

Audit, Governance and Standards Committee

Tuesday 20 October 2020

6.30 pm

Online. Contact virginia.wynn-jones@southwark.gov.uk for details.

Supplemental Agenda No. 1

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Date: 16 October 2020

Item No. 7.	Classification: Open	Date: 20 October 2020	Meeting Name: Audit, governance and standards committee
Report title:		2019-20 Statement of Accounts for Southwark Council and Audit findings report (ISA 260) - including Pension Fund: Southwark Council Audit Findings Report 2019-20 and Pension Fund Audit Findings Report 2019-20	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the audit, governance and standards committee:
 - a) consider the matters raised in Grant Thornton's audit findings report for 2019-20 (appendix A) before approval of the council's main accounts
 - b) note the adjustments to the main accounts as set out in page 21 of the audit findings report
 - c) approve the council's letter of representation set out at appendix B
 - d) consider the matters raised in the Pension Fund audit findings report 2019-20 (appendix C) prior to approval of the Pension Fund accounts
 - e) note the adjustments to the Pension Fund accounts as set out in page 14 of the pension fund audit findings report
 - f) approve the Pension Fund letter of representation set out at appendix D
 - g) approve the Statement of Accounts 2019-20 (appendix E), subject to any final changes required by the conclusion of the audit being delegated to the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance in consultation with the chair of Audit, Governance and Standards Committee.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. As the council's appointed external auditor, Grant Thornton is required under the statutory Code of Audit Practice for Local Government Bodies to issue reports to those charged with governance summarising the conclusions of the audit work. The audit, governance and standards committee is the council's constitutional body for receiving these reports and needs to consider the auditor's reports before approving the accounts.
3. There are separate audit findings reports from the auditor for the main accounts and the Pension Fund accounts. The audit of the Pension Fund accounts is separate from the audit of the council's main accounts.

4. The auditor is required by professional auditing standards to report to the committee certain matters before giving their opinion on the financial statements. There are separate sections in each report covering these matters.
5. In addition to reporting on the financial statements, the auditor reports on any circumstances where they suspect or detect fraud and on whether, in their view, the council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.
6. The principal purposes of the reports are to:
 - reach a mutual understanding of the scope of the audit and the respective responsibilities of the auditor and the audit, governance and standards committee;
 - share information to assist both the auditor and the committee to fulfil their respective responsibilities;
 - provide the committee with recommendations for improvement arising from the audit process.
7. Before the auditor issues their formal opinion, they will require letters of representations to be provided by the council. The draft letters, relating to each of the main accounts and pension fund accounts, are set out in appendices B and D respectively. The final letters, once approved by this committee, will be signed by the strategic director of finance and governance on behalf of the council.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Audit opinion

8. The auditor expects to give unqualified opinions on both council's accounts and Pension Fund accounts prior to the statutory deadline of 30 November 2020.
9. The purpose of Grant Thornton's Audit Findings Report (AFR) is to detail their findings and matters arising during the course of auditing the financial statements. The report of the main accounts is attached at appendix A and includes key audit issues and value for money conclusions. The Auditors will make an oral presentation of their findings to the Committee.
10. There are two material adjusted misstatements:
 - International Accounting Standard (IAS) 19 Pensions. Each year the council commissions an actuary to estimate the value of pension liabilities which the council is required to pay in the future, offset by the value of assets invested in the Pension Fund. In order to produce draft accounts by 31 May, the actuary uses indices to estimate asset returns for the final quarter of the financial year, which in normal circumstances gives a materially accurate value.

However Covid-19 had a significant impact on asset values at 31 March 2020, hence the need for an updated valuation in July 2020 based on actual investment returns. The impact of this updated valuation was to reduce the value of the assets held by the pension scheme by £22.1 million, thus increasing the Net Liability position by the same value. However this has no impact on the Council's General Fund Balance due to

the way the Net Liability is treated on the Balance Sheet.

- Removal of duplicate asset. During 2019-20 we identified that there was a duplicate asset in the fixed asset register and we removed it in year. The asset should have been removed in 2018-19. We have amended the accounts to reflect this adjustment in the correct period.
11. Grant Thornton have commented on the high quality of the pre-audit statement of accounts 2019-20 including the Pension Fund, which the council were able to deliver by the original deadline on 31 May 2020. The audit has been complicated this year due to remote working and it is testament to the excellent working relationship between Grant Thornton and the council that a successful audit conclusion is expected in advance of the statutory deadline for publication of the audited set of accounts.
 12. Two audit findings to note have been raised mainly focused on the control environment covering journals approvals and frequency of budget monitoring reports publication. Management responses are included within the Audit Findings Report.
 13. There are currently no areas of dispute between the council and the auditors and no unadjusted misstatements, subject to the resolution of the public inspection of accounts objection. There will also be a further quality assurance review of the accounts by Corporate Finance before publication of the audited statement of accounts 2019-20 on the council's website; in view of the ongoing audit completing very close to the AGS agenda deadline.
 14. An objection to the accounts was received at the end of the public inspection of accounts period on 10 July 2020. The matter has been thoroughly investigated by the council and information requested by our auditors has been provided in full. There are no other considerations for the council at this particular time until the auditor reaches their conclusions with the objector in due course. Until the objection is resolved, the council will not be able to issue a notice of conclusion of the audit nor will the audit certificate be released until there is resolution of the case.

Letters of representation

15. The proposed letters of representation for the main council statements and the pension fund are set out in appendices B and D respectively. The auditor has asked for a number of representations to be given, and there are no reservations in being able to give these representations.

Community impact statement

16. This report and the accompanying statement of accounts are not considered to have a direct impact on local people and communities.

Resource implications

17. There are no direct resource implications arising from this report.

Consultation

18. Consultation on the accounts is carried out through public inspection. The accounts were open for public inspection from 1 June 2020 until 10 July 2020.

The audit findings reports are key documents in assessing the council's progress and plans for the future, such as through the council's policy and resources strategy. The final report will be published on the council's website.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

19. None required.

Reasons for lateness

20. The audit of the accounts is ongoing up to the date of receipt of the audit opinion. The Audit Findings Reports were received close to the deadline for the dispatch of the audit, governance and standards committee agenda.

Reasons for urgency

21. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the council to approve the accounts by 31 July each year. However, the Accounts and Audit (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 revised the statutory deadline to 30 November for 2019-20. The audit findings report and audited statement of accounts 2019-20 must be issued for committee consideration prior to the audit opinion being released.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Statement of accounts files	Finance and Governance, Second Floor, Tooley Street	Jade Cheung 020 7525 0614

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix A	Grant Thornton - Council Audit Findings Report 2019-20
Appendix B	Letter of Representation – Council
Appendix C	Grant Thornton - Pension Fund Audit Findings Report 2019-20
Appendix D	Letter of Representation – Pension Fund
Appendix E	Statement of Accounts 2019-20

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Duncan Whitfield, Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	
Report Author	Jade Cheung / Rob Woollatt	
Version	Final	
Dated	16 October 2020	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments sought	Comments included
Director of Law and Democracy	No	N/A
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	N/A	N/A
Cabinet Member	N/A	N/A
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		16 October 2020



The Audit Findings Report for Southwark Council

Year ended 31 March 2020

20 October 2020



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The contents of this report relate only to those matters which came to our attention during the conduct of our normal audit procedures which are designed for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements. Our audit is not designed to test all internal controls or identify all areas of control weakness. However, where, as part of our testing, we identify control weaknesses, we will report these to you. In consequence, our work cannot be relied upon to disclose all defalcations or other irregularities, or to include all possible improvements in internal control that a more extensive special examination might identify. This report has been prepared solely for your benefit and should not be quoted in whole or in part without our prior written consent. We do not accept any responsibility for any loss occasioned to any third party acting, or refraining from acting on the basis of the content of this report, as this report was not prepared for, nor intended for, any other purpose.

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1. Headlines

This table summarises the key findings and other matters arising from the statutory audit of Southwark Council ('the Council') and the preparation of the Council's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020 for those charged with governance.

<p>Covid-19</p>	<p>The outbreak of the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic has had a significant impact on the normal operations of the Council. This has had an impact on both the front-line services operated by the Council, along with those people who work behind the scenes, who have had to get used to a new way of working as the pandemic has progressed.</p> <p>Authorities are still required to prepare financial statements in accordance with the relevant accounting standards and the Code of Audit Practice, albeit to an extended deadline for the preparation of the financial statements up to 31 August 2020 and the date for audited financials statements to 30 November 2020.</p>	<p>We updated our audit risk assessment to consider the impact of the pandemic on our audit and issued an audit plan addendum on 3 June 2020. In that addendum we reported an additional financial statement risk in respect of Covid-19 and highlighted the impact on our VfM approach. Further detail is set out on page 6.</p> <p>Restrictions for non-essential travel has meant both the Council's and audit staff have had to deliver the audit remotely, including accessing financial systems remotely, undertaking video calling to discuss queries and to obtain assurance over the completeness and accuracy of information produced by the entity. Despite these challenges the Council was able to provide the draft Accounts in line with the agreed timeframe, and has responded promptly throughout the audit to queries raised by the audit team.</p>
<p>Financial Statements</p>	<p>Under International Standards of Audit (UK) (ISAs) and the National Audit Office (NAO) Code of Audit Practice ('the Code'), we are required to report whether, in our opinion, the Council's financial statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council and its income and expenditure for the year; and • have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting and prepared in accordance with the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. <p>We are also required to report whether other information published together with the audited financial statements (including the Annual Governance Statement (AGS), Narrative Report and Pension Fund Financial Statements), is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.</p>	<p>Our audit work was completed on site/remotely during July to October 2020. Our findings are summarised on pages 5 to 18. We have identified two adjustments to the financial statements that have resulted in a £22.1m adjustment to the Council's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, via a prior period adjustment. Audit adjustments are detailed in Appendix C. We have also raised recommendations for management as a result of our audit work in Appendix A. Our follow up of recommendations from the prior year's audit are detailed in Appendix B.</p> <p>Our work is substantially complete and there are no matters of which we are aware that would require modification of our audit opinion (attached at Appendix E) or material changes to the financial statements, subject to the following outstanding matters;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • completion of our outstanding testing (refer to Page 5 for more detail); • our final internal quality reviews; • receipt of management representation letter; and • review of the final set of financial statements. <p>We have concluded that the other information to be published with the financial statements is consistent with our knowledge of your organisation.</p> <p>Our anticipated audit report opinion will be unqualified including an Emphasis of Matter paragraph, highlighting the material uncertainties disclosed in respect of your Property Valuations, including Investment Properties. An Emphasis of Matter paragraph is not a qualification.</p>

1. Headlines

Value for Money arrangements

Under the National Audit Office (NAO) Code of Audit Practice ('the Code'), we are required to report if, in our opinion, the Council has made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources ('the value for money (VfM) conclusion').

We have completed our risk based review of the Council's value for money arrangements. We have concluded that Southwark Council has proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

We have updated our VfM risk assessment to document our understanding of your arrangements to ensure critical business continuity in the current environment. We have not identified any new VfM risks in relation to Covid-19.

We therefore anticipate issuing an unqualified Value for Money Conclusion, as detailed in Appendix E. Our findings are summarised on pages 19 to 27.

Statutory duties

The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 ('the Act') also requires us to:

- report to you if we have applied any of the additional powers and duties ascribed to us under the Act; and
- To certify the closure of the audit.

We have not exercised any of our additional statutory powers or duties.

We have completed the majority of work under the Code but are unable to issue our completion certificate until we complete our work on the Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) Return, the Pension Fund Annual Report, along with the work ongoing on the objection to the Council's Accounts.

Acknowledgements

We would like to take this opportunity to record our appreciation for the assistance and timely collaboration provided by the finance team and other staff during these unprecedented times.

2. Audit approach

Overview of the scope of our audit

This Audit Findings Report presents the observations arising from the audit that are significant to the responsibility of those charged with governance to oversee the financial reporting process, as required by International Standard on Auditing (UK) 260 and the Code of Audit Practice ('the Code'). Its contents have been discussed with Management.

As auditor we are responsible for performing the audit, in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) and the Code, which is directed towards forming and expressing an opinion on the financial statements that have been prepared by management with the oversight of those charged with governance. The audit of the financial statements does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities for the preparation of the financial statements.

Audit approach

Our audit approach was based on a thorough understanding of the Council's business and is risk based, and in particular included:

- An evaluation of the Council's internal controls environment, including its IT systems and controls; and
- Substantive testing on significant transactions and material account balances, including the procedures outlined in this report in relation to the key audit risks

We have had to alter our audit plan, as communicated to you on 3 June 2020, to reflect our response to the Covid-19 pandemic. This included the identification of two new Significant Risks, one relating to Covid-19, and one in respect of the valuation of the Council's Investment Properties, which have been detailed on pages 7 and 11 of this Report.

Conclusion

We have substantially completed our audit of your financial statements and subject to outstanding queries being resolved, we anticipate issuing an unqualified audit opinion following the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee meeting on 20 October 2020, as detailed in Appendix E. These outstanding items include:

- completion of our outstanding testing in the following areas: Cash, Debtors, Creditors, Property, Plant and Equipment and Pensions
- our final internal quality reviews;
- receipt of management representation letter; and
- review of the final set of financial statements.

2. Materiality

Our approach to materiality

The concept of materiality is fundamental to the preparation of the financial statements and the audit process and applies not only to the monetary misstatements but also to disclosure requirements and adherence to acceptable accounting practice and applicable law.

Materiality levels remain the same as reported in our Audit Plan.

	Council Amount (£)	Qualitative factors considered
Materiality for the financial statements	18,000,000	Our Headline Materiality is based on the prior year Gross Revenue Expenditure included in the Accounts.
Performance materiality	13,500,000	Performance Materiality is based on a percentage of the overall materiality.
Trivial matters	900,000	Triviality is based on a percentage of the overall materiality.

2. Significant audit risks

Risks identified in our Audit Plan

Covid-19

The global outbreak of the Covid-19 virus pandemic has led to unprecedented uncertainty for all organisations, requiring urgent business continuity arrangements to be implemented. We expect current circumstances will have an impact on the production and audit of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020, including and not limited to;

Remote working arrangements and redeployment of staff to critical front line duties may impact on the quality and timing of the production of the financial statements, and the evidence we can obtain through physical observation

Volatility of financial and property markets will increase the uncertainty of assumptions applied by management to asset valuation and receivable recovery estimates, and the reliability of evidence we can obtain to corroborate management estimates

Financial uncertainty will require management to reconsider financial forecasts supporting their going concern assessment and whether material uncertainties for a period of at least 12 months from the anticipated date of approval of the audited financial statements have arisen; and

Disclosures within the financial statements will require significant revision to reflect the unprecedented situation and its impact on the preparation of the financial statements as at 31 March 2020 in accordance with IAS1, particularly in relation to material uncertainties.

We therefore identified the global outbreak of the Covid-19 virus as a significant risk, which was one of the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement.

Auditor commentary

We have undertaken the following work in respect of this risk:

- Worked with management to understand the implications the response to the Covid-19 pandemic has had on the organisation's ability to prepare the financial statements and update financial forecasts and assessed the implications on our audit approach.
- Liaised with other audit suppliers, regulators and government departments to co-ordinate practical cross-sector responses to issues as and when they arise.
- Evaluated the adequacy of the disclosures in the financial statements in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Evaluated whether sufficient audit evidence using alternative approaches can be obtained for the purposes of our audit whilst working remotely.
- Evaluated whether sufficient audit evidence can be obtained to corroborate significant management estimates such as asset valuations and recovery of receivable balances.
- Evaluated management's assumptions that underpin the revised financial forecasts and the impact on management's going concern assessment.
- Discussed with management any potential implications for our audit report if we have been unable to obtain sufficient audit evidence.

From the work performed to date, we have identified that there is a material uncertainty attached to the valuation of the Council's Property, Plant and Equipment and Investment Properties, due to the inherent uncertainty over the asset valuations at 31 March 2020. This has been reflected within the Accounts in Note 5, and will be reflected within our Audit Opinion as an Emphasis of Matter Paragraph, which is not a qualification.

Should any further issues be identified from our remaining testing, then we will provide an update to Management and Committee.

2. Significant audit risks

Risks identified in our Audit Plan

The revenue cycle includes fraudulent transactions

Under ISA (UK) 240 there is a rebuttable presumed risk that revenue may be misstated due to the improper recognition of revenue.

This presumption can be rebutted if the auditor concludes that there is no risk of material misstatement due to fraud relating to revenue recognition.

Having considered the risk factors set out in ISA240 and the nature of the revenue streams at the Authority, we have determined that the risk of fraud arising from revenue recognition can be rebutted, because:

- there is little incentive to manipulate revenue recognition
- opportunities to manipulate revenue recognition are very limited
- the culture and ethical frameworks of local authorities, including Southwark Council, mean that all forms of fraud are seen as unacceptable

Therefore we do not consider this to be a significant risk for Southwark Council.

Auditor commentary

We have undertaken the following work in respect of this risk:

- reviewed and tested the Council's revenue recognition policies
- performed testing on material revenue streams

Our audit work has not identified any significant issues in relation to the risk identified.

2. Significant audit risks

Risks identified in our Audit Plan

Valuation of Land and Buildings

The Authority revalues its land and buildings on a rolling five-yearly basis. This valuation represents a significant estimate by management in the financial statements due to the size of the numbers involved (£5.054 billion) and the sensitivity of this estimate to changes in key assumptions. Additionally, management will need to ensure the carrying value in the Authority financial statements is not materially different from the current value at the financial statements date, where a rolling programme is used

We therefore identified valuation of land and buildings, particularly revaluations and impairments, as a significant risk, which was one of the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement.

Auditor commentary

We have undertaken the following work in respect of this risk:

- evaluated management's processes and assumptions for the calculation of the estimate, the instructions issued to valuation experts and the scope of their work.
- evaluated the competence, capabilities and objectivity of the valuation expert.
- discussed with the valuer the basis on which the valuation was carried out.
- challenged the information and assumptions used by the valuer to assess completeness and consistency with our understanding. We have engaged our own valuer to assess the instructions to the Authority's valuer, the Authority's valuer's report and the assumptions that underpinned the valuation.
- tested revaluations made during the year to see if they had been input correctly into the Authority's asset register.
- evaluated the assumptions made by management for those assets not revalued during the year and how management satisfied themselves that these are not materially different to current value at year end.

From the work performed to date, as mentioned earlier we have identified that there is a material uncertainty attached to the valuation of the Council's Property, Plant and Equipment, due to the inherent uncertainty over the asset valuations at 31 March 2020. This has been reflected within the Accounts in Note 5, and will be reflected within our Audit Opinion as an Emphasis of Matter Paragraph, which is not a qualification.

Should any further issues be identified from our remaining testing, then we will provide an update to Management and Committee.

2. Significant audit risks

Risks identified in our Audit Plan

Valuation of the Pension Fund Net Liability

The Authority's pension fund net liability, as reflected in its balance sheet as the net defined benefit liability, represents a significant estimate in the financial statements.

The pension fund net liability is considered a significant estimate due to the size of the numbers involved (£712 million in the Authority's balance sheet) and the sensitivity of the estimate to changes in key assumptions.

We therefore identified valuation of the Authority's pension fund net liability as a significant risk, which was one of the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement.

Auditor commentary

We have undertaken the following work in respect of this risk:

- updated our understanding of the processes and controls put in place by management to ensure that the Authority's pension fund net liability is not materially misstated and evaluated the design of the associated controls;
- evaluated the instructions issued by management to their management expert (an actuary) for this estimate and the scope of the actuary's work;
- assessed the competence, capabilities and objectivity of the actuary who carried out the Authority's pension fund valuation;
- assessed the accuracy and completeness of the information provided by the Authority to the actuary to estimate the liability;
- tested the consistency of the pension fund asset and liability and disclosures in the notes to the core financial statements with the actuarial report from the actuary; and
- undertaken procedures to confirm the reasonableness of the actuarial assumptions made by reviewing the report of the consulting actuary (as auditor's expert) and performing any additional procedures suggested within the report.

From the work performed to date, we identified that the valuation of the net liability in the draft Accounts was based on December 2019 actuals, as opposed to March 2020 actuals. This was due to the Council preparing their accounts to the original 31 May 2020 deadline, which meant it would have been unable to obtain a figure using the March 2020 data in a timely manner for inclusion. However the impact of Covid-19 had a significant impact on Asset Values at 31 March 2020, hence the need for an updated valuation. The impact of this updated valuation was to reduce the value of the assets held by the pension scheme by **£22.1 million**, thus increasing the Net Liability position by the same value. However this has no impact on the Council's General Fund Balance due to the way the Net Liability is treated on the Balance Sheet.

Should any further issues be identified from our remaining testing, then we will provide an update to Management and Committee.

2. Significant audit risks

Risks identified in our Audit Plan

Valuation of Investment Properties

The Authority revalues its Investment Properties on an annual basis to ensure that the carrying value is not materially different from the current value or fair value (for surplus assets) at the financial statements date. This valuation represents a significant estimate by management in the financial statements due to the size of the numbers involved (£335 million) and the sensitivity of this estimate to changes in key assumptions.

Management have engaged the services of a valuer to estimate the current value as at 31 March 2020.

We therefore identified valuation of Investment Properties, particularly revaluations and impairments, as a significant risk, which was one of the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement.

Auditor commentary

We have undertaken the following work in respect of this risk:

- evaluated management's processes and assumptions for the calculation of the estimate, the instructions issued to the valuation experts and the scope of their work
- evaluated the competence, capabilities and objectivity of the valuation expert
- written to the valuer to confirm the basis on which the valuations were carried out
- challenged the information and assumptions used by the valuer to assess completeness and consistency with our understanding, which included engaging our own valuer to assess the instructions to the Authority's valuer, the Authority's valuer's report and the assumptions that underpin the valuation.
- tested, on a sample basis, revaluations made during the year to ensure they have been input correctly into the Authority's asset register
- evaluated the assumptions made by management for any assets not revalued during the year and how management has satisfied themselves that these are not materially different to current value.

From the work performed to date, as mentioned earlier we have identified that there is a material uncertainty attached to the valuation of the Council's Investment Properties, due to the inherent uncertainty over the asset valuations at 31 March 2020. This has been reflected within the Accounts in Note 5, and will be reflected within our Audit Opinion as an Emphasis of Matter Paragraph, which is not a qualification.

No other issues have been identified from the work performed in this area.

2. Significant findings – other issues

This section provides commentary on new issues and risks which were identified during the course of the audit that were not previously communicated in the Audit Plan and a summary of any significant control deficiencies identified during the year.

Issue	Commentary	Auditor view
<p>IFRS 16 implementation has been delayed by one year</p> <p>Although the implementation of IFRS 16 has been delayed to 1 April 2021, audited bodies still need to include disclosure in their 2019/2020 statements to comply with the requirement of IAS 8 para 31. As a minimum, we would expect audited bodies to disclose the title of the standard, the date of initial application and the nature of the changes in accounting policy for leases.</p>	<p>We have discussed the implementation of IFRS16 with the Council who have confirmed that whilst considerable progress had been made, this has been put on hold following the deferral and the Covid-19 Pandemic. There are however plans in place for this work to be restarted once this year's accounts are finalised to ensure the Council is well placed for 2021-22.</p>	<p>No issues identified in this area.</p>
<p>Dedicated Schools Grant</p> <p>The Council had a cumulative overspend of £18.5 million as 31 March 2020 due to insufficient government funding. We have reviewed the statement from CIPFA which confirms the guidance in LAAP bulletin 99 Local Authority Reserves and Balances remains extant i.e.. it “neither anticipates nor allows for a voluntary earmarked balance to be presented in a deficit position.”</p>	<p>The Council has continued to record the deficit on the Dedicated Schools Grant as a negative reserve, offsetting it against the positive Schools Reserves which are also held. The size of the deficit has grown by £7.0 million during the course of 2019-20, with it standing at £18.5 million in total at the end of the financial year.</p> <p>We are content with this approach given the current guidance, as ultimately it ensures the correct General Fund Position is shown in the Accounts. We are also aware that further guidance is imminent in this area to clarify matters ahead of 2020-21.</p>	<p>No issues identified in this area.</p>

2. Significant findings – key estimates and judgements

Accounting area	Summary of management's policy	Auditor commentary	Assessment
Land and Buildings – Council Dwellings - £3,428m	<p>The Council owns 37,147 dwellings and is required to revalue these properties in accordance with MHCLG's Stock Valuation for Resource Accounting guidance. The guidance requires the use of beacon methodology, in which a detailed valuation of representative property types is then applied to similar properties. The Council has engaged its internal valuer to complete the valuation of these properties. The year end valuation of Council Housing was £3,428m, a net increase of £5m from 2018/19 (£3,423m).</p>	<p>From the work performed in this area, we are comfortable with the valuation of the Council's Housing Stock included within the Accounts.</p> <p>The valuer has correctly prepared the valuation using the Stock Valuation Guidance issued by MHCLG, and has ensured the correct factor has been applied when calculating the Existing Use Value – Social Housing (EUV-SH) value disclosed within the Accounts.</p> <p>The valuer has formally dated the valuation as at the 31st of December 2019, and has then undertaken a review to confirm that there is no material impact on the valuation to the 31st of March 2020.</p> <p>We have reviewed and challenged this assessment, and are comfortable with the assumptions made by the valuer in respect of this period. This has also included a review of these assumptions and approach by an Auditor's Expert, who also confirmed the reasonableness and appropriateness of the approach followed by the Council.</p>	 Green

Assessment

- - **Red** - We disagree with the estimation process or judgements that underpin the estimate and consider the estimate to be potentially materially misstated
- - **Amber** - We consider the estimate is unlikely to be materially misstated however management's estimation process contains assumptions we consider optimistic
- - **Yellow** - We consider the estimate is unlikely to be materially misstated however management's estimation process contains assumptions we consider cautious
- - **Green** - We consider management's process is appropriate and key assumptions are neither optimistic or cautious

2. Significant findings – key estimates and judgements

Accounting area	Summary of management's policy	Auditor commentary	Assessment
Land and Buildings – Other - £1,032m	<p>Other land and buildings comprises £538 million of specialised assets such as schools and libraries, which are required to be valued at depreciated replacement cost (DRC) at year end, reflecting the cost of a modern equivalent asset necessary to deliver the same service provision.</p> <p>The remainder of other land and buildings (£494 million) are not specialised in nature and are required to be valued at existing use in value (EUV) at year end. The Council has engaged the internal valuer to complete the valuation of properties as at 31 December 2019 on a five yearly cyclical basis. 85% of total assets were revalued during 2019/20. The valuation of properties valued by the valuer has resulted in a net increase of £90 million.</p> <p>Management have considered the year end value of non-valued properties, and the potential valuation change in the assets revalued at 31 December 2019, to determine whether there has been a material change in the total value of these properties. Management's assessment of assets not revalued has identified no material change to the properties value.</p> <p>The total year end valuation of Other Land and Buildings was £1,032 million, a net increase of £5 million from 2018/19 (£1,027 million).</p> <p>In line with RICS guidance, the Council's Valuer disclosed a material uncertainty in the valuation of the Council's Land and Buildings at 31 March 2020 as a result of Covid-19. The Council has included disclosures on this issue in Note 5.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From the work performed in this area, we are comfortable with the valuation of the Council's Other Land and Buildings included within the Accounts. The valuer has agreed clear terms of reference for this work with the Council in advance of the work being performed, including within which were the assumptions that were going to be applied to this work. We have reviewed the assumptions applied by the Valuer to the valuation performed, and have confirmed they are reasonable and appropriate given the nature of the assets held by the Council. This review has also been supported by our Auditor's Expert, who also did not identify any issues from their review. We have also reviewed the assessment undertaken by the valuer that there has not been any material movement in the valuation of Other Land and Buildings between the end of December and the end of March 2020, and are content with the assumptions made by the valuer in respect of this period. We also considered the work which the valuer has done on those assets not valued as at the 31st of March 2020 to confirm that their carrying value is not materially different to their carrying value included within the Accounts. Again we were content with the assessment made by the valuer in this area, which provides us with sufficient assurance over the values included within the Accounts. As mentioned earlier in the Report, the Valuer has included a material uncertainty on the valuation certificate, which has been correctly reflected within the Accounts, within Note 5. We will reflect this matter as an Emphasis of Matter in our Audit Opinion, which again is not a qualification. 	 Green

Assessment

- - **Red** - We disagree with the estimation process or judgements that underpin the estimate and consider the estimate to be potentially materially misstated
- - **Amber** - We consider the estimate is unlikely to be materially misstated however management's estimation process contains assumptions we consider optimistic
- - **Yellow** - We consider the estimate is unlikely to be materially misstated however management's estimation process contains assumptions we consider cautious
- - **Green** - We consider management's process is appropriate and key assumptions are neither optimistic or cautious

2. Significant findings – key estimates and judgements

Accounting area	Summary of management's policy	Auditor commentary	Assessment																								
Net pension liability – £607m	<p>The Council's total net pension liability at 31 March 2020 is £607 million (PY £712 million), comprising the Southwark Council PF Local Government and unfunded defined benefit pension scheme obligations.</p> <p>The Council uses Aon Hewitt to provide actuarial valuations of the Council's assets and liabilities derived from these schemes. A full actuarial valuation is required every three years. The latest full actuarial valuation was completed in 2019. A roll forward approach is used in intervening periods, which utilises key assumptions such as life expectancy, discount rates, salary growth and investment returns.</p> <p>Given the significant value of the net pension fund liability, small changes in assumptions can result in significant valuation movements. There has been a £150m net actuarial gain during 2019/20.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council have used Aon Hewitt as their Actuary for a number of years, and thus we are content with their competence and capability to provide the valuations required by the Council in respect of the net pension fund liability as at the 31 March 2020. We have reviewed the assumptions made by the actuary when calculating the IAS26 costs included within the Accounts to confirm their reasonableness. We made use of PwC, as an Auditor's Expert to obtain assurance over this area. A summary of the work performed can be seen in the table below: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Assumption</th> <th>Actuary Value</th> <th>PwC range</th> <th>Assessment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Discount rate</td> <td>2.3%</td> <td>2.3%</td> <td>●</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pension increase rate</td> <td>2.0%</td> <td>1.9% to 2.1%</td> <td>●</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Salary growth</td> <td>3.5%</td> <td>3.0% to 3.6%</td> <td>●</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Life expectancy – Males currently aged 45 / 65</td> <td>22.7 20.8</td> <td>22.5-24.7 20.8-23.0</td> <td>●</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Life expectancy – Females currently aged 45 / 65</td> <td>25.5 23.6</td> <td>25.0-27.2 23.5-25.5</td> <td>●</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the table above, we are content with the assumptions applied by Aon Hewitt to value the Council's Pension Fund Liability as at the 31st of March 2020, and thus are content with the values included within the Accounts. Although as mentioned earlier in the Report, the Council had to obtain an updated Actuary Report based on March 2020 Actuals instead of December 2019 Data being rolled forward. The impact of this updated valuation was to reduce the value of the assets held by the pension scheme by £22.1 million, thus increasing the Net Liability position by the same value. However this has no impact on the Council's General Fund Balance due to the way the Net Liability is treated in the Balance Sheet. 	Assumption	Actuary Value	PwC range	Assessment	Discount rate	2.3%	2.3%	●	Pension increase rate	2.0%	1.9% to 2.1%	●	Salary growth	3.5%	3.0% to 3.6%	●	Life expectancy – Males currently aged 45 / 65	22.7 20.8	22.5-24.7 20.8-23.0	●	Life expectancy – Females currently aged 45 / 65	25.5 23.6	25.0-27.2 23.5-25.5	●	 Green
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- - **Green** - We consider management's process is appropriate and key assumptions are neither optimistic or cautious

2. Significant findings – Going Concern

Our responsibility

As auditors, we are required to “obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern assumption in the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and to conclude whether there is a material uncertainty about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern” (ISA (UK) 570).

Going concern commentary

Auditor commentary

Management's assessment process

Management's starting point for the 2019-20 Accounts was that the Council remained a Going Concern given the range of services which the Council is currently providing, and will continuing to be doing so for the foreseeable future as it stands. The Council held adequate cash balances at year end, which can easily be supplemented by the Short Term Investments the Council continues to hold to manage these cash balances to help generate additional income for the Council. This assessment was clearly reflected within Note 2.1 of the Accounts.

Work performed

During the course of the audit we have challenged management over the potential impact of Covid-19 on the Council, which we have identified has cost the Council **£96 million** of unplanned expenditure and lost income for 2020/21. This has been offset by additional income from Central Government of **£59 million**, leading to a gap in the outturn of **£37 million** at the end of July 2020. Whilst there is an anticipation from the Council that additional funding will be provided by Central Government, this is uncertain at the date of issuing our Report. However it is fairly clear that even if additional funding is forthcoming for the Sector, this will not be sufficient to fill the whole gap, along with the fact that this gap could grow further as well.

On this basis it is almost certain that the Council will need to utilise some of its Reserves to balance the budget, which the Council has been able to contribute **£39 million** to over the course of the past three years and will be extremely beneficial in helping minimise the impact of the pandemic on front-line services.

Clearly once the pandemic has passed, considerable work will need to be done to help replenish these Reserves which will require further challenging decisions to be made about the plans for the Council in the future.

Concluding comments

Based on the work performed, we are satisfied that the Council remains a Going Concern, despite the ongoing challenges caused by Covid-19. However as can be seen from Note 5 in the Accounts, it is clear that Covid-19 could impact the Council in a range of areas as things progress, such as Property Valuations, Pensions Liabilities and income from Investment Properties. Clearly the Council will need to monitor developments closely to ensure these do not have a significant impact on the financial standing of the Council moving forward.

2. Other matters for communication

We set out below details of other matters which we, as auditors, are required by auditing standards and the Code to communicate to those charged with governance.

Issue	Auditor commentary
Matters in relation to fraud	We have previously discussed the risk of fraud with the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee. We have not been made aware of any other incidents in the period and no other issues have been identified during the course of our audit procedures.
Matters in relation to related parties	We are not aware of any related parties or related party transactions which have not been disclosed.
Matters in relation to laws and regulations	You have not made us aware of any significant incidences of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations and we have not identified any incidences from our audit work.
Written representations	A letter of representation has been requested from the Council, which is included in the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee papers as a separate Agenda Item.
Confirmation requests from third parties	<p>We requested from management permission to send confirmation requests to all of the Council's counter parties. This permission was granted and the requests were sent. All of these requests were returned with positive confirmation.</p> <p>We requested management to send letters to those solicitors who worked with the Council during the year. All responses have been received and no issues have been identified.</p>
Disclosures	Our review identified a small number of disclosures which required amendment or expansion, and management agreed to amend all of the items identified. Further detail is provided within the Misclassifications and disclosure changes page, which is included later in the Report.
Audit evidence and explanations/significant difficulties	The Council produced a good set of Accounts and working papers in line with the agreed timeframes, and responded promptly to the queries raised during the course of the audit despite the challenges of remote working. The small number of amendments identified in this Report reflect the quality of the draft Accounts prepared by management, and as mentioned earlier the issues relating to the Pension Valuation only arose because the Council worked to the original end of May deadline for which we commend the Council.

2. Other responsibilities under the Code

Issue	Commentary
Other information	<p>We are required to give an opinion on whether the other information published together with the audited financial statements (including the Annual Governance Statement, Narrative Report and Pension Fund Financial Statements, is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.</p> <p>No inconsistencies have been identified. We plan to issue an unmodified opinion in this respect – refer to Appendix E.</p>
Matters on which we report by exception	<p>We are required to report on a number of matters by exception in a numbers of areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the Annual Governance Statement does not meet the disclosure requirements set out in the CIPFA/SOLACE guidance or is misleading or inconsistent with the other information of which we are aware from our audit • If we have applied any of our statutory powers or duties <p>We have nothing to report on these matters.</p>
Specified procedures for Whole of Government Accounts	<p>We are required to carry out specified procedures (on behalf of the NAO) on the Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) consolidation pack under WGA group audit instructions.</p> <p>As the Council exceeds the specified group reporting threshold of £500 million we examine and report on the consistency of the WGA consolidation pack with the Council's audited financial statements.</p> <p>This work will be completed towards the end of October 2020 once the final accounts work is complete, and we will provide an update to the Committee in our Annual Audit Letter.</p>
Certification of the closure of the audit	<p>We are currently unable to certify the closure of the 2019/20 audit of Southwark Council due to our ongoing work on the Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) Return, the Pension Fund Annual Report, along with the work ongoing on the objection to the Council's Accounts.</p>

3. Value for Money

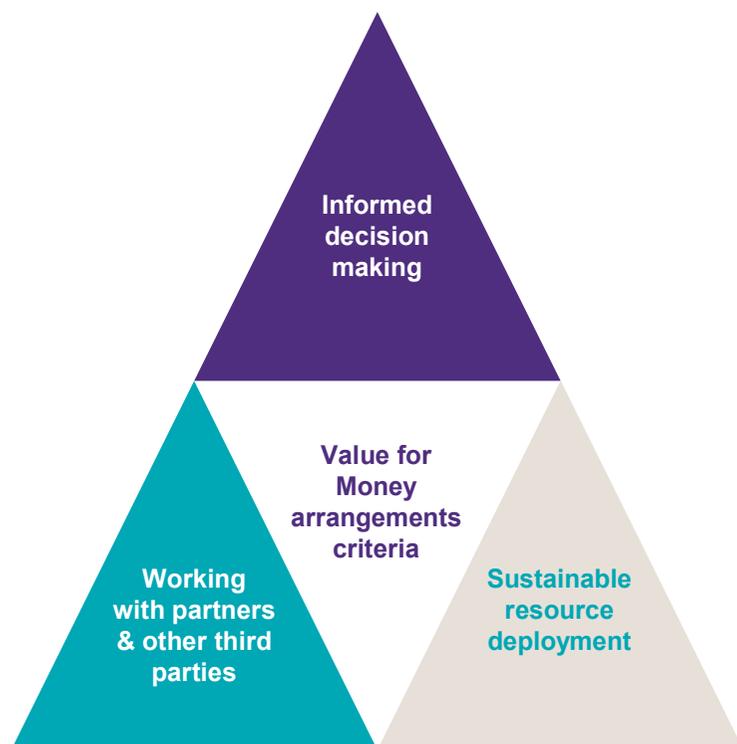
Background to our VFM approach

We are required to satisfy ourselves that the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. This is known as the Value for Money (VFM) conclusion.

We are required to carry out sufficient work to satisfy ourselves that proper arrangements are in place at the Council. In carrying out this work, we are required to follow the NAO's Auditor Guidance Note 3 (AGN 03) issued in April 2020. AGN 03 identifies one single criterion for auditors to evaluate:

"In all significant respects, the audited body takes properly informed decisions and deploys resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people."

This is supported by three sub-criteria, as set out below:



Risk assessment

We carried out an initial risk assessment in February 2020 and identified a number of significant risks in respect of specific areas of proper arrangements using the guidance contained in AGN03. We communicated these risks to you in our Audit Plan dated 10th February 2020.

We have continued our review of relevant documents up to the date of giving our report, and have not identified any further significant risks where we need to perform further work.

We carried out further work only in respect of the significant risks we identified from our initial and ongoing risk assessment. Where our consideration of the significant risks determined that arrangements were not operating effectively, we have used the examples of proper arrangements from AGN 03 to explain the gaps in proper arrangements that we have reported in our VFM conclusion.

Ongoing Financial Sustainability

Risk

The Council is continuing to face pressure on its Social Care Budgets, and other factors such as the demand for temporary accommodation and the impact of nil resource to public funds are putting the Council's finances under considerable strain. Therefore the Council needs to manage its resources carefully to ensure a sustainable future for the Borough ahead of the 2020 Funding Settlement. Brexit will also potentially add another unknown to these challenges and the Council will need to monitor developments close as the end of March approaches.

Planned Response

To gain assurance over this risk we planned to undertake work in the following areas:

- review the 2019-20 Outturn, including details of performance against both the Revenue and Capital Budgets;
- review progress against the 2020-21 financial plan up to the completion of our audit; and
- obtain an update on the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy, including progress on identifying the savings required in coming years including discussions with Management on progress to date.

We also planned to consider the financial impact of any financial issues arising from Brexit. These may include changes in property values, adverse changes to investment and borrowing rates, changes to business rate income, and the impact on the Authority's workforce.

3. Value for Money

Our work

AGN 03 requires us to disclose our views on significant qualitative aspects of the Council's arrangements for delivering economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

We have focused our work on the significant risks that we identified in the Council's arrangements. In arriving at our conclusion, our main considerations were:

- The Council have managed to deliver a balanced budget in 2020-21, including the movement of **£10.1 million** to General Fund Reserves to help strengthen the overall financial position of the Council. This is the third year in a row that the Council has made a significant contribution to this area, which is helping to strengthen reserves which had been depleted in recent years.
- The focus on Social Care has continued, leading to this area delivering a **£204k** overspend, which whilst an overspend, reflects well on the continued improvements in this area that have occurred in recent years.
- However challenges in respect of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) are continuing to increase, with a further overspend of **£7.0 million** being incurred in-year, bringing the cumulative deficit in this area to **£18.5 million**.
- A balanced budget had been set for 2020-21 prior to the arrival of Covid-19, which has had a significant impact on the Council's Financial Position. As it stands the Council has a gap of **£37 million** in the planned 2020-21 outturn, which it is likely will require the use of Reserves to help manage this gap by year end.

We have set out more detail on the risks we identified, the results of the work we performed, and the conclusions we drew from this work on pages 21 to 27.

Overall conclusion

Based on the work we performed to address the significant risks, we are satisfied that the Council had proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

The text of our report, which confirms this can be found at Appendix E.

Recommendations for improvement

We discussed findings arising from our work with management and have agreed recommendations for improvement.

Our recommendations and management's response to these can be found in the Action Plan at Appendix A

Significant difficulties in undertaking our work

We did not identify any significant difficulties in undertaking our work on your arrangements which we wish to draw to your attention.

Significant matters discussed with management

There were no matters where no other evidence was available or matters of such significance to our conclusion or that we required written representation from management or those charged with governance.

Key findings

We set out below our key findings against the significant risks we identified through our initial risk assessment:

Significant risk

Ongoing financial performance

The Council is continuing to face pressure on its Social Care Budgets, and other factors such as the demand for temporary accommodation and the impact of nil resource to public funds are putting the Council's finances under considerable strain. Therefore the Council needs to manage its resources carefully to ensure a sustainable future for the Borough ahead of the 2020 Funding Settlement. Brexit will also potentially add another unknown to these challenges and the Council will need to monitor developments close as the end of March approaches.

Response

Our response to this risk was as follows:

- review the 2019-20 Outturn, including details of performance against both the Revenue and Capital Budgets;
- review progress against the 2020-21 financial plan up to the completion of our audit; and
- obtain an update on the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy, including progress on identifying the savings required in coming years including discussions with Management on progress to date.

We will also consider the financial impact of any financial issues arising from Brexit. These may include changes in property values, adverse changes to investment and borrowing rates, changes to business rate income, and the impact on the Authority's workforce.

Findings

Revenue Outturn for 2019/20

The Council has managed to deliver a balanced budget in 2019-20, following the movements to and from reserves which have been processed at year end. For the third year in a row, the Council has been able to make significant contributions into reserves during the course of the year, despite the challenges of Covid-19, which appeared towards the end of the financial year.

The Council was able to add a further **£10.1 million** of funding to General Fund Reserves, in addition to the **£28 million** that has been added to General Fund Reserves during the course of the past two years. However most of this balance relates to the Covid-19 funding received by the Council during the early stages of the pandemic which will be utilised to cover the costs of the pandemic in 2020-21.

During the course of the year the Council continued to face significant pressure on its spend against the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), which remains a challenge for London and nationally as a result of increased demands and pressures on this area of the budget. In 2019-20, the Council overspent its DSG allowance by **£7.0 million**, giving the Council a cumulative net overspend (negative position) of **£18.5 million** at the end of 2019-20. The main reason for the overspends remains the increased costs arising from children and young people with High Needs, who are required to be funded out of the DSG Balance instead of being covered by routine spend on Children's Social Care.

In terms of areas of focus, the Council has continued to perform strongly in the delivery of Social Care, both from a Children's and Adults perspective, delivering a small overspend of **£204k** against a budgeted position of **£176.5 million**. The work which has been done in previous years in respect of a Budget Recovery Board in this area has continued to help manage performance in this area despite the continued increases in demand which are being faced in this area across the Country. Moving forward, the Council will need to develop relationships with the newly merged CCG, which now covers the whole of South East London, as this will now be responsible to managing the Better Care Fund balances which have helped support the Council in this area over the past couple of years.

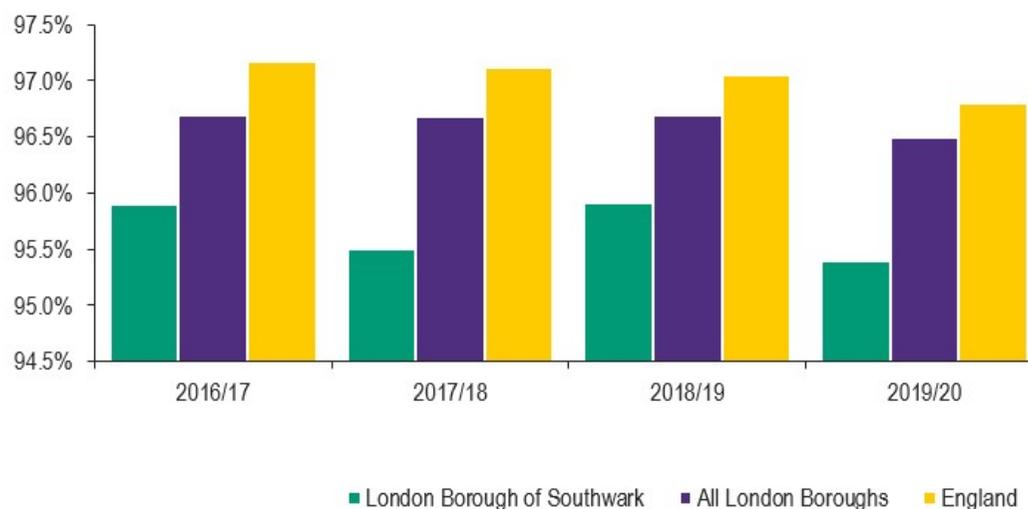
Areas which continue to pose a challenge for the Council are common themes across a range of London Boroughs. These areas were Nil Recourse to Public Funds and Temporary Accommodation. This year the Council spent **£6.4 million** (an underspend of **£0.6 million**) on Nil Recourse for Public Funds, which is fall of **£1.7 million** from the highest level of spend in this area, which was **£8.1 million** in 2016-17. Whilst risks remain in this area, due to the unpredictable nature of demand, considerable work has been done to make this area more manageable moving forward. Temporary Accommodation remains a challenge and led to a **£2.5 million** overspend during the course of the year, which is a reduction of **£1.4 million** from the **£3.9 million** overspend incurred in 2018-19. The Council has noted that there has been considerable focus on the funding in this area, with the budget having been increased again, and the Council has received considerable additional Grant Funding in this area as well. Cabinet has been made aware that this area is likely to continue to be a challenge, partly due to delays in making the planned policy changes during the course of the year.

However, overall the Council has performed well during the course of 2019-20, and is reasonably well placed to face the challenges which look like to appear in 2020-21 following the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, in particular following the building up of Reserves which has occurred over the course of the past three years.

Significant risk	Findings
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Ongoing financial performance Continuation of risk noted on page 19.	<u>Taxation collection rates</u> As part of our review of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), we have reviewed your performance in your collection of Council Tax and Business Rates income. It should be highlighted that in some cases, collection of taxation revenues takes place across an number of years and not just in the year of billing. Overall, your collection rates are lower than the average for Inner London and for England, due to the higher levels of deprivation in your Borough compared to other parts of London and nationally. This in part explains the variances that are outline below and overall we note that your performance remains strong despite the challenges which have occurred in 2019/20.
	Collection of Council Tax Over the last four years, your rates of Council Tax collection has been an average of 95.7% , which is below the average for Inner London Boroughs of 95.9% and the national average for England of 97.0% . You have taken actions in recent years to improve your Council Tax collection rate through improving the capacity of your collections team. You achieved an overall collection rate of 95.4% in 2019/20, which represents a slight decrease of the collection rate of 95.9% achieved in 2018/19. We recognise that this performance needs to be viewed against an increase in your Council Tax base of 2.68% for 2019/20, as a result of continued housing development, and also a 4.13% increase in Council Tax rates, inclusive of the adult social care precept and the GLA precept. This comes on top of successive expansion of your Council Tax base in recent years. This shows that your collection rates have been maintained at a largely consistent level despite increases in the volumes and amounts of Council Tax bills levied, as well as the potential impact of Universal Credit being rolled out to selected tenants within the Borough as part of the Government's national roll out of Universal Credit over the coming years.

Council Tax collection rates



Significant risk Findings

Ongoing financial performance

Continuation of risk noted on page 19.

Collection of Business Rates

In contrast to the trend for your Council Tax income, your business rates collection rates are above the average for Inner London and for England. Your average business rates collection rate over the last four year was **99.5%**, compared to **98.6%** for boroughs in Inner London, and **98.2%** for authorities across England. Over the course of the past four years, the Council’s collection rates were above your neighbouring authorities and the average across England.

For 2019/20, you reported a collection rate of **99.7%**, which represents a very slight increase on the previous year. We consider this a strong level of performance given the additional pressure faced by your business rates collection team due to the national revaluation of rateable values by the Valuation Office Agency, and is an achievement which the Council should be proud of. Clearly this level of collection is now aiding the Council under the revised Business Rates Retention Scheme which continued in 2019-20 and generated additional income the Council was able to utilise during the course of the year. The Council has taken the prudent step of earmarking this funding for use to help generate new ideas moving forward and will give members opportunities to apply for access to this fund if there are potential new Schemes afoot which may meet the definition of this pool of funding.

Business Rates collection rates



Conclusion

Your collection rates for Council Tax and Business Rates income have remained strong during the course of 2019-20, despite the challenges of Covid-19. This indicates that your arrangements for the collection of taxation income are working well. Based on your recent track record, we have no overall concerns around the reasonableness of the collection rate assumptions reflected within the MTFS.

Significant risk**Findings****Ongoing financial performance**

Continuation of risk noted on page 19.

2020/21 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy

In February 2020, the Council approved its Budget for 2020-21, which continues to remain the Council's overall financial planning timeframe, due to the level of uncertainty around the Local Authority Spending Review, which had already been deferred before Covid-19 appeared in March 2020. However the onset of Covid-19 has thrown everyone's plans up in the air, meaning the monitoring of the budget in-year has had to be adjusted significantly since it was initially set.

Before Covid-19 appeared, the Council was looking to build on the relatively strong performance delivered in the course of the past two years, which as mentioned previously allowed the Council to move over **£39 million** to General Fund Reserves over the course of the past three years. In the plan approved in February 2020, the Council is going to be required to deliver **£8.7 million** of efficiencies and additional income during the course of the year to enable it to deliver a balanced budget. This demand is split with **£6.0 million** being obtained from efficiencies and effective use of existing resources, **£2.3 million** being generated from additional fees and charges, and **£0.4 million** from other savings. This remains a positive way of dealing with the shortfall in funding as clearly savings on their own are no longer able to cover budget gaps given this continued period of austerity in local authority finance. At the date of approving the budget all of the efficiencies and additional sources of income had been identified, which is also a positive position to be in.

As in previous years, the Council has been prudent in terms of the assumptions underlying the budget, with allowances included for inflation, pay increases, and a range of other growth factors which are likely to occur over the course of year. The demand on services across the whole country continues to increase despite the fall in the revenue available to support them, and is requiring all local authorities to be innovative when it comes to identifying solutions to these challenges. This is something that the Council will not be immune to, and this will require involvement from both Officers and Members to ensure the Council does not drift off course and face some really difficult financial decisions in later years.

Some of the key elements of the budget include a further 3.99% increase in Council Tax (a 1.99% increase on the local element along with a further 2% Adult Social Care Precept), which will generate a further **£4.6 million** for the Council, along with an extra **£24.7 million** of additional Business Rates over and above what the Council would have received under previous arrangements. Whilst this is a slight reduction in the additional income from 2019-20, it is still a considerable benefit which the Council will be able to utilise in-year to support growth in the Borough. The Council is also going to receive some additional grants in 2020-21, including an additional **£7.3 million** for Social Care, **£5.1 million** to support children with Special Educational Needs via the Dedicated Schools Grant, along with a further **£2.4 million** from the Settlement Funding Assessment, which is the first time in a decade that the Council has seen growth in this area.

Whilst the plans in place seem robust, there will clearly be challenges for the Council to manage during the course of the year. Whilst Social Care appears to be operating within budget, the Council will need to make sure this area is monitored closely to ensure progress does not falter. Dedicated Schools Grant will also continue to be a challenge in 2020-21, where although additional funding has been indicated by Government to cover the increased spend on the High Needs Block, the DSG is likely to remain in deficit for some years to come.

Impact of Covid-19

Clearly all of the above has been thrown up in the air by Covid-19, which arrived in March 2020 and has put the entire public sector under immense strain since then. From the latest report, which set out the position as at July 2020, the Council had received **£59 million** of additional funding from Government to deal with the effects of the pandemic, but in turn the Council has incurred **£48.6 million** of additional expenditure in year, along with lost income of **£47.4 million**, generating additional financial pressures of **£96 million**. This effectively leaves the Council needing to find **£37 million** to balance the Budget. Whilst some additional funding is expected from Government, at this stage this is unclear and means it is almost certain the Council will need to utilise Reserves to balance the budget, which will then need to be built back up in future years.

Clearly this situation is unprecedented, and will require robust financial management and reporting as the pandemic progresses to ensure Management and Councillors are clear of the impact and the actions that are needed to help return the Council to a stronger financial position once the pandemic has passed. This reporting hasn't been as regular as we would have expected prior to the pandemic, but has seen a greater focus since then with regular updates being provided

Value for Money

Significant risk**Findings****Ongoing financial performance**

Continuation of risk noted on page 19.

to the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee, along with updates to Cabinet and Full Council. Moving forward, the Council should look to ensure that regular updates are provided to Cabinet during the course of the year so that everyone is clear where the current financial position is during the course of the year, and remedial action can be clearly communicated as well.

Conclusion

Whilst a robust plan was put in place for 2020-21, the arrival of Covid-19 has thrown all of those plans up in the air as the Council tries to manage the extreme impact on its day-to-day services. The work which the Council has put in place during the course of the past three years to strengthen reserves means it is better placed to manage the shock caused by Covid-19 than would have been the case and should ensure the Council will be able to come through this crisis, albeit work will need to be done in the following years to replenish reserves utilised over the course of the next 12 to 18 months. Regular financial reporting has become common place since the arrival of the pandemic, and the Council should look to embed this longer term to help ensure robust decision making in future years.

Significant risk**Findings****Ongoing financial performance**

Continuation of risk noted on page 19.

Reserves and financial position

While your reserves have reduced in recent years as a result of the financial pressures that you have faced and your investments in supporting the borough, you continue to maintain a reserves position that is largely average when compared to other London Boroughs. As at 31 March 2020, you had total general fund reserves and earmarked reserves excluding schools reserves of **£170.1 million**. This compares to **£133.3 million** as at 31 March 2019, **£89.5 million** as at 31 March 2018, **£73.3 million** as at 31 March 2017 and **£91.8 million** as at 31 March 2016.

The following table sets out a summary of your reserves position and key financial ratios as at 31 March 2020 relative to other London Boroughs as per their draft published financial statements for 2019/20:

2019/20

Measure	Southwark	Average for London Boroughs	Ranking relative to other London Boroughs (/31)
Total General Fund and Non-Schools Earmarked General Fund Reserves as at 31 March 2020 (£'000s)	168,076	113,493	6
Total General Fund and Earmarked General Fund Reserves as at 31 March 2020 (£'000s)	175,516	121,734	6
Total General Fund and Non-Schools Earmarked General Fund Reserves as a percentage of net service revenue expenditure	37.6%	44.8%	14

2018/19

Measure	Southwark	Average for London Boroughs	Ranking relative to other London Boroughs (/32)
Total General Fund and Non-Schools Earmarked General Fund Reserves as at 31 March 2020 (£'000s)	121,807	106,642	23
Total General Fund and Earmarked General Fund Reserves as at 31 March 2020 (£'000s)	134,682	118,126	22
Total General Fund and Non-Schools Earmarked General Fund Reserves as a percentage of net service revenue expenditure	28%	42%	11

Significant risk	Findings
<p>Ongoing financial performance</p> <p>Continuation of risk noted on page 19.</p>	<p>This analysis supports the narrative mentioned elsewhere in the Report that the Council has strengthened its Reserves Position from the previous year, with the Council having improved its position by six positions from the previous year when considering the General Fund and Non-Schools Earmarked General Fund Reserves as a percentage of Net Service Revenue Expenditure. The Council has also strengthened its position when considering the absolute value of its Reserves as well, as the Council now sits above the London Borough average for both of the key metrics mentioned in the table above.</p> <p><u>Reserves and financial position</u></p> <p>Thus overall the Council is in a stronger position than the previous year, although the only caveat to this is that the Dedicated Schools Grant position has worsened by £7.0 million, generating a cumulative deficit of £18.5 million over the past couple of years. Due to the challenges across the Country in this area, the Council has had to submit a recovery plan to the Department for Education, within which the Council feels it could be up to 10 years before they are able to return this area to financial balance. Thus the Council will need to ensure that this area is tightly managed over the coming years to make sure this doesn't have a too detrimental impact on the Council's overall financial position.</p> <p><u>Conclusion</u></p> <p>On the basis of the work completed we have concluded that the risk that we identified in respect of your financial sustainability has been sufficiently mitigated and that you have proper arrangements. However it is clear that the Council needs to continue to strive to do more moving forward to make sure it is able to deal with the upcoming challenges in local government financing, particularly around the challenges with the Dedicated Schools Grant, which appears to be the next area which is becoming a particular challenge for a number of Authorities.</p>

4. Independence and ethics

We confirm that there are no significant facts or matters that impact on our independence as auditors that we are required or wish to draw to your attention. We have complied with the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard and confirm that we, as a firm, and each covered person, are independent and are able to express an objective opinion on the financial statements

We confirm that we have implemented policies and procedures to meet the requirements of the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard and we as a firm, and each covered person, confirm that we are independent and are able to express an objective opinion on the financial statements.

Further, we have complied with the requirements of the National Audit Office's Auditor Guidance Note 01 issued in May 2020 which sets out supplementary guidance on ethical requirements for auditors of local public bodies.

Details of fees charged are detailed in Appendix D

Audit and Non-audit services

For the purposes of our audit we have made enquiries of all Grant Thornton UK LLP teams providing services to the Council. The following non-audit services were identified which were charged from the beginning of the financial year to 20 October 2020, as well as the threats to our independence and safeguards that have been applied to mitigate these threats.

	Fees £	Threats identified	Safeguards
Audit related			
Certification of Pooling of Housing Capital Receipts	5,000	Self-Interest (because this is a recurring fee) Self review (because Grant Thornton UK LLP provides audit services)	The level of this recurring fee taken on its own is not considered a significant threat to independence as the fee for this work is £5,000 in comparison to the total fee for the audit of £214,718 and in particular relative to Grant Thornton UK LLP's turnover overall. Further, it is a fixed fee and there is no contingent element to it. These factors all mitigate the perceived self-interest threat to an acceptable level. To mitigate against the self review threat, the timing of certification work is done after the audit has completed, materiality of the amounts involved to our opinion and unlikelihood of material errors arising and the Council has informed management who will decide whether to amend returns for our findings and agree the accuracy of our reports on grants.
Certification of Teachers Pension Return	6,000	Self-Interest (because this is a recurring fee) Self review (because Grant Thornton UK LLP provides audit services)	The level of this recurring fee taken on its own is not considered a significant threat to independence as the fee for this work is £6,000 in comparison to the total fee for the audit of £214,718 and in particular relative to Grant Thornton UK LLP's turnover overall. Further, it is a fixed fee and there is no contingent element to it. These factors all mitigate the perceived self-interest threat to an acceptable level. To mitigate against the self review threat, the timing of certification work is done after the audit has completed, materiality of the amounts involved to our opinion and unlikelihood of material errors arising and the Council has informed management who will decide whether to amend returns for our findings and agree the accuracy of our reports on grants.

4. Independence and ethics (continued)

	Fees £	Threats identified	Safeguards
Audit related			
Certification of Housing Benefit Claim	21,700	Self-Interest (because this is a recurring fee) Self review (because Grant Thornton UK LLP provides audit services)	The level of this recurring fee taken on its own is not considered a significant threat to independence as the fee for this work is £21,700 in comparison to the total fee for the audit of £214,718 and in particular relative to Grant Thornton UK LLP's turnover overall. Further, it is a fixed fee and there is no contingent element to it. These factors all mitigate the perceived self-interest threat to an acceptable level. To mitigate against the self review threat, the timing of certification work is done after the audit has completed, materiality of the amounts involved to our opinion and unlikelihood of material errors arising and the Council has informed management who will decide whether to amend returns for our findings and agree the accuracy of our reports on grants.

	Fees £	Threats identified	Safeguards
Non-audit related			
CFO Insights Subscription	10,000	Self-Interest (because this is a recurring fee)	The level of this recurring fee taken on its own is not considered a significant threat to independence as the fee for this work is £10,000 in comparison to the total fee for the audit of £214,718 and in particular relative to Grant Thornton UK LLP's turnover overall. Further, it is a fixed fee and there is no contingent element to it. These factors all mitigate the perceived self-interest threat to an acceptable level. These fees have not been reflected in the accounts because of the timing of CFO Insights The CFO insights service provides the Council with access to various data sources, which they decide how to use and make their own decisions about the delivery of services, therefore we do not believe there is an impact on the value for money conclusion.

Action plan

We have identified two of recommendations for the Council as a result of issues identified during the course of our audit. We have agreed our recommendations with management and we will report on progress on these recommendations during the course of the 2020/21 audit. The matters reported here are limited to those deficiencies that we have identified during the course of our audit and that we have concluded are of sufficient importance to merit being reported to you in accordance with auditing standards.

Assessment	Issue and risk	Recommendations
 Medium	<p>Self-Authorisation of Journals</p> <p>During our detailed journals testing, we identified two users who had posted and authorised their own journals. We subsequently undertook further testing on the journals posted by these two users, which identified further self-authorised journals by one of the users.</p> <p>Whilst we were content with the sufficiency and appropriateness of the journals selected, this gap in the control environment does increase the potential for inappropriate journals to be posted without this being picked up. We understand the potential challenges over the practicality of implementing a control in this area, but the Council needs to weigh up the risks of what could occur without a control of this type.</p>	<p>Ensure that there are appropriate controls in place to prevent the self-authorisation of journals to reduce the risk of inappropriate journals being posted. If journal specific controls cannot be introduced, higher level controls should be considered to provide some assurance in this area.</p> <p>Management response</p> <p>Journals are subject to strict controls. Detailed rules on their use are set out in the journals protocol which details the procedures to be followed when using general ledger journals. Departmental Finance Managers must assure themselves that proper control is exercised over those staff inputting journals and should review and monitor the journals created.</p> <p>Journal protocol procedures will be reviewed to ensure there is appropriate segregation and evidence of review/authorisation.</p>
 Medium	<p>Reporting of In-Year Budget Monitoring</p> <p>During our Value for Money Work, we have identified the in-year reporting of the Council's Budget Monitoring has been irregular, with no consistent pattern of reports going to Cabinet or other Committees. Whilst there has been clear evidence of things strengthening in this area since the onset of Covid-19, the Council should look to ensure more regular report is maintained once things return to normal to enable issues to be challenged in a timely manner and remedial action to be put in place promptly.</p>	<p>Ensure that there is a clear timetable for reporting in-year financial performance to Cabinet and that this is done with sufficient regularity to allow Members to have a clear handle on the position during the course of the year.</p> <p>Management response</p> <p>The budget monitoring arrangements require each chief officer to produce a budget monitoring report monthly in accordance with a corporate timetable set by the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance. Formal monitoring to Cabinet is undertaken on a regular basis and included on the Forward Plan for the forthcoming year. Reporting is undertaken by exception and will be more frequent and regular where appropriate.</p>

Controls

-  - Red - High – Significant effect on control system
-  - Amber - Medium – Effect on control system
-  - Green - Low – Best practice

Follow up of prior year recommendations

We identified the following issues in the audit of Southwark Council's 2017/18 financial statements, which resulted in one recommendation being reported in our 2017/18 Audit Findings report. We are pleased to report that management have implemented this recommendation and are satisfied this does not need to be carried forward.

Assessment	Issue and risk previously communicated	Update on actions taken to address the issue
✓	<p>HR – Casual Workers</p> <p>In the past three years, we identified an issue that the Council needed to ensure sufficient documentation is in place to confirm the employment status of casual workers engaged during the course of the year.</p>	<p>We have undertaken considerable discussion with the Council during the last twelve months over this area and have identified that enhanced processes have been put in place around the recruitment of casual workers. This ensures that the Council has undertaken appropriate consideration before taking these workers on and ensures that appropriate documentation is in place in respect of these employees. On this basis we have accepted that the Council have cleared the original recommendation, and thus we are able to close this recommendation in 2019-20.</p>

Assessment

- ✓ Action completed
- X Not yet addressed

Audit adjustments

We are required to report all non trivial misstatements to those charged with governance, whether or not the accounts have been adjusted by management.

Impact of adjusted misstatements

All adjusted misstatements are set out in detail below along with the impact on the key statements and the reported net expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2020.

Detail	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £'000	Statement of Financial Position £'000	Impact on total net expenditure £'000
<p>Updated Pensions Valuations</p> <p>As mentioned earlier in the Report, the initial Net Pensions Liability included within the Accounts was based on December 2019 actuals rolled forward to March 2020, instead of being based on March 2020 actuals. Due to the impact of Covid-19, when an updated report was obtained from the Actuary using the March 2020 Actuals, the Net Pensions Liability increased by £22.1 million, due to reduction in the Asset Values at that date.</p>	<p>Dr Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure 22,100</p> <p>Cr Movement in Reserves Statement 22,100</p>	<p>Dr Pensions Reserve 22,100</p> <p>Cr Pensions Liability 22,100</p>	<p>The increase in expenditure of 22,100 is reversed out through the MiRS.</p>
<p>Removal of Duplicate Asset</p> <p>During the course of the year, the Council identified an item of surplus land held on the Asset Register that should have been removed in 2018-19, when the full site became operational. Instead of treating this item as a disposal in 2019-20, a prior period adjustment has been required to reverse out the previous revaluation gains incorrectly recognised in the prior year. This restated the closing 2018-19 position by £21.5 million. There is nil impact overall.</p>	<p>Dr Movement in Reserves Statement 21,500</p> <p>Cr Gain/Loss on Disposal 21,500</p>	<p>Dr Surplus Assets 21,500</p> <p>Cr Capital Adjustment Account 21,500</p> <p>Dr Capital Adjustment Account 21,500</p> <p>Cr Revaluation Reserve 21,500</p>	<p>The Gain on Disposal of 21,500 will have been removed, and will now have been processed via the prior period adjustment.</p>
Overall impact	£nil	£nil	£nil

Audit adjustments

We are required to report all non trivial misstatements to those charged with governance, whether or not the accounts have been adjusted by management.

Impact of unadjusted misstatements

The table below provides details of adjustments identified during the 2019/20 audit which have not been made within the final set of financial statements. The Audit, Governance and Standards Committee is required to approve management's proposed treatment of all items recorded within the table below:

Detail	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £'000	Statement of Financial Position £'000	Impact on total net expenditure £'000	Reason for not adjusting
<p>1 Overstatement of Housing Benefits Debtors During our testing of the Council's Housing Benefit Debtors included within the Accounts, we identified four cases, with a total value of £5,696, where the Debtor Balance included within the Accounts did not tie back to the Housing Benefit System, when we would have expected it to. We have extrapolated these errors over the population, which indicates that the balance could be overstated by £1.004 million.</p>	Dr Expenditure 1,004	Cr Debtors 1,004	An increase of 1,004	<p>This is an extrapolated error and not reflective of the full population. We are liaising with Northgate, our Housing Benefit System Supplier, to understand these issues and identify other cases affected in this way.</p> <p>There is no known system solution fix or any Northgate means to isolate affected cases.</p>
Overall extrapolated impact	£1,004	£1,004	£1,004	

Audit adjustments

We are required to report all non trivial misstatements to those charged with governance, whether or not the accounts have been adjusted by management.

Misclassification and disclosure changes

The table below provides details of misclassification and disclosure changes identified during the audit which have been made in the final set of financial statements.

Disclosure omission	Detail	Impact on the Accounts	Adjusted?
Note 13 – Property, Plant and Equipment, Note 23 Capital Adjustment Account and Revaluation Reserve	Prior period adjustment of £21.5 million	The notes mentioned have been updated to reflect the impact of the prior period adjustment and in year correction, as identified on the previous page, through the remainder of the Accounts.	✓
Note 23 – Pensions Reserve and Note 37 – Defined Benefit Pension Schemes	Increase in Net Pension Liability of £22.1 million	The notes mentioned have been updated to reflect the impact of the increase in the Net Pensions Liability, as identified on the previous page, through the remainder of the Accounts.	✓
Minor Disclosure Issues	Various Notes	A number of other minor disclosure amendments have been processed in the areas mentioned. None of these are individually significant enough to warrant separate disclosure.	✓

Appendix D

Fees

We confirm below our final fees charged for the audit and provision of non-audit services.

Audit fees	Proposed fee	Final fee
Council Audit	214,718	TBC
Total audit fees (excluding VAT)	£214,718	£214,718

The fees reconcile to the financial statements.

Non-audit fees for other services	Proposed fee	Final fee
Audit Related Services		
Certification of Housing Benefit Return	24,000	TBC
Certification of Pooling of Housing Capital Receipts	6,000	TBC
Certification of Teachers Pension Return	7,000	TBC
Non-Audit Related Services		
CFO Insights	10,000	10,000
Total non-audit fees (excluding VAT)	£47,000	TBC

Audit opinion

We anticipate we will provide the Council with an unqualified audit opinion including an Emphasis of Matter Paragraph

Independent auditor's report to the members of Southwark Council

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Southwark Council (the 'Authority') for the year ended 31 March 2020 which comprise the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, the Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement, the Collection Fund Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority as at 31 March 2020 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

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

The impact of macro-economic uncertainties on our audit

Our audit of the financial statements requires us to obtain an understanding of all relevant uncertainties, including those arising as a consequence of the effects of macro-economic uncertainties such as Covid-19 and Brexit. All audits assess and challenge the reasonableness of estimates made by the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance and the related disclosures and the appropriateness of the going concern basis of preparation of the financial

statements. All of these depend on assessments of the future economic environment and the Authority's future operational arrangements.

Covid-19 and Brexit are amongst the most significant economic events currently faced by the UK, and at the date of this report their effects are subject to unprecedented levels of uncertainty, with the full range of possible outcomes and their impacts unknown. We applied a standardised firm-wide approach in response to these uncertainties when assessing the Authority's future operational arrangements. However, no audit should be expected to predict the unknowable factors or all possible future implications for an authority associated with these particular events.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Authority's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

In our evaluation of the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance's conclusions, and in accordance with the expectation set out within the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20 that the Authority's financial statements shall be prepared on a going concern basis, we considered the risks associated with the Authority's operating activities, including effects arising from macro-economic uncertainties such as Covid-19 and Brexit. We analysed how those risks might affect the Authority's financial resources or ability to continue operations over the period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue. In accordance with the above, we have nothing to report in these respects.

However, as we cannot predict all future events or conditions and as subsequent events may result in outcomes that are inconsistent with judgements that were reasonable at the time they were made, the absence of reference to a material uncertainty in this auditor's report is not a guarantee that the Authority will continue in operation.

Audit opinion

We anticipate we will provide the Council with an unqualified audit opinion including an Emphasis of Matter Paragraph

Emphasis of Matter – effects of Covid-19 on the Valuation of Land and Buildings and Investment Properties

We draw attention to Note 5 of the financial statements, which describes the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the valuation of the Authority's land and buildings, including Investment Properties and the Authority's share of the pension fund's property investments as at 31 March 2020. As disclosed in note 5 to the financial statements, the outbreak of Covid-19 has impacted global financial markets and as the valuation date, less weight can be attached to previous market evidence to inform opinions of value. There is an unprecedented set of circumstances on which to base a judgement. Valuations are therefore reported on the basis of 'material valuation uncertainty' as per the RICS Red Book Global. A material valuation uncertainty was therefore disclosed in both the Authority's property valuer's reports, which also covers the Council's Investment Property, and the pension fund's property valuation report. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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

Under the Code of Audit Practice published by the National Audit Office on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (the Code of Audit Practice) we are required to consider

whether the Annual Governance Statement does not comply with the 'delivering good governance in Local Government Framework 2016 Edition' published by CIPFA and SOLACE or is misleading or inconsistent with the information of which we are aware from our audit. We are not required to consider whether the Annual Governance Statement addresses all risks and controls or that risks are satisfactorily addressed by internal controls.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matter required by the Code of Audit Practice

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit of the financial statements and our knowledge of the Authority gained through our work in relation to the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, the other information published together with the financial statements in the Statement of Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of the Authority, the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance and Those Charged with Governance for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities set out on page 11, the Authority is required to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this authority, that officer is the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance. The Strategic

Audit opinion

We anticipate we will provide the Council with an unqualified audit opinion including an Emphasis of Matter Paragraph

Director of Finance and Governance is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20, for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance is responsible for assessing the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless there is an intention by government that the services provided by the Authority will no longer be provided.

The Audit, Governance and Standards Committee is Those Charged with Governance. Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Authority's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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

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

Conclusion

On the basis of our work, having regard to the guidance on the specified criterion issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in April 2020, we are satisfied that the Authority put in place

proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Responsibilities of the Authority

The Authority is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, to ensure proper stewardship and governance, and to review regularly the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

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

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

We have undertaken our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance on the specified criterion issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in April 2020, as to whether in all significant respects the Authority had proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people. The Comptroller and Auditor General determined this criterion as that necessary for us to consider under the Code of Audit Practice in satisfying ourselves whether the Authority put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2020.

We planned our work in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice. Based on our risk assessment, we undertook such work as we considered necessary to be satisfied that the Authority has put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

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

We are required to give an opinion on the consistency of the pension fund financial statements of the Authority included in the Pension Fund Annual Report with the pension fund financial statements included in the Statement of Accounts. The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 require authorities to publish the Pension Fund Annual Report by 1 December 2020. As the Authority has not prepared the Pension Fund Annual

Audit opinion

We anticipate we will provide the Council with an unqualified audit opinion including an Emphasis of Matter Paragraph

Report at the time of this report we have yet to issue our report on the consistency of the pension fund financial statements. Until we have done so, we are unable to certify that we have completed the audit of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice.

AND

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice until we have completed the work necessary to issue our Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) Component Assurance statement for the Authority for the year ended 31 March 2020. We are satisfied that this work does not have a material effect on the financial statements or on our conclusion on the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2020.

AND

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate for the Authority for the year ended 31 March 2020 in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice until we have completed our consideration of an objection brought to our attention by a local authority elector under Section 27 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. We are satisfied that these matters do not have a material effect on the financial statements or on our conclusion on the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the members of the Authority, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and as set out in paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Authority's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Authority and the Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

[Signature]

Ciaran McLaughlin, Key Audit Partner
for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Local Auditor
London

[Date]





Grant Thornton UK LLP
 30 Finsbury Square
 London
 EC2A 1AG

20 October 2020

Dear Sirs

Southwark Council
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020

This representation letter is provided in connection with the audit of the financial statements of Southwark Council for the year ended 31 March 2020 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20 and applicable law.

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge and belief having made such inquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves:

Financial Statements

- i. We have fulfilled our responsibilities for the preparation of the Council's financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20 ("the Code"); in particular the financial statements are fairly presented in accordance therewith.
- ii. We have complied with the requirements of all statutory directions affecting the Council and these matters have been appropriately reflected and disclosed in the financial statements.
- iii. The Council has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance. There has been no non-compliance with requirements of any regulatory authorities that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance.
- iv. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
- v. Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable. We are satisfied that the material judgements used in the preparation of the financial statements are soundly based, in accordance with the Code and adequately disclosed in the financial statements.
- vi. We confirm that we are satisfied that the actuarial assumptions underlying the valuation of pension scheme assets and liabilities for IAS19 Employee Benefits disclosures are consistent with our knowledge. We confirm that all settlements and curtailments have been identified and properly accounted for. We also confirm that all significant post-employment benefits have been identified and properly accounted for.
- vii. Except as disclosed in the financial statements:

- a. there are no unrecorded liabilities, actual or contingent
 - b. none of the assets of the Council has been assigned, pledged or mortgaged
 - c. there are no material prior year charges or credits, nor exceptional or non-recurring items requiring separate disclosure.
- viii. Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards and the Code.
 - ix. All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which International Financial Reporting Standards and the Code require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.
 - x. We have considered the adjusted misstatements, and misclassification and disclosures changes schedules included in your Audit Findings Report. The financial statements have been amended for these misstatements, misclassifications and disclosure changes and are free of material misstatements, including omissions.
 - xi. We have considered the unadjusted misstatements schedule included in your Audit Findings Report and attached. We have not adjusted the financial statements for the misstatement brought to our attention as it is based on an extrapolation and we are content this is not representative of the wider population. The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions.
 - xii. Actual or possible litigation and claims have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards.
 - xiii. We have no plans or intentions that may materially alter the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities reflected in the financial statements.
 - xiv. The prior period adjustments disclosed in Note 41 to the financial statements are accurate and complete. There are no other prior period errors to bring to your attention.
 - xv. We have updated our going concern assessment and cashflow forecasts in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. We continue to believe that the Council's financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis and have not identified any material uncertainties related to going concern on the grounds that current and future sources of funding or support will be more than adequate for the Council's needs. We believe that no further disclosures relating to the Council's ability to continue as a going concern need to be made in the financial statements

Information Provided

- xvi. We have provided you with:
 - a. access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters;
 - b. additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of your audit; and
 - c. access to persons within the Council via remote arrangements, in compliance with the nationally specified social distancing requirements established by the government in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- xvii. We have communicated to you all deficiencies in internal control of which management is aware.
- xviii. All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
- xix. We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.

APPENDIX B

- xx. We have disclosed to you all information in relation to fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects the Council, and involves:
 - a. management;
 - b. employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
 - c. others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
- xxi. We have disclosed to you all information in relation to allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.
- xxii. We have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.
- xxiii. We have disclosed to you the identity of the Council's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.
- xxiv. We have disclosed to you all known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.

Annual Governance Statement

- xxv. We are satisfied that the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) fairly reflects the Council's risk assurance and governance framework and we confirm that we are not aware of any significant risks that are not disclosed within the AGS.

Narrative Report

- xxvi. The disclosures within the Narrative Report fairly reflect our understanding of the Council's financial and operating performance over the period covered by the financial statements.

Approval

The approval of this letter of representation was minuted by the Council's Audit, Governance and Standards Committee at its meeting on 20 October 2020.

Yours faithfully

Name.....

Position.....

Date.....

Name.....

Position.....

Date.....

Signed on behalf of the Council

Appendix A – Schedule of Unadjusted Misstatements

The table below provides details of adjustments identified during the 2019/20 audit which have not been made within the final set of financial statements. The Audit, Governance and Standards Committee is required to approve management's proposed treatment of all items recorded within the table below:

Detail	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £'000	Statement of Financial Position £'000	Impact on total net expenditure £'000	Reason for not adjusting
<p>1 Overstatement of Housing Benefits Debtors During our testing of the Council's Housing Benefit Debtors included within the Accounts, we identified four cases, with a total value of £5,696, where the Debtor Balance included within the Accounts did not tie back to the Housing Benefit System, when we would have expected it to. We have extrapolated these errors over the population, which indicates that the balance could be overstated by £1.004 million.</p>	Dr Expenditure 1,004	Cr Debtors 1,004	An increase of 1,004	<p>This is an extrapolated error and not reflective of the full population. We are liaising with Northgate, our Housing Benefit System Supplier, to understand these issues and identify other cases affected in this way.</p> <p>There is no known system solution fix or any Northgate means to isolate affected cases.</p>
Overall extrapolated impact	£1,004	£1,004	£1,004	



The Audit Findings Report for the London Borough of Southwark Pension Fund

Year ended 31 March 2020

20 October 2020



Contents



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The contents of this report relate only to those matters which came to our attention during the conduct of our normal audit procedures which are designed for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements. Our audit is not designed to test all internal controls or identify all areas of control weakness. However, where, as part of our testing, we identify control weaknesses, we will report these to you. In consequence, our work cannot be relied upon to disclose all defalcations or other irregularities, or to include all possible improvements in internal control that a more extensive special examination might identify. This report has been prepared solely for your benefit and should not be quoted in whole or in part without our prior written consent. We do not accept any responsibility for any loss occasioned to any third party acting, or refraining from acting on the basis of the content of this report, as this report was not prepared for, nor intended for, any other purpose.

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1. Headlines

This table summarises the key findings and other matters arising from the statutory audit of the London Borough of Southwark Pension Fund ('the Pension Fund') and the preparation of the Pension Fund's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020 for those charged with governance.

Covid-19	<p>The outbreak of the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic has had a significant impact on the normal operations of the Pension Fund. This has had an impact on both the front-line services operated by the Council, along with those people who work behind the scenes, who have had to get used to a new way of working as the pandemic has progressed.</p> <p>Authorities are still required to prepare financial statements in accordance with the relevant accounting standards and the Code of Audit Practice, albeit to an extended deadline for the preparation of the financial statements up to 31 August 2020 and the date for audited financials statements to 30 November 2020.</p>	<p>We updated our audit risk assessment to consider the impact of the pandemic on our audit and issued an audit plan addendum on 3 June 2020. In that addendum we reported an additional financial statement risk in respect of Covid-19. Further detail is set out on page 6.</p> <p>Restrictions for non-essential travel has meant both the Council's and audit staff have had to deliver the audit remotely, including accessing financial systems remotely, undertaking video calling to discuss queries and to obtain assurance over the completeness and accuracy of information produced by the entity. Despite these challenges the Council was able to provide the draft Accounts in line with the agreed timeframe, and has responded promptly throughout the audit to queries raised by the audit team.</p>
Financial Statements	<p>Under International Standards of Audit (UK) (ISAs) and the National Audit Office (NAO) Code of Audit Practice ('the Code'), we are required to report whether, in our opinion, the Pension Fund's financial statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Pension Fund and its income and expenditure for the year; and • have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting and prepared in accordance with the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. 	<p>Our audit work was completed remotely during July to October. Our findings are summarised on pages 4 to 11. To date we have not identified any adjustments which impact on the Net Assets of the fund available to fund benefits reported in the draft Accounts. Some minor adjustments have been identified in respect of some of the disclosures in the Accounts, which are documented in Appendix B.</p> <p>Our work is substantially complete and there are no matters of which we are aware that would require modification of our audit opinion (attached at Appendix D) or material changes to the financial statements, subject to the following outstanding matters;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • completion of our outstanding testing (refer to Page 4 for more detail); • our final internal quality reviews; • receipt of management representation letter; and • review of the final set of financial statements. <p>Our anticipated audit report opinion will be unqualified including an Emphasis of Matter paragraph, highlighting the material uncertainty disclosed in respect of the valuation of your investments in Direct Property. An Emphasis of Matter paragraph is not a qualification.</p>

Acknowledgements

We would like to take this opportunity to record our appreciation for the assistance and timely collaboration provided by the finance team and other staff during these unprecedented times.

2. Audit approach

Overview of the scope of our audit

This Audit Findings Report presents the observations arising from the audit that are significant to the responsibility of those charged with governance to oversee the financial reporting process, as required by International Standard on Auditing (UK) 260 and the Code of Audit Practice ('the Code'). Its contents have been discussed with management.

As auditor we are responsible for performing the audit, in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) and the Code, which is directed towards forming and expressing an opinion on the financial statements that have been prepared by management with the oversight of those charged with governance. The audit of the financial statements does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities for the preparation of the financial statements.

Audit approach

Our audit approach was based on a thorough understanding of the Pension Fund's business and is risk based, and in particular included:

- An evaluation of the Pension Fund's internal controls environment, including its IT systems and controls; and
- Substantive testing on significant transactions and material account balances, including the procedures outlined in this report in relation to the key audit risks

We have had to alter our audit plan, as communicated to you on 3 June 2020, to reflect our response to the Covid-19 pandemic. This included the identification of a new Significant Risk relating to Covid-19, which has been detailed on page 6 of this Report.

Conclusion

We have substantially completed our audit of your financial statements and subject to outstanding queries being resolved, we anticipate issuing an unqualified audit opinion following the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee meeting on 20 October 2020, as detailed in Appendix E. These outstanding items include:

- completion of our outstanding testing in the following areas: Investments – focusing on Direct Property and Fund Manager Control Reports Review, Benefits Payments and Leavers Testing,
- our final internal quality reviews;
- receipt of management representation letter; and
- review of the final set of financial statements.

2. Materiality

Our approach to materiality

The concept of materiality is fundamental to the preparation of the financial statements and the audit process and applies not only to the monetary misstatements but also to disclosure requirements and adherence to acceptable accounting practice and applicable law.

Materiality levels remain the same as reported in our Audit Plan.

	Pension Fund Amount (£)	Qualitative factors considered
Materiality for the financial statements	16,000,000	Our Headline Materiality is based on the prior year Gross Revenue Expenditure included in the Accounts.
Performance materiality	12,000,000	Performance Materiality is based on a percentage of the overall materiality.
Trivial matters	800,000	Triviality is based on a percentage of the overall materiality.

2. Significant audit risks

Risks identified in our Audit Plan

Covid-19

The global outbreak of the Covid-19 virus pandemic has led to unprecedented uncertainty for all organisations, requiring urgent business continuity arrangements to be implemented. We expect current circumstances will have an impact on the production and audit of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020, including and not limited to;

Remote working arrangements and redeployment of staff to critical front line duties may impact on the quality and timing of the production of the financial statements, and the evidence we can obtain through physical observation

Volatility of financial and property markets will increase the uncertainty of assumptions applied by management to asset valuation, and the reliability of evidence we can obtain to corroborate management estimates

For instruments classified as fair value through profit and loss there may be a need to review the Level 1-3 classification of the instruments if trading may have reduced to such an extent that quoted prices are not readily and regularly available and therefore do not represent actual and regularly occurring market transactions.

Whilst the nature of the Fund and its funding position (i.e. not in a winding up position or no cessation event) means the going concern basis of preparation remains appropriate management may need to consider whether material uncertainties for a period of at least 12 months from the anticipated date of approval of the audited financial statements have arisen; and

Disclosures within the financial statements will require significant revision to reflect the unprecedented situation and its impact on the preparation of the financial statements as at 31 March 2020 in accordance with IAS1, particularly in relation to material uncertainties.

We therefore identified the global outbreak of the Covid-19 virus as a significant risk, which was one of the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement.

Auditor commentary

We have undertaken the following work in respect of this risk:

- Worked with management to understand the implications the response to the Covid-19 pandemic has on the organisation's ability to prepare the financial statements and update financial forecasts and assessed the implications on our audit approach.
- Liaised with other audit suppliers, regulators and government departments to co-ordinate practical cross sector responses to issues as and when they arose.
- Evaluated the adequacy of the disclosures in the financial statements in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, including management's assessment of the impact of Covid-19 on forecast cashflows.
- Evaluated whether sufficient audit evidence using alternative approaches could be obtained for the purposes of our audit whilst working remotely.
- Evaluated whether sufficient audit evidence could be obtained to corroborate management's fair value hierarchy disclosures.
- Evaluated whether sufficient audit evidence could be obtained to corroborate significant management estimates such as Level 3 asset valuations, including direct property.
- Discussed with management any potential implications for our audit report if we have been unable to obtain sufficient audit evidence.

From the work performed to date, we have identified that there is a material uncertainty attached to the valuation of the Council's Direct Property, due to the inherent uncertainty over the asset valuations at 31 March 2020. This has been reflected within the Accounts in Note 5, and will be reflected within our Audit Opinion as an Emphasis of Matter Paragraph, which is not a qualification.

Should any further issues be identified from our remaining testing, then we will provide an update to Management and Committee.

2. Significant audit risks

Risks identified in our Audit Plan

Improper revenue recognition

Under ISA (UK) 240 there is a rebuttable presumed risk that revenue may be misstated due to the improper recognition of revenue.

This presumption can be rebutted if the auditor concludes that there is no risk of material misstatement due to fraud relating to revenue recognition.

Having considered the risk factors set out in ISA240 and the nature of the revenue streams at the Fund, we have determined that the risk of fraud arising from revenue recognition can be rebutted, because:

- there is little incentive to manipulate revenue recognition
- opportunities to manipulate revenue recognition are very limited
- the culture and ethical frameworks of local authorities, including Southwark Council, mean that all forms of fraud are seen as unacceptable

Therefore we do not consider this to be a significant risk for the London Borough of Southwark Pension Fund.

Auditor commentary

We have undertaken the following work in respect of this risk:

- reviewed and tested the Pension Fund's revenue recognition policies; and
- performed testing on material revenue streams

Our audit work has not identified any significant issues in relation to the risk identified.

Management override of controls

Under ISA (UK) 240 there is a non-rebuttable presumed risk that the risk of management over-ride of controls is present in all entities.

We therefore identified management override of control, in particular journals, management estimates and transactions outside the course of business as a significant risk, which was one of the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement.

We have undertaken the following work in respect of this risk:

- evaluated the design effectiveness of management controls over journals.
- analysed the journals listing and determined the criteria for selecting high risk unusual journals.
- tested unusual journals recorded during the year and after the draft accounts stage for appropriateness and corroboration.
- gained an understanding of the accounting estimates and critical judgements applied made by management and consider their reasonableness with regard to corroborative evidence.
- evaluated the rationale for any changes in accounting policies, estimates or significant unusual transactions.

Our audit work has not identified any significant issues in relation to the risk identified.

2. Significant audit risks

Risks identified in our Audit Plan

Valuation of Directly Held Property (Level 3)

The Fund revalues its directly held property on an annual basis to ensure that the carrying value is not materially different from the fair value at the financial statements date. This valuation represents a significant estimate by management in the financial statements.

Management have engaged the services of a valuer to estimate the current value as at 31 March 2020.

We therefore identified valuation of directly held property, particularly revaluations and impairments, as a significant risk, which was one of the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement.

Auditor commentary

We have undertaken the following work in respect of this risk:

- evaluate management's processes and assumptions for the calculation of the estimate, the instructions issued to the valuation experts and the scope of their work
- independently request year-end confirmations from investment managers and custodian, and assess their responses as part of our work.
- evaluate the competence, capabilities and objectivity of the valuation expert
- write to the valuer to confirm the basis on which the valuations were carried out
- challenge the information and assumptions used by the valuer to assess completeness and consistency with our understanding. We will also engage our own Auditor's Expert to assess the instructions to the Fund's valuer, the Fund's valuer's report and the assumptions that underpin the valuation.
- test, on a sample basis, revaluations made during the year to ensure they have been input correctly into the Fund's asset register/financial records
- where available review investment manager service auditor report on design effectiveness of internal controls.

From the work performed to date, as mentioned earlier we have identified that there is a material uncertainty attached to the valuation of the Council's Direct Property Investments, due to the inherent uncertainty over the asset valuations at 31 March 2020. This has been reflected within the Accounts in Note 5, and will be reflected within our Audit Opinion as an Emphasis of Matter Paragraph, which is not a qualification.

Should any further issues be identified from our remaining testing, then we will provide an update to Management and Committee.

2. Significant findings – key estimates and judgements

Accounting area	Summary of management's policy	Auditor commentary	Assessment
Level 3 investments (excluding Direct Property)	<p>The Pension Fund has investments in Infrastructure Funds that in total are valued on the Net Asset Statement as at 31 March 2020 at £32 million.</p> <p>These investments are not traded on an open exchange/market and the valuation of these investments is highly subjective due to a lack of observable inputs. In order to determine the values, management rely on the valuation provided by the Fund Manager, which are usually based on an audited value of the fund as at 31 December 2019, with the valuation then rolled forward to March 2020, considering any cash movements which have taken place in the intervening period. These are new investments for the Fund in 2019-20.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the work performed to date, we have been able to obtain sufficient assurance over the Level 3 valuations included within the Accounts. However, within this work we have identified that there is a material uncertainty attached to the valuation of the Council's Level 3 Investments, due to the inherent uncertainty over the asset valuations at 31 March 2020. This has been reflected within the Accounts in Note 5, and will be reflected within our Audit Opinion as an Emphasis of Matter Paragraph, which is not a qualification. We have, on a sample basis, reviewed the basis on which the valuation of the Funds/Investments has been prepared, and where appropriate, considered the Audited Accounts of the Funds/Investments as well. To date, no issues have been identified from the work performed in this area. 	 Green
Level 2 investments	<p>The Pension Fund have investments in Bonds and Pooled Investment Vehicles that in total are valued on the Net Asset Statement as at 31 March 2020 at £284 million.</p> <p>Whilst these investments themselves are not actively traded on an open market, the underlying investments are and the valuations of these investments will be based on the value of these underlying investments at 31 March 2020, or the closest trade date to year end.</p> <p>The valuation of these investments has decreased by £8.4 million from their value at 31 March 2019 (£292 million).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the work performed to date, we have been able to obtain sufficient assurance over the Level 2 valuations included within the Accounts. We have undertaken full triangulation of the closing valuations provided by the relevant Fund Managers to the values provided by the Fund's Custodian, and considered any significant variances identified from this work. No issues have been identified from the work performed in this area. 	 Green

Assessment

-  - **Red** - We disagree with the estimation process or judgements that underpin the estimate and consider the estimate to be potentially materially misstated
-  - **Amber** - We consider the estimate is unlikely to be materially misstated however management's estimation process contains assumptions we consider optimistic
-  - **Yellow** - We consider the estimate is unlikely to be materially misstated however management's estimation process contains assumptions we consider cautious
-  - **Green** - We consider management's process and key assumptions to be reasonable

2. Significant findings – key estimates and judgements

Accounting area	Summary of management's policy	Auditor commentary	Assessment
Valuation of Direct Property – Level 3	<p>The Pension Fund has investments in Direct Property that in total are valued on the Net Asset Statement as at 31 March 2020 at £246 million.</p> <p>These properties are valued by a RICS Qualified Valuer as at 31 March 2020. The Valuer is employed by the Fund Manager on behalf of the Fund to provide valuations in line with the CIPFA Code of Practice guidance in this area.</p> <p>In line with RICS guidance, the Fund's Valuer disclosed a material uncertainty in the valuation of the Fund's Direct Property at 31 March 2020 as a result of Covid-19. The Fund has included disclosures on this issue in Note 5.</p>	<p>At the current date our work in this area is ongoing, which includes our Auditor's Expert reviewing the work of the Valuer to help provide us with assurance over the assumptions and judgements made in respect of these valuations as at 31 March 2020.</p> <p>As mentioned earlier in the Report, the Valuer has included a material uncertainty on the valuation certificate, which has been correctly reflected within the Accounts, within Note 5. We will reflect this matter as an Emphasis of Matter in our Audit Opinion, which again is not a qualification.</p>	TBC

Assessment

- - **Red** - We disagree with the estimation process or judgements that underpin the estimate and consider the estimate to be potentially materially misstated
- - **Amber** - We consider the estimate is unlikely to be materially misstated however management's estimation process contains assumptions we consider optimistic
- - **Yellow** - We consider the estimate is unlikely to be materially misstated however management's estimation process contains assumptions we consider cautious
- - **Green** - We consider management's process and key assumptions to be reasonable

2. Other matters for communication

We set out below details of other matters which we, as auditors, are required by auditing standards and the Code to communicate to those charged with governance.

Issue	Auditor commentary
Matters in relation to fraud	We have previously discussed the risk of fraud with the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee. We have not been made aware of any other incidents in the period and no other issues have been identified during the course of our audit procedures.
Matters in relation to related parties	We are not aware of any related parties or related party transactions which have not been disclosed.
Matters in relation to laws and regulations	You have not made us aware of any significant incidences of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations and we have not identified any incidences from our audit work.
Written representations	A letter of representation has been requested from the Pension Fund which is included in the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee papers.
Confirmation requests from third parties	<p>We requested from management permission to send confirmation requests to all of the Pension Fund's counter parties. This permission was granted and the requests were sent. All of these requests were returned with positive confirmation.</p> <p>We requested management to send letters to those solicitors who worked with the Pension Fund during the year. All responses have been received and no issues have been identified.</p>
Disclosures	Our review identified a small number of disclosures which required amendment or expansion, and management agreed to amend all of the items identified. Further detail is provided within the Misclassifications and disclosure changes page, which is included later in the Report.
Audit evidence and explanations/significant difficulties	The Council produced a good set of Accounts and working papers in line with the agreed timeframes, and responded promptly to the queries raised during the course of the audit despite the challenges of remote working. The small number of amendments identified in this Report reflect the quality of the draft Accounts prepared by management.
Matters on which we report by exception	We are required to give a separate opinion for the Pension Fund Annual Report on whether the financial statements included therein are consistent with the audited financial statements. Due to statutory deadlines the Pension Fund Annual Report is not required to be published until 1 December 2020 and therefore this report has not yet been reviewed. We have therefore not given this separate opinion at this time and are unable to certify completion of the audit of the administering authority until this work has been completed.

3. Independence and ethics

We confirm that there are no significant facts or matters that impact on our independence as auditors that we are required or wish to draw to your attention. We have complied with the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard and confirm that we, as a firm, and each covered person, are independent and are able to express an objective opinion on the financial statements

We confirm that we have implemented policies and procedures to meet the requirements of the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard and we as a firm, and each covered person, confirm that we are independent and are able to express an objective opinion on the financial statements.

Further, we have complied with the requirements of the National Audit Office's Auditor Guidance Note 01 issued in May 2020 which sets out supplementary guidance on ethical requirements for auditors of local public bodies.

Details of fees charged are detailed in Appendix D.

Audit and Non-audit services

For the purposes of our audit we have made enquiries of all Grant Thornton UK LLP teams providing services to the Pension Fund. No non-audit services were identified which were charged from the beginning of the financial year to 20 October 2020.

Follow up of prior year recommendations

We identified the following issue in the audit of the London Borough of Southwark Pension Fund's 2017/18 financial statements, which resulted in one recommendation being reported in our 2017/18 Audit Findings report. We have followed up on the implementation of our recommendations and note that this area has now been resolved.

Assessment	Issue and risk previously communicated	Update on actions taken to address the issue
<p>In Progress</p>	<p>Issues in Member Data</p> <p>In 2016/17 we identified errors during our testing of the client's Member Data, which thus could have a potential impact on the accuracy of the data provided to the Actuary. This then could have a potential impact on the valuation provided by the Actuary to the Fund, although the risk of this is low.</p> <p>The Council has undertaken extensive data cleansing during 2017-18 and 2018-19 as part of the production of the annual benefit statements and also through the implementation of i-Connect software in all admitted bodies, scheduled bodies and schools which has significantly improved the quality of data held. The enhanced Member Self Service portal which facilitates member updates of data is now live and members will be made aware of this through newsletters. These will include activation keys which it is hoped will encourage them to log in.</p> <p>However we continued to find issues of this type in 2017-18 and 2018-19, hence why this area was carried forward to 2019-20.</p>	<p>Work to ensure membership data is accurate and complete has been ongoing since 2016/17.</p> <p>Following a recent restructure within Pension Services, there is now a dedicated Data & Systems Team managing all member data and system development. The data team are developing an active data management strategy to resolve any historical data gaps or issues, and to ensure that all new data is captured in a timely manner. All schools and external employers are fully on-boarded and using i-Connect. The data team now also manage i-Connect submissions from the fund's largest employer, Southwark Council, using data extracted from SAP. The data team monitor i-Connect to ensure all employers are regularly submitting pensions data, and contact employers who may fall behind to investigate any issues. In addition, historical data issues are being identified and escalated with schools to ensure member records are accurate and complete.</p> <p>The Pension Fund has just procured new pensions administration software to replace its current system. This is a phased project and as part of the implementation process a full data quality check will be undertaken. The new system provides for much improved Member and Employer Self-Service Portals, allowing members to log in securely and check/update basic member data. Employers will be able to submit monthly returns through the secure portal and see any outstanding tasks, such as outstanding leaver forms or requests for data. Forms will be able to be completed 'online' rather than paper-based which is hoped will further improve employer compliance via increased convenience.</p> <p>The fund is acutely aware of the increased scrutiny on LGPS data by The Pension Regulator and has taken measures to ensure member data is as accurate as it can be.</p>

Assessment

- ✓ Action completed
- X Not yet addressed

Audit Adjustments

We are required to report all non trivial misstatements to those charged with governance, whether or not the accounts have been adjusted by management.

Impact of adjusted and unadjusted misstatements

No adjusted or unadjusted misstatements have been identified from the work performed during the course of the audit.

Misclassification and disclosure changes

The table below provides details of misclassification and disclosure changes identified during the audit which have been made in the final set of financial statements

Disclosure omission	Value (£000)	Impact on the Accounts	Adjusted?
Note 15 – Fair Value Hierarchy	31,803	The initial disclosure of Level 3 Investments excluded the Fund's Investment in Infrastructure Funds, which were new in 2019-20. These investments have subsequently been included in the disclosures in the revised Accounts.	✓
Various Notes	Various	A number of minor presentational and disclosure amendments have been made to the Accounts to enhance the transparency of the disclosures within the Accounts.	✓

Appendix C

Fees

We confirm below our final fees charged for the audit and confirm there were no fees for the provision of non audit services.

Audit fees	Proposed fee	Final fee
Pension Fund	28,170	TBC
Total audit fees (excluding VAT)	£28,170	TBC

The fees reconcile to the financial statements.

No non-audit or audited related services have been undertaken for the Pension Fund.

Audit Opinion

We anticipate we will provide the Pension Fund with an unqualified audit opinion with an Emphasis of Matter Paragraph

Independent auditor's report to the members of the London Borough of Southwark on the pension fund financial statements of the London Borough of Southwark Pension Fund

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the London Borough of Southwark Pension Fund (the 'pension fund') administered by the London Borough of Southwark (the 'Authority') for the year ended 31 March 2020 which comprise the Fund Account, the Net Assets Statement and notes to the pension fund financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the pension fund during the year ended 31 March 2020 and of the amount and disposition at that date of the fund's assets and liabilities;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

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

The impact of macro-economic uncertainties on our audit

Our audit of the pension fund financial statements requires us to obtain an understanding of all relevant uncertainties, including those arising as a consequence of the effects of macro-economic uncertainties such as Covid-19 and Brexit. All audits assess and challenge the reasonableness of estimates made by the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance and the related disclosures and the appropriateness of the going concern basis of preparation of the financial statements. All of these depend on assessments of the future economic environment.

Covid-19 and Brexit are amongst the most significant economic events currently faced by the UK, and at the date of this report their effects are subject to unprecedented levels of uncertainty, with the full range of possible outcomes and their impacts unknown. We applied a standardised firm-wide approach in response to these uncertainties. However, no audit should be expected to predict the unknowable factors or all possible future implications for a fund associated with these particular events.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the pension fund's financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance has not disclosed in the pension fund's financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Authority's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for the pension fund for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the pension fund's financial statements are authorised for issue.

In our evaluation of the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance's conclusions, and in accordance with the expectation set out within the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20 that the pension fund financial statements shall be prepared on a going concern basis, we considered the risks associated with the fund's operating model, including effects arising from macro-economic uncertainties such as Covid-19 and Brexit, and analysed how those risks might affect the fund's financial resources or ability to continue operations over the period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue. In accordance with the above, we have nothing to report in these respects.

However, as we cannot predict all future events or conditions and as subsequent events may result in outcomes that are inconsistent with judgements that were reasonable at the time they were made, the absence of reference to a material uncertainty in this auditor's report is not a guarantee that the fund will continue in operation.

Emphasis of Matter - effects of Covid-19 on the valuation of property investments

We draw attention to Note 5 of the financial statements, which describes the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the valuation of the pension fund's property investments as at 31 March 2020. As, disclosed in Note 5 to the financial statements, the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has created an unprecedented set of circumstances on which to base

Audit Opinion

We anticipate we will provide the Pension Fund with an unqualified audit opinion with an Emphasis of Matter Paragraph

judgement. As such, the Pension Fund property and infrastructure allocations as at 31 March 2020 are difficult to value according to the preferred accounting policy. Valuations are therefore reported on the basis of 'material valuation uncertainty'. Consequently, less certainty and a higher degree of caution should be attached to the valuation than would normally be the case. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matter required by the Code of Audit Practice published by the National Audit Office on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (the Code of Audit Practice)

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit of the pension fund's financial statements and our knowledge of the pension fund the other information published together with the pension fund's financial statements in the Statement of Accounts, the Narrative Report, the Annual Governance Statement and the Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the pension fund's financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of the Authority, the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance and Those Charged with Governance for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities set out on page 11, the Authority is required to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this authority, that officer is the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance. The Strategic Director of Finance and Governance is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the pension fund's financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20, for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the pension fund's financial statements, the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance is responsible for assessing the pension fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless there is an intention by government that the services provided by the pension fund will no longer be provided.

The Audit, Governance and Standards Committee is Those Charged with Governance. Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Authority's financial reporting

Audit Opinion

We anticipate we will provide the Pension Fund with an unqualified audit opinion with an Emphasis of Matter Paragraph

process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the pension fund's financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the members of the Authority, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and as set out in paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Authority's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Authority and the Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

[Signature]

Ciaran McLaughlin, Key Audit Partner
for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Local Auditor

London

[Date]



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Grant Thornton UK LLP
30 Finsbury Square
London
EC2A 1AG

20 October 2020

Dear Sirs

**London Borough of Southwark Pension Fund
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020**

This representation letter is provided in connection with the audit of the financial statements of the London Borough of Southwark Pension Fund for the year ended 31 March 2020 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20 and applicable law.

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge and belief having made such inquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves:

Financial Statements

- i. We have fulfilled our responsibilities for the preparation of the Fund's financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20 ("the Code"); in particular the financial statements are fairly presented in accordance therewith.
- ii. We have complied with the requirements of all statutory directions affecting the Fund and these matters have been appropriately reflected and disclosed in the financial statements.
- iii. The Fund has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance. There has been no non-compliance with requirements of any regulatory authorities that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance.
- iv. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
- v. Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable. We are satisfied that the material judgements used in the preparation of the financial statements are soundly based, in accordance with the Code and adequately disclosed in the financial statements.
- vi. Except as disclosed in the financial statements:
 - a. there are no unrecorded liabilities, actual or contingent
 - b. none of the assets of the Fund has been assigned, pledged or mortgaged
 - c. there are no material prior year charges or credits, nor exceptional or non-recurring items requiring separate disclosure.

- vii. Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards and the Code.
- viii. All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which International Financial Reporting Standards and the Code require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.
- ix. We have considered the adjusted misstatements, and misclassification and disclosures changes schedules included in your Audit Findings Report. The financial statements have been amended for these misstatements, misclassifications and disclosure changes and are free of material misstatements, including omissions.
- x. Actual or possible litigation and claims have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards.
- xi. We have no plans or intentions that may materially alter the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities reflected in the financial statements.
- xii. We have updated our going concern assessment and cashflow forecasts in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. We continue to believe that the Fund's financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis and have not identified any material uncertainties related to going concern on the grounds that current and future sources of funding or support will be more than adequate for the Fund's needs. We believe that no further disclosures relating to the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern need to be made in the financial statements.

Information Provided

- xiii. We have provided you with:
 - a. access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters;
 - b. additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of your audit; and
 - c. access to persons within the Fund via remote arrangements, in compliance with the nationally specified social distancing requirements established by the government in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- xiv. We have communicated to you all deficiencies in internal control of which management is aware.
- xv. All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
- xvi. We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
- xvii. We have disclosed to you all information in relation to fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects the Fund, and involves:
 - a. management;
 - b. employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
 - c. others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
- xviii. We have disclosed to you all information in relation to allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.
- xix. We have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.

- xx. There have been no communications with The Pensions Regulator or other regulatory bodies during the year or subsequently concerning matters of non-compliance with any legal duty.
- xxi. We are not aware of any reports having been made to The Pensions Regulator by any of our advisors.
- xxii. We have disclosed to you the identity of the Fund's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.
- xxiii. We have disclosed to you all known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.

Approval

The approval of this letter of representation was minuted by the Council's Audit, Governance and Standards Committee at its meeting on 20 October 2020.

Yours faithfully

Name.....

Position.....

Date.....

Name.....

Position.....

Date.....

Signed on behalf of Council as administering body of the Pension Fund



STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

2019-20

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NARRATIVE REPORT

From the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance, Duncan Whitfield

Introduction

The Narrative Report provides information about Southwark including the key issues affecting the council and its accounts. It provides a summary of the council's performance during 2019-20 and of its financial position at 31 March 2020 including:

- An introduction to Southwark
- The council's performance during 2019-20
- Financial performance during 2019-20 and financial position at 31 March 2020
- Principal risks and uncertainties
- An explanation of accounting statements

An Introduction to Southwark

Southwark is a dynamic borough in the centre of London, a truly global city. This brings change, challenges and opportunity to all those who work here, pass through here and most of all call Southwark their home. Our ability to develop, transform and renew the borough landscape helps to drive local growth. There is a significant programme of regeneration in Southwark, with some of Europe's most exciting and complex schemes such as Elephant and Castle, Aylesbury, Canada Water and London Bridge Quarter, home of the Shard, being delivered, bringing thousands of new homes and jobs to

In economic terms Southwark has been a net importer of labour in London, powering the jobs market across the city. The borough has a rich mix of employers, including internationally renowned names such as PwC, Ernst and Young, News UK and Hilton hotels. The business mix ranges across construction, health and social care, retail, catering, hospitality, public sector and administration, and finance and legal. However, as across London, there lies a skills challenge in getting more people into the jobs of the future and ensuring all benefit from growth and development in years to come.

Southwark is one of the most densely populated and diverse boroughs in the country, with a young, growing and mobile population. Over 120 languages are spoken in local schools, 66% of the under-20 population and 75% of reception-age children are from black and minority ethnic (BME) groups. Southwark is densely populated and has the ninth-highest population density in England and Wales at 10,632 residents per square kilometre compared to the London average of 5,510. In May 2020 the borough population was estimated to be 318,800, up from 256,700 in 2001. By 2030, that population is projected to increase to 374,000. The median age of Southwark residents in 2020 was 33.6 years, two years younger than the London average and almost seven years younger than the national average. Whilst our population is comparatively young, this is not driven by a large number of children and young people. It is primarily a result of the large number of young adults in their 20s and 30s. This is a pressure facing many boroughs in London although the issue of meeting demand, especially with a relatively youthful population, is most acute in a borough like Southwark.

Covid-19 Pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic is significantly impacting on the council. The pandemic is hitting our residents, public institutions, businesses and voluntary and community organisations. It has required an unprecedented response to mobilise the resources, skills and good faith of many across the borough. We will continue to do all we can to support our residents, communities and local businesses, to keep key services running and ensure that those who need help get it.

The government's lockdown, announced on 16 March 2020, continues to have significant impacts for council services and major financial implications. The council has had to put considerable additional resources into services to ensure that the most vulnerable in our community are cared for and that the local economy is protected. The economic impact has been profound, and we are expecting substantial losses across many of our income streams.

These additional costs did not have a dramatic impact on the financial outturn for 2019-20 as the the pandemic only started to make a notable impact on behaviours in the last two weeks of March. However, the true scale of its impact on the council's finances will be felt during 2020-21. Significant additional expenditure has been incurred across services with the largest areas of additional spend being within social care, homelessness, hardship support for residents, supporting the voluntary and community sector and support for businesses. The council is also expecting substantial losses across many of our income streams. These include business rates, council tax, housing rents, commercial income, parking, leisure services, regulatory and planning fees.

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20

At this stage it is extremely difficult to quantify the impact of Covid-19, but the financial pressure on the council will be substantial, even after the government's emergency Covid-19 funding for local authorities is taken into account. The council has sought in recent years to build up its general reserve and financial risk reserves to ensure it is financially resilient. Should the government not make good on its promise to cover the cost to councils of the pandemic, these reserves will be severely tested and will, in any event, need to be replenished over the coming years.

The changing environment in which we are likely to find ourselves as we emerge from 'lockdown' will require the council to review the services it provides. We will need to consider resetting the medium term financial strategy and our capital investment priorities in recognition of the pandemic and any changes to the councils strategic objectives.

An update on the council's medium term financial strategy along with an analysis of the impact on the council of Covid-19 will be provided to cabinet during the year. This will also need to reflect the government's announcement that the Fair Funding Review (FFR) and changes to Business Rate Retention (BRR) arrangements will not be implemented in April 2021 as originally planned. A new medium term financial plan for 2021-22 to 2023-24 will be submitted to cabinet and council assembly for approval in February 2021.

Council Performance

The Council Plan is the council's overarching business plan setting out the programme of work that the council will achieve over the period to 2021-22. It is a clear statement to the residents, businesses, local voluntary/community sector organisations and other stakeholders of that programme and how the council will continue to deliver a fairer future for all in Southwark. The Council Plan contains a range of promises and commitments which the council has worked towards since 2018. Underpinning these is a set of detailed performance schedules, with responsibility for each commitment apportioned across the cabinet portfolios. These plans will now need to be reviewed in the context of Covid-19.

Starting with cabinet and working through to individual members of staff, the process ensures that the whole organisation is working towards delivering our Council Plan. A lead cabinet member and chief officer are identified for each commitment set out in the plan for transparency and accountability purposes.

At the end of 2019-20 good progress has been made towards the delivery of the ambitious set of commitments set out in the Council Plan. An updated Council Plan, including progress against commitments, will be reported to cabinet.

Financial Performance

Revenue

For 2019-20, a net budget of £290.4m was approved by council assembly in February 2019. This included savings of £19.6m through a combination of efficiency savings, income generation and service reviews. Council assembly also agreed a 2.99% increase in council tax. The revenue outturn position is summarised below, and further detail can be found on the council's website (see cabinet agenda June 2020):

	Original Budget £000	Budget movement £000	Revised Budget £000	Spend in year £000	(to)/from reserves £000	Total use of resources £000	Variance after reserves £000
Chief executive's	3,435	(356)	3,079	3,254	(151)	3,103	24
Children's and adults	181,731	(5,262)	176,469	172,696	3,977	176,673	204
Dedicated Schools Grant	(20)	1,809	1,789	8,459	340	8,799	7,010
Environment and leisure	68,157	1,909	70,066	73,650	(369)	73,281	3,215
Finance and governance	9,843	1,590	11,433	(4,710)	12,837	8,127	(3,306)
Housing and modernisation	68,947	(182)	68,765	68,092	416	68,508	(257)
Place and wellbeing	(929)	89	(840)	(234)	109	(125)	715
Support cost reallocations	(40,740)	403	(40,337)	(40,932)	-	(40,932)	(595)
Total General Fund	290,424	-	290,424	280,275	17,159	297,434	7,010
DSG reserve to balance budget					(7,010)	(7,010)	(7,010)
Outturn after reserve movements			290,424	280,275	10,149	290,424	-

Despite the emerging costs and income losses as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic, the outturn report presents a balanced outturn for 2019-20, after movements to and from reserves. This reflects the strong financial management arrangements in place through monthly budget monitoring and challenge process which ensures budget managers are held accountable for variances to budgets.

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20

Key messages from the outturn report include confirmation that the budget recovery work in children's and adults' has been effective in putting the service on a sound financial footing; that the operating environment of the education service continues to be challenging in the light of inadequate funding for Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP's) to support high needs services (the accumulated deficit on the DSG reserve increased by £7m by the end of 2019-20, from £11.5m to £18.5m); budget pressures within environment and leisure department due to the major cost of emergency tree recovery works and emerging contractual issues with the leisure contract; sustained pressures on temporary accommodation costs as spending continues to exceed increasing budget resources. As agreed with the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance, these cost pressures were met from the corporate contingency.

In closing the 2019-20 accounts, the council was able to increase reserves by a net £10.1m, principally due to planned contributions and one-off savings on provisions and capital financing budgets.

In addition, the London Devolution business rate pooling arrangement meant that the additional business rate growth in 2019-20 was retained in London. Southwark's share is estimated at £6.5m and has been carried forward in reserves to help balance the 2020-21 budget, as approved by council assembly in February 2020.

The first tranche of the government's Covid-19 emergency funding was received at the end of March 2020 and this has also been carried forward to 2020-21 as an earmarked reserve.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) outturn 2019-20

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is the means by which the council meets its statutory requirement to account separately for local authority housing provision. The revenue outturn for 2019-20 shows income from tenants and homeowners of £255.7m and spending of £253.5m. The operating surplus of £2.2m has been taken to HRA balances. For further detail see outturn report (cabinet agenda 16 June 2020).

Capital

Southwark has one of the largest capital investment programmes in London, with current plans to spend over £2.5bn by 2028-29. Capital spending and financing in 2019-20 is shown in the table below (see cabinet agenda 16 June 2020).

	2019-20 £000	2018-19 £000
Children's and adults' services (including schools)	18,716	36,403
Environment and leisure	19,656	24,527
Housing and modernisation	8,680	8,465
Place and wellbeing	56,686	148,354
Housing investment programme	157,283	143,781
Total spending	261,021	361,530
Financed by:		
Use of capital receipts	35,527	162,325
Grants and other contributions	56,636	66,045
Sums set aside from revenue	24,423	22,550
Contribution from Major Repairs Reserve	59,092	50,752
Prudential Borrowing and credit arrangements	85,343	59,858
Total financing	261,021	361,530

In May 2018 the council entered a master development agreement at Canada Water with British Land to enable the comprehensive redevelopment of the area. This agreement will underpin the delivery of around 3,000 new homes, up to 20,000 new jobs, significant improvements to the public realm and a new council leisure centre. It also secures the council's future options for benefiting from the proceeds of growth at Canada Water. The agreement sees the council taking a 20% ownership of the whole development. The council will have the option as each plot comes forward for development to either invest in that plot to maintain the council's ownership, sell out its interest or retain the land interest and not invest into that plot. It is expected that the conditions for the Agreement to become unconditional will be met in summer 2020.

Balance Sheet

Reserves

The following table shows the opening and closing balances on usable reserves:

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20

	31 March 2020 £000	31 March 2019 £000
General Fund Balance	(21,002)	(21,002)
Earmarked Reserves		
Corporate projects and priorities	(19,541)	(9,137)
Service reviews and improvements	(19,350)	(15,375)
Capital programme and other capital investment	(23,247)	(23,418)
Strategic financing risks	(50,506)	(36,450)
Technical liabilities and smoothing reserves	(34,430)	(27,940)
Sub total	(147,074)	(112,320)
School reserves		
Schools - DSG reserve	18,525	11,515
School balances	(11,085)	(12,875)
Sub total	7,440	(1,360)
HRA		
HRA balance	(23,012)	(20,833)
Major repairs reserve	(2,268)	(10,921)
Sub total	(25,280)	(31,754)
Capital reserves	(49,676)	(52,657)
Total usable reserves	(235,592)	(219,093)

The general fund balance represents reserves set aside to mitigate and manage financial shocks and is a key financial resilience indicator. The Strategic Director of Finance and Governance has reviewed the level of this unallocated reserve and recommends it should be maintained at a minimum of 2.5% of gross general fund revenue expenditure, or £21m for 2020-21.

The increase in earmarked reserves at 31 March 2020 is attributable to the outturn position reported above, benefits arising from the London Devolution business rate pooling arrangement (£6.5m) and the advance payment of emergency Covid-19 funding (£11.1m).

The reduction in school balances reflects the deficit on the Dedicated Schools Grant reserve where £18.5m has been 'borrowed' against future years' allocations. Schools forum has been consulted on measures to fund the carried forward deficit in future years. However, given the ongoing structural pressures on the high needs block which continue into 2020-21, without additional Government funding, a deficit position on the DSG is likely to persist for a number of years.

The ringfenced nature of the HRA requires that surpluses/deficits are carried forward between years. At 31 March 2020 the HRA balance stood at £23.0m (£20.8m at 31 March 2019). The reserve is largely committed for specific purposes with the balance held as contingency against unforeseen events, in line with the council's medium-term resource strategy.

Borrowing and Lending

The council borrows money to support its ambitious capital programme. Since 2011-12 the council has been using internal cash balances to temporarily fund its capital expenditure over that period, rather than taking new external debt. This policy has minimised borrowing costs over the years. However, as planned, since 2017-18, the council needed to borrow, either temporarily from other local authorities or long-term from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB). During 2019-20 and in accordance with the approved Treasury Management Strategy, the council increased its long-term borrowing from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) by £76m. The loans were taken at fixed rates with maturities from 8 to 49 years. All long term borrowing is to support the growth in capital investment. The timing of long-term borrowing needs to be weighed against the risk that interest rates will increase in the future with a view to keeping future interest rate costs low. As at 31 March 2020 outstanding debt held by the council was £810m (£677m at 31 March 2019).

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
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The council invests its cash in GBP bonds, bills and money market instruments. The bonds and bills are issued by the UK government or supranational entities such as the European Investment Bank and the World Bank. The money market investments are in short-term call accounts, money market funds, term deposits and certificates of deposits issued by major UK and international banks or building societies. As at 31 March 2020 investments stood at £133m (£126m at 31 March 2019). The overall rate of return on investments during 2019-20 was 0.73% (0.77% in 2018-19).

Pensions

The council's Pension Fund must be revalued every three years to set future contribution rates. This valuation is undertaken by an external actuarial firm, Aon Hewitt. The valuation as at 31 March 2019 showed that the funding level of the Fund had increased since the previous valuation with the market value of the Fund's assets as at 31 March 2019 covering 103% of the liabilities.

As assessed by the actuary, the council has net pension liabilities of £607m (£712m at 31 March 2019). This reflects the value of pension liabilities which the council is required to pay in the future, offset by the value of assets invested in the Pension Fund. Whilst the council is a member of the London Collective Investment Vehicle (CIV), investment performance has been achieved without any investment in the CIV.

The value of pension liabilities is determined by the discount rate, which is based on the yield on investment grade corporate bonds. As the spread on corporate bonds has increased, it has led to an increased discount rate which reduces the future value of liabilities.

Since the valuation date, fund asset returns have fallen short of the assumed return leading to a reduction in the funding level. The ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic will leave uncertainty surrounding asset values and significant volatility in equity and credit markets.

The council, in conjunction with the actuary, will continue monitor the position on a regular basis and take any necessary action.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The council has an embedded process to manage risk and assist in the achievement of its objectives. The corporate risk register captures the key departmental and corporate risks to the council, including areas of risk opportunity. Key risks are held on the council-wide risk management system.

The council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively. The council's governance arrangements are reviewed annually and, within the Annual Governance Statement (AGS), assurance is given on the effectiveness of the council's system of internal control.

The coronavirus pandemic has had a significant impact on council services. In March 2020 the council activated its Borough Emergency Control Centre and council Gold and Silver emergency management protocols to coordinate a response to ensure that resources were prioritised to those most in need.

Despite the challenges, the council has maintained consistent essential services for residents, whilst adapting to provide alternative virtual services wherever possible. The council's strong collaborative approach has been effective at achieving a unified response, working with key partners in the NHS, police and voluntary and community sectors. The response to the crisis has added assurance to the effectiveness of the council's business continuity plans, communications strategy and governance arrangements.

The AGS, published alongside the accounts, details the issues and areas of significant change that will require consideration and action as appropriate over the medium to long term. In financial terms these are to some extent set-off against the general fund balance. Areas for specific actions include:

- impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on council services, priorities and resources;
- continuing financial uncertainty regarding future funding arrangements and any transition;
- ongoing uncertainty about the implications of leaving the European Union;
- the implementation of the council's climate change strategy to adapt to the climate emergency;
- continuing to ensure business continuity plans are robust, particularly with regard to potential contractor failure.

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20

Explanation of Accounting Statements

This Statement of Accounts is produced in accordance with legislation and in particular with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. These financial statements have been prepared in line with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019-20 (the Code). Under the Code, local authorities produce accounts that are compliant with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as set out by the Code.

The primary Statements of Accounts are set out below. A full description of the nature and use of each statement is included before each of the statements:

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement - this records all the council's income and expenditure for the year. The top half of the statement provides an analysis by service area, the bottom half deals with the corporate transactions and funding.

The Movement in Reserves Statement - a summary of the changes to the council's reserves over the course of the year. Reserves are divided into 'usable', which can be invested in capital projects or service improvements, and 'unusable', which must be set aside for specific purposes.

The Balance Sheet - a snapshot of the council's assets, liabilities and reserves at the year end date.

The Cash Flow Statement - shows the reason for changes in the council's cash balances during the year, and whether that change is due to operating activities, new investment or financing activities.

In addition to the primary statements, the accounts contain notes explaining or analysing further the figures in the primary statements.

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis The analysis shows how annual expenditure is used and funded from resources by the council in comparison to those resources consumed or earned by the council in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices.

Supplementary financial statements are:

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Statement and explanatory notes. The HRA figures are included in the figures in the primary statements.

The Collection Fund, showing the amounts raised and collected through taxation. Only the council's entitlement to taxation is included in the primary statements. The amounts collected on behalf of the government and the Greater London Authority are not included apart from amounts owing to or from those bodies.

Pension Fund Accounts. These are the funds the council manages, to provide future retirement benefits for its employees. The funds are not included within the primary statements.

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20

TABLE 1 - EARMARKED RESERVES

CORPORATE PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES RESERVES			
	Balances as at 31 March 2019 £000	Net movement £000	Balances as at 31 March 2020 £000
London Devolution reserve	3,686	(2,600)	1,086
Southwark emergency support scheme	2,126	-	2,126
Homelessness prevention	882	(882)	-
Modernisation, service and operational improvement	726	673	1,399
Southwark scholarship fund	467	-	467
Voluntary sector transition fund	391	-	391
Internal audit and anti-fraud	200	-	200
Neighbourhood fund	194	76	270
Revenue grants	124	-	124
Community engagement and links development	118	-	118
Artefacts replacement and security reserve	117	-	117
Community safety schemes	106	-	106
Climate change emergency	-	2,000	2,000
Covid-19 emergency grant funding	-	11,137	11,137
Total	9,137	10,404	19,541

CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND OTHER CAPITAL INVESTMENT RESERVES			
	Balances as at 31 March 2019 £000	Net movement £000	Balances as at 31 March 2020 £000
Aylesbury development	6,000	-	6,000
Planned preventative maintenance and building compliance	4,304	(217)	4,087
Regeneration and development	4,061	(373)	3,688
IT and customer service development	2,195	-	2,195
Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Private Finance Initiative (PFI) transition	1,623	-	1,623
Modernisation, service and operational improvement	1,356	-	1,356
Schools capital programme contribution	1,293	-	1,293
Capital contingency	1,287	-	1,287
Public realm	550	(50)	500
Law and democracy business change management	364	(18)	346
Canada Water	214	-	214
Digital innovation fund	171	237	408
Gym and fitness facilities	-	150	150
Black cultural centre	-	100	100
Total	23,418	(171)	23,247

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20

SERVICE REVIEWS AND IMPROVEMENTS RESERVES			
	Balances as at 31 March 2019 £000	Net movement £000	Balances as at 31 March 2020 £000
Adult social care resilience	3,000	1,500	4,500
Health and wellbeing commitment to mental health	2,000	(376)	1,624
Adult social care homes	1,500	-	1,500
New Homes Bonus funded programme	1,390	(104)	1,286
Libraries and heritage strategy	1,000	(136)	864
London counter fraud hub	1,000	-	1,000
Cycling safety	1,000	-	1,000
Highways	746	-	746
Adult Social Care transformation fund	726	(726)	-
Local economy	689	(8)	681
Rough sleeping initiative	615	952	1,567
Highways winter maintenance	576	-	576
Care leavers' innovation grant	509	(509)	-
Positive futures fund	500	38	538
Local flood risk	423	257	680
Workforce development (children's services)	324	(57)	267
Homelessness training academy	220	(220)	-
Schools improvement - traded services	200	-	200
Blackfriars trust allocation	138	-	138
Member development	97	-	97
Human Resources transformation	94	-	94
Prevention of illegal tobacco distribution	91	-	91
Workforce development (adults services)	84	-	84
Youth service	70	-	70
Special educational needs internships coordination	57	-	57
Temporary accommodation strategy	33	882	915
Local education authority music service	14	-	14
Public health	(1,721)	(91)	(1,812)
Covid-19 small business support fund	-	1,975	1,975
Special educational needs and disability transformation fund	-	340	340
Regional adoption agency	-	158	158
Southwark renters union	-	100	100
Total	15,375	3,975	19,350

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20

STRATEGIC FINANCING RISK

	Balances as at 31 March 2019 £000	Net movement £000	Balances as at 31 March 2020 £000
Business rate retention risk	12,500	389	12,889
Financial risk and future liabilities	11,500	(200)	11,300
Spending review risk	7,050	13,867	20,917
Pensions liability risk	2,500	-	2,500
Brexit risk reserve	2,000	-	2,000
Schools in financial difficulties, schools closures and academies	900	-	900
Total	36,450	14,056	50,506

TECHNICAL LIABILITIES AND SMOOTHING RESERVES

	Balances as at 31 March 2019 £000	Net movement £000	Balances as at 31 March 2020 £000
Business rates pooling – balance budget 2020-21	8,726	6,458	15,184
Insurance	7,600	-	7,600
Interest and debt equalisation	3,500	-	3,500
Council tax and housing benefits subsidy equalisation	3,000	-	3,000
Waste private finance initiative equalisation reserve	2,921	-	2,921
Universal credit implementation	966	-	966
Election reserve	777	32	809
Contractual risk reserve	450	-	450
Total	27,940	6,490	34,430

Independent auditor's report to the members of Southwark Council

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Southwark Council (the 'Authority') for the year ended 31 March 2020 which comprise the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, the Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement, the Collection Fund Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority as at 31 March 2020 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

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

The impact of macro-economic uncertainties on our audit

Our audit of the financial statements requires us to obtain an understanding of all relevant uncertainties, including those arising as a consequence of the effects of macro-economic uncertainties such as Covid-19 and Brexit. All audits assess and challenge the reasonableness of estimates made by the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance and the related disclosures and the appropriateness of the going concern basis of preparation of the financial statements. All of these depend on assessments of the future economic environment and the Authority's future operational arrangements.

Covid-19 and Brexit are amongst the most significant economic events currently faced by the UK, and at the date of this report their effects are subject to unprecedented levels of uncertainty, with the full range of possible outcomes and their impacts unknown. We applied a standardised firm-wide approach in response to these uncertainties when assessing the Authority's future operational arrangements. However, no audit should be expected to predict the unknowable factors or all possible future implications for an authority associated with these particular events.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Authority's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20

In our evaluation of the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance's conclusions, and in accordance with the expectation set out within the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20 that the Authority's financial statements shall be prepared on a going concern basis, we considered the risks associated with the Authority's operating activities, including effects arising from macro-economic uncertainties such as Covid-19 and Brexit. We analysed how those risks might affect the Authority's financial resources or ability to continue operations over the period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue. In accordance with the above, we have nothing to report in these respects.

However, as we cannot predict all future events or conditions and as subsequent events may result in outcomes that are inconsistent with judgements that were reasonable at the time they were made, the absence of reference to a material uncertainty in this auditor's report is not a guarantee that the Authority will continue in operation.

Emphasis of Matter – effects of Covid-19 on the Valuation of Land and Buildings and Investment Properties

We draw attention to Note 5 of the financial statements, which describes the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the valuation of the Authority's land and buildings, including Investment Properties and the Authority's share of the pension fund's property investments as at 31 March 2020. As disclosed in note 5 to the financial statements, the outbreak of Covid-19 has impacted global financial markets and as the valuation date, less weight can be attached to previous market evidence to inform opinions of value. There is an unprecedented set of circumstances on which to base a judgement. Valuations are therefore reported on the basis of 'material valuation uncertainty' as per the RICS Red Book Global. A material valuation uncertainty was therefore disclosed in both the Authority's property valuer's reports, which also covers the Council's Investment Property, and the pension fund's property valuation report. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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

Under the Code of Audit Practice published by the National Audit Office on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (the Code of Audit Practice) we are required to consider whether the Annual Governance Statement does not comply with the 'delivering good governance in Local Government Framework 2016 Edition' published by CIPFA and SOLACE or is misleading or inconsistent with the information of which we are aware from our audit. We are not required to consider whether the Annual Governance Statement addresses all risks and controls or that risks are satisfactorily addressed by internal controls.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matter required by the Code of Audit Practice

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit of the financial statements and our knowledge of the Authority gained through our work in relation to the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, the other information published together with the financial statements in the Statement of Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
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Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of the Authority, the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance and Those Charged with Governance for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities set out on page 11, the Authority is required to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this authority, that officer is the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance. The Strategic Director of Finance and Governance is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20, for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance is responsible for assessing the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless there is an intention by government that the services provided by the Authority will no longer be provided.

The Audit, Governance and Standards Committee is Those Charged with Governance. Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Authority's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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

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

Conclusion

On the basis of our work, having regard to the guidance on the specified criterion issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in April 2020, we are satisfied that the Authority put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Responsibilities of the Authority

The Authority is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, to ensure proper stewardship and governance, and to review regularly the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

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

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

We have undertaken our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance on the specified criterion issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in April 2020, as to whether in all significant respects the Authority had proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people. The Comptroller and Auditor General determined this criterion as that necessary for us to consider under the Code of Audit Practice in satisfying ourselves whether the Authority put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2020.

We planned our work in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice. Based on our risk assessment, we undertook such work as we considered necessary to be satisfied that the Authority has put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

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

We are required to give an opinion on the consistency of the pension fund financial statements of the Authority included in the Pension Fund Annual Report with the pension fund financial statements included in the Statement of Accounts. The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 require authorities to publish the Pension Fund Annual Report by 1 December 2020. As the Authority has not prepared the Pension Fund Annual Report at the time of this report we have yet to issue our report on the consistency of the pension fund financial statements. Until we have done so, we are unable to certify that we have completed the audit of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice.

AND

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice until we have completed the work necessary to issue our Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) Component Assurance statement for the Authority for the year ended 31 March 2020. We are satisfied that this work does not have a material effect on the financial statements or on our conclusion on the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2020.

AND

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
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We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate for the Authority for the year ended 31 March 2020 in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice until we have completed our consideration of an objection brought to our attention by a local authority elector under Section 27 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. We are satisfied that these matters do not have a material effect on the financial statements or on our conclusion on the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the members of the Authority, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and as set out in paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Authority's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Authority and the Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

[Signature]

Ciaran McLaughlin, Key Audit Partner
for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Local Auditor, London

xx October 2020

Independent auditor's report to the members of the London Borough of Southwark on the pension fund financial statements of the London Borough of Southwark Pension Fund

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the London Borough of Southwark Pension Fund (the 'pension fund') administered by the London Borough of Southwark (the 'Authority') for the year ended 31 March 2020 which comprise the Fund Account, the Net Assets Statement and notes to the pension fund financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the pension fund during the year ended 31 March 2020 and of the amount and disposition at that date of the fund's assets and liabilities;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

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

The impact of macro-economic uncertainties on our audit

Our audit of the pension fund financial statements requires us to obtain an understanding of all relevant uncertainties, including those arising as a consequence of the effects of macro-economic uncertainties such as Covid-19 and Brexit. All audits assess and challenge the reasonableness of estimates made by the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance and the related disclosures and the appropriateness of the going concern basis of preparation of the financial statements. All of these depend on assessments of the future economic environment.

Covid-19 and Brexit are amongst the most significant economic events currently faced by the UK, and at the date of this report their effects are subject to unprecedented levels of uncertainty, with the full range of possible outcomes and their impacts unknown. We applied a standardised firm-wide approach in response to these uncertainties. However, no audit should be expected to predict the unknowable factors or all possible future implications for a fund associated with these particular events.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the pension fund's financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance has not disclosed in the pension fund's financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Authority's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for the pension fund for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the pension fund's financial statements are authorised for issue.

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In our evaluation of the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance's conclusions, and in accordance with the expectation set out within the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20 that the pension fund financial statements shall be prepared on a going concern basis, we considered the risks associated with the fund's operating model, including effects arising from macro-economic uncertainties such as Covid-19 and Brexit, and analysed how those risks might affect the fund's financial resources or ability to continue operations over the period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue. In accordance with the above, we have nothing to report in these respects.

However, as we cannot predict all future events or conditions and as subsequent events may result in outcomes that are inconsistent with judgements that were reasonable at the time they were made, the absence of reference to a material uncertainty in this auditor's report is not a guarantee that the fund will continue in operation.

Emphasis of Matter - effects of Covid-19 on the valuation of property investments

We draw attention to Note 5 of the financial statements, which describes the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the valuation of the pension fund's property investments as at 31 March 2020. As, disclosed in Note 5 to the financial statements, the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has created an unprecedented set of circumstances on which to base judgement. As such, the Pension Fund property and infrastructure allocations as at 31 March 2020 are difficult to value according to the preferred accounting policy. Valuations are therefore reported on the basis of 'material valuation uncertainty'. Consequently, less certainty and a higher degree of caution should be attached to the valuation than would normally be the case. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matter required by the Code of Audit Practice published by the National Audit Office on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (the Code of Audit Practice)

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit of the pension fund's financial statements and our knowledge of the pension fund the other information published together with the pension fund's financial statements in the Statement of Accounts, the Narrative Report, the Annual Governance Statement and the Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the pension fund's financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we make a written recommendation to the Authority under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20

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

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

Responsibilities of the Authority, the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance and Those Charged with Governance for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities set out on page 11, the Authority is required to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this authority, that officer is the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance. The Strategic Director of Finance and Governance is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the pension fund's financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20, for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the pension fund's financial statements, the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance is responsible for assessing the pension fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless there is an intention by government that the services provided by the pension fund will no longer be provided.

The Audit, Governance and Standards Committee is Those Charged with Governance. Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Authority's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the pension fund's financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the members of the Authority, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and as set out in paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Authority's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Authority and the Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

[Signature]

Ciaran McLaughlin, Key Audit Partner
for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Local Auditor, London

xx October 2020

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The council's responsibilities

The council is required to:

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

The Strategic Director of Finance and Governance responsibilities

The Strategic Director of Finance and Governance is responsible for the preparation of the council's Statement of Accounts and of its Pension Fund accounts in accordance with proper practices as set out in the Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code).

In preparing these Statements of Accounts, the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance has:

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

The Strategic Director of Finance and Governance has also:

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

I certify that the Statement of Accounts presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Southwark Council as at 31 March 2020 and its income and expenditure for the financial year ended 31 March 2020.

Duncan Whitfield
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance
xx October 2020

Council approval

Councillor James McAsh
Chair of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee
xx October 2020

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20

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 (or rents). The council raises taxation (and rents) to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in both the Expenditure and Funding Analysis and in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

			2019-20			Restated 2018-19
	Gross	Gross	Net	Gross	Gross	Net
	expenditure	income	expenditure	expenditure	income	expenditure
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Chief executive's	4,724	(2,057)	2,667	4,119	(1,724)	2,395
Children's and adults	503,869	(288,034)	215,835	495,471	(275,211)	220,260
Environment and leisure	121,032	(40,091)	80,941	106,060	(38,799)	67,261
Finance and governance	178,110	(159,133)	18,977	210,266	(167,773)	42,493
Housing and modernisation	81,854	(34,230)	47,624	83,169	(32,013)	51,156
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	327,023	(264,407)	62,616	317,083	(257,772)	59,311
Place and wellbeing	52,548	(32,775)	19,773	47,467	(30,469)	16,998
Net cost of services	1,269,160	(820,727)	448,433	1,263,635	(803,761)	459,874
Other operating expenditure (note 8)			9,492			(3,516)
Financing and investment income and expenditure (note 9)			19,361			22,440
Taxation and non-specific grant income (note 10)			(375,073)			(372,299)
Deficit on provision of services			102,213			106,499
(Surplus) on revaluation of non-current assets (note 23)			(89,710)			(12,093)
(Surplus) or deficit on financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income (note 38)			170			380
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability (note 37)			(149,737)			16,381
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(239,277)			4,668
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(137,064)			111,167

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the council, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other reserves. The surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services line shows the true economic cost of providing the council's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund balance and the Housing Revenue Account for council tax setting and dwellings rent setting purposes.

The net increase/decrease before the transfers to earmarked reserves line shows the statutory General Fund balance and Housing Revenue Account balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves have been undertaken by the council.

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES 2019-20

	General Fund balance	Earmarked General Fund reserves	School balances and DSG reserve	HRA balance	Major repairs reserve	Capital receipts reserve	Total usable reserves	Total unusable reserves (note 23)	Total reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance as at 1 April	(21,002)	(112,320)	(1,360)	(20,833)	(10,921)	(52,657)	(219,092)	(3,666,476)	(3,885,568)
Movement in reserves during year									
Total comprehensive income and expenditure	60,567	-	-	41,646	-	-	102,213	(239,277)	(137,064)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statutory provisions (note 11)	(86,521)	-	-	(43,825)	8,653	2,981	(118,712)	118,712	-
Net increase/decrease before transfers to earmarked reserves	(25,954)	-	-	(2,179)	8,653	2,981	(16,499)	(120,565)	(137,064)
Transfers (to)/from earmarked reserves	25,954	(34,754)	8,800	-	-	-	-	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in year	-	(34,754)	8,800	(2,179)	8,653	2,981	(16,499)	(120,565)	(137,064)
Balance as at 31 March	(21,002)	(147,074)	7,440	(23,012)	(2,268)	(49,676)	(235,592)	(3,787,042)	(4,022,634)

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES 2018-19

	General Fund balance	Earmarked General Fund reserves	School balances and DSG reserve	HRA balance	Major repairs reserve	Capital receipts reserve	Total usable reserves	Total unusable reserves (note 23)	Restated Total reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance as at 1 April	(18,803)	(70,652)	(9,857)	(19,959)	(10,921)	(79,849)	(210,041)	(3,786,696)	(3,996,737)
Movement in reserves during year									
Total comprehensive income and expenditure	42,985	-	-	63,514	-	-	106,499	4,668	111,167
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statutory provisions (note 11)	(78,355)	-	-	(64,388)	-	27,192	(115,551)	115,551	-
Net (increase)/decrease before transfers to earmarked reserves	(35,370)	-	-	(874)	-	27,192	(9,052)	120,219	111,167
Transfers (to)/from earmarked reserves	33,171	(41,668)	8,497	-	-	-	-	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in year	(2,199)	(41,668)	8,497	(874)	-	27,192	(9,052)	120,219	111,167
Balance as at 31 March	(21,002)	(112,320)	(1,360)	(20,833)	(10,921)	(52,657)	(219,092)	(3,666,476)	(3,885,568)

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20

BALANCE SHEET

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date 31 March of the assets and liabilities recognised by the council. The net assets of the council (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the council. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves are usable reserves, i.e. those reserves that the council may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory 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 are unusable reserves which the council is not able to use to provide services. This category of reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the revaluation reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line 'adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations.'

	Notes	31 March 2020	31 March 2019
		£000	£000
Property, plant and equipment	13	5,127,169	5,033,402
Heritage assets		1,223	1,223
Investment property	14	343,805	334,529
Assets held for sale	15	22,320	17,150
Long-term investments	38	40,776	21,357
Long-term debtors	17	23,899	23,355
Long term assets		5,559,192	5,431,016
Current intangible assets		-	169
Short-term investments	38	63,985	57,702
Inventories		438	430
Short-term debtors	17	160,168	136,072
Cash and cash equivalents	16	18,035	35,989
Assets held for sale	15	19,654	27,454
Current assets		262,280	257,816
Short-term borrowing	38	(190,805)	(133,270)
Short-term creditors	18	(159,302)	(172,053)
Short-term provisions	19	(3,874)	(3,409)
Grants receipts in advance	21	(99,604)	(99,726)
Current liabilities		(453,585)	(408,458)
Long-term creditors	18	(9,288)	(10,546)
Long-term provisions	19	(15,716)	(29,099)
Long-term borrowing	38	(627,634)	(551,774)
Pension liabilities	37	(606,640)	(712,470)
Other long-term liabilities	35	(85,975)	(90,917)
Long-term liabilities		(1,345,253)	(1,394,806)
Net assets		4,022,634	3,885,568
Usable reserves	12	(235,592)	(219,092)
Unusable reserves	23	(3,787,042)	(3,666,476)
Total reserves		(4,022,634)	(3,885,568)

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

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

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

	Notes	2019-20	2018-19
		£000	£000
Net surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services		(102,213)	(106,499)
Adjustment to surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non cash movements	24	215,909	314,594
Adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	24	(93,860)	(211,189)
Net cash flows from operating activities		19,836	(3,094)
Net cash flows from investing activities	25	(168,358)	(109,074)
Net cash flows from financing activities	26	130,568	109,031
Net increase or (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(17,954)	(3,137)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	16	35,989	39,126
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	16	18,035	35,989

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20

Note 1. EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS

The analysis shows how annual expenditure is used and funded from resources by the council in comparison to those resources consumed or earned by the council in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. The Expenditure and Funding Analysis also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the council's service departments, as stated in the narrative report. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES).

Expenditure and Funding Analysis	2019-20				
	As reported for resource management (Narrative report)	Adjustment to arrive at the net amount chargeable to the General Fund and HRA balances	Net expenditure chargeable to the General Fund and HRA balances	Adjustments between funding and accounting basis (note 7)	Net expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Chief executive's	3,103	(771)	2,332	335	2,667
Children's and adults (including Dedicated Schools Grant)	185,472	(11,965)	173,507	42,328	215,835
Environment and leisure	73,281	(19,655)	53,626	27,315	80,941
Finance and governance (including strategic finance)	8,127	22,379	30,506	(11,529)	18,977
Housing and modernisation	68,508	(33,271)	35,237	12,387	47,624
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	-	(18,256)	(18,256)	80,872	62,616
Place and wellbeing	(125)	8,502	8,377	11,396	19,773
Support cost reallocations	(40,932)	40,932	-	-	-
Net cost of services	297,434	(12,105)	285,329	163,104	448,433
Other income and expenditure	(290,424)	(23,039)	(313,463)	(32,757)	(346,220)
(Surplus) or deficit	7,010	(35,144)	(28,134)	130,347	102,213
(Surplus) or deficit on opening General Fund (including earmarked reserves), school balances and Dedicated Schools Grant and HRA balance at 1 April			(155,515)		
(Surplus)/deficit on General Fund and HRA balance in year			(28,134)		
Closing General Fund and HRA balance at 31 March			(183,649)		

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20

Note 1. EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS continued

Expenditure and Funding Analysis	2018-19				
	As reported for resource management (Narrative report)	Adjustment to arrive at the net amount chargeable to the General Fund and HRA balances	Net expenditure chargeable to the General Fund and HRA balances	Adjustments between funding and accounting basis (note 7)	Net expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Chief executive's	3,395	(1,160)	2,235	160	2,395
Children's and adults (including Dedicated Schools Grant)	194,557	(15,229)	179,328	40,932	220,260
Environment and leisure	65,080	(20,392)	44,688	22,573	67,261
Finance and governance (including strategic finance)	7,379	16,135	23,514	18,979	42,493
Housing and modernisation	68,726	(32,084)	36,642	14,514	51,156
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	-	(15,730)	(15,730)	75,041	59,311
Place and wellbeing	3,642	4,281	7,923	9,075	16,998
Support cost reallocations	(41,106)	41,106	-	-	-
Net cost of services	301,673	(23,073)	278,600	181,274	459,874
Other income and expenditure	(294,269)	(20,575)	(314,844)	(38,531)	(353,375)
(Surplus) or deficit	7,404	(43,648)	(36,244)	142,743	106,499
(Surplus) or deficit on opening General Fund (including earmarked reserves), school balances and Dedicated Schools Grant and HRA balance at 1 April			(119,271)		
(Surplus)/deficit on General Fund and HRA balance in year			(36,244)		
Closing General Fund and HRA balance at 31 March			(155,515)		

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

2.1 Basis of preparation

The Statement of Accounts summarises the council's transactions for the 2019-20 financial year and its position at the year end of 31 March 2020. The council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015, which require the accounts to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices, under Section 21 of the 2003 Act, primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019-20, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

The Statement of Accounts has been prepared using the going concern and accruals bases. The historical cost convention has been applied, modified by the valuation of the following material categories of non-current assets and financial instruments:

Class of assets	Valuation basis
Property, plant and equipment - dwellings	Current value, comprising existing use value for social housing; dwellings are valued using market prices for comparable properties, adjusted to reflect occupancy under secured tenancies.
Property, plant and equipment - land and buildings	Current value, comprising existing use value; where prices for comparable properties are available in an active market, properties are valued at market value taking into account the existing use. Where no market exists or the property is specialised, current value is measured at depreciated replacement cost
Property, plant and equipment - surplus assets	Fair value
Investment properties	Fair value
Financial instruments - fair value through profit and loss	Fair value
Pensions assets	Fair value

2.2 Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis

The resources available to the council in any financial year and the expenses that are charged against those resources are specified by statute (the Local Government Act 2003 and the 2003 Regulations). Where the statutory provisions are different from the accruals basis used in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, adjustments to the accounting treatment are made in the Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRS) so that usable reserves reflect the funding available at the year end. Unusable reserves are created to manage the timing differences between the accounting and funding bases.

The material adjustments are:

Category	Accounting basis in CIES	Funding basis in MiRS	Adjustment account
Property, plant and equipment	Depreciation and revaluation/ impairment losses	Revenue provision to cover historical cost determined in accordance with 2003 regulations	Capital adjustment account
Intangible assets	Amortisation and impairment		
Investment properties	Movement in fair value		
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	Expenditure incurred in year		

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20

Category	Accounting basis in CIES	Funding basis in MiRS	Adjustment account
Capital grants and contributions	Grants that became unconditional in year or were received in year without conditions	No credit	Capital grants unapplied reserve (unapplied at 31 March) Capital adjustment account (other amounts)
Non-current asset disposals	Gain or loss based on sale proceeds less carrying amount of asset (net of costs of disposal)	No charge or credit	Capital adjustment account (carrying amount) Capital receipts reserve (sale proceed and cost of disposal) Deferred capital receipts reserve (sale proceeds not yet received)
Financial instruments	Premiums payable and discounts receivable on early repayment of borrowing in 2019-20 Losses on soft loans and interest receivable on an amortised cost basis Movements in the fair value of money market fund investments	Deferred debits/credits of premiums/discounts from earlier years Interest due to be received on soft loans in year Historical cost gains/losses for money market fund investments disposed of in year	Financial instruments adjustment account
Pension costs	Movements in pensions assets and liabilities	Employers pension contributions payable and direct payments made by the council to pensioners	Pensions reserve
Council tax	Accrued income from 2019-20 bills	Demand on the Collection Fund for 2019-20 plus share of estimated surplus for 2018-19	Collection Fund adjustment account
Business rates	Accrued income from 2019-20 bills	Budgeted income receivable from the Collection Fund for 2019-20 plus share of estimated surplus 2018-19	Collection Fund adjustment account
Holiday pay	Projected cost of untaken leave entitlements at 31 March 2020	No charge	Accumulated absence adjustment account

2.3 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.

- 2.3.1 Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the council 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 council.

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20

- 2.3.2 Revenue from contracts with service recipients is recognised when it satisfies a performance obligation by transferring promised goods or services to a recipient, measured as the amount of the overall transaction price allocated to that obligation.
- 2.3.3 Other revenue from the provision of services is recognised when the council 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 council.
- 2.3.4 Revenue from housing rents is recognised in the year the billing amount falls due.
- 2.3.5 Revenue relating to council tax and business rates is measured at the full amount receivable (net of any impairment losses) as it is a non-contractual, non-exchange transaction with no difference between the delivery and payment dates. It is recognised in the financial statements when it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the authority, and the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably.
- 2.3.6 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 in the Balance Sheet.
- 2.3.7 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.
- 2.3.8 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.
- 2.3.9 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.

2.4 Business improvement districts

A business improvement district (BID) scheme may apply across the whole of the council, or to specific areas of the council. Schemes are funded by a BID levy paid by non-domestic ratepayers. The council acts as principal under these schemes, and accounts for income received and expenditure incurred (including contributions to the BID project) within the relevant services within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Southwark has five BIDs in operation; Better Bankside, Blue Bermondsey, Southbank, Team London Bridge and We Are Waterloo.

2.5 Employee benefits

Termination benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the council to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy in exchange for those benefits and are charged on an accruals basis to the appropriate service or, where applicable, to the finance and governance line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement at the earliest of when the council can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when the council recognises costs for a restructure.

Post employment benefits

Employees of the council are members of three separate pension schemes:

- The Teachers' Pension Scheme, administered by Capita Teachers' pensions on behalf of the Department for Education
- The Local Government Pensions Scheme, administered by Southwark council and the London Pension Fund Authority
- The NHS Pension Scheme, administered by NHS pensions.

All the schemes provide defined benefits to members, i.e. retirement lump sums and pensions, earned as employees worked for the council.

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However, the arrangements for the teachers' scheme and the NHS scheme mean that liabilities for these benefits cannot ordinarily be identified specifically to the council. These schemes are therefore accounted for as if they were defined contribution schemes and no liability for future payments of benefits is recognised in the Balance Sheet. Within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement the Children's and adults' and Place and wellbeing services lines respectively are charged with the employer's contributions payable to Teachers' Pensions and NHS Pensions in the year.

Employment benefits - the Local Government Pension Scheme

The Local Government Pension Scheme is accounted for as a defined benefits scheme. The council contributes to two pension funds – its own, the London Borough of Southwark Pension Fund, and that of the London Pension Fund Authority Pension Fund.

The council's shares of its liabilities in both funds 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 disclosures in note 37 to the Statement of Accounts set out the discount rates and assumptions applied by each fund.

The assets of funds attributable to the council are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:

- quoted securities – current bid price
- unquoted securities – professional estimate
- unitised securities – current bid price
- property – market value

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

- Service cost comprising
 - current service cost – allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the services for which the employees worked
 - past service cost – debited to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of finance and governance
 - net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset) - charged to the financing and investment income and expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
- Remeasurements 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
 - actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions; charged to the pensions reserve as other comprehensive income and expenditure
- Contributions paid to the pension fund – cash paid as employer's contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities, not accounted for as an expense.

Discretionary benefits

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

2.6 Financial instruments

Financial instruments are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the council becomes a party to the contractual provisions and are initially measured at fair value.

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Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost. For most of the council's borrowing this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable plus accrued interest. Annual charges to the financing and investment income and expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument.

Financial assets

Financial assets are subsequently measured in one of two ways:

- Amortised cost – assets whose contractual terms are basic lending arrangements (i.e. they give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal or interest on the principal amount outstanding, which the council holds under a business model whose objective is to collect those cash flows)
- Fair value – all other financial assets

Amortised cost assets are measured in the balance sheet at the outstanding principal repayable plus accrued interest. Annual credits to the financing and investment income and expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are based on the carrying amount of the asset, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. Any gains or losses in fair value that may arise are not accounted for until the instrument matures or is sold.

Allowances for impairment losses have been calculated for amortised cost assets, applying the expected credit losses model. Changes in loss allowances are debited/credited to the financing and investment income and expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Changes in the value of assets carried at fair value (described as fair value through profit and loss) are debited/credited to the financing and investment income and expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as they arise.

2.7 Government grants and contributions

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

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

Amounts recognised as due to the council are carried on the balance as grants received in advance and only credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when conditions attached to the grant or contribution have been satisfied.

The grant or contribution is credited to the relevant service line (attributable revenue grants and contributions) or taxation and non specific grant income and expenditure (non ring fenced revenue grants and all capital grants) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

2.8 Investment property

Investment properties are those that are held solely to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation. Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value, based on the highest or best price that can be obtained in the most advantageous market, in an arms-length transaction between knowledgeable participants at the measurement date. Investment properties are not depreciated but are revalued annually according to market conditions at the year end. Gains and losses on revaluation are posted to the financing and investment income and expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The same treatment is applied to gains and losses on disposal.

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2.9 Leases

Leases are classified as finance leases where the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the property, plant or equipment from the lessor to the lessee. All other leases are classified as operating leases. Where a lease covers both land and buildings, the land and buildings elements are considered separately for classification.

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

The council as lessee - finance leases

Property, plant and equipment held under finance leases is recognised on the Balance Sheet at the commencement of the lease at its fair value measured at the lease's inception (or the present value of the minimum lease payments, if lower). The asset recognised is matched by a liability for the obligation to pay the lessor. Premiums paid on entry into a lease are applied to writing down the lease liability. Lease payments are apportioned between:

- a charge for the acquisition of the interest in the property, plant or equipment – applied to write down the lease liability, and
- a finance charge (debited to the financing and investment income and expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement)

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

The council as lessee - operating leases

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

The council as lessor - operating leases

Where the council grants an operating lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the asset is retained in the Balance Sheet. Rental income is credited to the financing and investment income 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.

2.10 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 absorption costing principle. The full cost of overheads and support services is shared between users.

The costs of overheads and support services are charged to those services that benefit from the supply or service in accordance with the costing principle. The full cost of overheads and support services is shared between users in proportion to the benefits received, with the exception of:

- The chief executive's, finance and governance, housing and modernisation and HRA services contain costs relating to the council's status as a multi-functional, democratic organisation
- The finance and governance service contains the cost of discretionary benefits awarded to employees retiring early and impairment losses chargeable on assets held for sale

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2.11 Private finance initiative (PFI) and similar contracts

PFI and similar contracts are agreements to receive services, where the responsibility for making available the property, plant and equipment needed to provide the services passes to the PFI contractor. As the council is deemed to control the services that are provided under its PFI schemes, and as ownership of the property, plant and equipment will pass to the council at the end of the contracts for no additional charge, the council carries the assets used under the contracts on its Balance Sheet as part of property, plant and equipment.

The original recognition of these assets at fair value (based on the cost to purchase the property, plant and equipment) is balanced by the recognition of a liability for amounts due to the scheme operator to pay for the capital investment.

2.12 Property, plant and equipment (PPE)

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of property, plant and equipment is capitalised on an accruals basis, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. Expenditure that maintains but does not add to an asset's potential to deliver future economic benefits or service potential (i.e. repairs and maintenance) is charged as an expense when it is incurred. If the amount of expenditure on an individual asset within other land and buildings is above £400,000, details of the works are provided to the valuer with a request to revalue the asset.

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

Certain categories of property, plant and equipment are measured subsequently at current value – see 2.1 for details. Assets included in the Balance Sheet at current value are revalued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their current value at the year-end, but as a minimum every five years. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the revaluation reserve to recognise unrealised gains.

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

- where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the revaluation reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains)
- where there is no balance in the revaluation reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

The revaluation reserve contains revaluation gains recognised since 1 April 2007 only, the date of its formal implementation. Gains arising before that date have been consolidated into the capital adjustment account.

Assets are assessed at each year-end as to whether there is any indication that items have been 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 in the same way as revaluation losses.

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 community assets) and assets that are not yet available for use (i.e. assets under construction).

Useful lives are assessed on the following bases:

- Council dwellings – weighted average life based on major components – typically 50-60 years
- Other operational buildings – as valuation – 10-60 years
- Surplus assets – as valuation – 9-40 years
- Vehicles, furniture and IT hardware – 5-8 years
- Plant, fittings and play equipment – 7-15 years
- Infrastructure assets – 5-50 years
- Intangible assets – 3-5 years

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Where an item of property has major components whose cost or value is 20% or more of the total cost or value of the non-land element of the property and whose useful economic life differs by 10 years or more from the life of the main asset, the components are depreciated separately. In principle the policy for componentisation applies to all items of Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE), however typically PPE items other than property assets are not of a nature that would require the policy to be applied, such that only property assets are considered for componentisation.

Depreciation is not provided for on newly acquired assets or construction or enhancement expenditure in the year of acquisition, construction or enhancement. A full year's depreciation is provided for in the year in which an asset is derecognised.

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.

Sites under development

Where the council is holding land for the purpose of constructing dwellings the land is held in surplus assets until the construction work commences. Once construction work commences and is anticipated to last longer than 12 months, the asset is transferred to assets under construction. Once substantially complete the valuer is asked to value the site as a completed development, including land value and the construction costs incurred to date, and the asset is transferred to operational assets.

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 losses previously recognised in the surplus or deficit on provision of services. Depreciation is not charged on assets held for sale.

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

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 are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal). Any revaluation gains accumulated for the asset in the revaluation reserve are transferred to the capital adjustment account.

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts. A proportion of receipts relating to right to buy disposals (net of statutory deductions and allowances) is payable to the government based on an agreed schedule. The balance of receipts is required to be credited to the capital receipts reserve, and can then only be used for new capital investment or set aside to reduce the council's underlying need to borrow (the capital financing requirement). Receipts are appropriated to the reserve from the general fund balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

2.13 Provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets**Provisions**

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

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Provisions are charged as an expense to the appropriate service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year that the council becomes aware of the obligation, and are measured at the best estimate at the balance sheet date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

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

Contingent liabilities

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

Contingent assets

A contingent asset arises where an event has taken place that gives the council a possible asset whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the council. Contingent assets are not recognised in the balance sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts.

2.14 Reserves

The council sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. Reserves are created by appropriating amounts out of the General Fund balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service in that year to score against the surplus or deficit on the provision of services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The reserve is then appropriated back into the General Fund balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement so that there is no net charge against council tax for the expenditure.

Certain reserves are kept to manage the accounting processes for non-current assets, financial instruments, retirement and employee benefits, and do not represent usable resources for the council – these reserves are explained in the relevant policies above.

2.15 Schools

The Code specifies that all schools maintained by the council are deemed to be under the council's control. The transactions and balances attributable to the governing bodies of the maintained schools have been consolidated into the council's financial statements, applying accounting policies for recognition and measurement consistent with those applied by the council to its own income, expenditure, cash flows, assets and liabilities. Transactions and balances between the council and schools have been eliminated.

2.16 Value added tax (VAT)

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

2.17 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.

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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.

3. ACCOUNTING STANDARDS ISSUED BUT NOT YET ADOPTED

At the balance sheet date the following new standards and amendments to existing standards have been published but not yet adopted by the Code of Practice of Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom:

<p>Amendments to IAS 28 Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures: Long-term Interests in Associates and Joint Ventures</p>	<p>Clarification that IFRS 9 Financial Instruments applies to an entity's long-term interests in an associate or joint venture to which the equity method is not applied but that form part of the entity's net investment in the investee. Such long-term interests would typically comprise long-term loans for which settlement is neither planned nor likely to occur in the foreseeable future. These interests will need to be considered under IFRS 9, particularly its impairment requirements. Only relevant therefore if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you are compiling group accounts that include associates and joint ventures • the authority has made loans to these group members which are not intended to be repaid in the foreseeable future expected credit losses for these long-term interests would be material amounts.
<p>Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2015-2017 Cycle: IFRS 3 Business Combinations and IFRS 11 Joint Arrangements – Previously Held Interest in a Joint Operation</p>	<p>Clarification of how an entity is to account for an increase in its interest in a joint operation that is a business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if joint control is maintained (or obtained for the first time), the previously held interest is not remeasured • if control is obtained, the transaction is treated as a business combination achieved in stages, and the acquirer remeasures the previously held interest at fair value.
<p>Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2015-2017 Cycle: IAS 23 Borrowing Costs – Borrowing Costs Eligible for Capitalisation</p>	<p>Clarification that if any specific borrowing remains outstanding after the related asset is ready for its intended use or sale, it becomes part of the funds that an entity borrows generally – i.e. it will be taken into account in calculating the borrowing costs for other assets for which funds are not borrowed specifically. Only relevant where the authority or a group member has a policy of capitalising borrowing costs and mixes specific and general borrowing approaches.</p>
<p>Amendments to IAS 19 Employee Benefits: Plan Amendment, Curtailment or Settlement</p>	<p>When plan amendments, curtailments or settlements take place, IAS 19 currently requires that the net pensions asset/liability is remeasured. The amendments require the updated assumptions from this remeasurement to be used in determining current service cost and net interest for the remainder of the year after the change to the plan.</p> <p>As the amendment will only apply to plan changes on or after 1 April 2020, there will be no impact on 2019-20 comparatives.</p> <p>As the updating of assumptions could result in positive, negative or no movement in the net pensions liability, depending on the circumstances at the date of change, no prediction can be made of the possible accounting impact.</p>

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IFRS 16 Leases (deferral to 1 April 2021)	<p>IFRS 16 Leases will require local authorities to review all their lessor and lessee accounting arrangements to comply with the new financial reporting standard, with potential balance sheet implications, and the initial assessment will be completed by the council during 2020-21.</p> <p>The key aspect is for lessees to recognise appropriate leases on their balance sheets as right-of-use assets with corresponding lease liabilities (there is recognition of de minimus thresholds for low-value and short-term leases). CIPFA/LASAAC have deferred implementation of IFRS16 for local government to 1 April 2021 (from 1 April 2020). As IFRS 16 is effective on or after 1 April 2020, there will be no impact on 2019-20 comparatives.</p>
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There are no changes in accounting requirements for 2020-21 that are anticipated to have a material impact on the council's financial performance or financial position.

4. CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES

In applying the accounting policies set out in note 2, the council has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. The critical judgements made in preparing the Statement of Accounts are as follows:

4.1 Accounting for schools' non-current assets

The council has undertaken a school by school assessment across the different types of school it controls. Judgements have been made to determine the arrangements in place and the accounting treatment of the non-current assets. The council has concluded that the assets of most foundation and voluntary aided schools in the borough should not be brought onto the balance sheet as these assets are not controlled by the council but rather by whichever trust or religious body is associated with each individual school. The exception is Charles Dickens primary (a foundation school) where the asset is owned and controlled by the council.

	Number of schools	Value of land and buildings recognised £000
Community schools, nursery schools and special schools	47	421,781
Voluntary aided faith schools and foundation schools	29	13,056

St Michael's, St Thomas and Sacred Heart are voluntary aided secondary schools. St Michael's became operational in January 2011, St Thomas in February 2012 and Sacred Heart in September 2014. The schools have been built and operated under PFI arrangements, under 25 year contracts with 4 Futures Ltd.

The assets of voluntary aided schools are deemed not to be assets of the council. Even though the council has the obligation to make payments under PFI arrangements to 4 Futures Ltd. for operating the schools and reimbursement of the capital expense incurred, the council does not have an interest in the assets. Further details of the financial arrangements for the schools PFI contracts, and the obligations outstanding, can be found in note 34.

4.2 Heat and energy supply arrangements

The heat supply PFI arrangement with Veolia environmental services became operational in November 2013. It placed piping and associated facilities to deliver heating to council residents. It has been assessed as a service concession in accordance with IFRS accounting practice. Unitary charges are payable until 2033 and allocated as charges for service, interest and principal. Further details of the financial arrangements for the heat and energy supply contract, and the obligations outstanding, can be found in note 34.

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20**4.3 Integrated waste management facility**

The integrated waste management facility at the Old Kent Road became operational in February 2012. This is a facility constructed by Veolia environmental services under a 25 year PFI contract for the collection and disposal of waste in the borough. The scheme has been evaluated in accordance with IFRS accounting practices, and it is considered that the council has an interest in the asset which should be reflected in the council's Balance Sheet, with a matching liability to make capital repayments as part of the unitary charges. The council has separated waste PFI contract payments between elements that vary according to availability of the property and another element that varies according to usage or performance of services using estimation techniques in accordance with the code. The property and related liability is measured at the fair value of the asset and the payments allocated between: (a) repayment of liability, (b) finance charge and (c) service element. The council further considers that payments prior to the asset becoming operational reasonably represent the fair value of services. Further details of the financial arrangements for the waste management contract, and the obligations outstanding, are in note 34.

5. ASSUMPTIONS MADE ABOUT THE FUTURE AND OTHER MAJOR SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

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

The items in the council's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2020 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

5.1 Valuation of property, plant and equipment

The requirements of the Code specify that the carrying amount of assets should not differ materially from that which would be determined using the fair value at the end of the reporting period. To ensure the council complies with this requirement assets held at fair value are revalued on a rolling basis such that assets are revalued every five years as a minimum. Assets are revalued more frequently where there is indication that a material change in fair value has taken place (see accounting policies for how this assessment is made).

The outbreak of Covid-19 has impacted global financial markets and as at the valuation date, less weight can be attached to previous market evidence to inform opinions of value. There is an unprecedented set of circumstances on which to base a judgement. Valuations are therefore reported on the basis of 'material valuation uncertainty' as per the RICS Red Book Global. Consequently, less certainty and a higher degree of caution should be attached to the valuation. At the current time, it is not possible to accurately predict the longevity and severity of the impact of Covid-19 on the economy. Therefore, values have been based on the situation prior to Covid-19, on the assumption that values will be restored when the real estate market becomes more fluid. The estimated remaining useful life of all operational assets is reviewed annually based on advice from valuers.

A reduction in the estimated valuations would result in reductions to the Revaluation Reserve and / or a loss recorded as appropriate in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. An increase in estimated valuations would result in increases to the Revaluation Reserve and / or reversals of previous negative revaluations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and / or gains being recorded as appropriate in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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5.2 Fair value measurement of investment property

The council's valuers use valuation techniques to determine the fair value of investment property. This involves developing estimates and assumptions consistent with how market participants would price the property. The valuers base their assumptions on observable data as far as possible, but this is not always available. In that case, the valuers use the best information available.

At the current time, it is not possible to accurately predict the longevity and severity of the impact of Covid-19 on the economy. Therefore, it has been difficult to value property assets. Values have been based on the situation prior to Covid-19, on the assumption that values will be restored when the real estate market becomes more fluid. However, the valuer continues to review observable data for the conditions as at 31 March 2020. As a result of the impact of Covid-19, valuations are reported on the basis of 'material valuation uncertainty' as per the RICS Red Book Global. Consequently, less certainty and a higher degree of caution should be attached to the valuation.

5.3 Valuation of HRA Dwellings

The HRA residential portfolio is valued based on a beacon methodology. In order to value the whole portfolio, it was necessary to research a number of information sources. These include sales of directly comparable property, changes of income flow for non-residential property, information available at a local level showing house price movement plus regional and national indices.

Due to the impact of Covid-19, valuations are reported on the basis of 'material valuation uncertainty' as per the RICS Red Book Global. Consequently, less certainty and a higher degree of caution should be attached to the valuation.

5.4 Movement in property valuations analysis

A sensitivity analysis detailing movement in valuations is as follows:

Asset category	Assets valued at 31 March 2020 £000	Increase in valuation		Decrease in valuation	
		1% £000	5% £000	1% £000	5% £000
Council dwellings	3,420,732	34,207	171,037	(34,207)	(171,037)
Other land and buildings	876,811	8,768	43,841	(8,768)	(43,841)
Surplus assets	125,024	1,250	6,251	(1,250)	(6,251)
Investment property	343,805	3,438	17,190	(3,438)	(17,190)
Assets held for sale	22,320	223	1,116	(223)	(1,116)
Total	4,788,692	47,886	239,435	(47,886)	(239,435)

5.5 Defined benefit pension liability

The council recognises its outstanding liabilities to meet future pensions costs, and accounts for those liabilities in accordance with IAS 19. At 31 March 2020 the outstanding net liability was assessed at £584.540m (£712.470m at 31 March 2019). For two of the pension funds the council contributes to, its own and that of the London Pension Fund Authority, the council's outstanding liability is assessed by consulting actuaries to each fund.

Estimation by the actuaries of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. The effects on the net pension's liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured. The estimates, assumptions and sensitivity of changes in assumptions are provided in note 37.

The ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has created an unprecedented set of circumstances on which to base judgement. As such, the Pension Fund property and infrastructure allocations as at 31 March 2020 are difficult to value according to preferred accounting policy. Valuations are therefore reported on the basis of 'material valuation uncertainty'. Consequently, less certainty and a higher degree of caution should be attached to the valuation than would normally be the case.

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20**5.6 Britain leaving the European Union**

There is still uncertainty about the implications of Britain's departure from the European Union. At the current time it is not possible to predict the agreement that will be reached at the end of the transition period. The assumption has been made that this will not significantly impair the value of the council's assets or change the discount rate. However, this assumption will be revisited and reviewed regularly.

5.7 Impairment allowance for doubtful debt

As at 31 March 2020, the council had an outstanding balance of short-term debtors totalling £230.7m. Against this debtors' balance, there is an impairment allowance of £70.5m. It is not certain that this impairment allowance would be sufficient as the council cannot assess with certainty which debts will be collected or not. The economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has made the estimation of debt impairment more difficult as there is more uncertainty about the economic viability of debtors and hence their ability to settle their debts.

6. EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

The Statement of Accounts were authorised for issue by the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance on 31 May 2020. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or notes. Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31 March 2020, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information.

There are no non-adjusting events after the balance sheet date.

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7. NOTE TO THE EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS: ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN FUNDING AND ACCOUNTING BASIS

Adjustments from General Fund and HRA to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	2019-20				2018-19			
	Adjustments for capital purposes	Net change for the pensions adjustments	Other differences	Total adjustments	Adjustments for capital purposes	Net change for the pensions adjustments	Other differences	Total adjustments
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Chief executive's	-	332	3	335	-	158	2	160
Children's and adults'	29,627	15,700	(2,999)	42,328	30,381	7,751	2,800	40,932
Environment and leisure	19,484	7,815	16	27,315	19,457	3,081	35	22,573
Finance and governance	(3,899)	(7,346)	(284)	(11,529)	(3,517)	22,693	(197)	18,979
Housing and modernisation	9,714	2,725	(52)	12,387	12,765	1,724	25	14,514
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	74,314	6,365	193	80,872	70,108	3,911	1,022	75,041
Place and wellbeing	8,247	1,735	1,414	11,396	97	757	8,221	9,075
Net cost of services	137,487	27,326	(1,709)	163,104	129,291	40,075	11,908	181,274
Other income and expenditure from the funding analysis	(59,539)	16,580	10,202	(32,757)	(79,828)	16,149	25,148	(38,531)
Differences between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement surplus or deficit	77,948	43,906	8,493	130,347	49,463	56,224	37,056	142,743

Adjustments for capital purposes

This column adds in depreciation and impairment and revaluation gains and losses in the service line. For other operating expenditure it adjusts for capital disposals with a transfer of income on disposal of assets and the amounts written off for those assets. For financing and investment income and expenditure it adjusts for the statutory charges for capital financing and investment i.e. minimum revenue provision (MRP) and other revenue contributions are deducted from other income and expenditure as these are not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices. For taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure, capital grants are adjusted for income not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices. Revenue grants are adjusted from those receivable in the year to those receivable without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied throughout the year. The taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure line is credited with capital grants receivable in the year without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied in the year.

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Net change for the pensions adjustments

This column adjusts for the net change for the renewal of pension contributions and the addition of IAS 19 Employee Benefits pension related expenditure and income. For services, this represents the removal of the employer pension contributions made by the authority as allowed by statute and the replacement with current service costs and past service costs. For financing and investment income and expenditure, this adjusts for the net interest on the defined benefit liability is charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Other differences

Other differences between amounts debited/credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and amounts payable/receivable to be recognised under statute. For services, this represents removal of the annual leave accrual adjustment. For financing and investment income and expenditure the other differences column recognises adjustments to General Fund for the timing differences for premiums and discounts and financial instruments. The charge under taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure represents the difference between what is chargeable under statutory regulations for council tax and non-domestic rates that was projected to be received at the start of the year and the income recognised under generally accepted accounting practices in the CIPFA Code of Accounting Practice for Local Authorities 2019-20. This is a timing difference as any difference will be brought forward in future surpluses or deficits on the Collection Fund.

An analysis of the nature of expenditure and income is detailed as follows:

	2019-20	2018-19
	£000	£000
Expenditure		
Employee expenses	421,748	413,265
Other services expenses	748,382	781,277
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	119,039	90,935
Interest payments	37,060	34,874
Precepts and levies	1,993	1,973
(Gains) / losses on the disposal of assets	3,232	(9,754)
Sub-total	1,331,454	1,312,570
Income		
Fees, charges and other service income	(345,350)	(360,677)
Interest and investment income	(26,125)	(20,500)
Income from council tax and business rates (NDR)	(288,232)	(289,490)
Government grants and contributions	(569,534)	(535,404)
Sub-total	(1,229,241)	(1,206,071)
Deficit on the provision of services	102,213	106,499

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8. OTHER OPERATING EXPENDITURE

	2019-20	2018-19
	£000	£000
Levies	1,993	1,973
Payment to the government's housing capital receipts pool	4,267	4,265
(Gain) / loss on the disposal of non-current assets	3,232	(9,754)
Total	9,492	(3,516)

9. FINANCING AND INVESTMENT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	2019-20	2018-19
	£000	£000
Interest payable and similar charges	37,617	35,244
Grant contributions towards interest costs on PFI schemes	(7,412)	(7,442)
Net interest on the net defined benefit liability	16,580	16,149
Interest receivable and similar income	(5,806)	(4,256)
Income, expenditure and changes in the fair value of investment properties	(21,618)	(17,255)
Total	19,361	22,440

10. TAXATION AND NON-SPECIFIC GRANT INCOME

	2019-20	2018-19
	£000	£000
Council tax income	(109,082)	(106,873)
Non-domestic rates income and expenditure	(179,150)	(182,617)
Un-ringfenced government grants	(30,205)	(16,764)
Capital grants and contributions	(56,636)	(66,045)
Total	(375,073)	(372,299)

11. ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATIONS

This note details the adjustments made to the total comprehensive income and expenditure recognised by the council in the year and to the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to the council to meet future capital and revenue expenditure. This is in accordance with proper accounting practice. The following sets out a description of the reserves that the adjustments are made against.

General Fund balance

The General Fund is the statutory fund into which all the receipts of an authority are required to be paid and out of which all liabilities of the council are to be met, except to the extent that statutory rules might provide otherwise. These rules can also specify the financial year in which liabilities and payments should impact on the General Fund balance, which is not necessarily in accordance with proper accounting practice. The General Fund balance therefore summarises the resources that the council is statutorily empowered to spend on its services or on capital investment (or the deficit of resources that the council is required to recover) at the end of the financial year. The balance is not available to be applied to funding HRA services.

Housing Revenue Account balance

The Housing Revenue Account balance reflects the statutory obligation to maintain a revenue account for local authority council housing provision in accordance with Part VI of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. It contains the balance of income and expenditure as defined by the 1989 Act that is available to fund future expenditure in connection with the council's landlord function. The balance is not available to be applied to funding HRA services.

Major repairs reserve

The major repairs reserve controls an element of the capital resources limited to being used on capital expenditure on HRA assets or the financing of historical capital expenditure for the HRA. The balance shows the capital resources that have yet to be applied at the year-end.

Capital receipts reserve

The capital receipts reserve holds the proceeds from the disposal of land and other assets, which are restricted by statute from being used other than to fund new capital expenditure or to be set aside to finance historical capital expenditure. The balance on the reserve shows the resources that have yet to be applied for these purposes at the year-end.

Capital grants unapplied

The capital grants unapplied account holds the grants and contributions received towards capital projects for which the council has met the conditions that would otherwise require repayment of the income but which has yet to be applied to meet expenditure. The balance is restricted by grant terms as to the capital expenditure against which it can be applied and / or the financial year in which this can take place.

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2019-20	General Fund balance	Housing Revenue Account	Major repairs reserve	Capital receipts reserve	Capital grants unapplied	Movement in unusable reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Adjustments primarily involving the capital adjustment account						
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:						
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(35,341)	(83,698)	-	-	-	119,039
Revaluation losses on property, plant and equipment	(17,907)	(60,309)	-	-	-	78,216
Movements in the fair value of investment properties	514	6,540	-	-	-	(7,054)
Capital grants and contributions applied	30,008	26,628	-	-	-	(56,636)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(19,509)	(5,381)	-	-	-	24,890
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(16,966)	(17,079)	-	-	-	34,045
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:						
Provision to reduce the capital financing requirement (minimum revenue provision MRP)	3,593	-	-	-	-	(3,593)
Lease and PFI repayment	5,064	221	-	-	-	(5,285)
Repayment of premiums	241	824	-	-	-	(1,065)
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	665	23,758	-	-	-	(24,423)
Adjustments primarily involving the capital receipts reserve:						
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	7,944	29,280	-	(37,224)	-	-
Transfer from deferred debtors to usable capital receipts reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-
Use of the capital receipts reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-	-	-	35,527	-	(35,527)
Contribution from the capital receipts reserve towards administrative costs of non-current asset disposals	(60)	(351)	-	411	-	-
Contribution from the capital receipts reserve to finance the payments to the government capital receipts pool	(4,267)	-	-	4,267	-	-
Adjustments primarily involving the deferred capital receipts reserve:						
Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	(6,000)	-	-	-	6,000
Adjustments primarily involving the major repairs reserve:						
MRR credited with an amount equal to the depreciation charged to the HRA	-	50,439	(50,439)	-	-	-
To transfer from the HRA to the MRR for excess depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Use of the major repairs reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-	-	59,092	-	-	(59,092)

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2019-20	General Fund balance	Housing Revenue Account	Major repairs reserve	Capital receipts reserve	Capital grants unapplied	Movement in unusable reserves
Adjustments primarily involving the financial instruments adjustment account:						
Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(244)	422	-	-	-	(178)
Adjustments primarily involving the pensions reserve (note 37):						
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(68,762)	(13,869)	-	-	-	82,631
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	34,051	4,673	-	-	-	(38,724)
Adjustments primarily involving the Collection Fund adjustment account:						
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	(5,310)	-	-	-	-	5,310
Amount by which business rates income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from business rates income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(3,342)	-	-	-	-	3,342
Adjustment primarily involving the accumulated absences account:						
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	3,107	77	-	-	-	(3,184)
Total adjustments	(86,521)	(43,825)	8,653	2,981	-	118,712

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2018-19	General Fund balance £000	Housing Revenue Account £000	Major repairs reserve £000	Capital receipts reserve £000	Capital grants unapplied £000	Movement in unusable reserves £000
Adjustments primarily involving the capital adjustment account:						
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:						
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(35,690)	(55,245)	-	-	-	90,935
Revaluation losses on property, plant and equipment	(1,991)	(86,157)	-	-	-	88,148
Movements in the fair value of investment properties	(2,917)	7,586	-	-	-	(4,669)
Capital grants and contributions applied	46,199	19,846	-	-	-	(66,045)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(25,038)	(2,333)	-	-	-	27,371
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(91,464)	(37,851)	-	-	-	129,315
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:						
Provision to reduce the capital financing requirement	3,004	-	-	4,676	-	(7,680)
Lease and PFI repayment	-	216	-	-	-	(216)
Repayment of premiums	241	824	-	-	-	(1,065)
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	531	22,019	-	-	-	(22,550)
Adjustments primarily involving the capital receipts reserve:						
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	116,245	28,899	-	(145,144)	-	-
Transfer from deferred debtors to usable capital receipts	-	-	-	(5)	-	5
Use of the capital receipts reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-	-	-	162,325	-	(162,325)
Contribution from the capital receipts reserve towards administrative costs of non-current asset disposals	(653)	(422)	-	1,075	-	-
Contribution from the capital receipts reserve to finance the payments to the government capital receipts pool	(4,265)	-	-	4,265	-	-
Provision to reduce the capital financing requirement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adjustments primarily involving the deferred capital receipts reserve:						
Transfer to the capital receipts reserve upon receipt of cash	-	(5,000)	-	-	-	5,000

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2018-19	General Fund balance	Housing Revenue Account	Major repairs reserve	Capital receipts reserve	Capital grants unapplied	Movement in unusable reserves
Adjustments primarily involving the major repairs reserve:						
MRR credited with an amount equal to the depreciation charged to the HRA	-	50,752	(50,752)	-	-	-
To transfer from the HRA to the MRR for excess depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Use of the major repairs reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-	-	50,752	-	-	(50,752)
Adjustments primarily involving the financial instruments adjustment account:						
Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(7,002)	(116)	-	-	-	7,118
Adjustments primarily involving the pensions reserve (note 37):						
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(82,735)	(13,309)	-	-	-	96,044
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	33,809	6,010	-	-	-	(39,819)
Adjustments primarily involving the Collection Fund adjustment account:						
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	(3,237)	-	-	-	-	3,237
Amount by which business rates income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(20,455)	-	-	-	-	20,455
Adjustment primarily involving the accumulated absences account:						
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(2,937)	(107)	-	-	-	3,044
Total adjustments	(78,355)	(64,388)	-	27,192	-	115,551

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12. USABLE RESERVES

Reserves represent the authority's net worth and show its spending power. Usable reserves result from the authority's activities and can be spent in the future. This note sets out the amounts set aside and posted back to usable reserves in 2019-20, they include:

- General Fund reserve – to cushion the impact of unexpected events or emergencies
- Earmarked reserves – to provide financing to meet known or predicted future General Fund expenditure plans
- School balances/Dedicated Schools Grant reserves – amounts required by statute to be set aside for future expenditure in schools
- Housing Revenue Account general and major repairs reserves – amounts specifically required by statute to be set aside and ringfenced for future investment in HRA
- Capital reserves – includes capital receipts and capital grants set aside to finance future capital spending plans

	1 April 2019	Transfer out 2019	Transfer in 2019	31 March 2020	1 April 2018	Transfer out 2018	Transfer in 2018	31 March 2019
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
General Fund reserve	(21,002)	-	-	(21,002)	(18,803)	-	(2,199)	(21,002)
Earmarked reserves								
Corporate projects and priorities reserves	(9,137)	3,803	(14,207)	(19,541)	(5,500)	1,287	(4,924)	(9,137)
Service improvement reserves	(15,375)	3,037	(7,012)	(19,350)	(9,419)	2,612	(8,568)	(15,375)
Capital investment reserves	(23,418)	1,868	(1,697)	(23,247)	(22,502)	221	(1,137)	(23,418)
Strategic financing risk reserves	(36,450)	487	(14,543)	(50,506)	(14,325)	8	(22,133)	(36,450)
Technical liabilities and smoothing reserves	(27,940)	168	(6,658)	(34,430)	(18,906)	510	(9,544)	(27,940)
Sub total	(112,320)	9,363	(44,117)	(147,074)	(70,652)	4,638	(46,306)	(112,320)
Schools reserves								
Schools - DSG reserve	11,515	7,010	-	18,525	4,111	7,404	-	11,515
Schools - balances	(12,875)	4,022	(2,232)	(11,085)	(13,968)	8,368	(7,275)	(12,875)
Sub total	(1,360)	11,032	(2,232)	7,440	(9,857)	15,772	(7,275)	(1,360)
HRA reserves								
HRA general reserve	(20,833)	4,154	(6,333)	(23,012)	(19,959)	5,226	(6,099)	(20,833)
Major repairs reserve	(10,921)	59,092	(50,439)	(2,268)	(10,921)	50,752	(50,752)	(10,921)
Sub total	(31,754)	63,246	(56,772)	(25,280)	(30,880)	55,978	(56,851)	(31,753)
Capital reserves								
Capital receipts reserve	(52,657)	48,777	(45,796)	(49,676)	(79,849)	179,394	(152,202)	(52,657)
Sub total	(52,657)	48,777	(45,796)	(49,676)	(79,849)	179,394	(152,202)	(52,657)
Total	(219,093)	132,418	(148,917)	(235,592)	(210,041)	255,782	(264,833)	(219,092)

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13. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (PPE)

This note summarises the changes that have taken place during the year to the carrying amounts of the council's net book value of property, plant and equipment.

2019-20	Council dwellings £000	Other land and buildings £000	Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment £000	Infrastructure assets £000	Community assets £000	Surplus assets £000	Assets under construction £000	Total £000	PFI assets included in property, plant and equipment £000
Gross book value									
Opening balance	3,423,016	1,045,370	97,664	425,832	15,144	162,871	68,180	5,238,077	87,663
Additions	96,524	11,654	1,736	31,413	415	1,833	84,768	228,343	492
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the revaluation reserve	14,804	6,233	-	-	-	12,049	790	33,876	(1,534)
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the surplus/deficit on the provision of services	(92,103)	(18,256)	-	(6,686)	1,113	(1,311)	-	(117,243)	-
Derecognition – disposals	(7,683)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(7,683)	-
Derecognition – other	(8,430)	(6,753)	-	-	-	(7,641)	-	(22,824)	-
Assets reclassified	2,118	3,066	-	-	-	(12,697)	(3,316)	(10,829)	-
Other movements in cost or valuation	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	256
Balance as at 31 March	3,428,265	1,041,314	99,400	450,559	16,672	155,104	150,422	5,341,736	86,877
Depreciation and impairment									
Opening balance	345	18,745	63,604	119,294	901	1,498	288	204,675	6,906
Depreciation charge	48,845	15,504	5,382	15,846	-	203	-	85,780	2,004
Depreciation written out on revaluations recognised in the revaluation reserve	(39,799)	(14,723)	-	-	-	(897)	(415)	(55,834)	(875)
Depreciation written out on revaluations recognised in the surplus/deficit on the provision of services	(9,100)	(4,367)	-	(485)	-	-	-	(13,952)	-
Derecognition – disposals	(108)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(108)	-
Derecognition – other	(122)	(4,218)	-	-	-	(436)	-	(4,776)	-
Assets reclassified	-	(1,385)	-	-	-	4	163	(1,218)	-
Balance as at 31 March	61	9,556	68,986	134,655	901	372	36	214,567	8,033
Net book value at 31 March	3,428,204	1,031,758	30,414	315,904	15,771	154,732	150,386	5,127,169	78,844

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2018-19	Council dwellings	Other land and buildings	Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment	Infrastructure assets	Community assets	Surplus assets	Assets under construction	Total	PFI assets included in property, plant and equipment	Restated
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Gross book value										
Opening balance	3,480,309	1,025,447	95,094	394,029	12,395	163,779	99,221	5,270,274	87,160	
Additions	69,878	20,273	2,570	34,549	2,770	52,175	48,049	230,264	503	
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the revaluation reserve	(61,892)	12,604	-	-	-	6,048	(13,110)	(56,350)	-	
Revaluation Increases/(decreases) recognised in the surplus/deficit on the provision of services	(58,454)	(3,005)	-	-	-	882	-	(60,577)	-	
Derecognition – disposals	(7,079)	-	-	(1,327)	-	-	-	(8,406)	-	
Derecognition – other	(27,884)	(28,088)	-	-	(21)	(7,026)	-	(63,019)	-	
Assets reclassified	28,431	18,080	-	(1,788)	-	(52,987)	(66,009)	(74,273)	-	
Other movements in cost or valuation	(293)	59	-	369	-	-	29	164	-	
Balance as at 31 March	3,423,016	1,045,370	97,664	425,832	15,144	162,871	68,180	5,238,077	87,663	
Depreciation and impairment										
Opening balance	1,727	27,245	56,815	105,324	901	3,118	288	195,418	5,809	
Depreciation charge	49,303	15,336	6,789	14,654	-	361	-	86,443	1,937	
Depreciation written out on revaluations recognised in the revaluation reserve	(50,331)	(18,100)	-	-	-	(12)	-	(68,443)	(840)	
Depreciation written out on revaluations recognised in the surplus/deficit on the provision of services	(145)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(145)	-	
Derecognition – disposals	(96)	-	-	(361)	-	-	-	(457)	-	
Derecognition – other	(209)	(5,945)	-	-	-	(1,956)	-	(8,110)	-	
Assets reclassified	89	150	-	(323)	-	(13)	-	(97)	-	
Other movements in depreciation and impairment	7	59	-	-	-	-	-	66	-	
Balance as at 31 March	345	18,745	63,604	119,294	901	1,498	288	204,675	6,906	
Net book value at 31 March	3,422,671	1,026,625	34,060	306,538	14,243	161,373	67,892	5,033,402	80,757	

PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (PPE) continued

The valuation of assets has been carried out by the council's internal valuation service, led by Matthew Jackson MRICS BSc. The effective date of annual revaluation of council dwellings is 31 December 2019 of the relevant accounting period. Other land and buildings (OLB) and surplus assets are valued at 31 December 2019 on a 20% rolling basis to ensure valuation of all assets in this category within five years. Assets held for sale and investment properties (General Fund and Housing Revenue Account) are valued at 31 March 2020 of the relevant accounting period.

The entire housing stock, assets held for sale and investment properties are valued on an annual basis. Review of assets under construction as well as general impairments to assets are also carried out on an annual basis.

The effective date of valuations arising from in-year capital expenditure of £0.4m and above, physical impairment or material changes in the value of assets in any category is 31 March 2020 of the relevant accounting period. In 2019-20, a sum of £33.3m was charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and to the capital adjustment account largely due to impairments to Maydew, Ledbury and Tustin estates (council dwellings).

The valuers valuations are therefore reported on the basis of 'material valuation uncertainty' by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) red book global. Consequently, less certainty – and a higher degree of caution – should be attached to the valuations than would normally be the case.

The outbreak of the novel coronavirus (Covid-19), declared by the World Health Organisation as a "global pandemic" on 11 March 2020, has impacted global financial markets. Travel restrictions have been implemented by many countries. Market activity is being impacted in many sectors. As at the valuation date, the valuer considers that we can attach less weight to previous market evidence for comparison purposes, to inform opinions of value. Indeed, the current response to Covid-19 means that the valuer is faced with an unprecedented set of circumstances on which to base a judgement.

Further details on the gross book value of property, plant and equipment assets and the year of valuations are detailed as follows:

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	Council dwellings	Other land and buildings	Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment	Infrastructure assets	Community assets	Surplus assets	Asset under construction	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Held at historic cost and at depreciated historic cost	7,533	21,586	99,400	450,559	16,672	11,311	150,422	757,483
Different valuations are applied to different valuation classes								
31 March 2020	3,420,732	876,811	-	-	-	125,024	-	4,422,567
31 March 2019	-	45,629	-	-	-	15,187	-	60,816
31 March 2018	-	38,895	-	-	-	2,000	-	40,895
31 March 2017	-	23,515	-	-	-	480	-	23,995
31 March 2016	-	34,878	-	-	-	1,102	-	35,980
Total	3,428,265	1,041,314	99,400	450,559	16,672	155,104	150,422	5,341,736

At 31 March 2020, the council has entered into a number of contracts for the construction or enhancement of property, plant and equipment in 2019-20 and future years budgeted to cost £93.1 million. Similar commitments at 31 March 2019 were £109.0 million.

The commitments are as below:

	£m
General Fund	18.3
Housing Revenue Account	74.8
Total	93.1

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14. INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

The income and expenditure on investment assets was as follows:

	2019-20	2018-19
	£000	£000
Rental income from investment property	(20,649)	(16,425)
Fair value adjustments	(7,054)	(4,669)
Direct operating expenses arising from investment property	6,085	3,839
Net (gain)/loss included in financing and investment income in CIES	(21,618)	(17,255)

Fair value adjustments: negative figure equals upwards revaluation; positive figure equals downwards revaluation.

The movement in the fair value of investment properties held was as follows:

	2019-20	2018-19
	£000	£000
Balance as at 1 April	334,529	232,394
Additions	824	92,095
Disposals	(623)	(681)
Net gains/(losses) from fair value adjustments	7,054	4,669
Reconciliation to current balances	-	(135)
Transfers (to)/from property, plant and equipment	2,021	6,187
Balance as at 31 March	343,805	334,529

Properties held under operating leases

The council holds a number of properties as lessee, held as operating leases, which are then sub-leased out as investment properties. The income and expenditure on these leases is included above but, being operating leases, are not included with property, plant and equipment. The council also rents out property for shops, community, and commercial use.

15. ASSETS HELD FOR SALE

	Current		Non-current	
	2019-20	2018-19	2019-20	2018-19
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April	27,454	8,854	17,150	65,339
Additions	964	-	4,816	-
Transfers from property, plant and equipment	-	18,600	7,590	49,369
Revaluation loss taken to surplus or deficit on the provision of services	(964)	-	(7,236)	(32,219)
Assets sold	(7,800)	-	-	(65,339)
Balance at 31 March	19,654	27,454	22,320	17,150

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16. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value. The balance of cash and cash equivalents is made up of the elements set out below. The bank overdraft is a function of the council's utilisation of multiple pooled bank accounts and is integral to the day-to-day cash management of the council. The bank overdraft includes all outstanding and unrepresented items.

	31 March 2020	31 March 2019
	£000	£000
Cash held by the council	6	7
Short-term funds in money markets	26,645	45,616
Sub-total	26,651	45,623
Bank current accounts (bank overdraft)	(8,616)	(9,634)
Total cash and cash equivalents	18,035	35,989

17. DEBTORS

	31 March 2020		31 March 2019	
	Short-term debtors	Long-term debtors	Short-term debtors	Long-term debtors
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Central government bodies	58,426	-	22,583	-
Other local authorities	13,194	-	14,784	-
NHS bodies	6,587	-	6,971	-
Private entities and individuals	152,457	23,899	156,125	23,355
Total before impairment	230,664	23,899	200,463	23,355
Impairment	(70,496)	-	(64,391)	-
Total net of impairment	160,168	23,899	136,072	23,355

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18. CREDITORS

	31 March 2020		31 March 2019	
	Short-term creditors	Long-term creditors	Short-term creditors	Long-term creditors
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Central government bodies	(27,031)	-	(14,329)	-
Other local authorities	(23,413)	-	(26,002)	-
NHS bodies	(6,745)	-	(5,642)	-
Private entities and individuals	(102,113)	(9,288)	(126,080)	(10,546)
Total	(159,302)	(9,288)	(172,053)	(10,546)

19. PROVISIONS

	31 March 2020		31 March 2019	
	Short-term provisions	Long-term provisions	Short-term provisions	Long-term provisions
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Insurance provision	-	(8,357)	-	(8,357)
Business rates appeals	(3,874)	(5,050)	(3,409)	(17,911)
Provision for refunds - Thames Water (former tenants)	-	(1,636)	-	(2,158)
Other miscellaneous provisions (schools and motor insurance)	-	(673)	-	(673)
Total	(3,874)	(15,716)	(3,409)	(29,099)

The insurance provision represents amounts set aside to meet known liabilities but where settlements have not been agreed. Payment for these claims will be made over a number of years. The provision includes an amount in respect of Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI). The council is responsible for its share of any claims where the incident occurred prior to 31 March 1996.

The amount provided for business rate appeals (council share) is £8.9m at 31 March 2020, having decreased from £21.3m at 31 March 2019. This was partly as a result of the council's share decreasing from 64% to 48% as a member of the London pool 75% business rates retention scheme in 2019-20. The provision is based on data and trends that reflect local circumstances.

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20. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT

The council's expenditure on schools is funded primarily by grant provided by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). DSG is ring fenced and can only be applied to meet expenditure properly included in the schools budget, as defined in the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2013. The schools budget includes elements for a range of educational services provided on an authority wide basis and for the individual schools budget, which is divided into a budget share for each maintained school.

Details of the deployment of DSG receivable for 2019-20 are as follows:

	Central expenditure £000	Individual schools budgets £000	Total	Total
			2019-20 £000	2018-19 £000
Final DSG before academy and high needs recoupment			(320,245)	(315,133)
Academy and high needs figure recouped			126,700	118,212
Total DSG after academy and high needs recoupment			(193,545)	(196,921)
Brought forward from previous year			11,515	4,111
Carry forward to future year agreed in advance			-	-
Agreed initial budgeted distribution for the year	(24,139)	(157,891)	(182,030)	(192,810)
In-year adjustments	612	-	612	-
Final budget distribution for the year	(23,527)	(157,891)	(181,418)	(192,810)
Less: actual central expenditure	42,052		42,052	39,248
Less: actual individual school budget (ISB) deployed to schools		157,891	157,891	165,077
Plus: local authority contribution	-	-	-	-
Carry-forward deficit to 2020-21	18,525	-	18,525	11,515

The final DSG before academy recoupment figure includes a provision for the early years block. Final DSG allocations are announced in June following the end of each financial year based on census figures at the preceding January. Any adjustment to the to the final DSG allocation will be treated as an 'in-year' adjustment.

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21. GRANT INCOME

The council credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

	2019-20	Restated 2018-19
	£000	£000
Credited to taxation and non specific grant income		
Business rates tariff / (top up)	(23,903)	5,760
New homes bonus	(12,830)	(11,398)
Autumn statement compensation grant	(11,186)	(9,453)
Covid-19 pressures	(11,137)	-
Levy account surplus grant	(389)	(1,749)
Capital grants and contributions	(56,636)	(66,045)
Sub total	(116,081)	(82,885)
Credited to provision of services		
Dedicated Schools Grant	(192,650)	(196,921)
Housing benefits subsidy - rent rebates granted to HRA tenants	(69,946)	(73,355)
Housing benefits subsidy - rent allowances	(61,207)	(68,752)
Housing benefits subsidy - non HRA rent rebates	(11,526)	(7,799)
Housing benefit / council tax administration	(2,247)	(2,417)
Public health	(26,744)	(27,469)
Better care fund	(16,332)	(16,066)
Improved better care fund	(15,752)	(12,584)
Pupil premium grant	(9,435)	(11,426)
Private finance initiative (PFI)	(9,935)	(9,935)
Universal infant free school meals	(2,425)	(2,838)
Tackling troubled families	(1,551)	(1,439)
School sixth form funding	(1,749)	(2,173)
Community learning grant	(1,487)	(1,434)
Discretionary housing payment	(1,188)	(1,276)
Unaccompanied asylum child grant	(1,856)	(1,344)
Flexible homelessness support grant	(3,616)	(3,194)
Social care support grant	(2,683)	(982)
Teacher's grant	(4,058)	(592)
Adult social care winter pressures	(1,571)	(1,571)
Physical education and sports grant	(1,191)	(1,224)
London crime prevention fund	(995)	(1,034)
Rough sleeper	(1,599)	(903)
Other grants individually less than £1 million	(11,710)	(5,791)
Sub total	(453,453)	(452,519)
Total	(569,534)	(535,404)

The final Dedicated Schools Grant for 2018-19 was reduced by £612k in July 2019 to take account of updated census figures. This amount was repaid in 2019-20.

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Capital grants received in advance and applied towards capital expenditure were:

	2019-20	2018-19
	£000	£000
Balance as at 1 April	(99,726)	(107,093)
New capital grants received in advance	(56,514)	(58,678)
Amounts released to the CIES (conditions met)	56,636	66,045
Balance as at 31 March	(99,604)	(99,726)

The balance of capital grants unapplied remaining as receipts in advance were:

		Restated
	2019-20	2018-19
	£000	£000
Planning gains	(86,756)	(91,096)
Education	(1,841)	(1,411)
Transport for London	(1,303)	(1,232)
Schools	(3,848)	(2,906)
New homes	(3,090)	(1,491)
Other grants individually less than £1 million	(2,766)	(1,590)
Balance as at 31 March	(99,604)	(99,726)

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22. POOLED BUDGETS

Better Care Fund (BCF)

Southwark council and Southwark Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are partners in the provision of services to support reduced hospital admissions and length of stay. Joint arrangements of this type are permitted under Section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006. The BCF provides various services to residents of Southwark who benefit from specific targeted interventions, as well as supporting hospitals to treat people closer to their homes and communities. The council is the lead authority for the arrangement.

	2019-20		2018-19	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Funding provided to the pooled budget:				
· Council	18,809		13,971	
· CCG	22,655		21,450	
		41,464		35,421
Expenditure met from the pooled budget:				
· Council	35,142		30,028	
· CCG	6,322		5,393	
		41,464		35,421
Net surplus arising on the pooled budget in the year		-		-

Integrated community equipment store (ICES)

Southwark council and the CCG also operate pooled fund arrangements for an integrated community equipment service. The council is the lead authority for the arrangement. Expenditure met from the pooled budget was £2.15m in 2019-20 (£2.03m in 2018-19).

NHS South East London Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

On 1 April 2020, NHS South East London Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) was established. The new CCG is made up of the previous six south east London CCGs in Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark.

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23. UNUSABLE RESERVES

Unusable reserves are those that the council is not able to use to provide services. This category of reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the revaluation reserve) and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line 'adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations.' Unusable reserves comprise:

	31 March	Restated
	2020	31 March
	£000	2019
	£000	£000
Capital adjustment account	(2,555,431)	(2,573,777)
Financial instruments adjustment account	27,434	28,678
Revaluation reserve	(1,893,268)	(1,849,792)
Pensions reserve	606,640	712,470
Deferred capital receipts	-	(6,000)
Collection Fund adjustment account	19,959	11,308
Accumulated absences adjustment account	7,246	10,429
Financial instruments revaluation reserve	378	208
Total unusable reserves	(3,787,042)	(3,666,476)

Capital adjustment account

The capital adjustment account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of non-current assets and for financing the acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions. The account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (with reconciling postings from the revaluation reserve to convert fair value figures to a historical cost basis). The account contains accumulated gains and losses on investment properties and gains recognised on donated assets that have yet to be consumed by the council. The account also contains revaluation gains accumulated on property, plant and equipment before 1 April 2007, the date that the revaluation reserve was created to hold such gains.

	2019-20		2018-19	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April		(2,573,777)		(2,498,966)
Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:				
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	119,039		90,935	
Revaluation losses on property, plant and equipment and AHFS	78,216		88,148	
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	24,890		27,371	
Movements in the market value of investment properties	(7,054)		(4,669)	
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	34,045		129,315	
		249,136		331,099
Continued				

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	2019-20		2018-19	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Adjusting amounts written to the capital adjustment account for disposals and restatements	(19,070)		(90,737)	
Adjusting amounts written out of the revaluation reserve for the difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	(27,164)		(5,611)	
Transfer from deferred debtors	-		5	
Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year		(46,234)		(96,343)
Capital financing applied in the year:				
Use of the capital receipts reserve to finance new capital expenditure	(35,527)		(162,325)	
Use of the major repairs reserve to finance new capital expenditure	(59,092)		(50,752)	
Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital financing	(56,636)		(66,045)	
Provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	(8,878)		(3,219)	
Provision to reduce the capital financing requirement (minimum revenue provision)	-		(4,676)	
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	(24,423)		(22,550)	
Total		(184,556)		(309,567)
Balance at 31 March		(2,555,431)		(2,573,777)

Financial instruments adjustment account

The financial instruments adjustment account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for income and expenses relating to certain financial instruments and for bearing losses or benefiting from gains per statutory provisions.

Amongst the transactions on this account are premiums paid on the early redemption of loans. Premiums are debited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when they are incurred, but reversed out to the in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Over time the expense is posted back to the Movement in Reserves Statement in accordance with statutory arrangements for spreading the burden on council tax. As a result, the balance on the account at 31 March 2020 includes £15.689m on premiums (£16.755m at 31 March 2019) to be discharged in future.

	2019-20	2018-19
	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April	28,678	22,625
Proportion of premiums to be charged against the General Fund balance in accordance with statutory requirements	(1,065)	(1,065)
Amount by which finance costs charged to the CIES are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(179)	7,118
Balance at 31 March	27,434	28,678

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Revaluation reserve

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

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

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

	2019-20		2018-19	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
				Restated
Balance at 1 April		(1,849,792)		(1,934,047)
Upward revaluation of assets	(146,447)		(110,912)	
Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the surplus/deficit on the provision of services	56,737		98,819	
Total of surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the surplus/deficit on the provision of services		(89,710)		(12,093)
Adjusting amounts written to the capital adjustment account for disposals and restatements		19,070		90,737
Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation		27,164		5,611
Balance at 31 March		(1,893,268)		(1,849,792)

Pensions reserve

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

	2019-20	2018-19
	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April	712,470	639,864
Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability	(149,737)	16,381
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	82,631	96,044
Employer's pension contributions and direct payments payable to pensioners in the year	(38,724)	(39,819)
Balance at 31 March	606,640	712,470

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Deferred capital receipts reserve

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

	2019-20	2018-19
	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April	(6,000)	(11,000)
Transfer to the capital receipts reserve upon receipt of cash	6,000	5,000
Balance at 31 March	-	(6,000)

Collection Fund adjustment account

	2019-20	2018-19
	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April	11,308	(12,385)
Amount by which council tax and business rates income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax and business rates income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	8,651	23,693
Balance at 31 March	19,959	11,308

The Collection Fund adjustment account is analysed into council tax and business rates:

Collection Fund adjustment account – council tax

	2019-20	2018-19
	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April	(4,022)	(7,259)
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	5,310	3,237
Balance at 31 March	1,288	(4,022)

Collection Fund adjustment account – business rates

	2019-20	2018-19
	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April	15,330	(5,126)
Amount by which business rates income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from business rates income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	3,341	20,456
Balance at 31 March	18,671	15,330

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24. CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2019-20	2018-19
	£000	£000
Adjustment to surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non cash movement:		
Depreciation	119,039	90,935
Impairment and upward/(downward) valuations	71,162	83,479
Increase/(decrease) in impairment for bad debts	6,105	12,532
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(15,077)	(23,414)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(30,743)	(45,097)
(Increase)/decrease in inventories	(7)	46
Movement in pension liability	43,907	56,225
Movement in provisions	(12,918)	10,596
Carrying amount of non-current assets and non-current assets held for sale, sold or de-recognised	34,045	129,315
Other non-cash items charged to the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services	396	(23)
Total	215,909	314,594

	2019-20	2018-19
	£000	£000
Adjustment for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities:		
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(37,224)	(145,144)
Capital grants included in 'taxation and non-specific grant income'	(56,636)	(66,045)
Total	(93,860)	(211,189)

The cash flows from operating activities include the following interest amounts:

	2019-20	2018-19
	£000	£000
Interest received	(5,136)	(4,009)
Interest paid	40,177	34,799
Net interest	35,041	30,790

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25. CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

	2019-20	2018-19
	£000	£000
Purchase of PPE, investment property and intangible assets	(236,393)	(312,256)
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	37,224	145,144
Proceeds from sale of short-term investments (not considered to be cash equivalents)	(25,702)	(640)
Capital grants and contributions received	56,513	58,678
Net cash flows from investing activities	(168,358)	(109,074)

Short and long-term investments are instruments held as part of the cash management activities of the council, not as an investment activity in its own right. The figures above are the net movements in investments held, not gross purchases and sales.

26. CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES

	2019-20	2018-19
	£000	£000
Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liability relating to a finance lease and on-Balance Sheet PFI contracts	(5,285)	(4,891)
Cash receipts of short and long-term borrowing	347,360	261,610
Repayments of short and long-term borrowing	(211,507)	(147,688)
Net cash flows from financing activities	130,568	109,031

RECONCILIATION BETWEEN OPENING AND CLOSING LIABILITIES ARISING FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES (IAS 7)

	Long-term borrowings	Short-term borrowings	Lease liabilities	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Opening balance 1 April	(551,774)	(133,270)	(96,193)	(781,237)
Cashflows:				
Repayment	5,000	206,507	5,285	216,792
Proceeds	(80,860)	(266,500)	-	(347,360)
Sub total	(75,860)	(59,993)	5,285	(130,568)
Non-costs:				
Acquisition	-	-	(492)	(492)
Reclassification	-	2,458	-	2,458
Sub total	-	2,458	(492)	1,966
Closing balance 31 March	(627,634)	(190,805)	(91,400)	(909,839)

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27. EXTERNAL AUDIT COSTS

	2019-20	2018-19
	£000	£000
Fees payable with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year	215	207
Fees payable to the appointed auditor for the certification of grant claims and returns for the year	41	29
Fees payable in respect of other non-audit services not covered above	10	10
Total	266	246

28. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Members' allowances and expenses paid in 2019-20 totalled £1,342,944 (£1,324,831 in 2018-19).

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29. OFFICER REMUNERATION

In accordance with regulations, it is necessary to report on the remuneration of senior employees. Senior employees are defined as those who are members of the Chief Officer Team or those whose remuneration is £150,000 or more per year.

The following table sets out this information for 2019-20 and 2018-19.

Postholder	2019-20		2018-19	
	Total remuneration £	Council's contributions to the Pension Fund £	Total remuneration £	Council's contributions to the Pension Fund £
Chief Executive - E Kelly	212,026	15,372	207,988	14,631
Strategic Director of Environment and Leisure - D Collins	-	-	138,962	-
Strategic Director of Environment and Leisure - I Smith	-	-	141,957	17,690
Strategic Director of Environment & Leisure - C Bruce	119,187	17,282	-	-
Strategic Director of Place and Wellbeing - K Fenton	164,572	-	164,572	-
Strategic Director of Housing and Modernisation - M Scorer	169,530	24,582	161,031	22,509
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance - D Whitfield	186,918	13,552	183,366	12,874
Strategic Director of Children's and Adults - D Quirke-Thornton	169,530	24,582	161,059	22,513

Total remuneration reflects actual payments made to the postholders in the financial years and the related pension fund contributions made in respect of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) during the same year.

Total remuneration figures represent gross pay for the postholder before that individuals' personal contributions to the Southwark Pension Fund. They include basic salary plus any contracted additions paid during the financial year.

The first day of service for the Strategic Director of Environment and Leisure C Bruce was 1 July 2019 (last day of service for the previous post-holder was 31 March 2019) with a vacancy during 1 April 2019 to 30 June 2019.

For 2019-20, the total costs for the services of the Strategic Director of Place and Wellbeing amounted to £164,572, with no pension contribution from the council. Cabinet agreed in July 2018 the creation of a post titled Strategic Director of Place and Wellbeing for the period 1 September 2018 to 30 September 2020. This post incorporates the council's statutory Director of Public Health post which was filled on a secondment basis from Public Health England by Professor K Fenton, who left the role on 31 March 2020.

The Strategic Director of Finance and Governance also received additional payment for Returning Officer duties, covering two elections, which totalled £17,829 in 2019-20 (£7,000 in 2018-19), not included in the above figures.

During 2019-20 the council employed staff whose taxable remuneration, including payment on termination of employment, was £50,000 or more for the year. The numbers of these employees, excluding the senior officers in the table above, is shown below in bands of £5,000:

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Band (£)	Schools and non schools analysis		Number of employees	Number of employees
	Schools	Non schools	2019-20	2018-19
50,000 - 54,999	127	188	315	302
55,000 - 59,999	68	68	136	164
60,000 - 64,999	64	59	123	131
65,000 - 69,999	36	50	86	70
70,000 - 74,999	28	22	50	47
75,000 - 79,999	19	23	42	33
80,000 - 84,999	12	6	18	21
85,000 - 89,999	5	12	17	25
90,000 - 94,999	8	11	19	17
95,000 - 99,999	8	10	18	9
100,000 - 104,999	4	1	5	8
105,000 - 109,999	1	3	4	1
110,000 - 114,999	1	1	2	6
115,000 - 119,999	2	4	6	4
120,000 - 124,999	1	2	3	-
125,000 - 129,999	1	1	2	3
130,000 - 134,999	1	5	6	5
135,000 - 139,999	-	-	-	-
140,000 - 144,999	-	-	-	-
145,000 - 149,999	-	-	-	-
150,000 - 154,999	-	-	-	-
155,000 - 159,999	-	-	-	-
160,000 - 164,999	-	-	-	-
165,000 - 169,999	-	-	-	-
170,000 - 174,999	-	-	-	-
175,000 - 179,999	-	-	-	-
180,000 - 184,999	-	-	-	-
185,000 - 189,999	-	-	-	1
Total	386	466	852	847

For the financial year 2019-20, the total number of non-school employees whose earnings exceeded £100,000 per annum (excluding payments on termination of employment) was 17 (21 in 2018-19).

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30. TERMINATION BENEFITS

Exit package cost band	Number of exit packages		Number of exit packages		Total number of exit packages		Total cost of exit packages by band	
	Schools		Non-schools		2019-20	2018-19	2019-20	2018-19
	2019-20	2018-19	2019-20	2018-19				
	No. staff	No. staff	No. staff	No. staff	No. staff	No. staff		
£0 - £20,000	60	17	17	49	77	66	466	672
£20,001 - £40,000	3	2	2	37	5	39	134	1,021
£40,001 - £60,000	1	-	-	10	1	10	45	485
£60,001 - £80,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	64	19	19	96	83	115	645	2,178

Eleven compulsory redundancies were made by schools in 2019-20, all within the £0 to £20,000 exit package band and totalling £36,242 (2018-19 one compulsory redundancy in the £0 to £20,000 exit package cost band, £12,294).

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31. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The council is required to disclose material transactions with related parties – bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence the council or to be controlled or influenced by the council.

Central government

Central government has effective control over the general operations of the council. It is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the council operates and provides the majority of its funding. Grants received from government departments during the year and receipts outstanding at 31 March 2020 are set out in note 21 to the accounts.

Members and chief officers

Members of the council have direct control over the council's financial and operating policies. The total of members' allowances paid in 2019-20 is shown in note 28. Information regarding reportable transactions has been collated by requiring all members and chief officers to declare any related party transactions. A review of the register of members' interests, including the register of declarations at committee meetings has been conducted. For chief officers, direct confirmation of any related party interest has been sought and obtained.

Related party interests for which transactions exist in 2019-20 were declared by 21 councillors and nil submissions from chief officers (35 and 1 respectively in 2018-19):

with voluntary bodies or charitable organisations that received funding totalling an estimated value of £0.6 million (£1.0 million in 2018-19).

with businesses or other organisations that have contracted for goods and services with the council to the estimated value of £1.2 million (£1.4 million in 2018-19).

In addition to the above, many members have relationships or hold positions with other public bodies and voluntary organisations, e.g. schools, with which the council does not have a financially material relationship, but with which the council has a non-financial or influential relationship.

Pensions

The council is the administering authority of the Pension Fund. The council charged the fund £0.9 million (£0.8 million in 2018-19) for expenses incurred in administering the Pension Fund which is included within the Statement of Accounts.

Other public bodies

The council has a pooled arrangement with Southwark Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), included in note 22. On 1 April 2020, NHS South East London Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) was established. The new CCG is made up of the previous six south east London CCGs in Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark.

Shared services

The council has entered into a Shared Information, Communications, Technology Service (SICTS) with Brent and Lewisham Councils from 1st November 2017. There is no defined time period for this arrangement. However, it is governed by an Inter-Authority Agreement that makes provision for performance management, expansion and exit from the SICTS. The nature of these arrangements does mean that each borough influences the others specifically on IT spend and budget, however, each borough remains sovereign.

Capital Letters (London) Ltd.

The council along with other London Boroughs entered into an in-principle agreement with Capital Letters during 2018-19 with the objective of procuring accommodation to meet the growing homelessness demand in London. Discussions have continued throughout and Capital Letters commenced operations during 2019-20, but as yet the council has not made any formal decision or commitment to participate in the project.

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32. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND CAPITAL FINANCING

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

	2019-20	2018-19
	£000	£000
Opening capital financing requirement	1,007,876	955,914
Capital investment		
Property, plant and equipment	234,123	230,264
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute (REFCUS)	24,890	27,371
Long-term debtors	1,185	11,800
Investment property	823	92,095
Total capital investment	261,021	361,530
Sources of capital finance		
Capital receipts	(35,527)	(162,325)
Government grants and other contributions	(56,636)	(66,045)
Direct revenue contributions	(24,423)	(22,550)
Major repairs reserve	(59,092)	(50,752)
Minimum revenue provision (MRP) / loans fund principal	(8,878)	(7,896)
Total capital investment financed	(184,556)	(309,568)
Closing capital financing requirement	1,084,341	1,007,876
Explanation of movement		
Increase in underlying need to borrow	75,973	51,459
Assets acquired under PFI contracts	492	503
Net movement in year	76,465	51,962

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33. LEASES

The council as lessee – operating leases

The council pays rent on property leases, of which some are sublet.

Expenditure charged to services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) during the year in the use of operating leases:

	2019-20	2018-19
	£000	£000
Minimum lease payments	2,510	2,312
Less sub-lease payments	(274)	(435)
Total	2,236	1,877

The council has obligations to make minimum lease payments in future periods of:

	31 March 2020	31 March 2019
	£000	£000
Within 1 year	1,900	1,530
Within 2 to 5 years	5,392	4,659
After 5 years	10,377	12,138
Total	17,669	18,327

The council as lessor – operating leases

The council has industrial and commercial units which it lets out. It also lets out workshops and property for shops, community and commercial use.

The future minimum rentals receivable under these leases are set out below:

	31 March 2020	31 March 2019
	£000	£000
Within 1 year	18,630	16,450
Within 2 to 5 years	61,579	55,648
After 5 years	169,596	137,003
Total	249,805	209,101

34. PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVES AND SIMILAR CONTRACTS

Private finance initiatives (PFI) and similar contracts typically involve a private sector entity (the operator) constructing or enhancing property used in the provision of a public service, and operating and maintaining that property for a specified period of time, in return for a series of payments over the period of the arrangement.

A contract is determined to meet the definition of a service concession arrangement where the following two tests are met:

- the council controls or regulates what services the operator must provide with the property, to whom it must provide them, and at what price
- the council controls any significant residual interest in the property at the end of the term of the arrangement (typically through ownership or beneficial entitlement)

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

- fair value of the services received during the year – debited to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
- finance cost – an interest charge on the outstanding Balance Sheet liability, debited to interest payable and similar charges in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
- contingent rent – increases in the amount to be paid for the property arising during the contract, debited to interest payable and similar charges in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
- payment towards liability – applied to write down the Balance Sheet liability towards the PFI operator, and
- lifecycle replacement costs – debited to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

The following schemes have been accounted for as PFI or similar contracts:

- St Michael's is a new build voluntary aided secondary school, which became operational in January 2011. The school has been built and is operated over a 25 year contract by 4 Futures Ltd., the majority shareholder of which is Education Investments Holdings Limited.
- St Thomas is a new build voluntary aided secondary school, which became operational in February 2012. The school has been built and is operated over a 25 year contract by 4 Futures Ltd., the majority shareholder of which is Education Investments Holdings Limited.
- Sacred Heart Catholic school is a new build voluntary aided secondary school, which became operational in September 2014. The school has been built and is operated over a 25 year contract by 4 Futures Ltd., the majority shareholder of which is Education Investments Holdings Limited.
- on 11 February 2008 the council entered into a 25 year PFI contract with Veolia environmental services for the collection and disposal of waste in the borough. The £682m contract has enabled the council to deliver government targets for waste minimisation, landfill diversion and recycling. Veolia are to provide high specification facilities to receive transfer and treat waste under the PFI contract for a period of 25 years from the date of completion of a new facility at Old Kent Road, a site the council has leased to the company with effect from 9 September 2008
- in July 2013 the council entered into the heat supply PFI arrangement with Veolia, which will involve the contractor putting in place piping and associated facilities to deliver heating to council residents and related services in order to fulfil the council's mandate of delivering services to the public.

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The movements in liabilities resulting from PFI (or similar) contracts were as follows:

	St Michael's Catholic college	St Thomas the Apostle college	Sacred Heart Catholic school	Integrated waste management facility	Heating supply arrangement	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Value at 1 April 2018	14,333	18,689	17,935	45,072	4,552	100,581
New liability incurred	-	-	-	412	91	503
Repayments made in year	(244)	(350)	(356)	(3,725)	(216)	(4,891)
Value at 31 March 2019	14,089	18,339	17,579	41,759	4,427	96,193
Value at 1 April 2019	14,089	18,339	17,579	41,759	4,427	96,193
New liability incurred	-	-	-	412	80	492
Repayments made in year	(400)	(485)	(433)	(3,746)	(221)	(5,285)
Value at 31 March 2020	13,689	17,854	17,146	38,425	4,286	91,400

The following has been recognised in the Balance Sheet in respect of PFI (or similar) arrangements:

	Other land and buildings	Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment	Infrastructure assets	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Net book value at 1 April 2018	61,000	15,985	4,366	81,351
Additions	-	412	91	503
Depreciation and impairment	(840)	(922)	(175)	(1,937)
Revaluations	840	-	-	840
Net book value at 31 March 2019	61,000	15,475	4,282	80,757
Net book value at 1 April 2019	61,000	15,475	4,282	80,757
Additions	-	412	80	492
Depreciation and impairment	(875)	(940)	(189)	(2,004)
Revaluations	(659)	-	-	(659)
Other	-	-	258	258
Net book value at 31 March 2020	59,466	14,947	4,431	78,844

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The projected payments under the agreements are as follows:

	1 year	2-5 years	6-10 years	11-15 years	16-20 years	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
St Michael's Catholic college						
Liability	369	1,844	3,679	6,115	1,682	13,689
Interest	1,740	6,434	6,559	3,374	145	18,252
Service charges	668	2,920	4,142	5,379	579	13,688
St Thomas the Apostle college						
Liability	534	2,642	4,212	7,685	2,781	17,854
Interest	1,882	6,901	6,893	3,823	291	19,790
Service charges	289	1,242	1,754	2,065	220	5,570
Lifecycle payments	111	362	1,117	1,242	220	3,052
Sacred Heart Catholic school						
Liability	513	2,374	3,931	6,456	3,872	17,146
Interest	1,725	6,348	6,470	3,863	524	18,930
Service charges	472	1,972	2,815	3,270	1,990	10,519
Lifecycle payments	105	454	760	1,226	864	3,409
Integrated waste management facility						
Liability	3,345	12,923	14,352	7,805	-	38,425
Interest	2,004	6,654	5,067	1,366	-	15,091
Service charges	21,463	87,991	124,887	81,854	-	316,195
Lifecycle payments	412	8,223	17,200	10,614	-	36,449
Heat supply arrangement						
Liability	155	825	1,713	1,594	-	4,287
Interest	523	1,888	1,679	440	-	4,530
Service charges	1,280	5,446	7,610	5,038	-	19,374
Lifecycle payments	97	412	576	382	-	1,467

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35. OTHER LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

	31 March 2020	31 March 2019
	£000	£000
Payments due under Private Finance Initiative (PFI) schemes and similar arrangements:		
St Michaels Catholic college	(13,320)	(13,690)
St Thomas the Apostle college	(17,320)	(17,859)
Sacred Heart Catholic school	(16,632)	(17,149)
Integrated waste management facility	(34,668)	(38,013)
Heat supply arrangement	(4,035)	(4,206)
Total	(85,975)	(90,917)

36. PENSION SCHEMES ACCOUNTED FOR AS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION SCHEMES (NHS AND TEACHERS)

Teachers employed by the council are members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme, administered by the Education and Skills Funding Agency. The scheme provides teachers with specified benefits upon their retirement, and the council contributes towards the costs by making contributions based on a percentage of members' pensionable salaries. As part of its public health responsibilities the council employs staff who are members of the NHS Pension Scheme.

The schemes are technically defined benefit schemes. However, both schemes are unfunded and use notional funds as the basis for calculating the employers' contribution rate paid by local authorities. The council is not able to identify its share of underlying financial position and performance of the schemes with sufficient reliability for accounting purposes. For the purposes of the council's statement of accounts, they are therefore accounted for on the same basis as a defined contribution scheme.

In 2019-20, the council paid £12.10m to the Teachers' Pension Scheme in respect of teachers' retirement benefits, representing 20.7% of pensionable pay, (£9.72m and 16.5% respectively in 2018-19). It also paid £0.044m to the NHS Pension Scheme representing 14.4% of pensionable pay (£0.052m 2018-19, representing 14.3% of pensionable pay). In 2019-20 the employer contribution rate was 20.7% of pensionable pay (including levy). Employers are responsible for paying 14.4% of contributions, with the remaining 6.3% being funded by government. There were no contributions remaining payable at the year-end.

The council is responsible for the costs of any additional benefits awarded upon early retirement outside the terms of the teachers' scheme. These costs are accounted for on a defined benefit basis and detailed in note 37.

37. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEMES

Participation in the Local Authority Pension Scheme

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its officers and other employees, the council offers retirement benefits. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the council has a commitment to make the payments that need to be disclosed at the time that employees earn their future entitlement.

The council participates in two pension fund schemes, the London Borough of Southwark Pension Fund (council) and the London Pension Fund Authority Pension Fund (LPFA). Both are funded schemes, meaning that the council and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension fund's liabilities with investment assets.

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	2019-20			2018-19		
	Council £000	LPFA £000	Total £000	Council £000	LPFA £000	Total £000
Cost of services:						
- Current service cost	64,800	451	65,251	47,300	295	47,595
- Past service costs	800	-	800	32,300	-	32,300
Financing and investment income and expenditure:						
- Net interest expense	16,700	(120)	16,580	16,200	(51)	16,149
Total post employment benefit charged to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services	82,300	331	82,631	95,800	244	96,044
Other post employment benefit charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement:						
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability comprising						
- Return on plan assets (excluding amount included in the net interest expense)	102,500	2,714	105,214	(98,100)	(4,618)	(102,718)
- Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	(196,000)	955	(195,045)	-	(1,781)	(1,781)
- Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	(43,000)	(3,755)	(46,755)	113,900	2,680	116,580
- Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in liability experience	(13,800)	(1,533)	(15,333)	4,300	-	4,300
- Other actuarial gains and losses on assets	-	2,182	2,182	-	-	-
Total post employment benefit charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement	(68,000)	894	(67,106)	115,900	(3,475)	112,425
Movement in reserves statement:						
- Reversal of net charges made to the surplus or deficit for the provision of services for post employment benefits in accordance with the Code	82,300	331	82,631	95,800	244	96,044
Actual amount charged against the General Fund balance for pensions in the year:						
- Employers' contributions payable to the scheme	38,600	124	38,724	39,700	119	39,819

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Transactions relating to post employment benefits

The council recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge the council is required to make against council tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of retirement benefits is reversed out of the General Fund via the Movement in Reserves Statement. The following transactions have been made in the CIES and the General Fund balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement during the year:

Pensions assets and liabilities recognised in the balance sheet:

The amount included in the Balance Sheet arising from the authority's obligation in respect of its defined benefit plans is as follows:

	31 March 2020			31 March 2019		
	Council £000	LPFA £000	Total £000	Council £000	LPFA £000	Total £000
Fair value of plan assets	1,524,000	54,712	1,578,712	1,598,000	60,767	1,658,767
Less present value of defined benefit obligation	2,135,000	50,352	2,185,352	2,315,600	55,637	2,371,237
Net asset / (liability) arising from defined benefit obligation	(611,000)	4,360	(606,640)	(717,600)	5,130	(712,470)

Reconciliation of present value of the scheme assets:

	2019-20			2018-19		
	Council £000	LPFA £000	Total £000	Council £000	LPFA £000	Total £000
Opening balance at 1 April	1,598,000	60,767	1,658,767	1,476,600	57,723	1,534,323
Interest income on assets	38,300	1,370	39,670	38,200	1,427	39,627
Remeasurement gains/(losses) on assets	(102,500)	(2,714)	(105,214)	98,100	4,618	102,718
Other actuarial gains/(losses)	-	(2,182)	(2,182)	-	-	-
Administration expenses	-	(79)	(79)	-	(76)	(76)
Employer contributions	39,300	124	39,424	40,500	119	40,619
Contribution by participants	12,100	42	12,142	11,600	40	11,640
Net benefits paid out	(61,200)	(2,616)	(63,816)	(67,000)	(3,084)	(70,084)
Closing balance at 31 March	1,524,000	54,712	1,578,712	1,598,000	60,767	1,658,767

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Reconciliation of present value of the scheme liabilities:

	2019-20			2018-19		
	Council £000	LPFA £000	Total £000	Council £000	LPFA £000	Total £000
Opening balance at 1 April	2,315,600	55,637	2,371,237	2,118,000	56,187	2,174,187
Current service cost	64,800	232	65,032	47,300	219	47,519
Interest cost	55,000	1,250	56,250	54,400	1,376	55,776
Contributions by scheme participants	12,800	42	12,842	12,400	40	12,440
Change in financial assumptions	(43,000)	(3,755)	(46,755)	113,900	2,680	116,580
Change in demographic assumptions	(196,000)	955	(195,045)	-	(1,781)	(1,781)
Experience loss/(gain) on defined benefit obligation	(13,800)	(1,533)	(15,333)	4,300	-	4,300
Benefits paid	(61,200)	(2,616)	(63,816)	(67,000)	(3,084)	(70,084)
Past service costs	800	140	940	32,300	-	32,300
Closing balance at 31 March	2,135,000	50,352	2,185,352	2,315,600	55,637	2,371,237

Scheme assets comprised:

	31 March 2020			31 March 2019		
	Council £000	LPFA £000	Total £000	Council £000	LPFA £000	Total £000
Quoted						
- Equities	925,068	29,634	954,702	909,262	33,060	942,322
- Government bonds	286,512	-	286,512	147,016	-	147,016
- Corporate bonds	-	-	-	186,966	-	186,966
- Target return portfolio	-	13,335	13,335	-	16,205	16,205
- Multi-asset pooled funds	25,908	-	25,908	31,960	-	31,960
Sub-total	1,237,488	42,969	1,280,457	1,275,204	49,265	1,324,469
Unquoted						
- Infrastructure	-	3,840	3,840	-	3,661	3,661
- Property	251,460	4,997	256,457	295,630	5,714	301,344
- Cash	24,384	2,906	27,290	27,166	2,127	29,293
- Multi-asset pooled funds	10,668	-	10,668	-	-	-
Sub-total	286,512	11,743	298,255	322,796	11,502	334,298
Total	1,524,000	54,712	1,578,712	1,598,000	60,767	1,658,767

Basis for estimating assets and liabilities

The scheme assets, as shown above, are those attributable to the council from its membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for both the London borough of Southwark Pension Fund and the London Pension Fund Authority (LPFA). The value of the assets is provided by both fund actuaries originally using market values at 31 December 2019, then indexed for market movements to arrive at a valuation for 31 March 2020.

Liabilities for the council and LPFA schemes have been assessed by Aon Hewitt and Barnett Waddingham respectively. Both have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in the future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels, etc. The estimates are based on data relating to the latest full valuations as at 31 March 2019 and rolled forward.

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The principal assumptions used by the actuaries have been:

	Council		LPFA	
	2019-20	2018-19	2019-20	2018-19
Mortality assumptions				
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners				
- Men (years)	20.8	22.6	20.4	19.5
- Women (years)	23.6	26.3	23.4	22.6
Longevity at 45 for future pensioners				
- Men (years)	22.7	24.3	21.9	21.3
- Women (years)	25.5	28.1	25.0	24.3
Principal financial assumptions				
- Rate of inflation - Consumer Price Index (CPI)	2.0%	2.2%	2.0%	2.5%
- Rate of increase in salaries	3.5%	3.7%	3.0%	4.0%
- Rate of increase in pensions	2.0%	2.2%	2.0%	2.5%
- Rate of pension accounts revaluation	2.0%	2.2%		
- Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	2.3%	2.4%	2.3%	2.3%

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

Assumption	Impact of increase			Impact of decrease		
	Council	LPFA	Total	Council	LPFA	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Present value of total obligation						
Longevity (+/- 1 year)	2,067,400	52,034	2,119,434	2,203,400	48,724	2,252,124
Rate of increase in salaries (+/- 0.1%)	2,139,000	50,377	2,189,377	2,131,100	50,327	2,181,427
Rate of increase in pensions (+/- 0.1%)	2,168,900	50,965	2,219,865	2,101,900	49,746	2,151,646
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities (+/- 0.1%)	2,093,800	49,724	2,143,524	2,177,000	50,989	2,227,989
Projected service cost						
Longevity (+/- 1 year)	56,900	219	57,119	61,500	205	61,705
Rate of increase in salaries (+/- 0.1%)	59,200	212	59,412	59,200	212	59,412
Rate of increase in pensions (+/- 0.1%)	61,300	216	61,516	57,200	208	57,408
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities (+/- 0.1%)	57,200	208	57,408	61,300	216	61,516

Impact on the council's cash flows

The objective of the schemes is to achieve a funding level of 100%, with funding levels monitored on an annual basis. The next triennial valuation is due to be completed as at 31 March 2022. The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the council has in the long run to pay post employment (retirement) benefits. The total liability of £2,185m (£2,371m at 31 March 2019) has a substantial impact on the net worth of the council as recorded in the Balance Sheet, resulting in a net liability of £585m (£712m at 31 March 2019). However, statutory arrangements for funding the deficit mean that the council remains healthy. The deficit will be made good by increased contributions over the remaining working life of employees as assessed by the actuaries.

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As members of the Local Government Pension Scheme, both the council and LPFA schemes have taken account of the national changes to the scheme under the Public Pensions Services Act 2013. Under the act, the Local Government's Pension Scheme may not provide benefits in relation to service after 31 March 2014. The act provides for scheme regulations to be made within common framework, to establish new career average revalued earnings schemes to pay pensions and other benefits to certain public servants. The anticipated service cost in 2020-21 is £59.2m for the council scheme and £0.212m for the LPFA scheme. The weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation for the council scheme members is 19.5 years (18.0 years 2018-19) and 13 years for LPFA scheme members (13 years 2018-19).

IAS 19 / FRS102 accounting for McCloud judgement and Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) indexation / equalisation

Following a review of public service pension schemes in 2012 by Lord Hutton (the Hutton Report) all public service pension schemes were reformed with effect from 1 April 2015 (with the exception of the LGPS in England and Wales which was reformed one year earlier), with the objective of reducing the overall cost to the taxpayer and putting schemes on a more sustainable footing.

The government was refused leave to appeal the McCloud and Sargent Judgements on 27 June 2019. This meant that the various parties return to their respective employment tribunals to formulate a remedy which will resolve the age discrimination of pension claims. As details of the remedy for the scheme have not been drafted this creates a lot of uncertainty about the basis for valuing the impact of the judgement.

The council first included the potential additional liabilities, as advised by its actuary Aon Hewitt, in the 2018-19 accounts as a constructive obligation. The liability has been calculated on the basis that members with service prior to 1 April 2012 will receive the better of benefits accrued in the 2014 scheme or benefits accrued in the 2008 scheme, backdated to 1 April 2012 (assumed to be 2014 for 2018-19 accounts).

In 2019-20 accounts the council has recognised changes in the liability arising from changes in assumptions as an actuarial loss within remeasurement of the defined benefit liability (asset) and reported in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) is a portion of pension that was accrued by individuals who were contracted out of the State Second Pension prior to 6 April 1997. The rate at which GMP was accrued, and the date it is payable, is different for men and women, meaning there is an inequality for male and female members who have GMP.

Allowance has been made for full indexation on all Guaranteed Minimum Pensions for members whose state pension age is on or after 6 April 2016.

This additional liability has been allowed for as a past service cost in the accounting figures as at 31 March 2020.

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38. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

A financial instrument is a contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity.

Financial Assets

A financial asset is a right to future economic benefits controlled by the council that is represented by cash or other instruments. The following categories of financial instrument assets are carried in the Balance Sheet:

	Long-term	Long-term	Short-term	Short-term
	31 March 2020	31 March 2019	31 March 2020	31 March 2019
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Investments				
Fair value through other comprehensive income	40,776	21,357	64,968	57,924
Amortised cost	-	-	501	1,262
Less trust funds	-	-	(1,484)	(1,484)
Total investments	40,776	21,357	63,985	57,702
Debtors				
Amortised cost	23,899	23,355	147,083	111,310
Total debtors	23,899	23,355	147,083	111,310
Cash and cash equivalents				
Cash and bank	-	-	(8,616)	(9,627)
Short-term deposits	-	-	26,651	45,616
Total cash and cash equivalents	-	-	18,035	35,989

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Financial liabilities

A financial liability is an obligation to transfer economic benefits controlled by the council and can be represented by a contractual obligation to deliver cash or financial assets. The following categories of financial instrument liabilities are carried in the Balance Sheet:

	Long-term	Long-term	Short-term	Short-term
	31 March 2020	31 March 2019	31 March 2020	31 March 2019
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Borrowings				
Financial liabilities at amortised cost	(627,634)	(551,714)	(190,805)	(133,270)
Total borrowings	(627,634)	(551,714)	(190,805)	(133,270)
Other long-term liabilities				
PFI liabilities	(85,975)	(90,917)	-	-
Total other long-term liabilities	(85,975)	(90,917)	-	-
Creditors				
Financial liabilities at amortised cost	(9,288)	(10,546)	(137,672)	(134,928)
Total creditors	(9,288)	(10,546)	(137,672)	(134,928)

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Financial instruments – gains and losses

The gains and losses recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in relation to financial instruments consist of the following items.

	2019-20				2018-19			
	Financial liabilities at amortised cost	Financial assets - loans and receivables	Financial assets - available for sale	Total	Financial liabilities at amortised cost	Financial assets - loans and receivables	Financial assets - available for sale	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Interest expense	28,729	-	-	28,729	26,281	-	-	26,281
Expected credit loss	-	2,225	63	2,288	-	8,954	33	8,987
Other charges	660	-	-	660	667	-	-	667
Total expenses in surplus or deficit on the provision of services	29,389	2,225	63	31,677	26,948	8,954	33	35,935
Interest income	-	(515)	(936)	(1,451)	-	(328)	(1,055)	(1,383)
Less allocated to other funds	-	173	-	173	-	180	-	180
Total income in surplus or deficit on the provision of services	-	(342)	(936)	(1,278)	-	(148)	(1,055)	(1,203)
Surplus/(deficit) arising on revaluation of financial assets in other comprehensive income and expenditure	-	-	(170)	(170)	-	-	(380)	(380)
Net gain/(loss) for year	29,389	1,883	(1,043)	30,229	26,948	8,806	(1,402)	34,352

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20

39. NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The council complies with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management and Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, both revised in December 2017.

In line with the Treasury Management Code, the council approves a Treasury Management Strategy before the commencement of each financial year. The Strategy sets out the parameters for the management of risks associated with financial instruments. The council also produces Treasury Management Practices specifying the practical arrangements to be followed to manage these risks.

The treasury management strategy includes an annual investment strategy in compliance with the MHCLG guidance on local government investments. The strategy emphasises that priority is given to security and liquidity, rather than yield. The council's Treasury Management Strategy and its Treasury Management Practices seek to achieve a suitable balance between risk and return on cost.

The council's treasury investments are primarily delegated to two external fund managers with an internal operation to manage short-term liquidity.

The main risks covered are:

- Credit risk: the possibility that the counterparty to a financial asset will fail to meet its contractual obligations causing a loss to the council
- Liquidity risk: the possibility that the council might not have the liquid assets available to make contracted payments on time
- Market risk: the possibility that an unplanned financial loss will materialise because of changes in market variables such as interest rates or asset prices

Credit risk - investments

The council manages credit risk by ensuring that investments are only placed with organisations of high credit quality as set out in the treasury management strategy. These include commercial entities with a minimum long-term credit rating of A, the UK government, other local authorities, and organisations without credit ratings upon which the council has received independent investment advice. Recognising that credit ratings are imperfect predictors of default, the council has regard to other measures including credit default swap and equity prices when selecting commercial entities for investment.

The council is able to utilise the expertise of external fund managers to seek to mitigate credit risk in the construction of a well diversified treasury portfolio. Limits are set on the amount of money that can be invested with a single counterparty (other than the UK government) and no more than 50% of total investments can be for a period longer than one year.

The council's exposure to credit risk in relation to its investments in banks and building societies cannot be assessed generally, as the risk of any institution failing to make interest repayments or repay the principal sum will be specific to each individual institution. Recent experience has shown that it is rare for such entities to be unable to meet their commitments. A risk of irrecoverability applies to all of the council's deposits, but there was no evidence at 31 March 2020 that this was likely to crystallise.

The maximum exposure to credit risk is represented by the sums held in investments. The maturity and ratings of investments held at 31 March 2020 is set out below:

	A	AA	AAA	Total
Up to 1 year	18%	13%	32%	63%
1 - 2 years	4%	3%	13%	20%
2 - 5 years	1%	3%	13%	17%
Total investments	23%	19%	58%	100%

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Credit risk - receivables

Trade receivables arise from the provision of goods and services and the carrying out of the council's functions.

In the normal course of carrying out its operations, the council is exposed to the potential risk of default from individuals, firms and organisations that it deals with. Credit is assessed prior to being granted in commercial transactions, for example commercial rents. Debts arising are actively managed and collection targets are used to raise receipts. Debt outstanding is pursued and in appropriate cases further credit is suspended. A charge may be placed on property for debt, but the bulk of the exposure is unsecured and subject to credit risk and notably concentrated within the council's geographical boundary.

Liquidity risk

The council has access to long-term loan facilities from the Public Works Loans Board to fund maturing debt and capital financing requirements. Investment may also be realised for working capital requirements.

The council is exposed to the risk that refinancing of maturing debt may occur at times of unfavourable external borrowing rates. To mitigate this risk the council has a diversified debt maturity profile limiting the amount of debt required to be refinanced in the course of any one financial year.

The maturity analysis of principal sums borrowed is as follows

	2019-20	2018-19
	£000	£000
Less than 1 year	177,052	125,000
Between 1 and 5 years	63,060	59,997
Between 5 and 10 years	79,189	103,275
Between 10 and 20 years	110,024	79,001
Over 20 years	380,361	309,501
Total	809,686	676,774

Market risk

The council has exposure to interest rate movements in its borrowing and investments.

Outstanding council debt at 31 March 2020 is from the PWLB and from short-term borrowing. The debt is at fixed rates, with an average maturity of 20 years (16 years at 31 March 2019). The maturity profile of the debt is shown in the table above. The council may draw further loans from the PWLB if needed. A 1% rise in discount rates at Balance Sheet date would lower the fair value by £116m. As the debt is held at amortised cost there would be no impact on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement from such a change, unless the debt was extinguished. Legislation would then require a charge to be taken to the financial instruments adjustment account.

The overall average life of council investments is 0.6 years; within that, the available for sale investments have an average life of one year. A 1% change in discount rates on available for sale investments at the Balance Sheet date would change the fair value by £0.4m and would be reflected in the Balance Sheet in the available for sale reserve. There would be no impact on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, unless the investments were realised.

Investments are held in short-term deposits or certificate of deposits with major banks and building societies. Money is also held in money market funds, treasury bills and bonds, and investments of more than one year are usually held in UK government gilts or supranational banks.

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40. FAIR VALUE - ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Fair value - basis of valuation

The basis of the valuation of each class of investment asset and liability is set out below. There has been no change in the valuation techniques used during the year. All assets and liabilities have been valued using fair value techniques based on the characteristics of each instrument, with the overall objective of maximising the use of market based information.

Description of asset or liability	Held on balance sheet as	Valuation hierarchy	Basis of valuation	Observable and unobservable inputs
Market quoted investments (money market funds, equity funds, corporate, covered government bonds)	Fair value through other comprehensive income, amortised cost	1	Published bid market price ruling on the final day of the accounting period	Not applicable
Long-term loans from PWLB	Amortised cost	2	Discounting of contractual cash flows over the remaining life of the instrument at an appropriate market rate	The attributable market derived discount rate for each individual loan
Lease payable and PFI liabilities	Amortised cost	2	Projected discounted future unitary contractual payments	Payments determined by contractual agreement, discounted at an appropriate market derived corporate bond yield
Investment property	Fair value	2	Valued at fair value at year end by Head of Property, taking into account the characteristics of the assets, nature of the relevant market for those assets and behaviours of those participating in these markets, assuming the highest and best use for the asset. The valuations employ a market approach technique	Quoted rents, yields etc. for comparable assets transacted in active markets, subject to adjustment as necessary in valuer's judgement to equate the evidence with the subject of the valuation
Assets held for sale	Fair value	2		
Surplus assets	Fair value	2		

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Financial and non-financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value are classified in accordance with three levels as shown below:

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

The following table provides an analysis of the financial assets, non-financial assets, and financial liabilities grouped into the level at which fair value is observable. The fair value of certain assets and liabilities, including debtors, creditors and cash balances is approximate to the carrying value, and is therefore excluded.

Description of assets or liabilities	Fair value 31 March 2020		Fair value 31 March 2019	
	Quoted market price	Using observable inputs	Quoted market price	Using observable inputs
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 1	Level 2
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Financial assets				
Fair value through other comprehensive income	105,745	-	79,281	-
Amortised cost	27,147	-	46,878	-
Investment property	-	343,805	-	334,529
Assets held for sale	-	41,974	-	44,604
Surplus property	-	154,732	-	161,373
Total	132,892	540,511	126,159	540,506
Financial liabilities				
Long term loans from Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)	-	813,256	-	742,681
Lease payable and Private Finance Initiative (PFI) liabilities	-	170,884	-	209,251
Total	-	984,140	-	951,932

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41. PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT

There has been one material adjustment to the values presented in the 2018-19 financial statements and the equivalent amounts presented in the 2019-20 financial statements. This was the result of one duplicate surplus land asset at Sumner Road, Peckham SE15 found as part of the ongoing reconciliation work on the council's land and properties. The following tables explain the material differences.

2018-19 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

	Post-audit SoA Published	Movement	Restated	Adjustment	Pre-audit SoA Published	Restated	Adjustment	Post-audit SoA Published
	2019-20	2019-20	2019-20	2019-20	2019-20	2018-19	2018-19	2018-19
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Net cost of services	448,433	964	447,469	-	447,469	459,874	-	459,874
Other operating expenditure	9,492	-	9,492	(21,500)	30,992	(3,516)	-	(3,516)
Financing and investment income and expenditure	19,361	-	19,361	-	19,361	22,440	-	22,440
Taxation and non-specific grant income	(375,073)	-	(375,073)	-	(375,073)	(372,299)	-	(372,299)
(Surplus) or deficit on provision of services	102,213	964	101,249	(21,500)	122,749	106,499	-	106,499
(Surplus) or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets	(89,710)	-	(89,710)	-	(89,710)	(12,093)	21,500	(33,593)
(Surplus) or deficit on financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income	170	-	170	-	170	380	-	380
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability	(149,737)	22,100	(171,837)	-	(171,837)	16,381	-	16,381
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(239,277)	22,100	(261,377)	-	(261,377)	4,668	21,500	(16,832)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(137,064)	23,064	(160,128)	(21,500)	(138,628)	111,167	21,500	89,667

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
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41. PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT continued

2018-19 Movement in Reserves Statement

	Post-audit SoA Published	Movement	Restated	Adjustment	Pre-audit SoA Published	Restated	Adjustment	Post-audit SoA Published
	2019-20	2019-20	2019-20	2019-20	2019-20	2018-19	2018-19	2018-19
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April	(3,885,568)	-	(3,885,568)	21,500	(3,907,068)	(3,996,737)	-	(3,996,737)
Movement in reserves during year								
Total comprehensive income and expenditure	(137,064)	23,064	(160,128)	(21,500)	(138,628)	111,167	21,500	89,667
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statutory provisions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net (increase)/decrease before transfers to earmarked reserves	(137,064)	23,064	(160,128)	(21,500)	(138,628)	111,167	21,500	89,667
Transfers (to)/from earmarked reserves	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in year	(137,064)	23,064	(160,128)	(21,500)	(138,628)	111,167	21,500	89,667
Balance as at 31 March	(4,022,634)	23,064	(4,045,696)	-	(4,045,696)	(3,885,568)	21,500	(3,907,068)

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20

41. PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT continued

2018-19 Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet	Notes	Published 2019-20 31 March 2020 £000	Movement 2019-20 31 March 2020	Restated 2019-20 31 March 2020 £000	Adjustment 2019-20 31 March 2020 £000	Restated 2018-19 31 March 2019 £000	Adjustment 2018-19 31 March 2019 £000	Published 2018-19 31 March 2019 £000
Property, plant and equipment	13	5,127,169	72,267	5,054,902	21,500	5,033,402	(21,500)	5,054,902
Heritage assets		1,223	-	1,223		1,223		1,223
Investment property	14	343,805	9,276	334,529		334,529		334,529
Assets held for sale	15	22,320	5,170	17,150		17,150		17,150
Long-term investments	38	40,776	19,419	21,357		21,357		21,357
Long-term debtors	17	23,899	544	23,355		23,355		23,355
Long term assets		5,559,192	106,676	5,452,516	21,500	5,431,016	(21,500)	5,452,516
Current intangible assets		-	(169)	169		169		169
Short-term investments	38	63,985	6,283	57,702		57,702		57,702
Inventories		438	8	430		430		430
Short-term debtors	17	160,168	24,096	136,072		136,072		136,072
Cash and cash equivalents	16	18,035	(17,954)	35,989		35,989		35,989
Assets held for sale	15	19,654	(7,800)	27,454		27,454		27,454
Current assets		262,280	4,464	257,816	-	257,816	-	257,816
Short-term borrowing	38	(190,805)	(57,535)	(133,270)		(133,270)		(133,270)
Short-term creditors	18	(159,302)	12,751	(172,053)		(172,053)		(172,053)
Short-term provisions	19	(3,874)	(465)	(3,409)		(3,409)		(3,409)
Grants receipts in advance	21	(99,604)	122	(99,726)		(99,726)		(99,726)
Current liabilities		(453,585)	(45,127)	(408,458)	-	(408,458)	-	(408,458)

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20

41. PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT continued

2018-19 Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet	Notes	Published 2019-20 31 March 2020 £000	Movement 2019-20 31 March 2020	Restated 2019-20 31 March 2020 £000	Adjustment 2019-20 31 March 2020 £000	Restated 2018-19 31 March 2019 £000	Adjustment 2018-19 31 March 2019 £000	Published 2018-19 31 March 2019 £000
Long-term creditors	18	(9,288)	1,258	(10,546)		(10,546)		(10,546)
Long-term provisions	19	(15,716)	13,383	(29,099)		(29,099)		(29,099)
Long-term borrowing	38	(627,634)	(75,860)	(551,774)		(551,774)		(551,774)
Pension liabilities	37	(606,640)	105,830	(712,470)		(712,470)		(712,470)
Other long-term liabilities	35	(85,975)	4,942	(90,917)		(90,917)		(90,917)
Long-term liabilities		(1,345,253)	49,553	(1,394,806)	-	(1,394,806)	-	(1,394,806)
Net assets		4,022,634	115,566	3,907,068	21,500	3,885,568	(21,500)	3,907,068
Usable reserves	12	(235,592)	(16,500)	(219,092)		(219,092)		(219,092)
Unusable reserves	23	(3,787,042)	(99,066)	(3,687,976)	(21,500)	(3,666,476)	21,500	(3,687,976)
Total reserves		(4,022,634)	(115,566)	(3,907,068)	(21,500)	(3,885,568)	21,500	(3,907,068)

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

The Housing Revenue Account is a record of expenditure on, and income from, the provision of local authority housing, and the form and content of the account is prescribed by statute. The Housing Revenue Account is 'ringfenced' and must be self-supporting. Contributions both to and from the Housing Revenue Account (e.g. from the General Fund) are limited to special circumstances.

	Note	2019-20 £000	2018-19 £000
Income			
Dwelling rents		(196,676)	(195,071)
Non-dwelling rents		(6,007)	(5,770)
Charges for services and facilities		(59,012)	(54,589)
Contributions towards expenditure		(2,712)	(2,342)
Total income		(264,407)	(257,772)
Expenditure			
Repairs and maintenance		52,758	57,477
Supervision and management		114,545	107,474
Rents, rates, taxes and other charges		8,685	7,606
Depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	3	144,006	141,402
Debt management costs		275	298
Increase in provisions for bad debts		267	(613)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	4	5,381	2,333
Total expenditure		325,917	315,977
Net cost of HRA services as included in the whole authority Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		61,510	58,205
HRA share of cost of democracy		1,106	1,106
Net cost of HRA services		62,616	59,311
Gains and losses on the sales of HRA non-current assets		(5,850)	14,374
Interest payable and similar charges		23,168	22,896
Interest and investment income		(2,590)	(2,325)
Income, expenditure and changes in the fair value of investment properties	14	(11,901)	(14,284)
Pensions interest cost and expected return on pensions assets		2,831	3,388
Capital grants and contributions receivable		(26,628)	(19,846)
Total (surplus)/deficit for the year		41,646	63,514

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20

MOVEMENT ON THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT STATEMENT

This is a reconciliation statement summarising the differences between the outturn on the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement and the HRA balance.

The Income and Expenditure Account shows the council's actual financial performance for the year, measured in terms of the resources generated and used in the last twelve months. However, a number of items have to be included or removed from the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement to comply with the statutory requirements of accounting for the HRA.

	Note	2019-20	2018-19
		£000	£000
(Surplus)/deficit for the year on HRA services		41,646	63,514
Net additional amounts required by statute	5	(43,825)	(64,388)
(Increase)/decrease in the HRA balance		(2,179)	(874)
HRA balance brought forward		(20,833)	(19,959)
Balance carried forward	6	(23,012)	(20,833)

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20

NOTES TO THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT STATEMENTS

1. THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA)

The Housing Revenue Account is a record of expenditure on, and income from, the provision of local authority housing, and the form and content of the account is prescribed by statute. The Housing Revenue Account is 'ringfenced' and must be self-supporting. Contributions both to and from the Housing Revenue Account (e.g. from the General Fund) are limited to special circumstances.

2. ANALYSIS OF HOUSING STOCK BY TYPE OF DWELLING

Type of Dwelling		Number of bedrooms				Total	Total
		1	2	3+	Other	31 March 2020	31 March 2019
Houses and bungalows	31 March 2020	381	720	2,840	-	3,941	
	31 March 2019	394	720	2,842	-		3,956
Low rise flats	31 March 2020	2,811	617	368	-	3,796	
	31 March 2019	2,806	623	367	-		3,796
Medium rise flats	31 March 2020	6,563	7,116	6,118	-	19,797	
	31 March 2019	6,573	7,123	6,134	-		19,830
High rise flats	31 March 2020	2,784	4,707	1,781	-	9,272	
	31 March 2019	2,853	4,744	1,792	-		9,389
Non-permanent	31 March 2020	-	-	-	-	-	
	31 March 2019	-	-	-	-		-
Multi-occupied	31 March 2020	-	-	-	341	341	
	31 March 2019	-	-	-	341		341
TOTALS	31 March 2020	12,539	13,160	11,107	341	37,147	
	31 March 2019	12,626	13,210	11,135	341		37,312

In addition to the numbers shown in the table above, as at 31 March 2020 there were also 532 void properties (441 at 31 March 2019). These are mostly decanted properties within the major redevelopment projects currently underway; but whilst they have been made secure, they have not yet been demolished.

The vacant possession value of buildings as at 31 March 2020 was £13.5bn (£13.4bn as at 31 March 2019). The difference between the vacant possession value and Balance Sheet value of dwellings within the HRA shows the economic cost to the government of providing council housing at less than market rents.

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20

3. DEPRECIATION AND REVALUATION CHARGES

	2019-20	2018-19
	£000	£000
Dwellings depreciation	48,845	49,303
Other property depreciation	1,593	1,449
Revaluation losses on non-current assets	93,568	90,650
Total	144,006	141,402

Revaluation charges arise from capital expenditure carried out on dwellings which has not changed the value of those dwellings, or from reductions in the value of assets in excess of any carrying values held in the revaluation reserve.

All depreciation and impairment charges are reversed out of the HRA to the capital adjustment account, the values consequently having no net effect on rents or other HRA income. Revaluation charges related to other HRA land and buildings are not reversed out and so consequently there is the potential for these values to have an effect on rents or other HRA income.

4. REVENUE EXPENDITURE FUNDED FROM CAPITAL UNDER STATUTE (REFCUS)

REFCUS is a class of expenditure that may meet statutory definitions of capital expenditure, but is of a nature that is not consistent with the accounting standards definitions of additions to property, plant and equipment. Examples include expenditure incurred on assets that are not owned by the council, often referred to as a capital grant. Expenditure is charged to the Income and Expenditure Account as it arises, but is then charged to the capital adjustment account to be financed from capital resources. For the HRA this expenditure would include cash incentive payments (grants to tenants as an incentive to vacate their properties and purchase private accommodation), and statutory home loss payments where the council necessarily relocates tenants to other accommodation.

In 2019-20 £5.381m was incurred in the HRA as REFCUS (£2.333m in 2018-19).

5. MOVEMENT ON THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BALANCE, NET ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

The following table shows Items included in the HRA Income and Expenditure Account but which are excluded from the movement on HRA balance for the year:

	2019-20	2018-19
	£000	£000
Difference between interest payable and similar charges including amortisation of premiums and discounts determined in accordance with the Code and those determined in accordance with statute	1,246	708
Difference between any other item of income and expenditure determined in accordance with the Code and determined in accordance with statutory HRA requirements	77	(107)
Gain or loss on the sale of HRA non-current assets	5,850	(14,374)
HRA share of contributions to or from the pension reserve	(9,196)	(7,299)
Capital expenditure funded by the HRA	23,758	22,019
Transfer to/from the major repairs reserve	50,439	50,752
Transfer to/from the capital adjustment account	(115,999)	(116,087)
Net additional amount required by statute to be charged to the HRA	(43,825)	(64,388)

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20

6. HRA BALANCE

HRA reserves at 31 March 2020 are £23.012m (£20.833m at 31 March 2019) and are allocated as follows:

	31 March 2020	31 March 2019
	£000	£000
Modernisation, service and operational improvement reserve	3,848	4,730
Financial risk reserve	19,164	16,103
Total	23,012	20,833

The modernisation, service and operational improvement reserve of £3.8m comprises £0.8m for IT transformation, and £3.0m for investment in energy infrastructure.

The financial risk reserve, £19.2m, includes £6.0m contingency, broadly representing 2.2% of gross HRA revenue spend and housing investment programme spend. The reserve also provides £1.3m to self-insure against the risks of subsidence and significant fire damage to the council's housing stock, £1.7m heating account reserve, which represents the cumulative balance available to mitigate energy cost pressures and smooth heating charge volatility, £1.5m for estate parking and £4.9m relating to debt financing. Reserves relating to homeowners and tenants funds were merged into a new residents participation reserve of £0.5m*, whilst part of the repairs and maintenance transition reserve was increased to £2.5m. A new great estates reserve of £0.8m was also established during 2019-20.

* From 1 April 2020 the homeowners fund and tenants fund are combined into a new residents participation fund, as part of the implementation of proposals relating to reforming resident participation agreed by the council's cabinet on 4 February 2020. Within the HRA Income and Expenditure Account, the new earmarked residents improvement fund will also encompass tenant and resident special interest grants (TRSIG).

7. MAJOR REPAIRS RESERVE

	2019-20	2018-19
	£000	£000
Balance 1 April	10,921	10,921
Transfers from the capital adjustment account	50,439	50,752
Transfer from / (to) the HRA	-	-
Financing of capital expenditure	(59,092)	(50,752)
Balance 31 March	2,268	10,921

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20

8. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND FINANCING

	2019-20	2018-19
	£000	£000
Capital investment		
Non-current assets	151,902	141,448
REFCUS	5,381	2,333
Total	157,283	143,781
Funding Source:		
Revenue contributions	23,758	22,019
Capital receipts from the sales of assets	27,614	51,164
Grants and other contributions	26,628	19,846
Major repairs reserve	59,092	50,752
Borrowing	20,191	-
Total	157,283	143,781

9. CAPITAL RECEIPTS FROM DISPOSAL OF LAND, HOUSES AND OTHER PROPERTY WITHIN THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

	2019-20	2018-19
	£000	£000
Council dwellings		
Right to Buy	(18,757)	(15,555)
Discounts repaid	-	(44)
Non Right to Buy	(3,916)	(7,176)
Other receipts		
Land sales	(6,251)	(5,695)
Mortgages	(5)	(7)
Sub total	(28,929)	(28,477)
Less: pooled (paid to central government)	4,267	4,265
Total	(24,662)	(24,212)

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20

10. HOUSING TENANTS ACCOUNTS

	2019-20	2018-19
	£000	£000
Gross arrears as at 1 April	25,019	23,787
Prior year payments	(12,676)	(12,009)
Arrears as at 1 April	12,343	11,778
Charges due in the year	229,244	225,811
Rent rebates	(71,370)	(73,538)
Write-offs	(2,056)	(1,367)
Adjustments	(5,618)	(5,315)
Cash collected	(150,777)	(145,026)
Net arrears as at 31 March	11,766	12,343
Payments in advance	13,053	12,676
Gross arrears as at 31 March	24,819	25,019

The arrears position comprises all dwelling stock and non-residential properties, hostels and Browning Estate Management Board. It excludes temporary accommodation, i.e. bed and breakfast, private sector leasing, and travellers' sites, as these are General Fund services.

11. IMPAIRMENT OF DEBTORS

	2019-20	2018-19
	£000	£000
Rents	12,601	12,524
Income from hostels	1,316	1,085
Court costs	853	853
Commercial rents	2,093	1,064
Penalty charge notices and parking warrants	2,303	1,883
Total	19,166	17,409

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20

12. PENSIONS COSTS

The HRA is charged with the costs of pensions for its employees in accordance with IAS 19. The costs are then reversed out of the HRA to the pension reserve. The values have no net effect on rents or other HRA income.

The apportionment of charges to the HRA under IAS 19 is based on the ratio of employer payroll costs incurred by the council for staff charged to the HRA against those employed for the council as a whole. This apportionment is also applied to actuarially assessed items such as pensions interest cost, the expected return on pension assets, and actuarial gains and losses.

	2019-20	2018-19
	£000	£000
Current service cost	6,365	3,911
Interest on pension scheme liabilities	2,831	3,388
Actuarial (gains)/losses	(25,512)	3,970
Total IAS 19 charges	(16,316)	11,269
Less pensions costs attributable to the HRA	4,673	(6,010)
Movement on the pension reserve	(11,643)	5,259

13. WATER CHARGES

In March 2016, the High Court (Chancery Division) found that the council had been overcharging a tenant for water supplies via Thames Water, contrary to the Water Resale Order 2006. Refunds to current and former tenants commenced in 2016-17, and the council made appropriate provision in its accounts for this purpose. This process has continued during subsequent years, with the amount provided for reduced accordingly.

Under the terms of the Water Resale Order 2006, the refunds are net of a daily administrative charge, but inclusive of interest at a rate determined by the regulations.

14. INCOME, EXPENDITURE AND CHANGES IN THE FAIR VALUE OF INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

This disclosure identifies expenditure, rental/investment income and changes in fair value for HRA shops which are classified on the Balance Sheet as investment properties held solely for capital appreciation purposes and rental income generation. The value is £11.901m (2018-19 - £14.284m).

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20

COLLECTION FUND

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

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	Notes	Council tax £000	Business rates £000	Business rate supplement £000	2019-20 £000	2018-19 £000
Income						
Income from council tax	1	(147,710)			(147,710)	(137,511)
Transfer from the General Fund		(185)			(185)	(158)
Income from business rates	2		(317,267)		(317,267)	(289,666)
Transitional protection payments from MHCLG			(6,846)		(6,846)	(15,807)
Income from business rate supplement (BRS)	3			(9,329)	(9,329)	(8,963)
Contribution from preceptors towards previous years Collection Fund deficit					-	-
Total income		(147,895)	(324,113)	(9,329)	(481,337)	(452,105)
Expenditure						
Precepts and demands:						
Greater London Authority (GLA)		33,225			33,225	29,683
London borough of Southwark		110,532			110,532	104,446
Share of business rates:						
Greater London Authority (GLA)			91,019		91,019	118,466
London borough of Southwark			161,811		161,811	210,607
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government			84,277		84,277	-
Transitional protection payment to MHCLG					-	-
Cost of collection allowance (NDR)			757		757	720
Business rate supplement:						
Payment to GLA	3			9,314	9,314	8,948
Administrative costs				15	15	15
Council tax impairment of debts:						
Increase/(decrease) allowance for non-collection		3,520			3,520	219
Write-offs		2,502			2,502	201
NDR impairment of debts / appeals / refunds:						
Increase/(decrease) allowance for non-collection			4,573		4,573	509
Write-offs	5		945		945	935
Appeals / change in provision for alteration of VoA list and appeals			(14,721)		(14,721)	-
Interest on refunds			1		1	-
Contribution to preceptors towards previous years Collection Fund surplus	4	4,957	3,861		8,818	20,510
Total expenditure		154,736	332,523	9,329	496,588	495,259
Net (surplus)/deficit for the year		6,841	8,410	-	15,251	43,154
(Surplus)/deficit at 1 April		(5,169)	21,902	-	16,733	(26,421)
(Surplus)/deficit at 31 March	2	1,672	30,312	-	31,984	16,733

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20

NOTES TO THE COLLECTION FUND

1. COUNCIL TAX

Council tax is a property-based tax, which is assessed on the value of residential property. For this purpose, the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) has set residential properties into eight valuation bands (A to H) using estimated market value at 1 April 1991. The council tax charges are calculated by estimating the amount of income required from the Collection Fund by the council and preceptors for the forthcoming year, and dividing this by the council tax base, which is the estimated total number of properties liable to tax, expressed as a band D equivalent.

In 2019-20 the estimated income required from all preceptors for the Collection Fund was £143.8m (2018-19 £134.1m). The amount of council tax for a band D property was £1,386.78 in 2019-20 inclusive of the GLA precept (2018-19 £1,329.54) and is multiplied by the ratio specified for the particular band to give the council tax due from properties in other bands. The 2019-20 council taxbase after allowing for adjustments for non-collection (97.2% collection rate) was 103,662. The table below shows how the council tax base was set and the resulting band D council tax.

Band	Estimated number of properties after discounts		Ratio	Equivalent number of band D properties	
	2019-20	2018-19		2019-20	2018-19
A	7,459	7,502	6/9	4,972	5,001
B	26,237	25,700	7/9	20,407	19,989
C	26,830	26,343	8/9	23,849	23,416
D	20,969	20,474	9/9	20,969	20,474
E	15,673	14,967	11/9	19,156	18,293
F	6,250	5,943	13/9	9,028	8,585
G	4,133	4,046	15/9	6,889	6,743
H	689	644	18/9	1,378	1,289
Total	108,240	105,619		106,648	103,790
Less adjustment for collection rate				(2,986)	(2,906)
Council tax base for year				103,662	100,884
Estimated income required from Collection Fund				£ 143,756,388	£ 134,129,313
Band D council tax				£ 1,386.78	£ 1,329.54

Council tax receivable is net of benefits, any discounts for prompt payments, and any transitional relief.

2. NON-DOMESTIC RATES

Non-domestic rates (NDR), known as business rates are collected from local businesses by the council. From 1 April 2013 the business rates retention scheme was introduced nationally.

For 2019-20, the council entered into a 75% business rate retention pilot project for London boroughs with the City of London as lead authority, on the basis of a 'no worse off / no detriment' agreement with central government. As a member of the London boroughs 75% business rates retention scheme, the council can retain 48% business rates income, with the remainder allocated to the Greater London Authority at 27% and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) 25%.

During 2018-19, the council was in a 100% Business Rates Retention London arrangement whereby the council retained 64% of business rates, with 36% paid to the Greater London Authority and MHCLG allocated 0%.

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
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Business rates are based on local rateable values set by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) and a multiplier set by central government (MHCLG). The non-domestic rating multiplier and the small business non-domestic rating multiplier for England for 2019-20 were:

- non-domestic rating multiplier **50.4p** (0.504), (2018-19 49.3p)
- small business non-domestic rating multiplier **49.1p** (0.491), (2018-19 48.0p)

A cumulative deficit position of £30.3m has arisen for NDR for the council for 2019-20 (2018-19 £21.9m deficit), mainly due to the opening balance, with the in-year deficit of £8.4m due to an increase in reliefs for example, empty property reliefs were higher than expected; lower than forecast transitional protection payment from central government due to the council, an increase in bad debt provisions and decrease in appeals provisions. For council tax, the in-year deficit of £6.8m was due to an increase in discounts and exemptions (particularly an increase in single person discounts), higher volume of write-offs and increase in bad debt provisions. The council tax position is a cumulative deficit of £1.7m for 2019-20 (2018-19 £5.2m).

The council has benefited from membership of the London boroughs 75% business rates retention scheme for 2019-20, a business rates pooling arrangement, with a no detriment / no worse-off clause for being a member. At year-end, the council has gained with £4.8m being transferred to reserves (2018-19 £10.2m). No levy is payable by the council, as a result of membership of the London business rates pool. For 2020-21, the council is participating in the London boroughs 67% business rates retention scheme.

3. BUSINESS RATE SUPPLEMENT

Business rate supplements (BRS) are collected from local businesses by the council, on behalf of the GLA for the Crossrail project in London. For 2019-20, the levy remains set at **2p** per pound of rateable value (RV), (unchanged since its inception in 2010) on non-domestic properties with a rateable value greater than £70,000. The last rateable value change from £55,000 to £70,000 occurred in 2016-17).

4. CONTRIBUTION TO/FROM PRECEPTORS OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S ESTIMATED COLLECTION FUND SURPLUS/DEFICIT

As a billing authority, the council is required to make an estimate of the surplus or deficit on the Collection Fund for council tax by the 15 January and for non-domestic rates by 31 January each year. The estimated surplus or deficit is used in setting the council tax for the following year, by reducing council tax if there is a surplus or increasing council tax if there is a deficit. In January 2019, the council estimated an accumulated collection fund surplus balance of £8.8m for 2018-19, (council tax £4.9m and NDR £3.9m), as follows:

	Council tax	Business rates	Total
	£000	£000	£000
(Surplus) / deficit as at 31 March 2018	(7,287)	(13,223)	(20,510)
Estimated (surplus) / deficit for 2018-19	2,330	9,362	11,692
Estimated surplus as at 31 March 2019	(4,957)	(3,861)	(8,818)

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
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The estimated surplus for council tax was apportioned between the council and the GLA based on their respective demands and precepts on the Collection Fund and the estimated surplus for business rates was apportioned between the council, the GLA and MHCLG as follows:

Authority	Overall %	Council tax	Overall % (2018-19 / 2017-18)	Business rates	Total
		£000	%	£000	£000
Southwark council	77.87%	(3,860)	64% / 30%	(1,158)	(5,018)
Greater London Authority (GLA)	22.13%	(1,097)	36% / 37%	(1,429)	(2,526)
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government			0% / 33%	(1,274)	(1,274)
Estimated surplus for 2018-19 redistributed in 2019-20		(4,957)		(3,861)	(8,818)

5. PROVISION FOR ALTERATION OF LISTS AND APPEALS

The introduction of the business rates retention scheme in 2013 allows the council to retain a share of any growth in non-domestic rates (NDR) income, but also transfers some of the risks of non collection of business rates. Accordingly the council must provide for potential losses resulting from the alteration of Valuation Office Agency (VOA) rateable value assets lists and appeals for business rates.

The provision for alteration of lists and appeals as at 31 March 2020 is £18.6m (£33.3m 31 March 2019), a reduction of £14.7m based on consideration of recent case law, potential unlodged appeals cases and other factors including information from the VOA.

As at 31 March 2020, approximately 412 appeals cases remain unsettled and outstanding with the VOA. Following the 2017 revaluation, a check, challenge, and appeals policy was introduced by central government to reform the business rates appeals system applicable to the new rating list effective on 1 April 2017. The check and challenge system is designed to make the business rates appeals assessment and application process more rigorous to reduce the level of unsubstantiated appeals lodged with the VOA.

LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK PENSION FUND

FUND ACCOUNT

	Note	2019-20		2018-19	
		£000	£000	£000	£000
Dealing with members, employers and others directly involved in the fund					
Contributions	6	(55,151)		(56,129)	
Transfers in from other pension funds	7	(10,636)		(2,762)	
Sub total			(65,787)		(58,891)
Benefits	8	59,692		59,112	
Payments to and on account of leavers	9	11,692		4,964	
Sub total			71,384		64,076
Net reduction/(addition) from dealing with members of the fund			5,597		5,185
Management expenses	10		8,881		7,508
Returns on investments					
Investment income	11	(15,578)		(15,814)	
Taxes on income	11	291		382	
Profit and losses on disposal of investments and changes in market value of investments	12	61,254		(108,300)	
Net return on investments			45,967		(123,732)
Net (increase)/decrease in the net assets available for benefits during the year			60,445		(111,039)
Opening net assets of the scheme			(1,641,986)		(1,530,947)
Net assets of the scheme available to fund benefits at 31 March			(1,581,541)		(1,641,986)

NET ASSETS STATEMENT

	Note	31 March 2020 £000	31 March 2019 £000
Investment assets	12	1,542,755	1,631,245
Current assets	13	44,238	14,195
Current liabilities	13	(5,452)	(3,454)
Net assets of the scheme available to fund benefits at 31 March		1,581,541	1,641,986

The fund's financial statements do not take account of liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits after the period end. The estimated actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits is disclosed at note 19.

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
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NOTES TO THE PENSION FUND STATEMENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

The Pension Fund (the fund) is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and is administered by Southwark Council (the council).

The following description of the Fund is a summary only. For more detail, reference should be made to the Pension Fund Annual Report 2019-20 and the underlying statutory powers underpinning the scheme, namely the Public Service Pension Act 2013 and the LGPS Regulations.

a) General

The scheme is governed by the Public Service Pension Act 2013. The Fund is administered in accordance with the following secondary legislation:

- The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (as amended)
- The Local Government Pension Scheme (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014 (as amended)
- The Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016 (as amended).

It is a contributory defined benefit scheme that provides pensions and other benefits for former employees of the council and other admitted organisations.

The overall investment strategy is the responsibility of the council. This responsibility is delegated to the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance, taking account of the advice of the Pensions Advisory Panel. In line with the provisions of the Public Services Pensions Act 2013, the council has set up a Local Pension Board to assist the council in its role as scheme manager of the Pension Fund. The Board meets on a quarterly basis and has its own terms of reference. Board members are independent of the Pensions Advisory Panel.

b) Membership

Membership of LGPS is voluntary and employees are free to choose whether to join the scheme, remain in the scheme or make their own personal arrangements outside of the scheme.

Organisations participating in the Fund include:

- Scheduled bodies, which are largely academies and similar bodies whose staff are automatically entitled to be members of the Fund
- Admitted bodies, which are other organisations that participate in the Fund under an admission agreement between the Fund and the relevant organisation. Admitted bodies include voluntary, charitable and similar bodies or private contractors undertaking a local authority function following outsourcing to the private sector.

A list of participating organisations and their contributions for the financial year 2019-20 is included within the Pension Fund Annual Report 2019-20. This is available from the council website.

	31 March 2020	31 March 2019
Number of contributors to the Fund	6,888	6,753
Number of contributors and dependants receiving allowances	7,887	7,594
Number of contributors who have deferred their pensions	10,932	10,723

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c) Funding

Benefits are funded by contributions and investment earnings. Contributions are made by active members of the fund in accordance with the LGPS Regulations 2013 and range from 5.5% to 12.5% of pensionable pay for the financial year ending 31 March 2020. Employee contributions are matched by employers' contributions, which are set in accordance with the triennial actuarial funding valuations, the last being at 31 March 2019. For the 2019-20 financial year primary employer contribution rates ranged from 7.3% to 17.8% of pensionable pay, plus additional deficit payments where appropriate.

d) Benefits

Prior to 1 April 2014, pension benefits under the LGPS were based on final pensionable pay and length of pensionable service, summarised in the following table:

	Service pre 1 April 2008	Service post 31 March 2008	Service pre 1 April 2008
Pension	Each year worked is worth 1/80 x final pensionable salary	Each year worked is worth 1/60 x final pensionable salary	Each year worked is worth 1/49 career average revalued earnings salary
Lump sum	Automatic lump sum of 3 x pension. In addition, part of the annual pension can be exchanged for a one-off tax-free cash payment. A lump sum of £12 is paid for each £1 of pension given up.	No automatic lump sum. Part of the annual pension can be exchanged for a one-off tax-free cash payment. A lump sum of £12 is paid for each £1 of pension given up.	

2. BASIS OF PREPARATION

The Statement of Accounts summarises the fund's transactions for the 2019-20 financial year and its position at year-end as at 31 March 2020. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019-20, which is based upon International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as amended for the UK public sector.

The accounts summarise the transactions of the fund and report on the net assets available to pay pension benefits. The accounts do not take account of obligations to pay pensions and benefits which fall due after the end of the financial year.

3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Fund Account – Revenue Recognition

a) Contributions income

Normal contributions, both from the members and from the employer, are accounted for on an accruals basis at the percentage rate recommended by the fund actuary in the payroll period to which they relate.

Employers' augmentation contributions and pension strain contributions are accounted for in the period in which the liability arises. Any amount due in year but unpaid will be classed as a current financial asset.

b) Transfers to and from other schemes

Transfer values represent the amounts received and paid during the year for members who have either joined or left the fund during the financial year and are calculated in accordance with the Local Government Scheme Regulations. Individual transfers in or out are accounted for when received or paid, which is normally when the member liability is accepted or discharged.

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
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Transfers in from members wishing to use the proceeds of their additional voluntary contributions to purchase scheme benefits are accounted for on a receipts basis and are included in transfers in. Bulk group transfers are accounted for on an accruals basis in accordance with the terms of the transfer agreement.

c) Investment income

Interest income is recognised in the fund account as it accrues, using the effective interest rate of the financial instrument as at the date of acquisition or origination. Income includes the amortisation of any discount or premium, transaction costs or other differences between the initial carrying amount of the instrument and its amount at maturity calculated on an effective interest rate basis.

Dividend income is recognised on the date the shares are quoted ex-dividend. Any amount not received by the end of the reporting period is disclosed in the net assets statement as a current investment asset.

Distributions from pooled funds are recognised at the date of issue. Any amount not received by the end of the reporting period is disclosed in the net assets statement as a current investment asset. Property related income consists primarily of rental income. Rental income from operating leases on properties owned by the fund is recognised on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease. Any lease incentives granted are recognised as an integral part of the total rental income, over the term of the lease.

Contingent rents based on the future amount of a factor that changes other than with the passage of time, such as turnover rents, are only recognised when contractually due.

Changes in the net market value of investments (including investment properties) are recognised as income and comprise all realised and unrealised profits and or losses during the year.

d) Fund account – benefits payable

Pensions and lump sum benefits payable include all amounts known to be due as at the end of the financial year. Any amounts due but unpaid are disclosed in the net assets statement as current liabilities

e) Fund account – taxation

The fund is a registered public service scheme under section 1(1) of Schedule 36 of the Finance Act 2004 and as such is exempt from UK income tax on interest received and from capital gains tax on the proceeds of investments sold. Income from overseas investments suffers withholding tax in the country of origin, unless exemption is permitted. Irrecoverable tax is accounted for as a fund expense as it arises.

f) Management expenses

The Code does not require any breakdown of Pension Fund administrative expenses. However, in the interests of greater transparency, the council discloses its Pension Fund management expenses in accordance with the CIPFA guidance Accounting for Local Government Pension Scheme Management Costs.

Administrative expenses

All administrative expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis. All staff costs of pensions administration are charged direct to the fund. Management, accommodation and other overheads are apportioned to the fund in accordance with council policy

Oversight and governance costs

All oversight and governance expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis. All staff costs associated with governance and oversight are charged direct to the fund. Management, accommodation and other overheads are apportioned to the fund in accordance with council policy.

Investment management expenses

All investment management expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis. Fees for the fund managers and custodian are agreed in the respective mandates governing their appointments and are based broadly on the market value of the investments under their management and therefore increase or reduce as the value of these investments change.

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Net Asset Statement

g) Financial assets

Financial assets are included in the net assets statement on a fair value basis in accordance with the Code and with the requirements of IFRS 13 as at the reporting date. A financial asset is recognised in the net assets statement on the date the fund becomes party to the contractual acquisition of the asset. From this date any gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of assets are recognised by the fund. The values of investments as shown in the net assets statement have been determined as follows:

- Equity investments, unit trusts and unitised insurance policies at their market bid price on 31 March each year.
- Foreign currency transactions have been brought into the accounts at the exchange rate that was in force when the transaction took place.
- End of year balances on foreign currency transactions have been translated at the exchange rate on 31 March each year.
- Investment assets have been valued and included in the accounts at bid price except for derivative contracts which are valued on the basis of unrealised gains and losses.
- Property unit trusts have been included at net asset price.

h) Freehold and leasehold property

Property assets have been included in the accounts at fair value as at 31 March each year. The valuation of direct property managed by Nuveen is carried out annually by an independent valuer.

i) Derivatives

The fund uses derivative financial instruments to manage its exposure to specific risks arising from its investment activities. The fund does not hold derivatives for speculative purposes. The future value of forward currency contracts is based on market forward exchange rates at the year-end date and determined as the gain or loss that would arise if the outstanding contract were matched at the year-end with an equal and opposite contract.

j) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash comprises cash in hand and demand deposits. Cash equivalents are short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and that are subject to minimal risk of changes in value.

k) Financial liabilities

The fund recognises financial liabilities at fair value as at the reporting date. A financial liability is recognised in the net assets statement on the date the fund becomes party to the liability. From this date any gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of the liability are recognised by the fund.

l) Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits

The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits is assessed on a triennial basis by the scheme actuary in accordance with the requirements of IAS 19 and relevant actuarial standards. As permitted under IAS 26, the fund has opted to disclose the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits by way of a note in the net assets statement.

m) Additional voluntary contributions

The fund provides an additional voluntary contributions (AVC) scheme for its members, the assets of which are invested separately from those of the pension fund. AVCs are not included in the accounts but are disclosed as a note (note 6).

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4. CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Pension Fund liability is calculated every three years by the appointed actuary, with annual updates in the intervening years. The methodology used is in line with accepted guidelines and in accordance with IAS 19. Assumptions underpinning the valuations are agreed with the actuary and are summarised in note 19. This estimate is subject to significant variances based on changes to underlying assumptions.

5. ASSUMPTIONS MADE ABOUT THE FUTURE AND OTHER MAJOR SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

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

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
Actuarial present value of retirement benefits	This applies to the estimation of the net liability to pay pensions, which depends upon a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets.	A 1.0% change in the discount rate is estimated to change the present value of pension liability by £215m.
Freehold and leasehold property, pooled property and infrastructure funds	Valuation techniques are used to determine the carrying amount of pooled property funds and directly held freehold and leasehold property. Where possible these valuation techniques are based on observable data, but where this is not possible, management uses the best available data. Changes in the valuation assumptions used, together with significant changes in rental growth, vacancy levels or the discount rate could affect the fair value of property. The ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has created an unprecedented set of circumstances on which to base judgement. As such, the Pension Fund property and infrastructure allocations as at 31 March 2020, are difficult to value according to preferred accounting policy. Valuations are therefore reported on the basis of 'material valuation uncertainty'. Consequently, less certainty and a higher degree of caution should be attached to the valuation than would normally be the case.	The effect of variations in the factors supporting the valuation, estimated to be 7%, would be an increase or decrease in the value of property of £17m, on a fair value of £246m.

6. CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVABLE

Contributions represent the total amount receivable from employees and employers of the scheme.

	2019-20			2018-19		
	Employees £000	Employers £000	Total £000	Employees £000	Employers £000	Total £000
Southwark council	(11,904)	(38,308)	(50,212)	(11,358)	(39,932)	(51,290)
Admitted bodies	(270)	(805)	(1,075)	(273)	(921)	(1,194)
Scheduled bodies	(1,128)	(2,736)	(3,864)	(1,020)	(2,625)	(3,645)
Total contributions	(13,302)	(41,849)	(55,151)	(12,651)	(43,478)	(56,129)

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Contributions receivable from employers are shown below:

	2019-20 £000	2018-19 £000
Normal	(29,475)	(28,092)
Early retirement strain	(356)	(3,730)
Deficit funding	(12,018)	(11,656)
Total contributions from employers	(41,849)	(43,478)
Contributions from employees	(13,302)	(12,651)
Total contributions	(55,151)	(56,129)

During 2019-20 employees made additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) of £258k (£214k in 2018-19).
The value of the AVCs at 31 March 2020 was £2.8m (£2.9m at 31 March 2019).

7. TRANSFERS IN FROM OTHER PENSION FUNDS

Transfers in from other pension funds were as follows:

	2019-20 £000	2018-19 £000
Individual transfers	(10,636)	(2,762)
Total transfers in from other pension funds	(10,636)	(2,762)

8. BENEFITS PAYABLE

The table below shows the total benefits payable grouped by entities:

	2019-20 £000	2018-19 £000
Pensions	50,347	51,418
Commutation of pensions and lump sum retirement benefits	8,108	6,571
Lump sums - death benefits	1,237	1,123
Total benefits payable	59,692	59,112

The table below shows the total benefits payable grouped by entities:

	2019-20 £000	2018-19 £000
Southwark council	56,682	56,703
Admitted bodies	2,049	1,766
Scheduled bodies	961	643
Total benefits payable	59,692	59,112

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9. PAYMENTS TO AND ON ACCOUNT OF LEAVERS

	2019-20 £000	2018-19 £000
Refund of contributions	430	246
Individual transfers out to other schemes	11,262	4,718
Total payments	11,692	4,964

10. MANAGEMENT EXPENSES

	2019-20 £000	2018-19 £000
Administrative costs	2,677	2,059
Investment and management expenses	5,632	4,820
Oversight and governance costs	572	629
Total management expenses	8,881	7,508

The 2019-20 fee for external audit services for the pension fund was £28k (£21k in 2018-19).

The table below shows the total investment and management expenses.

	2019-20 £000	2018-19 £000
Management fees	3,931	3,019
Property management expenses	1,618	1,700
Custody fees	83	101
Total investment expenses	5,632	4,820

The Pension Fund incurred expenses of £0.9m in relation to services provided by the council during 2019-20 (£0.8m during 2018-19)

11. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2019-20 £000	2018-19 £000
Dividends from equities	(4,533)	(3,783)
Income from pooled investment vehicles	(1,963)	(2,465)
Rent from properties	(9,069)	(9,559)
Interest on cash deposits	(13)	(7)
Total investment income before taxes	(15,578)	(15,814)
Taxes on income	291	382
Total investment income after taxes	(15,287)	(15,432)

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12. INVESTMENT ASSETS

	31 March 2020 £000	31 March 2019 £000
Bonds		
Quoted Overseas	6,177	7,700
Equity		
Quoted UK	25,195	23,275
Quoted Overseas	140,725	149,126
Pooled Funds		
Fixed Income Overseas	120,788	124,768
Index Linked Gilts UK	153,575	149,613
Multi Asset Overseas	163,023	167,475
Unitised Insurance Policy		
Equity Overseas	651,416	716,671
Property		
Direct Property UK	189,550	222,470
Property Unit Trust UK	56,420	67,659
Infrastructure	31,803	-
Derivatives		
Forward currency contracts	222	90
London Collective Investment Vehicle	150	150
Other investment balances	3,711	2,248
Investment assets	1,542,755	1,631,245

The change in market value of investments during the year comprises all increases and decreases in the market value of investments held at any time during the year, including profits and losses realised on the sale of investments during the year. The table below shows the movement in investment assets and the change in market value for the year:

	Value at 31 March 2019 £000	Purchases £000	Sales £000	Change in market value £000	Cash movement £000	Value at 31 March 2020 £000
Bonds	7,700	32,410	(34,393)	460	-	6,177
Equity	172,401	52,712	(47,120)	(12,073)	-	165,920
Pooled funds	441,856	383	-	(4,853)	-	437,386
Unitised insurance policy	716,671	122,200	(151,564)	(35,891)	-	651,416
Property	290,129	6,182	(41,289)	(9,052)	-	245,970
Infrastructure	-	32,454	(426)	(225)	-	31,803
Derivatives	90	3,101	(3,349)	380	-	222
Cash deposits	-	-	-	-	-	-
London Collective Investment Vehicle	150	-	-	-	-	150
Other investment balances	2,248	-	-	-	1,463	3,711
Investment assets	1,631,245	249,442	(278,141)	(61,254)	1,463	1,542,755

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	Value at 31 March 2018	Purchase	Sales	Change in market value	Cash movement	Value at 31 March 2019
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Bonds	8,582	34,253	(36,136)	1,001	-	7,700
Equity	147,756	83,057	(78,180)	19,768	-	172,401
Pooled funds	409,056	36,375	(17,511)	13,936	-	441,856
Unitised insurance policy	686,592	210,946	(249,884)	69,017	-	716,671
Property	266,190	27,563	(7,757)	4,133	-	290,129
Derivatives	103	1,269	(1,727)	445	-	90
Cash deposits	1,000	-	-	-	(1,000)	-
London Collective Investment Vehicle	150	-	-	-	-	150
Other investment balances	2,298	-	-	-	(50)	2,248
Investment assets	1,521,727	393,463	(391,195)	108,300	(1,050)	1,631,245

The Pension Fund does not hold derivatives as a main asset class, but they are used by Newton Investment Management, our active equity fund manager, to hedge the currency risk of holding global equities. The currency forward contracts are traded over the counter.

The valuation of direct property managed by Nuveen is carried out by Knight Frank LLP. The valuer is RICS qualified and the valuation took place on 31 March 2020. All properties have been valued at market value.

The Investment Strategy Statement can be accessed through the council's website. The following investments represent more than 5% of investment assets.

Name of investment	Fund manager	31 March 2020	% of investment assets	31 March 2019	% of investment assets
		£000	%	£000	%
Diversified Growth Fund	Blackrock	163,023	11%	167,474	10%
Low Carbon Target	Legal and General	263,047	17%	158,330	10%
North America Equity	Legal and General	43,000	3%	132,081	8%
Low Carbon Target	Blackrock	123,200	8%	131,087	8%
Absolute Return Bond Fund	Blackrock	120,788	8%	124,768	8%
+5 Year Index Linked Gilt Fund	Legal and General	85,426	6%	83,423	5%
US Equity Fund	Blackrock	77,284	5%	79,777	5%

The market value of assets (excluding cash and accruals) managed by the investment managers at the balance sheet date 31 March 2020 has been set out in the table below.

	31 March 2020		31 March 2019	
	£000	%	£000	%
BlackRock	673,584	44%	707,797	43%
Legal and General Investment Managers	415,217	27%	450,730	28%
Nuveen	195,651	13%	242,973	15%
Newton Investment Management	172,320	11%	180,191	11%
M and G Real Estate	22,358	1%	21,745	1%
Invesco Real Estate	14,953	1%	14,611	1%
Glennmont	11,700	1%	-	0%
Temporis	20,103	1%	-	0%
Frogmore Real Estate Partners	8,822	1%	7,734	1%
Brockton Capital LLP	4,186	0%	3,066	0%
London Collective Investment Vehicle	150	0%	150	0%
Total	1,539,044	100%	1,628,997	100%

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13. CURRENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

The current assets of the fund are analysed as follows:

	31 March 2020 £000	31 March 2019 £000
Contribution due from employers	1,116	3,175
Other current assets	2,717	2,352
Cash at managers	18,448	3,825
Cash and bank	21,957	4,843
Total	44,238	14,195

The current liabilities of the fund are analysed as follows:

	31 March 2020 £000	31 March 2019 £000
Benefits	(15)	(3)
Professional fees	(2,283)	(842)
Investment	(2,072)	(2,006)
Taxes	(604)	(602)
Other	(478)	(1)
Total	(5,452)	(3,454)

14. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Pension Fund is required to disclose details of its financial relationship with related third parties. This has been defined as where the related party has, or is perceived to have, real influence over any transaction between the parties.

Through its administration of the fund, the council has a related party interest with the Pension Fund, and the costs charged by the council are disclosed in note 31.

Management of the Pension Fund is the responsibility of the council's Strategic Director of Finance and Governance. No officers' remuneration is paid directly by the fund; costs are instead recovered as part of the costs disclosed in note 10. The Strategic Director of Finance and Governance remuneration is disclosed in note 29 of the council's Statement of Accounts.

The Pension Advisory Panel (PAP) offers advice to the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance. Councillor members of the PAP make an annual declaration of their interests which is available on the council's website.

The council is also the single largest employer of members of the Pension Fund and contributed £38.3m to the fund in 2019-20 (£39.9m in 2018-19).

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15. FAIR VALUE HIERARCHY

The valuation of financial instruments has been classified into three levels in accordance with IFRS 13, according to the quality and reliability of information used to determine fair values.

Level 1 are those where the fair values are derived from unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. Products classified as level 1 comprise quoted equities, quoted fixed securities, quoted index linked securities and unit trusts. Listed investments are shown at bid prices. The bid value of the investment is based on the bid market quotation of the relevant stock exchange.

Level 2 are those where quoted market prices are not available; for example, where an instrument is traded in a market that is not considered to be active, or where valuation techniques are used to determine fair value and where these techniques use inputs that are based significantly on observable market data. They comprise property unit trusts.

Level 3 are those where at least one input that could have a significant effect on the instruments valuation is not based on observable market data.

Description of asset	Valuation hierarchy	Basis of valuation	Observable and unobservable inputs	Key sensitivities affecting valuations provided
Market quoted investments	Level 1	Published bid market price ruling on the final day of the accounting period	Not required	Not required
Quoted bonds	Level 1	Fixed interest securities are valued at a market value based on current yields	Not required	Not required
Futures and options in UK bonds	Level 1	Published exchange prices at the year-end	Not required	Not required
Exchange traded pooled investments	Level 1	Closing bid value on published exchanges	Not required	Not required
Unquoted bonds	Level 2	Average of broker prices	Evaluated price feeds	Not required
Forward foreign exchange derivatives	Level 2	Market forward exchange rates at the year-end	Exchange rate risk	Not required
Overseas bond options	Level 2	Option pricing model	Annualised volatility of counterparty credit risk	Not required
Pooled investments – overseas unit trusts and some property funds	Level 2	Closing bid price where bid and offer prices are published Closing single price where single price published	NAV-based pricing set on a forward pricing basis	Not required
Freehold, leasehold properties	Level 3	Valued at fair value at the year-end by independent valuers	Existing lease terms and rentals; Independent market research; Nature of tenancies; Covenant strength for existing tenants; Assumed vacancy levels; Estimated rental growth; Discount rate	Significant changes in rental growth, vacancy levels or the discount rate could affect valuations as could more general changes to market prices
Infrastructure Funds	Level 3	Valued by fund manager at the lower of fair value and cost	Purchase price at acquisition for newer or non-operational assets, estimated cash flows, government price support.	Market prices and cash yields, government policies on energy subsidies, pace of shift to renewable and clean energy, discount rates.

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The following table shows the fair value valuation hierarchy of fund assets and liabilities.

Value as at 31 March 2020	Quoted market price	Using observable inputs	With significant un-observable inputs	Total
	Level 1 £000	Level 2 £000	Level 3 £000	
Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	977,310	283,961	88,223	1,349,494
Non-financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	-	-	189,550	189,550
Total	977,310	283,961	277,773	1,539,044

Value as at 31 March 2019	Quoted market price	Using observable inputs	With significant un-observable inputs	Total
	Level 1 £000	Level 2 £000	Level 3 £000	
Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	1,046,474	292,393	67,658	1,406,525
Non-financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	-	-	222,470	222,470
Total	1,046,474	292,393	290,128	1,628,995

The following table shows the reconciliation of fair value measurements within level 3.

Value as at 31 March 2020	Value at 31 March 2019 £000	Purchase £000	Sales £000	Realised gain/(loss) £000	Unrealised gain/(loss) £000	Value at 31 March 2020 £000
Property	290,129	6,182	(41,289)	5,001	(14,053)	245,970
Infrastructure	-	32,454	(426)	-	(225)	31,803
Total	290,129	38,636	(41,715)	5,001	(14,278)	277,773

Value as at 31 March 2019	Value at 31 March 2018 £000	Purchase £000	Sales £000	Realised gain/(loss) £000	Unrealised gain/(loss) £000	Value at 31 March 2019 £000
Property	266,190	27,563	(7,757)	1,097	3,036	290,129
Total	266,190	27,563	(7,757)	1,097	3,036	290,129

The sensitivity of pricing methodology for property assets within fair value level three is considered to be +/-7%.

This equates to a pricing volatility of +/- £17m for property assets as at 31 March 2020 (£16m as at 31 March 2019).

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16. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The following table shows the classification of the Pension Fund's financial instruments:

	31 March 2020 £000	31 March 2019 £000
Financial assets		
Fair value through profit and loss	1,349,494	1,431,416
Amortised cost	46,833	13,268
Financial liabilities		
Amortised cost	(5,452)	(3,454)
Total	1,390,875	1,441,230

17. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

Outstanding capital commitments (investments) at 31 March 2020 totalled £76.8m (31 March 2019: £21.2m).

These commitments relate to outstanding call payments due on property and infrastructure funds. The amounts 'called' by these funds are irregular in both size and timing over a number of years from the date of each original commitment.

18. NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Risk and risk management

The Pension Fund's primary long-term risk is that the fund's assets will fall short of its liabilities (i.e. promised benefits payable to members). Therefore the aim of investment risk management is to minimise the risk of an overall reduction in the value of the fund and to maximise the opportunity for gains across the whole portfolio. The fund achieves this through asset diversification to reduce exposure to market risk (price risk, currency risk and interest rate risk) and credit risk to an acceptable level. In addition, the fund manages its liquidity risk to ensure there is sufficient liquidity to meet the fund's forecast cash flows. The council manages these investment risks as part of its overall pension fund risk management programme.

Responsibility for the fund's risk management strategy rests with the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance advised by the pensions advisory panel. Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse the risks faced by the council's pensions operations. Policies are reviewed regularly to reflect changes in activity and in market conditions.

Market risk

Market risk is the risk of loss from fluctuations in equity and commodity prices, interest and foreign exchange rates and credit spreads. The fund is exposed to market risk from its investment activities, particularly through its equity holdings. The level of risk exposure depends on market conditions, expectations of future price and yield movements and the asset mix.

The objective of the fund's risk management strategy is to identify, manage and control market risk exposure within acceptable parameters, whilst optimising the return on risk.

In general, excessive volatility in market risk is managed through the diversification of the portfolio in terms of geographical and industry sectors and individual securities. To mitigate market risk, the council and its investment advisers undertake appropriate monitoring of market conditions and benchmark analysis.

Price risk

Price risk represents the risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or foreign exchange risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual instrument or its issuer or factors affecting all such instruments in the market.

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The fund is exposed to share price risk. This arises from investments held by the fund for which the future price is uncertain. All security investments present a risk of a loss of capital. The maximum risk resulting from financial instruments is determined by the fair value of the financial instruments.

The fund's investment managers mitigate this price risk through diversification and the selection of securities and other financial instruments is monitored by the council to ensure it is within limits specified in the fund investment strategy.

Potential price changes are determined based on historical data and volatility of asset class returns. For example, 'riskier' assets such as equities will display greater potential volatility than bonds. The following table demonstrates the change in the net assets available to pay benefits, if the market price had increased or decreased. In consultation with the fund's investment advisers, the council has determined that the following movements in market price risk are reasonably possible for 2019-20 reporting period:

2019-20 - asset type	31 March 2020 £000	Change %	Value on increase £000	Value on decrease £000
Total equities	819,699	11%	906,540	732,860
Total bonds and indexed linked	280,541	5%	294,894	266,188
Multi-asset	163,023	5%	171,686	154,361
Alternatives	29,811	3%	30,626	28,996
Property	245,970	3%	253,766	238,172
Other assets	3,711	0%	3,711	3,711
Total investment assets	1,542,755			

2018-19 - asset type	31 March 2019 £000	Change %	Value on increase £000	Value on decrease £000
Total equities	889,072	9%	969,088	809,056
Total bonds and indexed linked	282,081	7%	301,827	262,335
Multi-asset	167,475	4%	174,174	160,776
Property	290,129	3%	298,833	281,425
Other assets	2,488	0%	2,488	2,488
Total investment assets	1,631,245			

The potential changes disclosed above are broadly consistent with a one-standard deviation movement in the value of the assets. The sensitivities are consistent with the assumptions contained in the investment advisers' most recent review. The analysis assumes that all other variables, in particular foreign currency exchange rates and interest rates, remain the same.

Had the market price of the fund's investments increased/decreased in line with the above, the change in the net assets available to pay benefits in the market price would have been as shown in the table above.

Interest rate risk

The fund invests in financial assets for the primary purpose of obtaining a return on investments. Fixed interest securities and cash are subject to interest rate risks, which represent the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The fund's interest rate risk is routinely monitored by the council and its investment advisers in accordance with the fund's risk management strategy, including monitoring the exposure to interest rates and assessment of actual interest rates against the relevant benchmarks.

Fixed interest securities are exposed to interest rate risk. The table below demonstrates the change in value of these assets had the interest rate increased or decreased by 1%:

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Assets exposed to interest rate risks	Market value	Value on 1% rate increase	Value on 1% rate decrease
	£000	£000	£000
As at 31 March 2020	126,966	128,236	125,696
As at 31 March 2019	124,768	126,016	123,520

Currency risk

Currency risk represents the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates. The fund is exposed to currency risk on financial instruments that are denominated in any currency other than sterling. A strengthening/weakening of the pound against the various currencies in which the Fund holds investments would increase/decrease the net assets available to pay benefits.

The fund's currency risk is routinely monitored by the council and its investment advisers in accordance with the fund's risk management strategy, including monitoring the range of exposure to currency fluctuations.

Overseas equities, fixed interest securities and futures, cash in foreign currencies and some elements of pooled investment vehicles are exposed to currency risk. The following table demonstrates the change in value of assets exposed to currency risk had there been a 10 per cent strengthening or weakening of the pound against foreign currencies.

Assets exposed to currency risk	Value	Change	Value on foreign exchange rate increase	Value on foreign exchange rate decrease
	£000	%	£000	£000
As at 31 March 2020	912,962	10	1,004,258	821,666
As at 31 March 2019	982,765	10	1,081,042	884,489

Credit risk

This is the risk the counterparty to a transaction or a financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation and cause the Fund to incur a financial loss. For example a stock may lose value or a dividend due may not be paid. The market values of investments generally reflect an assessment of credit in their pricing and consequently the risk of loss is implicitly provided for in the carrying value of the fund's financial assets and liabilities.

The Fund has set out a series of restrictions in each investment manager's agreement. These restrictions are intended to limit the risks from each individual investment and prevent unsuitable investment activity. The Fund also employs a global custodian to ensure that all transactions are settled in a timely manner.

Liquidity risk

This is the risk that the Pension Fund may not have the funds available to meet payments as they fall due. Historically the Fund has been cash positive (i.e. contributions received have been greater than benefits paid out). However, in recent years this has reversed with benefits paid now surpassing contributions received. The reduction in active members and a resulting change in the membership profile have increased the liquidity risk of the Fund going forward.

The Fund currently has two bank accounts. One is held by the global custodian and holds cash relating to investment activities, the other is the Pension Fund bank account, which holds the cash relating to member activities.

There is a strategy in place to forecast all income and expenditure for the Fund to ensure that sufficient funds will be made available to meet short-term commitments. In the event that there are insufficient available assets to meet liabilities when they fall due, the Fund would be able to redeem investment assets and recall cash resources from investment managers at short notice to meet this requirement.

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19. ACTUARIAL POSITION OF THE FUND

Introduction

The Scheme Regulations require that a full actuarial valuation is carried out every third year. The purpose of this is to establish that the London Borough of Southwark Pension Fund (the Fund) is able to meet its liabilities to past and present contributors and to review employer contribution rates. The last full actuarial investigation into the financial position of the Fund was completed as at 31 March 2019 by Aon, in accordance with Regulation 62 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013.

Actuarial Position

1. The valuation as at 31 March 2019 showed that the funding level of the Fund had increased since the previous valuation with the market value of the Fund's assets as at 31 March 2019 (of £1,642.0m) covering 103% of the liabilities allowing, in the case of pre-1 April 2014 membership for current contributors to the Fund, for future increases in pensionable pay, and for other membership for future pension revaluation and increases.
2. The valuation also showed that the aggregate level of contributions required to be paid by participating employers with effect from 1 April 2020 was:
 - 18.3% p.a. of pensionable pay. This is the rate calculated as being sufficient, together with contributions paid by members, to meet the liabilities arising in respect of service after the valuation date (the primary rate),

Plus

 - an allowance of 1.5% p.a. of pensionable pay for McCloud and Cost Management – see paragraph 9 below,

Less

 - 1.5% p.a. of pensionable pay to remove surplus, over a recovery period of 20 years from 1 April 2020 (which together with the allowance above for McCloud and Cost Management comprises the secondary rate).
3. In practice, each individual employer's or group of employers' position is assessed separately taking into account other factors (see note 4 below) and contributions are set out in Aon's report dated 30 March 2020 (the "actuarial valuation report"). In addition to the contributions certified, payments to cover additional liabilities such as those arising from early retirements and ill-health retirements will be made to the Fund by the employers.

Year from 1 April	% of pensionable pay	Plus total contribution amount (£m)
2020	21.8	0.03
2021	21.6	-
2022	21.1	-

4. The funding plan adopted in assessing the contributions for each employer is in accordance with the Funding Strategy Statement. Different approaches were adopted in relation to the calculation of the primary contribution rate and stepping of contribution changes and grouping of employer contributions as agreed with the Administering Authority and reflected in the Funding Strategy Statement, reflecting the employers' circumstances. This included an agreement that where employers are in surplus, this has only led to an adjustment in contributions to the extent that this surplus is in excess of 10% of the value of that employer's liabilities (i.e. to the extent that the employer's funding level is greater than 110%).
5. The valuation was carried out using the projected unit actuarial method for most employers and the main financial actuarial assumptions used for assessing the funding target and the contribution rates were as follows:

Discount rate for periods in service	4.05% p.a.
Discount rate for periods after leaving service	4.05% p.a.
Rate of pay increases	3.60% p.a.
Rate of increase to pension accounts	2.10% p.a.
Rate of increases in pensions in payment (in excess of GMP)	2.10% p.a.

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The assets were valued at market value. Further details of the assumptions adopted for the valuation, including the demographic assumptions, are set out in the actuarial valuation report.

6. The key demographic assumption was the allowance made for longevity. The post retirement mortality assumption adopted for the actuarial valuation was in line with standard self-administered pension scheme (SAPS) S2 Heavy mortality tables with appropriate scaling factors applied based on an analysis of the Fund's pensioner mortality experience and a Fund membership postcode analysis using Aon's Demographic Horizons™ longevity model, and included an allowance for improvements based on the 2018 Continuous Mortality Investigation (CMI) Core Projections Model (CMI2018), with a long term annual rate of improvement in mortality rates of 1.5% p.a. The resulting average future life expectancies at age 65 (for normal health retirements) were:

	Men	Women
Current pensioners aged 65 at the valuation date	20.7	23.5
Future pensioners aged 45 at the valuation date	22.5	25.4

7. The valuation results summarised in paragraphs 1 and 2 above are based on the financial position and market levels at the valuation date, 31 March 2019. As such the results do not make allowance for changes which have occurred subsequent to the valuation date, although we comment on changes in market conditions to 31 March 2020 in paragraph 10 below.
8. The formal actuarial valuation report and the Rates and Adjustments Certificate setting out the employer contribution rates for the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023 were signed on 30 March 2020. Other than as agreed or otherwise permitted or required by the Regulations, employer contribution rates will be reviewed at the next actuarial valuation of the Fund as at 31 March 2022 in accordance with Regulation 62 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013.
9. There are a number of uncertainties regarding the Scheme benefits and hence liabilities:

• **Increases to GMPs:**

The 2019 valuation allows for the extension of the 'interim solution' for public service schemes to pay full inflationary increases on GMPs for those reaching State Pension Age (SPA) between 6 April 2016 and 5 April 2021. However, the Government is still exploring various options, including conversion of GMPs to Scheme benefits, in order to achieve equalisation for GMPs as required by the High Court judgement in the Lloyds Bank case.

The results of the 2019 valuation do not allow for the impact of potentially extending this interim solution indefinitely, providing full pension increases on GMPs for members reaching State Pension Age after 5 April 2021 nor for conversion of GMPs to Scheme benefits. Based on approximate calculations, at a whole of fund level, the impact of providing full pension increases on GMPs for those members reaching State Pension Age after 5 April 2021 is an increase in past service liabilities of between 0.1% to 0.2% across the Fund as a whole.

• **Cost Management Process and McCloud judgement:**

Initial results from the Scheme Advisory Board cost management process indicated that benefit improvements/ member contribution reductions equivalent to 0.9% of pay would be required. However, the cost management process was paused following the Court of Appeal ruling that the transitional arrangements in both the Judges' Pension Scheme (McCloud) and Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Sargeant) constituted illegal age discrimination. Government confirmed that the judgement would be treated as applying to all public service schemes including the LGPS (where the transitional arrangements were in the form of a final salary underpin) and a consultation on changes to the LGPS is expected in June 2020.

The employer contributions certified from 1 April 2020 as part of the 2019 valuation include an allowance of 1.5% of pay in relation to the potential additional costs following the McCloud judgement / cost management process. This was a simplified approach which didn't take account of different employer membership profiles or funding targets and may be more or less than the assessed cost once the LGPS changes have been agreed depending upon the precise nature of the new final salary underpin, the members in scope, and how this affects the cost management process.

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10. Since the valuation date, Fund asset returns have fallen short of the assumed return of 4.05% over the year to 31 March 2020, on its own leading to a reduction in the funding level. In addition, reduced expectations of future asset returns and have led to an decrease in the discount rates, and expected future inflation linked benefit increases have increased, further reducing funding levels and increasing the primary rate. The Actuary, in conjunction with the Administering Authority, will monitor the position on a regular basis and the Administering Authority will take action if it believes necessary.
11. This Statement has been prepared by the Actuary to the Fund, Aon, for inclusion in the accounts of the Fund. It provides a summary of the results of the actuarial valuation which was carried out as at 31 March 2019. The valuation provides a snapshot of the funding position at the valuation date and is used to assess the future level of contributions required.

This Statement must not be considered without reference to the formal actuarial valuation report which details fully the context and limitations of the actuarial valuation.

Aon does not accept any responsibility or liability to any party other than our client, the London Borough of Southwark, the Administering Authority of the Fund, in respect of this Statement.

12. The report on the actuarial valuation as at 31 March 2019 is available on request from the London Borough of Southwark, the Administering Authority of the Fund.

Aon Hewitt Limited
May 2020

IAS 26 (retirement benefit plans) requires the 'actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits' to be disclosed in the Pension Fund Accounts using the most recent actuarial valuation. The fund was last valued as at 31 March 2019.

	31 March 2019 £m	31 March 2016 £m
Fair value of net assets	1,642	1,256
Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits	(2,192)	(1,671)
Surplus/(deficit) in the fund as measured for IAS 26	(550)	(415)

McCloud Judgement

In December 2018 the Court of Appeal ruled against the Government in the 'McCloud / Sargeant' judgement which found that the transitional protection arrangements put in place when the firefighters' and judges' pension schemes were reformed amounted to illegal age discrimination. The ruling potentially has implications for all public sector schemes which were reformed around the same time and could lead to members who were discriminated against being compensated.

The Government applied to the Supreme Court for permission to appeal this judgement, but the Supreme Court rejected the Government's request on 27 June 2019, and on 15 July the Chief Secretary to the Treasury announced in a written statement confirming that the Government believes that the difference in treatment will need to be remedied across all public service schemes, including the LGPS. The next stage is for the case to be referred to the Employment Tribunal to agree the remedy, following appropriate consultation. Whilst the remedy is uncertain, a prudent approach would be to assume it is equivalent to extending the 'best of both' underpin to all members.

The Government Actuary's Department (GAD), under instruction of the LGPS Scheme Advisory Board (England and Wales) was asked to calculate the worst case scenario impact at Scheme level, and in their paper titled "Local Government Pension Scheme Potential impact of McCloud/Sargeant ruling on pension accounts disclosures" dated 10 June 2019, they state, that using an effective date of 31 March 2019, financial assumptions appropriate for accounting purposes and a salary increase assumption of CPI + 1.5% (as used for the London Borough of Southwark Pension Fund), the estimated worst case scenario impact will be a 3.2% increase in the active liabilities. This was very much an estimate, is based on the Scheme as a whole and made no allowance for 'high fliers' who could distort these figures. The figures for London Borough of Southwark could be different to this GAD assessment but we feel gives a reasonable indication of the increase in liabilities.

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20**GMP Equalisation and Indexation**

On 26 October 2018 the High Court ruled in the Lloyds Bank case that equalisation for the effect of unequal Guaranteed Minimum Pensions (GMPs) is required. The ruling confirmed that trustees have a duty "to equalise benefits for men and women so as to alter the result which is at present produced in relation to GMPs."

In March 2016 the government introduced an interim solution for members in public sector schemes with GMPs who were set to lose out from the removal of the Additional State Pension (AP). This was done by paying full increases on GMP pensions for individuals reaching State Pension Age (SPA) from 5 April 2016 through 5 December 2018 (GMP Rules do not require schemes to pay any increases on GMPs earned before April 1988, and cap increases at 3% p.a. on GMPs earned after April 1988). This additional liability was included in the liabilities disclosed.

20. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

No such material events have occurred.

GLOSSARY

ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

These are the 'proper accounting practices' that the council must follow. They comprise laws and regulations, which are set out in Acts of Parliament and in codes of practice recommended by professional bodies.

ACCRUAL

An accounting principle where income and expenditure is recognised as it is earned or spent rather than when money is received or paid. This concept is reflected in the accounts by the inclusion of debtors and creditors.

ACTUARIAL GAINS AND LOSSES

These arise where actual events have not coincided with the actuarial assumptions made for the last valuations or the actuarial assumptions have changed.

ASSET

An item having value to the council in monetary terms. Assets are categorised as either current or non-current:

- A current asset will be consumed or cease to have material value within the next financial year (e.g. cash and stock);
- A non-current asset provides benefits to the council and to the services it provides for a period of more than one year and may be tangible e.g. a community centre, or intangible, e.g. computer software licences.

BALANCES (OR RESERVES)

These represent accumulated funds available to the council. Some balances (reserves) may be earmarked for specific purposes for funding future initiatives or meeting identified risks or liabilities. There are a number of unusable reserves which are established for technical purposes, it is not possible to utilise these to provide services.

BUDGET

A forecast of the council's planned expenditure and income, either over a set period or for a specific project.

CAPITAL ADJUSTMENT ACCOUNT

An account recording financing and disposals transactions relating to capital expenditure. This account is not available for general use to fund capital expenditure.

CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Expenditure on the purchase, construction and enhancement of council assets such as houses, offices, schools and roads. Expenditure can only be treated as 'capital' if it meets the statutory definitions and is in accordance with accounting practice and regulations.

CAPITAL FINANCING

Capital financing is the process which occurs after capital expenditure has been incurred. There are a number of different sources of capital funding such as government capital / revenue grants, non-government grants, contributions from private developers, capital receipts and unsupported borrowing. Various funding sources are applied to capital spend to ensure that a project is fully financed from approved finance sources.

CAPITAL FINANCING REQUIREMENT (CFR)

The authority's total liabilities in respect of capital expenditure financed by credit less the provision made to meet these liabilities.

CAPITALISATION

Costs are capitalised to the extent that they create or improve any fixed asset with a useful economic life greater than one year.

CIPFA

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy is the accountancy body which represents at national level the interests of local government and public service finance. The Institute produces advice, codes of practice and guidance to local authorities on best practice.

CAPITAL RECEIPTS

Income received from the sale of land, buildings and other capital assets. These can be used to finance new capital expenditure within rules and limits set by the government, but they cannot be used to finance day to day spending.

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
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COLLECTION FUND

This is a statutory account, which records income and expenditure on council tax, National Non Domestic Rates and the sums paid to precepting authorities.

COMMUNITY ASSETS

Assets that the local authority intends to hold in perpetuity, that have no determinable useful life and that may have restrictions on their disposal. Examples include parks and historic buildings.

CONTINGENT ASSET

A contingent asset is a possible asset arising from past events whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the council's control.

CONTINGENT LIABILITY

A possible obligation arising from past events whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the council's control; or

A present obligation arising from past events where it is not probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required, or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

COUNCIL TAX

The main source of local taxation to local authorities. It is levied on households within the council's area and the proceeds are paid into the Collection Fund for distribution to precepting authorities and to the council's own General Fund.

CREDITORS

Amounts owed by the council for goods and services received but not paid for as at 31 March.

CURRENT SERVICE COST

An estimate of the true economic cost of employing people in a financial year.

DEBTORS

Amounts owed to the council for goods and services provided but where the associated income was not received as at 31 March.

DEFERRED CAPITAL RECEIPTS

These represent capital income still to be received after disposals have taken place and wholly consist of principal outstanding from the sale of council houses.

DEFINED BENEFIT SHEME

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.

DEFINED CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

A pension or other retirement benefit scheme into which an employer pays regular fixed contributions as an amount or as a percentage of pay and will have no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions if the scheme does not have sufficient assets to pay all employee benefits relating to the employee service in the current and prior periods.

DEPRECIATION

A measure of the cost of the economic benefits of the tangible non-current assets consumed during the period.

EARMARKED RESERVES

These are reserves set aside for a specific purpose or a particular service, or type of expenditure.

EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

Events after the Balance Sheet date are those events, favourable or unfavourable.

FAIR VALUE

The price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

FINANCE AND OPERATING LEASES

A finance lease is one that transfers a substantial proportion of the risks and rewards of a fixed asset to the lessee. With a finance lease the present value of the lease payments equates to substantially all of the value placed on the leased asset. For an operating lease a rental payment is payable to the lessor for the use of the asset and the ownership reverts to the owner when the lease is terminated.

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FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS ADJUSTMENT ACCOUNT

The adjustment account is used to equalise the impact of financial reporting standards for financial instruments on council tax over the life of financial instruments concerned.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT

A contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity.

GENERAL FUND

This is the main revenue account of the council and includes the net cost of all services (except council housing) financed by local taxpayers and government grants.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA)

This is a statutory account that shows all income and expenditure relating to the provision, management and maintenance of the council's housing stock. Under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, this account is kept separate from the General Fund and the account must balance. The council is not allowed to make up any deficit in the HRA from the General Fund.

IAS 19

International Accounting Standard 19 is based on the principle that an organisation should account for retirement benefits when it is committed to give them, even if the actual giving will be many years into the future.

IMPAIRMENT

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

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS (IFRS)

The Accounting standards adopted by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). Local Authorities are required to produce full accounts using IFRS.

INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

Interest in land and/or buildings in respect of which construction work and development have been completed and which is held for its investment potential, with any rental income being negotiated at arm's length.

LEVIES

Payments to levying bodies such as the London Pension Fund Authority, Lee Valley Park Authority and Environment agency. The cost of these bodies is borne by local authorities in the area concerned, based on their council tax base and is met from the General Fund.

IMPAIRMENT

A reduction in the value of a non-current asset, greater than normal depreciation, through economic consumption or through a fall in price.

INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

A classification of non current assets, whose life is of indefinite length and which are not usually capable of being sold, e.g. highways, street lighting and footpaths.

INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Non-financial assets that do not have physical substance but are identifiable and are controlled by the council, for example, purchased software licences, patents and trademarks.

MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION (MRP)

The minimum amount which must be charged to the revenue account each year and set aside as provision for credit liabilities, as required by the Local Government Act 2003.

NATIONAL NON DOMESTIC RATES (NNDR)

The Non-Domestic Rate is a levy on businesses, based on a national rate in the pound set by the Government and multiplied by the assessed rateable value of the premises they occupy. It is collected by the council on behalf of itself, the greater London Authority (GLA) and Central Government.

NET BOOK VALUE

The amount at which non-current assets are include in the balance sheet, i.e. their historical cost or current value less the cumulative amount provided for depreciation.

NET REALISABLE VALUE

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

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NON OPERATIONAL ASSETS

Non current assets held by the council but not directly occupied, used or consumed in the delivery of services. Examples of non-operational assets are investment properties and assets that are surplus to requirements, pending sale or redevelopment.

OPERATING LEASES

Refer to finance and operating leases.

OPERATIONAL ASSETS

Non current assets held, occupied, used or consumed by the council in the direct delivery of its services.

PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE (PFI)

A Government initiative that enables authorities to carry out capital projects through partnership with the private sector.

PRECEPT

These are demands made upon the Collection Fund, by the Greater London Authority (GLA), for monies which it requires to finance the services it provides.

PROVISIONS

Amounts set aside for liabilities and losses which are likely to occur but where the exact amount or timing is uncertain.

REVENUE EXPENDITURE FUNDED FROM CAPITAL UNDER STATUTE (REFCUS)

Expenditure that is not related to the council's non current assets but statutory regulations allow the cost to be funded from capital resources. The expenditure is recorded in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as it arises.

RELATED PARTIES

Two or more parties are related parties when at any time during the financial period:

- one party has direct or indirect control of the other party; or
- the parties are subject to common control from the same source; or
- one party has influence over the financial and operational policies of the other party to an extent that the other party might be inhibited from pursuing at all times its own separate interests; or
- the parties, in entering a transaction, are subject to influence from the same source to such an extent that one of the parties to the transaction has subordinated its own separate interest.
- the parties, or any member of a group of which it is a part, provides key management personnel services to the other, or to the parent of the other, reporting entity.

RELATED PARTY TRANSACTION

A related party transaction is the transfer of assets or liabilities or the performance of services by, to or for a related party, irrespective of whether a charge is made.

REVENUE EXPENDITURE

Day to day payments on the running of council services such as salaries and wages, operating costs and charges for the use of assets.

REVENUE SUPPORT GRANT (RSG)

A grant paid by central government in aid of local authority services in general as opposed to specific grants that may only be used for specific purposes.

USEFUL LIFE

The period over which the council will derive benefits from the use of a fixed asset.

WRITE-OFFS

Income is recorded in the council's accounts on the basis of amounts due. When money owing to the council cannot be collected the income is already showing in the accounts and has to be reduced or written off.

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APPENDIX 1

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COMMITTEE: AUDIT, GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE (OPEN AGENDA)

NOTE: Original held in Constitutional Team; all amendments/queries to Virginia Wynn-Jones, Constitutional Team on 020 7525 7055 or virginia.wynn-jones@southwark.gov.uk

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Councillor Michael Situ	By email

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List Updated: September 2020