected earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate.
- The assets of the pension fund attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value.

For further information please refer to the Technical Appendix.

The change in the net pension liability is analysed into the following components:

- **Service cost comprising:**
  - current service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year – allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the services for which the employees worked
  - past service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of a scheme amendment or curtailment whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years – debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Non Distributed Costs
  - net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset), i.e. net interest expense for the Authority – 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 benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability (asset) 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.
- **Re-measurements comprising:**
  - the return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset) – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure



### **SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

- 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 Devon County Council pension fund – cash paid as employer’s contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Authority 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 earned by employees.

#### **Discretionary Benefits**

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

#### **H. Events After the Reporting Date**

Events after the Reporting date are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue.

Two types of events can be identified:

- those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is adjusted to reflect such events
- those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts are 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 (30<sup>th</sup> June 2015) are not reflected in the Statement of Accounts.

## **SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

### **I. Financial Instruments**

#### **Financial Liabilities**

Financial liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Authority becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value 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.

#### **Financial Assets**

Financial assets are classified into two types:

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

The Authority does not hold any available-for-sale assets.

#### **Loans and Receivables**

Loans and receivables are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Authority becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value. They are subsequently measured at their amortised cost. Annual credits to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest receivable are based on the carrying amount of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument.

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.

### **J. Government Grants and Contributions**

#### **General**

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

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

Amounts recognised as due to the Authority 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

### SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

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-ringfenced 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.

A Business Improvement District (BID) scheme operates in Tavistock. This scheme is funded by a BID levy paid by non-domestic ratepayers. The Council acts an agent for the Tavistock BID Company, the Council is the billing authority and collects the levy on the BID company's behalf. No income or expenditure is included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, and any cash balance collected by the Council but not yet paid to the BID company at the year end is carried in the Balance Sheet as a creditor.

#### **K. Assets**

**Fixed Assets** owned by the Authority includes:

<b>Assets</b>	<b>31 March 2015 Numbers</b>	<b>Basis of Valuation</b>	<b>Estimated Useful Economic Lives</b>
Council Offices – Kilworthy Park	1	EUV & DRC *	50 years
Council Offices –Okehampton Customer Services	1	EUV	50 years
Swimming Pools	2	DRC	Range of 10 - 30 years
Car Parks	13	EUV	Range of 30 - 50 years
Public Conveniences	7	DRC	Range of 50 - 100 years
Industrial Units	45	EUV & MV	Range of 15 – 30 years
Other Commercial Properties	17	EUV & DRC	Range of 50 – 100 years
Vehicle, Plant and Equipment	N/A	HC	Range of 5 years
Infrastructure	N/A	HC	50 years

## **SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

*\*The Kilworthy Park property has been valued to EUV (Existing Use Value) except for the more recently constructed Council chamber “pod” which was specifically designed to meet the Council’s requirements for public enquiry space on the ground floor and a council chamber on the first floor. The accommodation is effectively a self-contained unit and due to the specialist nature, this part of the property has been valued to DRC.*

### **Intangible Assets**

Expenditure on non-monetary assets that do not have physical substance but are controlled by the Authority 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 Authority.

Intangible assets are measured initially at cost. Amounts are only revalued where the fair value of the assets held by the Authority can be determined by reference to an active market. In practice, no intangible asset held by the Authority meets this criterion, and they are therefore carried at amortised cost. The depreciable amount of an intangible asset is amortised over 3 years to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

### **L. Inventories**

Inventories are included in the Balance Sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

### **M. Leases**

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

Where a lease covers both land and buildings, the land and buildings elements are considered separately for classification. Arrangements that do not have the legal status of a lease but convey a right to use an asset in return for payment are accounted for under this policy where fulfilment of the arrangement is dependent on the use of specific assets (i.e. embedded leases).

### **The Authority as Lessee**

#### **Finance Leases**

The Authority does not hold any finance leases as a lessee.

#### **Operating Leases**

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

### **The Authority as Lessor**

#### **Finance Leases**

The Authority does not hold any finance leases as a lessee.

## **SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

### Operating Leases

Where the Authority grants an operating lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the asset is retained in the Balance Sheet. Rental income is credited to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Credits are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease, even if this does not match the pattern of payments (e.g. there is a premium paid at the commencement of the lease).

Initial direct costs incurred in negotiating and arranging the lease are added to the carrying amount of the relevant asset and charged as an expense over the lease term on the same basis as rental income.

### **N. Overheads and Support Services**

The costs of overheads and support services are charged to those that benefit from the supply or service in accordance with the costing principles of the CIPFA Service Reporting Code of Accounting Practice 2014/15 (SeRCOP). The total absorption costing principle is used – the full cost of overheads and support services are shared between users in proportion to the benefits received, with the exception of:

- Corporate and Democratic Core – costs relating to the Authority's status as a multifunctional, democratic organisation.
- Non Distributed Costs – the cost of discretionary benefits awarded to employees retiring early and impairment losses chargeable on Assets Held for Sale.

These two cost categories are defined in SERCOP and accounted for as separate headings in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, as part of Net Expenditure on Continuing Services.

### **O. 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 Authority and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. Expenditure that maintains but does not add to an asset's potential to deliver future economic benefits or service potential (i.e. repairs and maintenance) is charged as an expense when it is incurred.

#### **Measurement**

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

- the purchase price
- any costs attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management

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

- infrastructure, community assets and assets under construction – depreciated historical cost

### **SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

- all other assets – fair value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value – EUV).

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

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

Where decreases in value are identified, they are accounted for 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.

## **SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

### **Depreciation**

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

Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line allocation over the useful life of the asset. Useful lives are determined on a case by case basis.

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

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

### **Disposals and Non-current Assets Held for Sale**

When it becomes probable that the carrying amount of an asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through its continuing use, it is reclassified as an Asset Held for Sale. The asset is revalued immediately before reclassification and then carried at the lower of this amount and fair value less costs to sell. Where there is a subsequent decrease to fair value less costs to sell, the loss is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Gains in fair value are recognised only up to the amount of any previously recognised losses in the Surplus or Deficit

on Provision of Services. Depreciation is not charged on Assets Held for Sale.

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

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

When an asset is disposed of or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (whether Property, Plant and Equipment or Assets Held for Sale) is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals (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.

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

## **SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

### **Heritage Assets**

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2012/13 (the Code) introduced a change in accounting policy in relation to the treatment of heritage assets held by the Council, which was adopted fully by the Authority in the 2012/13 financial statements. The Authority is required to make disclosure of the estimated effect of the standard in the financial statements. The standard requires that a new class of asset, heritage assets, is disclosed separately on the face of the Authority's Balance Sheet.

### **P. Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets**

#### **Provisions**

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

Provisions are charged as an expense to the appropriate service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year that the Authority 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 by the Authority.

#### **Contingent Liabilities**

A contingent liability arises where an event has taken place that gives the Authority 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 Authority. 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.

### **Q. Reserves**

The Authority sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future 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 or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The reserve is then appropriated back into



### **SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement so that there is no net charge against council tax for the expenditure. Certain reserves are kept to manage the accounting processes for non-current assets, financial instruments, retirement and employee benefits and do not represent usable resources for the Authority – these reserves are explained in the relevant policies.

#### **R. Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute (REFCUS)**

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

#### **S. Section 106 deposits**

Developer contributions are initially treated as Capital Receipts in Advance unless a clear capital use is identified in the terms of the agreement in which case they are defined as Capital Contributions Unapplied.

#### **T. Recharging the salaries of shared services officers**

Extensive detailed work has been carried out by a small group of officers on the recharging of salaries between West Devon Borough Council and South Hams District Council for the 2014/15 financial year for shared officers, following the Senior Management Review (effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011) and the Middle Management Review (effective from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011).

Officers have produced a methodology for recharging the salary costs of shared officers based on the most appropriate cost driver and ratio to best reflect the officer's split of workload between the two Authorities. Examples of the cost drivers used are caseloads, call volumes, property numbers, number of claims or cases processed etc and other methods such as time recording. The work carried out includes establishing from the Head of Service/Group Manager the relevant recharge requirements for every member of staff.

#### **U. VAT**

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

#### **V. Business Rates Retention**

The Local Government Finance Act 2012 introduced a business rates retention scheme that enabled local authorities to retain a proportion of the business rates generated in their area, with effect from 1 April 2013.

General Fund – The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure statement accrues the Authority's share of the 2014/15 rates bills. The movement in Reserves Statement features an adjustment reconciling accrued rates income for the year to the entitlement to transfer from the Collection Fund (with a balancing entry in the Collection Fund Adjustment Account).

### **SECTION 3 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

Appeals – Provision is made for likely refunds of business rates as a result of appeals, against the rateable value of business properties. The appeals provision is based on the total value of outstanding appeals at the year end as advised by the Valuation Office Agency and on advice from them about the likely success rate of appeals.

#### **W. Minimum Revenue Provision**

The Council is not required to use Council Tax to fund depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisation of non-current assets. However, it is required to make an annual contribution from revenue towards provision for the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement equal to either an amount calculated on a prudent basis or as determined by the Council in accordance with statutory guidance.

## SECTION 4 COLLECTION FUND

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

This account reflects the statutory requirements for the Council as a billing authority to maintain a separate Collection Fund, which shows the transactions of the billing authority in relation to non-domestic rates and the council tax, and illustrates the way in which these have been distributed to preceptors and the General Fund.

2013/14 £'000	2013/14 £'000	INCOME	2014/15 £'000	2014/15 £'000
Business Rates	Council Tax		Business Rates	Council Tax
	31,189	Council Tax		32,642
	0	Council Tax Benefit		0
10,421		Business Rates	10,417	
(72)		Transitional Relief	(41)	
<b>10,349</b>	<b>31,189</b>		<b>10,376</b>	<b>32,642</b>
		<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
		<i>Precepts &amp; Demands</i>		
980	21,123	- Devon County Council	907	21,844
109	1,426	- Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority	101	1,475
	3,083	- Devon & Cornwall Police Authority		3,188
4,359	4,849	- West Devon Borough Council (Inc Parishes)	4,032	5,023
5,449		- Central Government	5,040	
		<i>Business Rates</i>		
		- Payments to National Pool		
84		- Costs of Collection	85	
368		Rates increase/decrease in provision for appeals	11	
44	34	Write-offs	120	55
(178)		Movement in Provision for Uncollectable Rates	140	
	91	Movement in Provision for Uncollectable Council Tax		151
		Contribution towards previous year's Collection Fund surplus/(deficit) transferred to		
	352	- Devon County Council	(104)	
	23	- Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority	(12)	
	49	- Devon & Cornwall Police Authority		
	76	- West Devon Borough Council	(463)	
		- Central Government	(579)	
<b>11,215</b>	<b>31,106</b>		<b>9,278</b>	<b>31,736</b>
866	(83)	<i>Movement on Fund Balance</i>	(1,098)	(907)
0	(754)	Balance brought forward at 1 April	866	(837)
<b>866</b>	<b>(837)</b>	Balance carried forward at 31 March	<b>(232)</b>	<b>(1,744)</b>
(520)	704	Balance attributable to major precepting bodies	(139)	(1,468)
(346)	133	Balance attributable to WDBC	(93)	(276)
<b>(866)</b>	<b>837</b>		<b>(232)</b>	<b>(1,744)</b>

The Collection Fund is consolidated with the other accounts of the Authority. The sources of income to the Collection Fund are Council Tax, which amounted to £32.6m (£31m in 2013/14) and the National Non Domestic Rates (Business Rates), which amounted to £10.4m (£10.3m in 2013/14).

## SECTION 4 COLECTION FUND

### 1. INCOME FROM COUNCIL TAX

Council Tax income comes from charges raised according to the value of residential properties, which have been classified into eight valuation bands (A to H) estimating April 1991 values for this specific purpose.

For Council Tax purposes the number of domestic properties in each valuation band converted to a Band D equivalent was as follows:-

Band	Council Tax	No. of Dwellings after Discounts and Exemptions	Multiplier	Band D Equivalent Number
A-	913.03	11.75	5/9	6.53
A	1,095.63	2,781.00	6/9	1,854.00
B	1,278.24	5,598.50	7/9	4,354.39
C	1,460.84	4,629.00	8/9	4,114.67
D	1,643.45	1,671.15	1	1,671.15
E	2,008.66	3,027.50	11/9	3,700.28
F	2,373.87	1,629.25	13/9	2,353.36
G	2,739.08	932.25	15/9	1,553.75
H	3,286.90	74.75	18/9	149.50
				<b>19,757.63</b>
Less allowance for non-collection				(592.73)
Plus adjustment for armed forces dwellings				<b>20.60</b>
<b>Tax base</b>				<b>19,185.50</b>

Individual Council Tax charges are calculated by estimating the amount of income required to be taken from the Collection Fund by the precepting authorities for the forthcoming year (See Note 3) and dividing this by the Council Tax Base. The Tax Base is the number of properties in each band adjusted to Band D equivalents.

The basic amount of Council Tax for a Band D property was £1,643.45 for 2014/15 (£1,610.98 for 2013/14). The income credited to the Collection Fund can be analysed as follows:-

	2013/14 £'000	2014/15 £'000
Actual Income from Council Tax	31,189	32,642

The tax base multiplied by the Band D Council Tax for the year of £1,643.45, including parishes, would have produced income amounting to £31,530,481 (See Note 3). The actual income of £32,462,965 differed from this figure due to changes in the Council Tax Base and the tax collection rate during the year and equates to approximately 2% of total income.

## SECTION 4 COLLECTION FUND

### 2. INCOME FROM BUSINESS RATES

The total non-domestic rateable value at 31 March 2015 was £28,811,376. This compares to £28,806,351 at 31 March 2014. The standard non-domestic rate multiplier was 48.2p in 2014/15 (2013/2014 47.1p). Without reliefs this would generate a total income of £13,887,083.23 (2013/2014 £13,567,791.32). These figures are a snapshot only and differ from the value of NNDR bills issued mainly due to changes in rateable values during the year, small business rate relief, void properties and charitable relief.

### 3. PRECEPTS AND DEMANDS

The following authorities made a demand upon the Collection Fund:

	2013/14	2014/15
	£	£
Devon County Council	21,122,413	21,844,418
Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority	1,426,438	1,475,173
Devon & Cornwall Police Authority	3,082,575	3,187,863
West Devon Borough Council	4,849,567	5,023,027
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30,480,993</b>	<b>31,530,481</b>

### 4. CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS/FROM PREVIOUS YEAR'S COLLECTION FUND DEFICIT/SURPLUS

This item represents the transfer of the surplus or deficit on the Collection Fund, estimated for the previous year on 15 January of that year.

During the year there was not any surplus for 2014/15 relating to Council Tax transferred to Devon County Council, Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority, Devon & Cornwall Police Authority and West Devon Borough Council.

The amounts transferred were as follows:

	2013/14	2014/15
	£	£
Devon County Council	352,123	
Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority	22,654	
Devon & Cornwall Police Authority	49,454	
West Devon Borough Council	75,769	
<b>Total</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>-</b>

**SECTION 4 COLLECTION FUND**

**5. ACCOUNTING FOR THE COLLECTION FUND BALANCE**

The opening balance on the Collection Fund for Council Tax 2014/15 was a surplus of £837,689. The balance as at 31 March 2015 was a surplus of £1,744,338. Surpluses and deficits are shared with the other major precepting bodies that make a demand of the Fund. The Council accounted for the Collection Fund in its 2014/15 Statement of Accounts as follows:

<b>2013/14 £'000</b>	<b>Major Precepting Bodies:</b>	<b>2014/15 £'000</b>
580	Devon County Council	1,212
39	Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority	81
85	Devon & Cornwall Police Authority	175
704	Balance attributable to major precepting bodies	1,468
133	Balance attributable to WDBC	276
<b>837</b>	<b>Total Collection Fund Surplus – Council Tax</b>	<b>1,744</b>

The opening balance on the Collection Fund for Business Rates 2014/15 was a deficit of £866,545. The balance as at 31 March 2015 was a surplus of £231,591. Surpluses and deficits are shared with the other major precepting bodies that make a demand of the Fund. The Council accounted for the Collection Fund in its 2014/15 Statement of Accounts as follows:

<b>2013/14 £'000</b>	<b>Major Precepting Bodies:</b>	<b>2014/15 £'000</b>
78	Devon County Council	21
9	Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority	2
433	Central Government	116
520	Balance attributable to major precepting bodies	139
346	Balance attributable to WDBC	93
<b>866</b>	<b>Total Collection Fund deficit – Rates</b>	<b>232</b>

## **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 responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Council, that officer is the Finance Community of Practice Lead as the Council's Chief Finance Officer.
- manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- approve the statement of accounts.

## **The Responsibilities of the Finance Community of Practice Lead (S151 Officer)**

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

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

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

The S151 Officer has also:

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

The Statement of Accounts present a true and fair view of the financial position of the authority at the accounting date (31 March 2015) and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2015.

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**LISA BUCKLE BSc, ACA**  
**Finance Community of Practice Lead (S151 Officer)**

**30<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

***SECTION 5 STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS***

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WEST DEVON BOROUGH COUNCIL**



***SECTION 6 AUDITORS' OPINION***

**Opinion on the Authority financial statements**

To be inserted following the external audit of the Financial Statements (leave 3 pages blank)

**SECTION 6 AUDITORS' OPINION**

## **SECTION 7 GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

<b>ACCRUALS</b>	A sum included in the account to cover income or expenditure attributable to an accounting period for goods received or work done, but for which payment has not been received/made by the end date of the period for which the accounts have been prepared.
<b>ACTUARIAL GAINS &amp; LOSSES</b>	These are changes in actuarial deficits or surpluses that arise because either actual experience or events have not been exactly the same as the assumptions adopted at the previous valuation (experience gains and losses) or the actuarial assumptions have changed.
<b>BALANCES</b>	The surplus or deficit on any account at the end of the year. Amounts in excess of that required for day to day working may be used to reduce the demand on the Collection Fund.
<b>BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID)</b>	A Business Improvement District is a partnership between a local authority and the local business community to develop projects and services that will benefit the trading environment within the boundary of a clearly defined commercial area.
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>	Expenditure on the acquisition of a fixed asset or expenditure which adds to and not merely maintains the value of an existing fixed asset.
<b>CAPITAL RECEIPTS</b>	Income received from sale of assets which is available to finance other capital expenditure or to repay debt on assets financed from loan.
<b>CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC FINANCE AND ACCOUNTANCY</b>	The governing body responsible for issuing the statement of recommended practice to prepare the accounts.
<b>COLLECTION FUND</b>	A separate fund which must be maintained by a district for the proper administration of Council Tax and Non Domestic Rates.
<b>CURRENT SERVICE COST</b>	Amount chargeable to Services based on the Actuary's assessment of pension liabilities arising and chargeable to the financial year.
<b>CURTAILMENTS</b>	The amount the Actuary estimates as costs to the authority of events that reduce future contributions to the scheme, such as granting early retirement.

## **SECTION 7 GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

<b>DEFINED BENEFIT SCHEME</b>	A pension or other retirement benefit scheme other than a defined contribution scheme. Usually, the scheme rules define the benefits independently of the contributions payable, and the benefits are not directly related to the investments of the scheme. The scheme may be funded or unfunded (including notionally funded).
<b>DEMAND</b>	The charging authorities own Demand is, in effect, its precept on the fund.
<b>FEES &amp; CHARGES</b>	In addition to the income from charge payers and the Governments, Local Authorities charge for services, including Planning Consents, Hire of Sporting Facilities, Car Parking etc.
<b>FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS</b>	A financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another.
<b>GOVERNMENT GRANTS</b>	Payments by Central Government towards the cost of Local Authority services, including both Revenue and Capital.
<b>IMPAIRMENT ALLOWANCE (“BAD DEBT PROVISION”)</b>	Provisions against income to prudently allow for non collectable amounts.
<b>INTEREST COST</b>	For the pension fund this represents the discount rate at the start of the accounting period applied to the liabilities during the year based on the assumptions at the start of the accounting period.
<b>INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS (IFRS) &amp; THE CODE OF PRACTICE (CODE)</b>	Formal financial reporting standards adopted by the accounting profession and to be applied when dealing with specific topics within its accounting Code. The Code is based on approved accounting standards issued by the International Accounting Standards Board and interpretations of the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee, except where these are inconsistent with specific statutory requirements.
<b>LIBID</b>	Acronym for the London Inter-bank Bid Rate, being the interest rate at which a market maker or underwriter will offer to buy bonds and securities.

## **SECTION 7 GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

<b>MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION (MRP)</b>	This is a statutory requirement to make an annual calculation of an amount or MRP considered prudent to offset against borrowings made under the Prudential Borrowing rules
<b>PAST SERVICE COST</b>	These will typically be additional benefits awarded on early retirement. This includes added years or augmentation and unreduced pension benefits awarded before eligible retirement age in the pension scheme.
<b>PRECEPT</b>	The levy made by precepting authorities including the County Council and Parish Councils, on the District Council requiring it to collect the required income from council taxpayers on their behalf.
<b>PROJECTED UNIT METHOD</b>	<p>An accrued benefits valuation method in which the scheme liabilities make allowance for projected earnings. An accrued benefits valuation method is a valuation method in which the scheme liabilities at the valuation date relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) the benefits for pensioners and deferred pensioners (i.e. individuals who have ceased to be active members but are entitled to benefits payable at a later date) and their dependants, allowing where appropriate for future increases, and b) the accrued benefits for members in service on the valuation date.</li></ul> <p>The accrued benefits are the benefits for service up to a given point in time, whether vested rights or not. Guidance on the projected unit method is given in the Guidance Note GN26 issued by the Faculty and Institute of Actuaries.</p>
<b>RATEABLE VALUE</b>	A value placed on all properties subject to Rating. The value is based on a national rent that property could be expected to yield after deducting the cost of repairs.
<b>REVENUE EXPENDITURE</b>	Recurring items of day to day expenditure consisting principally of Salaries and Wages, Debt Charges and general running expenses etc.

**SECTION 7 GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

<b>SETTLEMENTS</b>	A settlement will generally occur where there is a bulk transfer out of the Pension Fund or from the employer's share of the Fund to a new contractor's share of the Fund as a result of an outsourcing. It reflects the difference between the IAS 19 liability transferred and the assets transferred to settle the liability
<b>STRAIN ON FUND CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	Additional employers pension contributions as a result of an employee's early retirement
<b>SUNDRY CREDITORS</b>	Amounts owed by the Authority at 31 March.
<b>SUNDRY DEBTORS</b>	Amounts owed to the Authority at 31 March.