



BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE AUDIT, STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 30TH JULY 2019, AT 6.00 P.M.

PARKSIDE COMMITTEE - PARKSIDE

SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTATION

The attached papers were specified as "to follow" on the Agenda previously distributed relating to the above mentioned meeting.

9. Grant Thornton External Audit - Audit Findings Report 2018/19 - To Follow (Pages 1 - 32)
15. Statement of Accounts 2018/19 - to follow (Pages 33 - 124)

K. DICKS
Chief Executive

Parkside
Market Street
BROMSGROVE
Worcestershire
B61 8DA

26th July 2019

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GRANT THORNTON AUDIT FINDINGS REPORT 2018/19

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Geoff Denaro
Portfolio Holder Consulted	-
Relevant Head of Service	Jayne Pickering – Exec Director Finance and Resources
Ward(s) Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	No
Key Decision / Non-Key Decision	Non–Key Decision

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 To present Members with the Grant Thornton Audit Findings Report in relation to the final accounts 2018/19.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That the Committee considers and notes the Audit Findings Report 2018/19 as attached at Appendix 1.**
- 2.2 **That the Committee recommend to Council the approval of the draft letter of representation as included at Appendix 2.**

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 The cost associated with the External Audit of £37k represents a reduction of £11k from 2017/18. However, due to a number of additional issues that had to be undertaken in more detail by the Auditors there is an additional £7k charge for the 2018/19 accounts. These are detailed in Appendix 1.

Legal Implications

- 3.2 The Council has a statutory responsibility to comply with financial regulations. Included within the report is a recommendation to the Council under section 11(3) of the Audit Commission Act 1998. As can be seen within the Appendix, the recommendations relating to the final accounts have all been delivered to the satisfaction of Grant Thornton.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.3 The report attached at Appendix 1 presents the Audit Findings Report in relation to the audit of the 2018/19 Statement of Accounts.
- 3.4 The accounts were submitted to the Auditors on 30th May 2019 within the statutory deadline. There have been 2 recommendations relating to the quality of the audit working papers and

AUDIT STANDARDS & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

30th July 2019

the overall quality of the audit process. Officers will be working with Grant Thornton to ensure training and quality improvements are made for the 2019/20 audit.

- 3.5 Whilst minor areas of work are continuing it is anticipated that an unqualified opinion will be given on the accounts.
- 3.6 In relation to the Value for Money judgement the Council has an unqualified opinion as in 2017/18. This is due to the auditors acknowledging the level of reserves and balances the council has available However; there is continued pressure to deliver savings required to ensure a balanced MTFP and this is recognised in the audit opinion.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.7 There are no implications arising out of this report.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 The recommendations from the External Auditors will be picked up within the financial services risk arrangements

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Grant Thornton Audit Findings Letter 2018/19

Appendix 2 – Letter of Representation

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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The Audit Findings for Bromsgrove District Council

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Year ended 31 March 2019
30 July 2019



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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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Headlines

This table summarises the key findings and other matters arising from the statutory audit of Bromsgrove District Council ('the Council') and the preparation of the group and Council's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2019 for those charged with governance.

Financial Statements

Page 5

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 group and Council's financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the group and Council and the group and Council's 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.

We are also required to report whether other information published together with the audited financial statements (including the Annual Governance Statement (AGS), and Narrative Report), is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

Our audit work was completed on site during June and July. Our findings are summarised on pages 5 to 15. We have identified three adjustments to the financial statements. During the audit an ongoing legal case around pensions was resolved, affecting all bodies admitted to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), and other public sector schemes. This required the Council to obtain a further actuarial report. At the same time the actuary took the opportunity to update the value of the pension fund assets for further information received. For Bromsgrove District Council this has the effect of increasing the Council Gross Expenditure on Net Cost of Services by £1,151k. The Net Pension Fund Deficit increases by the same amount, but as the asset value has increased by £1,013k the overall effect is to increase the deficit by £138k. Audit adjustments are detailed in Appendix C.

Our work is substantially complete and there are no matters of which we are aware that would require modification of our audit opinion (Appendix E) or material changes to the financial statements, subject to the following outstanding matters;

- final review of audit work by the Engagement Lead and consideration of the overall sufficiency of audit evidence;
- update of our subsequent events review to the date of sign off;
- receipt of management representation letter; and
- review of the final set of financial statements.

We have concluded that the other information to be published with the financial statements is consistent with our knowledge of your organisation and the financial statements we have audited.

Our anticipated audit report opinion will be unmodified.

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 Bromsgrove District Council has proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We therefore anticipate issuing an unqualified value for money conclusion, as detailed in Appendix E. Our findings are summarised on pages 16 to 18.

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 and expect to be able to certify the completion of the audit when we give our audit opinion.

Acknowledgements

We would like to take this opportunity to record our appreciation for the assistance provided by the finance team and other staff during our audit. We note however that the audit has been challenging to complete and further improvements are required to the quality of supporting information and to the timeliness and quality of responses to audit queries

Pages
6

Summary

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;
- Substantive testing on significant transactions and material account balances, including the procedures outlined in this report in relation to the key audit risks; and
- testing of the Bromsgrove Arts Development Trust (Artrix).

We have not had to alter or change our audit plan, as communicated to you on 24 January 2019.

Key messages

As reported last year, our audit identified a higher number of relatively minor amendments than we would expect. A number of the working papers initially supplied did not provide the requisite assurance, or could not be agreed to the financial statements. In many instances the initial response was inadequate and necessitated additional audit time in raising further questions. We discussed this with the Deputy and Executive Director, and the quality of responses improved towards the end of our audit. As we reported last year, the Council needs to ensure that next year sufficient time is allowed for a robust and thorough quality review of the accounts and working papers before they are presented for audit. The Council also needs to continue with the internal quality review of proposed responses before they are sent to the audit team – a "right first time" approach.

Many of the changes we identified were repeated from last year. It is disappointing and time consuming to have to raise the same amendments in successive years. The Council needs to ensure that the template Statement of Accounts for 2019/20 start with the final audited 2018/19 Statement.

Recommendations for management as a result of our audit work are set out in Appendix A.

The other key messages arising from our audit of the Council's financial statements are as follows.

- there are no unadjusted misstatements;
- there was one adjustment to your primary statements, in relation to the McCloud case impacting on the Net Cost of Services and LGPS deficit;
- there was one adjustment to your primary statements, in relation to updated pension fund asset values impacting on the Net Cost of Services and LGPS deficit; and
- there were two adjustments arising from incorrect accounting for asset valuations.

Summary

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 calculations remain the same as reported in our audit plan, and are detailed below:

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, Standards and Governance Committee meeting on 30 July 2019, as detailed in Appendix E. These outstanding items include:

- receipt of management representation letter; and
- review of the final set of financial statements.

	Amount (£)	Qualitative factors considered
Materiality for the financial statements	850,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business environment – the Council operates in a stable, publicly funded environment • Control environment – no significant deficiencies identified.
Performance materiality	510,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No history of significant deficiencies but high number of deficiencies • History of a large number of immaterial misstatements.
Trivial matters	42,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matters that are clearly inconsequential, whether taken individually or in aggregate and whether judged by any quantitative or qualitative criteria.
Specific materiality: - Senior officer remuneration	100,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public interest

Significant findings – audit risks

Risks identified in our Audit Plan

Commentary

1

The revenue cycle includes fraudulent transactions (rebutted)

Auditor commentary

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 Bromsgrove District Council, mean that all forms of fraud are seen as unacceptable.

Therefore we do not consider this to be a significant risk Bromsgrove District Council.

Our audit work has not identified any issues in respect of revenue recognition.

2

Management override of controls

Auditor commentary

To address this risk we have:

- evaluated the design effectiveness of management controls over journals
- analysed the journals listing and determine 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.

Obtaining a journals listing which was complete and reconciled back to the financial statements took longer than planned and required officers to run a number of different reports.

Our audit work has not identified any issues in respect of management override of controls.

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Significant findings – audit risks

Risks identified in our Audit Plan

Commentary

3

Valuation of land and buildings

Auditor commentary

To address this risk we have:

- 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
- written to the valuer to confirm 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
- tested revaluations made during the year to see if they have 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 has satisfied themselves that these are not materially different to current value at year end.

We experienced significant difficulties in completing our work in this area. In particular:

- It was unclear how in-year depreciation had been calculated. When challenged, officers did not understand the workings either, and it took some time to resolve.
- The valuation report of the former Council Offices at Burcott Road contained two different valuation figures (£1.3m and £1.4m). Officers did not query this with the Valuer, opting to select one of the figures to use. We questioned whether the figure used was the correct one. The valuer stated the incorrect figure had been used, and the valuation was amended.
- We identified one further adjustment to the Property, Plant & Equipment note as a result of incorrect accounting for asset valuations.

Our audit work to date has not identified any other issues in respect of valuation of land and buildings. At the time of drafting this report our audit work was subject to completion and final Engagement Lead review.

Significant findings – audit risks

Risks identified in our Audit Plan

Commentary

4

Valuation of the pension fund net liability

Auditor commentary

To address this risk we have:

- update 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 evaluate the design of the associated controls
- evaluate the instructions issued by management to their management expert (an actuary) for this estimate and the scope of the actuary’s work
- assess the competence, capabilities and objectivity of the actuary who carried out the Authority’s pension fund valuation
- assess the accuracy and completeness of the information provided by the Authority to the actuary to estimate the liability
- test 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
- undertake 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
- obtain assurances from the auditor of Worcestershire Pension Fund as to the controls surrounding the validity and accuracy of membership data; contributions data and benefits data sent to the actuary by the pension fund and the fund assets valuation in the pension fund financial statements.

Our audit to date has identified one issue in relation to accounting for the impact of the McCloud Court of Appeal judgement. This is considered under section “Significant findings – other issues” on the next page.




Our audit work has not identified any other issues in respect of valuation of the valuation of the pension fund liability. At the time of drafting this report our audit work was subject to completion and final Engagement Lead review.

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>Impact of the McCloud judgement</p> <p>The Court of Appeal has ruled that there was age discrimination in the judges and firefighters pension schemes where transitional protections were given to scheme members.</p> <p>Our Grant Thornton view was that this gave rise to a past service cost and liability within the scope of IAS 19 as the ruling created a new obligation.</p> <p>The Government applied to the Supreme Court for leave to appeal this ruling, but this was rejected in late June 2019. The case will now be remitted back to employment tribunal for remedy.</p> <p>The legal ruling has implications for pension schemes where transitional arrangements have been implemented, including the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).</p> <p>This was confirmed on 15 July 2019 in a statement released by The Chief Secretary to the Treasury. The quote below confirms that remedies will need to be applied to the LGPS and hence supports the Authority's stance in the recognition of increased liabilities:</p> <p><i>"As 'transitional protection' was offered to members of all the main public service pension schemes, the government believes that the difference in treatment will need to be remedied across all those schemes. This includes schemes for the NHS, civil service, local government, teachers, police, armed forces, judiciary and fire and rescue workers. Continuing to resist the full implications of the judgment in Court would only add to the uncertainty experienced by members."</i></p>	<p>The decision as to the appropriate accounting treatment is one for the Council. At the Council's request the actuary has re-run the valuation report with their best estimate of the impact re-McCloud.</p> <p>We have agreed with Officers that the financial statements will be amended to reflect the estimated increase in the net deficit in the scheme for the Council from £43,957k to £44,095k. This is a function of an increase in the deficit due to the additional past service costs of £1,151k, and a decrease in the deficit of £1,013k due to the increase in asset values arising from better information since the earlier actuarial report.</p>	<p>We have reviewed the analysis performed by the actuary, and consider that the approach that has been taken to arrive at this estimate is reasonable.</p> <p>Our audit procedures have confirmed the relevant adjustments have been made to the financial statements in regard to the LGPS.</p>





Significant findings – key judgements and estimates

Accounting area	Summary of management’s policy	Audit Comments	Assessment
Provisions for NNDR appeals	The Council is responsible for repaying successful rateable value appeals. The calculation of the provision required is based upon the latest information about outstanding rates appeals provided by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) and previous success rates. The provision has remained largely unchanged being £1,303k in 2017/18 and £1,311k in 2018/19.	Our testing has confirmed the appropriateness of the underlying information used to determine the estimate. The estimate calculated is reasonable.	 (Green)
Land and Buildings – Other	The Authority revalues its land and buildings as a minimum on a rolling five-yearly basis with interim reviews. If the value of an asset class is projected to materially change during the period since the last valuation then further valuations are instructed. Some asset classes are currently valued annually.	<p>We have set out our findings in relation to the valuation of other land and buildings on page 8.</p> <p>We are satisfied that the judgements and estimates used by management in determining the value of other land and buildings are appropriate for the Council.</p> <p>At the time of drafting this report our audit work was subject to completion and final Engagement Lead review. Based on the work completed, we are satisfied that the judgements and estimates used by management in determining the value of land and buildings are appropriate for the Council.</p>	 (Work incomplete)
Net pension liability	A full actuarial valuation is required every three years. The latest full actuarial valuation was completed in 2016. A roll forward approach is used in intervening periods, which utilises key assumptions such as life expectancy, discount rates, salary growth and investment returns. Given the significant value of the net pension fund liability, small changes in assumptions can result in significant valuation movements.	<p>We have set out our findings in relation to the net pension liability on page 9. We are satisfied that the judgements and estimates used by management in determining the pension fund asset and liability are consistent with those used by the actuary and appropriate for the Council.</p> <p>We have noted that the net liability has increased as a result of a legal case, which has national implications.</p>	 (Green)

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Agenda Item 9

Assessment

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

Significant findings – key judgements and estimates

	Summary of management's policy	Audit Comments	Assessment																								
<p>Net pension liability</p>	<p>The Council's net pension liability at 31 March 2019 is £44.1m.</p> <p>The Council uses Mercer to provide actuarial valuations of the Council's assets and liabilities derived from these schemes. A full actuarial valuation is required every three years.</p> <p>The latest full actuarial valuation was completed in 2016. 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.</p>	<p>We have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertaken an assessment of management's expert • Reviewed and assessed the actuary's roll forward approach taken, • Used an auditors expert (PwC) to assess the actuary and assumptions made by the actuary <table border="1" data-bbox="756 392 1802 842"> <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>2.4%</td> <td>2.4% - 2.5%</td> <td>●</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pension increase rate</td> <td>2.3%</td> <td>2.4% - 2.5%</td> <td>●</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Salary growth</td> <td>3.7%</td> <td>Scheme and employer specific</td> <td>●</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Life expectancy – Males currently aged 45 / 65</td> <td>25.1.1/ 22.8</td> <td>23.7 – 24.4/ 21.5 – 22.8</td> <td>●</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Life expectancy – Females currently aged 45 / 65</td> <td>28.2/ 25.8</td> <td>26.2 – 26.9/ 24.1 – 25.1</td> <td>●</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Assumption	Actuary Value	PwC range	Assessment	Discount rate	2.4%	2.4% - 2.5%	●	Pension increase rate	2.3%	2.4% - 2.5%	●	Salary growth	3.7%	Scheme and employer specific	●	Life expectancy – Males currently aged 45 / 65	25.1.1/ 22.8	23.7 – 24.4/ 21.5 – 22.8	●	Life expectancy – Females currently aged 45 / 65	28.2/ 25.8	26.2 – 26.9/ 24.1 – 25.1	●	<p style="text-align: center;">● (Green)</p>
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		<p>We have reviewed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completeness and accuracy of the underlying information used to determine the estimate • Impact of any changes to valuation method • Reasonableness of the Council's share of LPS pension assets. • Reasonableness of increase/decrease in estimate • Adequacy of disclosure of estimate in the financial statements <p>In October 2018, the High Court ruled that defined benefit pension schemes must remove any discriminatory effect that guaranteed minimum pension entitlements (GMPs) have had on members benefits. GMPs must be equalised between men and women and that past underpayments must be corrected. Actuaries have taken differing approaches to this issue. Mercer have not made any allowance for (GMPs). We have estimated an impact of 0.1% of gross pension liabilities. We do not consider this to be material.</p>																									

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

Management's assessment process

Management do not undertake a formal assessment of whether the Council is a going concern.

The Council has a sound income stream through Council Tax (£8.9m) and Business Rates (£1.1m). It has delivered a balanced budget year on year and has a realistic Medium Term Financial Plan.

The Council also has usable, non earmarked reserves of £4.9m.

Auditor commentary

This is reasonable as the Council has a realistic Medium Term Financial Plan and sufficient reserves to cover any short term unexpected need. It would be considered a going concern even if it demised and the services transferred to another body. Our Informing the Audit Risk Assessment report, presented to Audit, Standards and Governance Committee on 24 January, shows on pages 15 to 16 the arrangements in place to demonstrate that the Council is a going concern.

Work performed

Our audit work, including our VFM work, has not raised any doubts around the going concern assumption. Also, in the public sector, going concern is taken to mean that the services are transferred / delivered by another body. As the Council services / functions would be delivered by any successor body, the threat of re-organisation does not apply.

Auditor commentary

The reported position of the Council at 31 March 2019 per the draft financial statements shows that they have total current assets of £8.7m compared to £20.2m current liabilities, £1.7m of total current assets are cash and are therefore highly liquid.

We have nothing to report in relation to Going Concern.

Other communication requirements

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	Commentary
1	Matters in relation to fraud	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have previously discussed the risk of fraud with the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee. We have not been made aware of any material incidents in the period and no other issues have been identified during the course of our audit procedures.
2	Matters in relation to related parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are not aware of any related parties or related party transactions which have not been disclosed.
3	Matters in relation to laws and regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
4	Written representations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A standard letter of representation has been requested from the Council.
5	Confirmation requests from third parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We requested from management permission to send confirmation requests to banks and councils with whom the Council had investments or borrowing. This permission was granted and the requests were sent. All of these requests were returned with positive confirmation.
6	Disclosures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our review found no material omissions in the financial statements.
7	Audit evidence and explanations/significant difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All information and explanations requested from management was provided. We have reported the significant difficulties with accounts our audit of the draft accounts and working papers on page 5.

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Other responsibilities under the Code

Issue	Commentary
<p>1 Other information</p>	<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 and Narrative Report), 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>
<p>2 Matters on which we report by exception</p>	<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>
<p>3 Specified procedures for Whole of Government Accounts</p>	<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>Work is not required as the Council does not exceed the threshold.</p>
<p>4 Certification of the closure of the audit</p>	<p>We intend to certify the closure of the 2018/19 audit of Bromsgrove District Council in the audit opinion, as detailed in Appendix E.</p>

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Value for Money

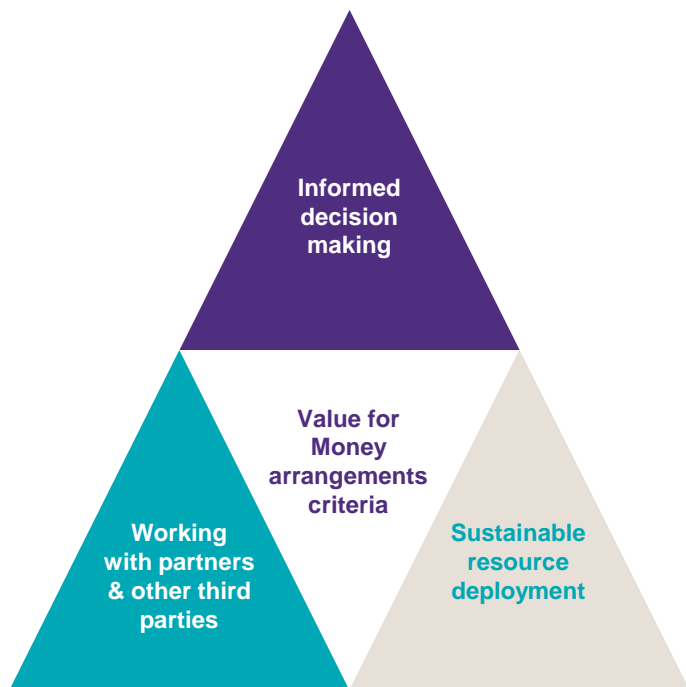
Background to our VFM approach

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 November 2017. 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:



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Risk assessment

We carried out an initial risk assessment in December 2018 and identified one significant risk 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 24 January 2019.

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.

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 robustness of your Medium Term Financial Plan.

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 page 18.

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.

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.

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Key findings

We set out below our key findings against the significant risks we identified through our initial risk assessment and further risks identified through our ongoing review of documents.

Significant risk	Findings	Conclusion
<p>Financial sustainability</p> <p>How robust is the MTFP and how well developed are savings plans?</p> <p>We have previously identified that improvement is needed to planning finances effectively to support the sustainable delivery of strategic purposes and maintain statutory functions.</p> <p>1) We will review the February 2019 MTFP and select a number of new savings or income generation schemes to test.</p> <p>2) We will assess the progress being made to put the Council on a long term financially viable footing.</p> <p>3) We will monitor progress on the management restructure.</p>	<p>1) We tested four new savings or income generation schemes included the MTFP agreed in February 2019. We were satisfied that these schemes were soundly based and should deliver the additional savings or income forecast.</p> <p>2) The MTFP agreed in February 2019 shows annual gaps of:</p> <p>2019/20 = £0k; 2020/21 = £827k; 2021/22 = £1,270k; 2022/23 = £1,270k.</p> <p>Totalling £3,368k. The figures above are after efficiency savings or income growth of around £330k per year for the first 3 years, and £460k in the final year, totalling £1,500k. The current General Fund balance is £4,900k and Members wish to have a minimum of £1,100k. The Council has reserves for at least three years, even if no further savings are made.</p> <p>3) The Management Restructure is still in progress. One Head of Service has moved to Rubicon and two have left the Council.</p>	<p>Auditor view</p> <p>The Council is currently in a sound financial position, but continues to face a challenging future. Members and Officers need to ensure that anticipated savings and income generation schemes are delivered in order to avoid using reserves to support revenue expenditure.</p> <p>Management response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued quarterly monitoring of savings and income generation as approved by members in Feb 2019. The information to be reported to members as part of the quarterly budget monitoring report and improvements to be discussed with Grant Thornton in relation to best practice Portfolio Holder and CMT workshop arranged to consider future direction (priorities and non-priorities) against the backdrop of the financial position to enable robust and deliverable saving proposals to be made Present to members from September options for savings and additional income generation to be proposed for medium term financial plan Delivery of financial strategy for October Cabinet Detailed review of 2018/19 actual v 2019/20 budget to enable any additional budget allocated to be released for the period 2019/20-2021/23 Review of vacant posts to ensure release of any posts no longer required to support services Review of costs associated with support services and robust estimates of savings realised from new systems and automation to be made Full and detailed review of the Capital Programme to assess need of spend against projects and vehicles (including replacement period of vehicles) Consideration by budget scrutiny to enable challenge of savings proposed Work with Grant Thornton and other Councils to identify best practice in the identification and monitoring of savings

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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 December 2017 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, as well as the threats to our independence and safeguards that have been applied to mitigate these threats.

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	Fees £	Threats identified	Safeguards
Audit related			
Certification of 2018/19 Housing Benefit subsidy claim	12,500	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 £12,500 in comparison to the total fee for the audit of £37,484 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. This work will be completed after we issue our opinion on the financial statements.
Non-audit related			
None			

None of the services provided are subject to contingent fees.

Agenda Item 9




Action plan

We have identified two recommendations for the Council, arising from our work on the Statement of Accounts, 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 2019/20 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
2  (Red)	Statement of Accounts production Many of the changes we identified as a result of our audit were repeated from last year. It is disappointing and time consuming to have to raise the same amendments in successive years. The Council needs to ensure that the template Statement of Accounts for 2019/20 start with the final audited 2018/19 Statement.	The Finance Team needs to ensure that amendments to the structure of the Statement of Accounts for 2019/20 and the titles and headings used therein reflects the changes agreed this year. Management response The Council will ensure that in future years a greater amount of time will be allocated to quality checking at a senior level.
3  (Red)	Quality of working papers and responses We noted some improvement in the quality of the working papers initially provided to us. However, those improvements were insufficient to avoid a very high number of questions being raised. For the majority of our audit the responses we received were frequently inadequate, necessitating further questions. Officers need to properly address the recommendation made last year and to ensure that responses to audit questions are "Right first time".	The Finance Team needs to properly address the recommendation made last year and to ensure that responses to audit questions are "Right first time". Management response A training plan will be put in place to address improvements in working papers and responses to audit queries. This will be developed in consultation with Grant Thornton.

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Controls

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

Follow up of prior year recommendations

We identified the following issues in the audit of Bromsgrove District Council's 2017/18 financial statements, which resulted in two recommendations being reported in our 2017/18 Audit Findings report. Our work this year has identified that neither of these has been addressed.

Assessment	Issue and risk previously communicated	Update on actions taken to address the issue
① X	<p>While the financial statements were presented for audit by 31 May, there is scope to improve the quality of the statements and the supporting working papers.</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>Officers should ensure that sufficient time is built into the financial statements production process to allow for a robust and thorough quality review of both the statements and supporting working papers.</p>	<p>We noted some improvement in the quality of the working papers initially provided to us. However, those improvements were insufficient to avoid a very high number of questions being raised. For the majority of our audit the responses we received were frequently inadequate, necessitating further questions.</p> <p>Officers need to properly address the recommendation made last year and to ensure that responses to audit questions are "Right first time".</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 2019.

Detail	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £'000	Statement of Financial Position £' 000	Impact on total net expenditure £'000
1 Increase in the Council pension fund deficit arising from the McCloud ruling. Cr. Net Pensions Liability Dr. Cost of Services	1,151	1,151	1,151
2 Decrease in the Council pension fund deficit arising from the updated return on assets. Cr. Remeasurement of the net defined liability (CIES) Dr. Net Pensions Liability	(1,013)	(1,013)	(1,013)
Overall impact of McCloud	138	138	138
3 Former Council House shown as a Surplus Asset (Note 14) with an incorrect figure of £1,400k used for revaluation, rather than £1,300k. Cr. PPE (Surplus Assets) Dr. Revaluation Reserve		(100) 100	
4 Two assets with material balances in the Revaluation Reserve and the CIES. To correct this the net effect is to decrease the Revaluation Reserve and increase the Capital Adjustment Account. Cr. Revaluation Reserve Dr Capital Adjustment Account		(131) 131	
Overall impact of PPE adjustments	0	0	0

Audit Adjustments

Misclassification and disclosure changes

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

- Enhancements to the Narrative Report;
- Changes to the Annual Governance Statement in order to comply with requirements (these were also reported last year);
- Changes to some Headings and Statement Titles to comply with requirements (these were also reported last year);
- Twenty nine adjustments to the prior year financial statement figures as the final audited version was not used.

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	37,484	TBC
Total audit fees (excluding VAT)	£37,484	TBC

The final audit fee is to be confirmed, pending discussions with Officers and PSAA regarding additional fee as a result of:

- the extra work required arising from the McCloud case (estimated £2,000);
- the additional work required to form a conclusion on the valuation of other land and buildings (estimated £1,500); and
- the additional work required to resolve the very high number of questions we raised, inadequate explanations to our questions, and the number of amendments required to the Statement of Accounts (estimated £4,500).

Non Audit Fees

Fees for other services	Fees (£)
Audit related services:	
Certification of 2018/19 Housing Benefit subsidy claim	12,500
	£12,500

Audit opinion

We anticipate we will provide the Group with an unmodified audit report

Independent auditor's report to the members of Bromsgrove District Council

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Bromsgrove District Council (the 'Authority') and its subsidiary (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2019 which comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement for the Council and Group, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Group Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, the Group Cash Flow 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 2018/19.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the group and of the Authority as at 31 March 2019 and of the group's expenditure and income and the Authority's expenditure and income for the year then ended;
- have been prepared properly in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19; 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 group and the Authority in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We 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 Executive Director of Finance and Resources' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Executive Director of Finance and Resources has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the group's or 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.

Other information

The Executive Director of Finance and Resources is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts, other than the Authority and group financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

Audit opinion

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 group and 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)' 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 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 Executive Director of Finance and Resources and Those Charged with Governance for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities set out on **page(s) x to x**, 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 Executive Director of Finance and Resources. The Executive Director of Finance and Resources 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 2018/19, for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Executive Director of Finance and Resources determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Audit opinion

In preparing the financial statements, the Executive Director of Finance and Resources is responsible for assessing the group's and 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, Standards and Governance 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 November 2017, 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 2019.

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 November 2017, 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 2019.

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.

Audit opinion

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements - Certificate

We certify that we have completed the audit of the financial statements of the Bromsgrove District Council in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice.

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]

Richard Percival, Engagement Lead
for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Local Auditor

Birmingham

[Date]

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STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2018/19

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Geoff Denaro
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Jayne Pickering (Exec Director)
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor Consulted	None specific

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 To enable Members to consider the Statement of Accounts 2018/19 and to recommend to Council their approval.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Audit Standards and Governance committee APPROVES the statement of accounts 2018/19 at appendix 1.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 None other than those included in this report.

Legal Implications

- 3.2 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require that the Council complies with statutory accounting legislation and changes.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.3 The Statement of Accounts were approved by the Executive Director of Finance and Resources by 30th May 2019 and submitted to the External Auditors Grant Thornton on the same day.
- 3.4 The Statement of Accounts have been audited by Grant Thornton and their audit opinion is included as an agenda item to this meeting. A copy of the Statement of Accounts are provided as Appendix 1.
- 3.5 Included within the Statement of Accounts there are a number of core financial statements that provide a summary of the financial position of the Council. These are:

3.6 Movement in Reserves Statement

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

3.7 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

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

3.8 The Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the authority. The net assets of the authority (assets less liabilities) are matched by reserves held by the authority. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves is usable reserves, i.e. those reserves that the authority may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use (for example the Capital Receipts Reserve that may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt). The second category of reserves is those that the authority is not able to use to provide services. This category 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'.

3.9 The Cash Flow Statement

The Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the authority during the reporting period. The statement shows how the authority generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities. The amount of net cash flows arising from

operating activities is a key indicator of the extent to which the operations of the authority are funded by way of taxation and grant income or from the recipients of services provided by the authority. Investing activities represent the extent to which cash outflows have been made for resources which are intended to contribute to the authority's future service delivery. Cash flows arising from financing activities are useful in predicting claims on future cash flows by providers of capital (i.e. borrowing) to the authority.

3.10 The Collection Fund

The Collection Fund shows the transactions of the Council in relation to the collection of Council Tax, and National Non-Domestic Rates and the way in which these have been distributed to the preceptors (the police, fire authority, county council and parishes). It is a statutory requirement for billing authorities to maintain this account.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

3.7 None as a direct result of this report.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

4.1 The risks associated with the effective and timely delivery of the Statement of Accounts are to be developed further to ensure that a robust plan is in place to address the concerns raised during this Audit.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Bromsgrove District Council Statement of Accounts
2018/19

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Jayne Pickering – Exec Director Finance and Resources
E Mail: j.pickering@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
Tel: 01527- 881207

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Bromsgrove District Council

Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019



Bromsgrove
District Council

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Bromsgrove District Council

Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019

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Bromsgrove District Council

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2019

Narrative Report

Introduction

Bromsgrove District Council's financial performance for the year ended 31 March 2019 is as set out in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Summary and our financial position is as set out in the Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Statement.

These financial statements have been prepared in line with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19 (the Code). It is the purpose of this report to explain, in an easily understood way, the financial facts and performance in relation to Bromsgrove District Council.

Overview

Bromsgrove District Council has faced a challenging period since 2015/16 with regards to financial funding arrangements. Revenue Support Grant received from central Government reduced from £1,229k in 2015/16 to £682k in 2016/17 and reduced further to £114k in 2017/18 in the form of transitional grant. In 2018/19 no Revenue Support Grant has been received. The Council has sought to balance the budget through savings whilst attempting to protect the services that are most important to the community.

The budgets set for 2018/19, as with previous years, were challenging but as the council was aware of the need for additional savings in future years, there has been a prudent approach to spending and a commercial approach to attracting income. This has enabled a surplus to be created, thus allowing the Council to increase working balances.

Strategic Priorities

What matters: Bromsgrove District Council is committed to providing residents with effective and efficient services that not only meet their needs but understand them as well. Through considering what really matters to our residents we have developed six key priorities, supported by six strategic purposes. Working to these purposes will help us to understand the needs of the District and how, together with our partners, we can improve the lives of our residents and the prospects for Bromsgrove District as a whole.

Key Priorities 2018-2020



Strategic Purposes



Strategic purpose: Help me run a successful business

What matters:

- Encourage local business and inward investment
- Create a more vibrant Bromsgrove Town Centre and flourishing local centres
- Improve connectivity within Bromsgrove (Digital and Transport)
- Invest in our local workforce by supporting training and apprenticeships
 - ❖ Average weekly earnings for full time employees who live in Bromsgrove decreased from £664.10 (2017) to £661.60 (2018)
 - ❖ Average weekly earnings for full time employees who work but don't necessarily live in Bromsgrove increased from £495.90 (2017) to £506.20 (2018)
 - ❖ People who live in Bromsgrove have the highest average wage in Worcestershire

Strategic purpose: Help me to be financially independent

What matters:

- Develop education and skills to sustain financial independence
- Support communities during changes to welfare and benefits
- Support residents to reduce levels of individual debt
- Support reductions in winter deaths and fuel poverty
- Support the provision of affordable housing in the District to meet the needs of the community
 - ❖ The council has supported 134 residents with regards to financial and debt support advice.

Strategic purpose: Help me to live my life independently

What matters:

- Help and support the vulnerable
- Promote independence and reduce social isolation
- Help people to be fit and well
- Strengthening and supporting families and individuals
 - ❖ Spend on disabled facilities grants has increased from £833k (2017/18) to £947k (2018/19)
 - ❖ 1,576 (March 2019) vulnerable or elderly residents are being supported by a Lifeline unit in their homes compared with 1,649 in March 2018.

Strategic purpose: Help me to find somewhere to live in my locality

What matters:

- Support the development of appropriate and affordable housing in the district
- Assist in making the best of all housing across the district
- Prevent and respond to homelessness

Strategic purpose: Keep my place safe and looking good

What matters:

- Help support and create communities where people feel safe
- Look after our district to provide clean and tidy streets and open spaces
- Protect and enhance the environment spaces
 - ❖ Waste collected per month by household decreased in weight from 87kg (April 2018) to 81kg (March 2019)
 - ❖ The average recycling waste collected per household reduced from 244kg in 2017/18 to 238kg in 2018/19
 - ❖ The average garden waste collected per household remained the same at 359kg in 2017/18 and 2018/19

Strategic purpose: Provide good things for me to see, do and visit

What matters:

- Provide a leisure, cultural and arts programme for the whole district
- Create a more vibrant Bromsgrove Town Centre and flourishing local centres
- Help people to be fit and well and reduce social isolation
 - ❖ £79k was spent on New Homes Bonus to community projects 2018/19 compared with £206k in 2017/18



Financial Outlook

The Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/20 to 2022/23 was approved by Council on 27th February 2019 and provides the framework within spending decisions can be made. The plan addresses how the Council will provide financial funding to the Strategic Priorities and ensure residents receive quality services to meet their needs in the future.

When reviewing the budget projections consideration is made of the impact of demand on service and the costs associated with this demand. This may result in additional costs (associated with maintaining current service delivery) or reductions in anticipated income revenue over the next 4 years.

There continues to be considerable pressure facing the Council over the next 4 years as a result of a number of issues including:

- Budgetary pressures such as pay inflation (2%), revised pay structure, increased contract costs, funding the capital Programme
- Potential further reductions in New Homes Bonus Grant
- Impact of the Localisation of Business Rates scheme which is now deferred to 2020/21
- Impact of the fair funding review which is to be implemented in 2020/21

National pay agreements are now running at 2% and this has been applied in 2019/20, future years have been assumed at 1%. The medium term financial plan also includes implementation of a local pay structure which harmonises the terms and conditions across Redditch and Bromsgrove and is consistent with the new national pay spines. There are also increased contract prices, unavoidable cost pressures and the impact of the capital programme that have been added to the plan.

The new homes bonus for 2019/20 has been confirmed at £1,589k which was £82k lower than the amount anticipated. Maintaining the new homes bonus income is dependent upon the number of new homes built in Bromsgrove and possible changes to the formula by the Government.

Bromsgrove in common with virtually every other Council in the country signed up to the Government offer of a four year funding settlement. This brought more certainty to the funding figures but not complete certainty or protection from changes to the funding levels. The medium term financial plan excludes any negative revenue support grant.

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In 2020/21, it is anticipated that there will be a reset of business rates. Since 2013/14, Bromsgrove has been able to retain a proportion of the local business rate growth. The impact of the reset is uncertain as it will depend on the level of growth in Bromsgrove compared with the national position. It is anticipated that an average growth would result in a neutral impact but further details are still to be received on this.

Fair funding formula will also be introduced in 2020/21. This will attempt to calculate the amount the Council needs to spend. It is important because the amount of tariff adjustment the Council will be required to pay to the Government will be based on this formula.

The main source of income continues to be Council tax and the Government continue to allow Councils to increase Council Tax 2.99% per annum without a referendum. In 2019/20, the Council tax increased from £216.53 to £223.00, £6.47 (2.99%). The medium term financial plan assumes a further 2.99% increase per annum in future years.

In 2017/18, the Council approved an Acquisition and Investment Strategy which combines the ambition for economic development in the District with the potential to generate income through an Investment Portfolio Fund. The financial returns from this strategy have been built into the plan at a level equal to the cost of making the investment, so there is a net nil impact on the bottom line. The income is forecast at £329k in 2020/21 and increase to £726k in 2021/22 and £1,050k in 2022/23, which will net off the costs of making these investments. Should income above this level be achieved then it will be used to fund the forecast budget gap.

A summary of the approved Medium Term Financial Plan is provided below and shows that the Council has a balanced budget in 2019/20 but needs to address a shortfall in future years ranging from £901k in 2020/21 to £1,300k in 2022/23 to avoid using general reserves to balance the budget.

BROMSGROVE PROPOSED REVENUE BUDGET 2019/20-2022/23

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Departmental base budget	10,798	10,823	10,729	10,729
Incremental Progression/Inflation on Utilities	132	177	221	378
Unavoidables Pressures	366	240	243	245
Revenue Bids/Revenue impact of capital bids	67	42	25	25
Savings and Additional income	-332	-335	-354	-459
Reserve release	-159	-200	-150	0
Unavoidable pressure funded from Reserves	150	0	0	0
Efficiency Savings rolled forward	654	782	885	888
Net Revenue Budget Requirement	11,676	11,528	11,599	11,806
FINANCING				
Contribution from worcestershire County Business rates pool	-2,602	-2,594	-2,624	-2,660
New Homes Bonus	-1,589	-1,185	-610	-295
Collection Fund Surplus (Council Tax)	-62	0	0	0
Council Tax	-8,187	-8,506	-8,884	-9,274
Investment Income	-38	-329	-726	-1,050
Interest Payable	133	660	1,018	1,186
MRP (Principal)	816	1,142	1,388	1,600
Discount on advanced pension payment	-147	-40	-40	-40
Funding Total	-11,676	-10,851	-10,479	-10,534
General Balances				
Opening Balances	4,179	4,179	3,502	2,382
Contribution (from) / to General Balances	0	-677	-1,120	-1,271
Agreed in year release of balances				
Closing Balances	4,179	3,502	2,382	1,111

The shortfall will be balanced through savings or additional income, including investment income, to ensure a balanced budget is approved each financial year.

Governance

Bromsgrove District Council recognises that it is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

Governance is about how the Council ensures that it is doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner. The Council has in place a Governance Framework which is detailed on page 12 and includes the following key elements:-

- A Council Constitution which clearly sets out the roles and responsibilities for Councillors and Officers and the rules that must be followed
- A transparent decision making process through Council, Cabinet, Planning Committee and Audit, Standards and Governance Committee
- Review and scrutiny of decision through the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Behaving with integrity supported through a Code of Conduct

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- Managing risk through the Corporate Management Team and Audit, Standards and Governance Committee
- Clear strategic priorities linked to the needs of our communities and customers
- Regular performance management linked to strategic priorities and managed through a dashboard which is easily accessed and updated
- Having robust and regular financial management
- Having good communication with Councillors, employees and the Community

The Council undertakes an annual review of its governance arrangements and this is summarised in the Annual Governance Statement on page 12.

Risks and Opportunities

The Council recognises that it has a responsibility to manage risks effectively in order to control its assets and liabilities, protect its employees and community against potential losses, minimise uncertainty in achieving its goals and objectives, and to maximise the opportunities to achieve its vision.

Risk management is managed through the Corporate Management Team and Audit, Standards and Governance Committee and the current risk register has five significant risks:-

- Failure to manage the financial and service based impacts of the county council commissioning on the council.
- Council do not respond to financial constraints effectively.
- LEP's (and interactions with them) fail to operate effectively.
- Partners are unable (or unwilling) to change how they do things (transformation).
- Political changes at a local or national level.

Expenditure and Funding Analysis

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis is set out on page 42. The objective is to demonstrate to council tax payers how the funding available to the authority (i.e. Government grants, council tax and business rates) for the year has been used in providing services in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by authorities in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. The Expenditure and Funding Analysis also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision-making purposes between the Council's strategic purposes. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

A summary of the net expenditure as reported through the management accounts compared with the budget for 2018/19 is shown below:-

Strategic Purpose	Budget	Actuals	Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Keep my place safe and looking good	4,378	4,822	444
Help me run a successful business	(565)	(637)	(72)
Help me be financially independent	142	248	106
Help me to live my life independently	(68)	(122)	(54)
Help me find somewhere to live in my locality	595	536	(59)
Provide good things for me to see, do and visit	705	626	(79)
Enable others to work/do what they need to do (to meet their purpose)	5,958	5,435	(523)
Total	11,145	10,908	(237)
Corporate Financing	(13,818)	(13,416)	402
Surplus	(2,673)	(2,508)	166
Planned use of balances	(9)	(49)	(40)
Contribution to reserves	2,683	2,372	(311)
Total as reported through management accounts/EFA	0	(185)	(186)

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The actuals reported above are based on the management accounts for the authority. The management accounts are prepared on controllable budgets and there is a difference to the definitions used in the comprehensive income and expenditure summary (CIES) and the expenditure and funding analysis (EFA). As an example the management accounts would record and manage any direct revenue financing of capital expenditure within the strategic priority but this would be recorded as other income and expenditure in the EFA. The outturn report has been reported to members on the 10th July 2019 and will go to full council on the 31st July 2019.

The surplus is consistent with the management accounts reported throughout the year and the main reasons are outlined below:-

Keep my place safe and looking good

These budgets include those relating mainly to environmental services, planning, lifeline, CCTV and other activities to deliver against the purpose to ensuring an area is both safe and attractive for the community.

Bereavement services has received less income than expected from the burial fees by the end of 2018/19 than was projected during 2018/19. There has also been a shortfall in income on planning applications due to a low number of applications being received and also major applications on strategic sites have been delayed due to highway considerations.

Help me run a successful business

The budgets within the strategic purpose include economic development, car parking, all licenses and costs associated with the town and other centres within the District.

There has been additional income on car parking and civil enforcement along with savings made on supplies and services within economic & tourism development.

Help me be financially independent

This strategic purpose includes all costs relating to the support of benefits and the administration and delivery of Council Tax services in the District.

There has been an increase in local authority error where no grant is received and an increase in overpayments where only 40% grant is received thus causing the variance for 2018/19. There is an action plan to ensure improvement in the benefit processing system.

Help me to live my life independently

There are a number of budgets relating to the delivery of the strategic purpose including; lifeline, community transport and disabled facilities grants.

There has been significant additional income received within the Lifeline service due to a new contract that has been procured with Cannock Chase District Council. This has been reflected in 2019/20 budgets.

Help me find somewhere to live in my locality

The costs associated with homeless prevention, housing strategy and land charges are all included in the strategic purpose.

There has been some additional income received from search fees and savings have also resulted from temporary vacancies and savings made on general supplies and services budgets.

Provide good things for me to see, do and visit

The majority of budgets within this purpose relate to Leisure and Culture services.

There are temporary salary savings due to the change of delivery in Redditch and new service structure implementation.

Enable others to work/do what they need to do (to meet their purpose)

All support services and corporate overheads are held within the enabling purpose. These include; IT, HR, finance, management team and other support costs.

Heads of Services have worked throughout the financial year to identify savings and additional income from 2017/18 that can be delivered in 2018/19 along with additional unallocated savings that sit within Corporate / enabling services. This has been achieved along with further savings being found.

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Corporate Financing

Various transfers to reserves to enable specific projects to be undertaken in the future have been made within corporate along with a planned use of reserves. The reserves position is outlined on page 48 of the Financial Statement.

Capital

Project	Budget £'000	Actuals £'000	Variance £'000
Fleet Replacement	1,795	1,063	(732)
Burcot Lane	1,611	66	(1,545)
Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG's)	1,122	947	(175)
BDC Dolphin Centre	1,080	0	(1,080)
s106 Projects	413	347	(66)
Other	1,658	186	(1,472)
Total	7,679	2,609	(5,070)

The fleet replacement budget has a variance due to timescales of ordering and receiving the new vehicles and therefore the remaining budget will requested to be carried forward in to the new financial year. The Burcot Lane project and Dolphin Centre project have had work procured and therefore will commence in 2019/20 and therefore will also be requested to carry forward the budget into the new financial year. The projects within other relate mainly to delays in the procurement of an Enterprise resource planning system (£455k) and the district footpath and cycleways project (£390k). Moving forward, additional measures will be put in place to avoid such a significant overspend occurring next year, 2019/20, such as greater challenge from corporate management team.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Summary

This statement, often referred to as the CIES, is on page 19 and shows the expenditure and income in the year incurred in the providing of services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. Authorities raise taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations which may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The Movement in Reserves Statement

This statement, often referred to as MiRS, is set out on page 18. It shows movement in the year on the different reserves held by Bromsgrove, 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 our services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Summary (CIES). These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance and for council tax setting purposes. The 'Net increase /decrease before transfers to Earmarked Reserves' line shows the statutory General Fund Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves are undertaken by the Council.

The Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet set out on page 21 shows the value of our assets and liabilities. The net assets of the Council (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Authority. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category being usable reserves. These are 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 is unusable reserves. These are those that the authority is not able to use to fund services. This category includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services on the disposal of an asset.

The main changes to the Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2019 are:-

Assets held for sale category has reduced from £1,033k (2017/18) to nil balance (2018/19) due to accounting changes adopted in 2018/19. These are now held within property, plant and equipment as operational land and surplus assets.

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The net pension liability for 2018/19 is £44,095k. Note 37 provides a detailed analysis of the pension changes but the main reasons for the change is actuarial losses.

Group Accounts

The Code requires Local Authorities to consider all their interests and to prepare a full set of group financial statements where they have material interests in subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures. Bromsgrove has a material interest in the Bromsgrove Arts Development Trust where we appoint the majority of the Members on the Trust. The interest is limited to the building which is known as the Artrix.

The Cash Flow Statement

The Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of Bromsgrove during the reporting period. The statement shows how we generate and use 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 are funded by way of taxation and grant income or service user receipts. Investing activities represent the extent to which cash outflows have been made for resources which are intended to contribute to our future service delivery. Cash flows arising from financing activities are useful in predicting claims on future cash flows by lenders to the Council.

Bromsgrove District Council Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2019

Statement of the Authority's and Chief Financial Officer's Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

The Authority's Responsibilities

Bromsgrove District 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,
- manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets and
- approve the Statement of Accounts.

In this Authority, that officer is the Executive Director of Finance and Resources;

The Executive Director of Finance and Resources is responsible for the preparation of Bromsgrove District Council's Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom ('the Code').

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

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

The Executive Director of Finance and Resources has also:

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

The Accounts present a true and fair view of the financial position of Bromsgrove District Council at 31 March 2019 and its income and expenditure for the year ended on that date.

SIGNED Date:

Certificate of the Chief Financial Officer

I certify that:

- the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019 has been prepared in the form directed by the Code and under the accounting policies set out on pages 26 to 37.
- in my opinion, the Statement of Accounts gives a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year and the financial position as at the end of the financial year.

.....

Chief Financial Officer

Authority Approval of Statement of Accounts

These accounts were approved by resolution of the Council on xx

.....

Chairman

xx

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2018/19

Scope of Responsibility

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

In discharging this overall responsibility, Bromsgrove District Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, which includes arrangements for the management of risk.

The Purpose of the Governance Framework

The governance framework comprises the systems and processes, culture and values by which the authority is directed and controlled and its activities through which it accounts to, engages with and leads its communities. It enables the authority to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate services and value for money.

The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Bromsgrove District Council's Policies and Strategic Purposes, to evaluate the likelihood and potential impact of those risks being realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

The governance framework has been in place at Bromsgrove District Council for the year ended 31 March 2019 and up to the date of approval of the statement of accounts.

The Governance Framework

The framework to deliver good governance across the Council's services in delivering the Strategic Purposes encompass a number of elements;

- The Strategic Purposes have been developed in line with the needs of our communities and customers and the Council Plan 2019-2020 is in place and reflects the activities that need to be undertaken by the Council to further support the delivery of these purposes.
- Strategic Partnership meetings are held on a regular basis to ensure that all partners and agencies are engaged in supporting the Council's aims to deliver the purposes to our community. Liaison between officers to deliver joint working arrangements is encouraged and actively undertaken by the Council.
- Performance reports are presented to members on a quarterly basis in relation to the strategic purpose delivery and the associated measures in place.
- A performance dashboard is in place for members and officers to review the performance of key measures, both strategic and operational across the organisation. This includes national statistics where relevant to the community of the District.
- The Council's Constitution clearly sets out the roles and responsibilities of Councillors, and the procedural rules for Full Council, Cabinet and the other Boards operated by the Council.
- Terms of reference for member working groups (e.g. Scrutiny Task Groups) are clearly defined.
- Financial Regulations and Contract Procedure Rules have been approved by Council. A full training programme is in place to ensure all relevant officers comply and understand the regulations in place. In addition an officer contract working group has been established with the aim to improve efficiencies in relation to contract management arrangements.
- A clear scheme of Councillor/Officer delegation exists to provide clarity on the powers entrusted to those appointed to make decisions on behalf of the Council. A Member / Officer protocol is also set out in the Constitution.
- The roles and responsibilities of Councillors are underpinned by an extensive Member Development Programme to include both mandatory and discretionary training. This is developed by the cross party Member Development Steering Group and includes; induction, chairmanship and specific Committee based training.
- The behaviour of Councillors is regulated by the Member Code of Conduct and is supported by a number of protocols.
- A review of the Constitution is undertaken on a regular basis to ensure it enables members to make informed and transparent decisions. This includes the scheme of delegation to officers.
- Decision making is carried out through Cabinet, Planning Committee and Audit, Standards and Governance Committee. Overview and Scrutiny Committee has responsibility to review and scrutinise the activities of the Council.
- Regular staff briefings and 4th tier manager forums are held to ensure staff are aware of changes and are engaged in the systems thinking methodology of supporting service changes across the Council. In addition a commercial approach to fees and charges and other income generation has been adopted. A staff survey has also been undertaken and culture workshops developed and delivered to staff to ensure improvements and engagement in light of previous staff surveys.
- Robust financial management arrangements in place through regular budget monitoring, on line purchase ordering systems and robust financial internal controls ensure that the Council complies with statutory legislation. A new enterprise system was approved in 2018/19 to improve functionality of the systems and access for managers, which will be implemented in 2019/20.
- There is a clear procurement code and policy in place to ensure that purchases are made in a compliant and transparent manner.

- Heads of Service are responsible for establishing and maintaining an adequate system of internal control arrangements when within their own services. They are required to sign off annual Governance and Internal Control returns where they can raise any items of concern. There were no issues raised during 2018/19.
- The Constitution clearly defines the roles of Monitoring Officer, S151 and Head of Paid Service.
- Regular press releases are submitted and Better Bromsgrove Together is sent to residents to inform them of the Council's activities and services provided. In addition information on the commercial services provided by the Council was sent out to enable residents to utilise the services offered.

Review of Effectiveness

Bromsgrove has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control. The review of effectiveness is informed by the work of the Heads of Service within Bromsgrove District who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment, the Head of Internal Audit's annual report, and also by comments made by the external auditors.

The Constitution clearly identifies the terms of reference, roles and responsibilities of Full Council, Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny and Audit Committees all of which have fully understood governance responsibilities.

Throughout 2018/19, the Council adopted a robust approach to corporate governance, which has been advised through the work of the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee, Overview and Scrutiny as well as the statutory roles of the S151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer.

• Audit, Standards and Governance Committee

The Committee played a role by reviewing and monitoring internal control issues throughout the year. This included approval of the treasury management strategy, savings reports, regular progress reports from Internal Audit and reports and updates from the External Auditors.

• Internal Audit

BDC's responsibility for maintaining an effective internal audit function is set out in Regulation 6 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

The Worcestershire Internal Audit Shared Service Team operates in accordance with best practice professional standards and guidelines. It independently and objectively reviews on a continuous basis, the extent to which the internal control environment supports and promotes the achievement of the Council's objectives and contributes to the proper, economic, efficient and effective use of resources.

During 2018/19 the Internal Audit team delivered a comprehensive programme including:

- a number of core systems which were designed to suitably assist the external auditor to reach their 'opinion' and other corporate systems for example Governance, and
- a number of operational systems, for example: On Street and Off Street Parking, GDPR, Transport, and the Bromsgrove Energy Efficiency Fund, were looked at to maintain and improve control systems and risk management processes or reinforce oversight of such systems.

Internal Audits work programme helps to assure Audit, Standards and Governance Committee that the framework and statement can be relied upon based on the following:

- Evidence streams which were verifiable and could be relied upon,
- Monitoring and reporting mechanisms were in place to report issues,
- These streams and reporting mechanisms are embedded in the BDC governance process.

Internal Audit reports are considered by the relevant Head of Service and Director of Finance and Resources, before submission to the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee for further scrutiny.

Significant Governance Issues

In relation to the internal audit reports for 2018/19 areas which returned an assurance level of 'limited' included Health and Safety, Universal Credits and Housing Benefits, Procurement, Risk Management and Transport. A clear management action plan has been, or is in the process of being formulated to address the issues identified in all the other audit areas where 'limited' assurance was identified to mitigate the risk.

The Heads of Service have actions in place to address any recommendations from Audit reviews and all assessed as being either of high or medium importance have been reported to the Audit Standards and Governance Committee. The Internal Audit team will continue to review the actions as they are implemented.

Conclusion and Evaluation

As leader and Chief Executive, we have been advised on the results of the review of the effectiveness of the Council's governance framework. Our overall assessment is that this Annual Governance Statement is a balanced reflection of the governance environment and the arrangements continue to be regarded as fit for purpose in accordance with the governance framework.

We are also satisfied that over the coming year, the Council will take appropriate steps to address any significant governance issues and we will monitor their implementation and operation as part of our next annual review.

Signed

Date :

Signed

Date :

Leader of the Council & Chief Executive on behalf of Bromsgrove District Council.

Worcestershire Internal Audit Shared Services Manager's Opinion on the Effectiveness of the System of Internal Control at Bromsgrove District Council for the Year Ended 31st March 2019.

1. Head of Internal Audit Opinion

- 1.1 The internal audit of Bromsgrove District Council's systems and operations during 2018/19 was conducted in accordance with the Internal Audit Annual plan which was presented to the Audit Committee on 15th March 2018 and any subsequent revision.
- 1.2 The Internal Audit function was set up as a shared service in 2010/11 and hosted by Worcester City Council for 5 district councils and increased to 6 partners with the inclusion of Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority from April 2016. The shared service conforms with CIPFA guidance and the Institute of Internal Auditors Public Sector Internal Audit Standards as amended and objectively reviews on a continuous basis the extent to which the internal control environment supports and promotes the achievement of the Council's objectives and contributes to the proper, economic and effective use of resources.
- 1.3 The Internal Audit Plan for 2018/19 was risk based assessing audit and assurance factors, materiality risk, impact of failure, system risk, resource risk, fraud risk, and external risk. It included:
 - * a number of core systems which were designed to suitably assist the external auditor to reach their 'opinion' and other corporate systems for example governance, and,
 - * a number of operational systems, for example, On Street and Off Street Parking, GDPR, Transport , Bromsgrove Energy Efficiency Fund, were looked at to maintain and improve control systems and risk management processes or reinforce oversight of such systems.
- 1.4 The 2018/19 internal audit plan and any revision thereto was delivered providing sufficient coverage for the s151 and the Head of Internal Audit Shared Service to form an overall opinion.
- 1.5 At the time of writing this opinion in regard to the 17 reviews that have been undertaken, 9 have been finalised, 6 at draft report stage and 2 awaiting clearance and close to completion. Areas that returned an assurance level of 'limited' included Health and Safety, Universal Credits and Housing Benefits, Procurement, Risk Management and Transport.
- 1.6 A clear management action plan has been, or is in the process of being formulated to address the issues identified in all the other audit areas where 'limited' assurance was identified to mitigate the risk. Where audits are to be finalised a comprehensive management action plan will be required and agreed by the s151 Officer. There is a clear understanding that further work is required to embed risk management throughout the organisation with the outcomes now being monitored by the Executive Director - Finance and Resource.
- 1.7 As part of the process of assessing the Council's control environment, senior officers within the Council are required to complete an annual "Internal Control Assurance Statement" to confirm that the controls in the areas for which they are responsible are operating effectively. Officers were required to acknowledge their responsibilities for establishing and maintaining adequate and effective systems of internal control in the services for which they are responsible and confirming that those controls were operating effectively except where reported otherwise. There were some key themes identified in some of the returns which will be picked up directly with management including a lack of knowledge of the personnel handbook, no inventory checks, no risk register updates. A reoccurring theme reported across several Services was the impact of staff shortages. No areas of significant risk have been identified in addition to those already identified in the audit work completed.
- 1.8 Any concerns raised by managers will be assessed and addressed by the Corporate Management Team.
- 1.9 11 of the completed audits have been allocated an audit assurance of either 'moderate' or above meaning that there is generally a sound system of internal control in place, no significant control issues have been encountered and no material losses have been identified. However, there were 6 audits allocated a 'limited' assurance which indicates weaknesses in the design and / or inconsistent application of controls potentially putting the achievement of the organisation's objectives at risk in those areas reviewed. Any assurance provided is limited to the few areas of the system where controls are in place and are operating effectively.

- 1.10 WIASS can conclude that no system of control can provide absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss, nor can Internal Audit give that assurance. This statement is intended to provide reasonable assurance based on the audits performed in accordance with the approved plan and the scoping therein. Based on the audits performed in accordance with the approved plan, the Head of Internal Audit Shared Service has concluded that the internal control arrangements during 2018/19 effectively managed the principal risks in a number of areas, but not all, and can be reasonably relied upon to ensure that the Council's corporate objectives have been met in the main. Close monitoring of deployed measures are set to continue but the need to reduce the overall risk and work towards a better approach beyond 2018/19 will be critical to create better transparency, expectation and accountability. This will be necessary in order to ensure the District manages risk management effectively, and, ensure other areas which attracted a 'limited' assurance develop and deploy a sound control environment where there is the potential for emerging risk.

Andy Bromage
Head of Internal Audit Shared Service
Worcestershire Internal Audit Shared Service
May-19

Bromsgrove District Council
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2019

The Core Financial Statements



Bromsgrove District Council

Movement in Reserves Statement for Bromsgrove District Council and Group. For the current and comparative year

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

	General Fund Balance	Earmarked General Fund Reserves	Total General Fund Balance	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Total Unusable Reserves	Total Reserves of the Authority	Total Authority Reserves	Authority Share of Subsidiary	Total Authority Reserves Group
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance as at 1 April 2017	4,224	3,607	7,831	638	0	8,469	(16,918)	(8,449)	(8,449)	4,922	(3,527)
Movement in reserves during the year											
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(218)		(218)			(218)	6,121	5,903	5,903		5,903
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (Note 7)	581		581	10	0	591	(591)	0	0		0
Net Increase/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	363	0	363	10	0	373	5,530	5,903	5,903	0	5,903
Transfers to or from earmarked reserves	202	(202)	0			0		0	0	512	512
Increase/(Decrease) in Year	565	(202)	363	10	0	373	5,530	5,903	5,903	512	5,903
Balance as at 31 March 2018	4,789	3,405	8,194	648	0	8,842	(11,388)	(2,546)	(2,546)	5,434	2,888
Movement in reserves during the year											
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(4,113)		(4,113)			(4,113)	(5,683)	(9,796)	(9,796)		(9,796)
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	6,622		6,622	340	0	6,962	(6,962)	0	0		0
Net Increase/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	2,509	0	2,509	340	0	2,849	(12,645)	(9,796)	(9,796)	0	(9,796)
Transfers to or from earmarked reserves	(2,372)	2,372	0			0		0	0	0	0
Increase/(Decrease) in Year	137	2,372	2,509	340	0	2,849	(12,645)	(9,796)	(9,796)	0	(9,796)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2019	4,926	5,777	10,703	988	0	11,691	(24,033)	(12,342)	(12,342)	5,434	(6,908)

Bromsgrove District Council

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31 March 2019

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

Notes

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	2018/19			2017/18		
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	Expenditure	Income	Net	Expenditure	Income	Net
Enabling of the Authority	7458	(2,450)	5008	7,882	(2,753)	5,129
Help me be financially independent	16,144	(15,840)	304	17,053	(16,851)	202
Help me find somewhere to live in my locality	1387	(593)	794	1,332	(514)	818
Help me run a successful business	2,010	(1,578)	432	816	(1,474)	(658)
Help me to live my life independently	1,195	(390)	805	1,079	(297)	782
Keep my place safe and looking good	15194	(7,463)	7731	13,040	(6,861)	6,179
Provide good things for me to see do and visit	1,680	(303)	1,377	1,989	(220)	1,769
Cost of Services	45,068	(28,617)	16,451	43,191	(28,970)	14,221
Other Operating Expenditure	782		782	835		835
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	940	(7)	933	915	(2)	913
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income and Expenditure	8,466	(22,519)	(14,053)	8,088	(23,839)	(15,751)
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services			4113			218
Surplus or deficit on revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment			356			(488)
Recognition of Long Term Debtors which in previous years were treated as revenue expenditure charged to capital under statute			0			(98)
Impairments of prior year Assets Under Construction						
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability/(asset)			5327			(5,535)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			5683			(6,121)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			9796			(5,903)

Bromsgrove District Council

Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31 March 2019

Notes

	2018/19			2017/18		
	£000 Expenditure	£000 Income	£000 Net	£000 Expenditure	£000 Income	£000 Net
Enabling of the Authority	7,458	(2,450)	5,008	7,882	(2,753)	5,129
Help me be financially independent	16,144	(15,840)	304	17,053	(16,851)	202
Help me find somewhere to live in my locality	1,387	(593)	794	1,332	(514)	818
Help me run a successful business	2,010	(1,578)	432	816	(1,474)	(658)
Help me to live my life independently	1,195	(390)	805	1,079	(297)	782
Keep my place safe and Looking Good	15,194	(7,463)	7,731	13,040	(6,861)	6,179
Provide Good things for me to see do and visit	1,832	(303)	1,529	1,306	(220)	1,086
Cost of Services	45,220	(28,617)	16,603	42,508	(28,970)	13,538
Other Operating Expenditure	782	0	782	835		835
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	940	(7)	933	915	(2)	913
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income and Expenditure	8,466	(22,519)	(14,053)	8,088	(23,839)	(15,751)
Associates and Joint Ventures accounted for on an equity basis			(72)			171
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services			4,193			(294)
Surplus or deficit on revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment			492			(488)
Recognition of Long Term Debtors which in previous years were treated as revenue expenditure charged to capital under statute			0			
Impairments of prior year Assets Under Construction						
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability/(asset)			5,327			(5,535)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			5,819			(6,023)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			10,012			(6,317)

Bromsgrove District Council

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2019

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

	Notes	31st March 2019 £000	31st March 2018 £000
Property, Plant & Equipment	14/14a	43,421	44,296
Intangible Assets	16	314	460
Long Term Debtors	19	320	310
Long Term Assets		44,055	45,066
Inventories	18	229	208
Short Term Debtors	19	6,824	7,569
Cash and Cash Equivalents	20	1,687	314
Assets held for sale	21	0	1,033
Current Assets		8,740	9,124
Bank Overdraft	21	0	(306)
Short Term Borrowing	17	(13,522)	(13,022)
Short Term Creditors	22	(5,122)	(6,844)
Provisions	23	(1,561)	(1,553)
Revenue Grants received in advance	33	(17)	(32)
Current Liabilities		(20,222)	(21,757)
Other Long Term Liabilities	37	(44,095)	(34,106)
Capital Grants received in advance	33	(819)	(872)
Long Term Liabilities		(44,914)	(34,978)
Net Liabilities		(12,341)	(2,545)
Usable reserves	24	11,691	8,842
Unusable Reserves	25	(24,033)	(11,388)
Total Reserves		(12,342)	(2,546)

Bromsgrove District Council

Group Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2019

Information relating to the Group Balance Sheet is included in Note 15 - Group Accounts

	Notes	31st March 2019	31st March 2018
		£000	£000
Property, Plant & Equipment	14/14a	48,640	49,730
Investment Property	16	0	0
Intangible Assets	16	314	460
Long Term Debtors	19	320	310
Long Term Assets		49,274	50,500
Inventories	18	229	208
Short Term Debtors	19	6,824	7,569
Cash and Cash Equivalents	20	1,687	314
Assets held for sale	21	0	1,033
Current Assets		8,740	9,124
Bank Overdraft	21	0	(306)
Short Term Borrowing	17	(13,522)	(13,022)
Short Term Creditors	22	(5,122)	(6,844)
Provisions	23	(1,561)	(1,553)
Revenue Grants received in advance	33	(17)	(32)
Current Liabilities		(20,222)	(21,757)
Other Long Term Liabilities	37	(44,095)	(34,106)
Capital Grants received in advance	33	(819)	(872)
Long Term Liabilities		(44,914)	(34,978)
Net Liabilities		(7,122)	2,889
Usable reserves	24	11,691	8,842
Unusable Reserves	25	(18,815)	(5,954)
Total Reserves		(7,124)	2,888

Bromsgrove District Council

Cash Flow Statement at 31 March 2019

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

	Notes	2018/19 £000	2017/18 £000
Net surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services		(4,113)	(218)
Adjustment to surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	26	7,664	(1,388)
Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	26	(1,500)	(3,044)
Net cash flows from Operating Activities		2,051	(4,650)
Investing Activities	27	(446)	(5,276)
Financing Activities	28	(1,077)	9,631
Net increase or (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		528	(295)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		8	303
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		536	8

Bromsgrove District Council

Group Cash Flow Statement at 31 March 2019

	Notes	2018/19 £000	2017/18 £000
Net surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services		(4,193)	294
Adjustment to surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	26	7,744	(1,900)
Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	26	(1,500)	(3,044)
Net cash flows from Operating Activities		2,051	(4,650)
Investing Activities	27	(446)	(5,276)
Financing Activities	28	(1,077)	9,631
Net increase or (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		528	(295)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		8	303
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		536	8

Bromsgrove District Council
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2019

Notes to the Core Financial Statements



Bromsgrove District Council

Notes to the Financial Statements FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Note 1 Accounting Policies

General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2018/19 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2019. The statements are prepared on a general principle of a going concern and that the functions and services provided by the Council will continue to operate for the foreseeable future. Transfers of services under combinations of public sector bodies (such as local government reorganisation) do not negate the presumption of going concern.

The Council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2017 which require them to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19 supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

The accounting convention adopted in the Statement of Accounts is principally historical cost, modified by the revaluation of certain categories of non-current assets and financial instruments.

Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

1) Revenue and Expenditure Recognition

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

- Revenue in respect of services provided is recognised when (or as) performance obligations are satisfied by transferring promised services to the customer, and is measured at the amount of the transaction price allocated to that performance obligation. Where income is received for a specific performance obligation that is to be satisfied in the following year, that income is deferred.
- Income from the sale of non-current assets is recognised only when all material conditions of sale have been met, and is measured as the sums due under the sale contract.
- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed – where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption, they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.
- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.
- Interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.
- Where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.
- The council has set a de-Minimis level for accruals of creditors and debtors that are calculated manually in order to avoid additional time and cost in estimating and recording accruals.

This level is reviewed annually and is currently set at £5,000. If a payment or receipt is split across different cost centres, the limit is for the whole payment or receipt.

Exceptions to this de Minimis rule where accruals are made in full are:

- Qualifying expenditure upon which income from government grant or other third parties is dependent and associated grant income, where the grant funding would be lost if the accrual is not made.
 - Invoices for substantially the same supply or service that are chargeable to the same service area are aggregated where their total is over £500.
 - Accruals posted based on orders that have been goods receipted on the E-Financials system.
- For capital projects work in progress schedules will be obtained and accruals will be processed on this basis.

2) Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

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

3) **Prior Period Adjustments, Changes in Accounting Policies and Estimates and Errors**

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

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

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

4) **Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets**

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

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

The Authority is not required to raise council tax to fund depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisation. However, it is required to make an annual contribution from revenue towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement. This is the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisations are therefore replaced by the MRP contribution in the General Fund Balance, by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

5) **Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates (England)**

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

Accounting for Council Tax and NDR

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

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

6) **Employee Benefits Benefits Payable During Employment**

Short-term employee benefits are those due to be settled wholly within 12 months of the year-end. They include such benefits as wages and salaries, paid annual leave and paid sick leave, for current employees and are recognised as an expense for services in the year in which employees render service to the Authority. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements (or any form of leave e.g. time off in lieu) earned by employees but not taken before the year-end which employees can carry forward into the next financial year. The accrual is made at the wage and salary rates applicable in the following accounting year, being the period in which the employee takes the benefit. The accrual is charged to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, but then reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement so that holiday benefits are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs.

Termination benefits

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

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

Post Employment Benefits

Employees of the Authority are members of the below pension scheme:

- The Local Government Pensions Scheme, administered by Worcestershire County Council known as the Worcestershire Pension Fund (WPF)
- The schemes provide defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees worked for the Authority.

The Local Government Pension Scheme

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

- The liabilities of the WPF attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc., and projections of projected earnings for current employees.
- The liabilities of the WPF attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc., and projections of projected earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate of 2.6% (based on the indicative rate of return on a basket of high quality corporate bonds, government gilts and other factors).
- The assets of WPF attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:
 - quoted securities – current bid price
 - unquoted securities – professional estimate
 - unlisted securities – current bid price
 - property – market value.

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

- **Service cost comprising:**
 - current service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year – allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the services for which the employees worked
 - past service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of a scheme amendment or curtailment whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years – debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Non Distributed Costs
 - net interest on the net defined benefit liability i.e. net interest expense for the authority – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – this is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability at the beginning of the period – taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments
- **Remeasurements comprising:**
 - the return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure
 - actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure

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

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Authority to the pension fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means that there are transfers to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end. The negative balance that arises on the Pensions Reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact to the General Fund of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

Discretionary Benefits

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

7) Events After the Reporting Period

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

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

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

8) Fair Value Measurement

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

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

The authority measures the fair value of an asset or liability using the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability, assuming that market participants act in their economic best interest. When measuring the fair value of a non-financial asset, the authority takes into account a market participant’s ability to generate economic benefits by using the asset in its highest and best use or by selling it to another market participant that would use the asset in its highest and best use. The authority uses valuation techniques that are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data is available, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising the use of unobservable inputs.

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

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

9) Financial Instruments

Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are recognised when the Council becomes party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument or, in the case of trade payables, when the goods or services have been received. Financial liabilities are de-recognised when the liability has been extinguished – that is, the obligation has been discharged or cancelled or has expired.

Financial liabilities are initially measured at fair value and carried at their amortised cost using the effective interest method. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments through the life of the asset, to the amortised cost of the financial liability. Annual charges to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest payable are based on the carrying amount (balance carried forward) of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. For most of the borrowings that the Council has, this means that the amount included in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable, and interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable for the year in the loan agreement. Accounting for debt re-structuring or early settlement will be in accordance with the Code and relevant statute.

Financial Assets

Financial assets are recognised when the Council becomes party to the contractual provision of the financial instrument or, in the case of trade receivables, when the goods or services have been delivered. Financial assets are derecognised when the contractual rights have expired or when the asset has been transferred and the Council has transferred substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership or has not retained control of the asset.

Financial assets are initially recognised at fair value plus or minus directly attributable transaction costs for financial assets not measured at fair value through profit or loss. Fair value is taken as the transaction price, or otherwise determined by reference to quoted market prices, where possible, or by valuation techniques.

Financial assets are classified into the following categories:

- financial assets at amortised cost,
- financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income, and
- financial assets at fair value through profit and loss.

The classification is determined by the cash flow and business model characteristics of the financial assets, as set out in The Code, and is determined at the time of initial recognition.

• Financial Assets at Amortised Cost

Financial assets measured at amortised cost are those held within a business model whose objective is to hold financial assets in order to collect contractual cash flows and where the cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest. This includes most trade receivables, loans receivable, and other simple debt instruments.

After initial recognition, these financial assets are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the life of the financial asset to the gross carrying amount of the financial asset.

For most of the loans that the Council has made, this means that the amount included in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal receivable, and interest credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement.

The Council has made interest free loans to home owners (soft loans). When soft loans are made, a loss is recorded in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the present value of the interest that will be foregone over the life of the instrument, resulting in a lower amortised cost than the outstanding principal. Interest is credited at an effective rate of interest rather than interest free, with the difference serving to increase the amortised cost of the loan in the Balance Sheet. Statutory provisions require that the impact of soft loans on the General Fund Balance is the interest receivable for the financial year – the reconciliation of amounts debited and credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net gain required against the General Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

• Financial Assets at Fair Value Through Other Comprehensive Income

Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income are those held within a business model whose objective is achieved by both collecting contractual cash flows and selling financial assets and where the cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest.

Legislation requires that any changes in the fair value of financial assets charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Service is to be reversed out to through the Movement in Reserves Statement to the Unusable Reserves.

• Impairment

For all financial assets measured at amortised cost or at fair value through other comprehensive income (except equity instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income), lease receivables and contract assets, the Council recognises a loss allowance representing expected credit losses on the financial instrument.

The Code requires that local authorities shall not recognise a loss allowance for expected credit losses on a financial asset where the counterparty for a financial asset is central government or a local authority for which relevant statutory provisions prevent default.

The Council adopts the simplified approach to impairment, in accordance with the Code, and measures the loss allowance for trade receivables, contract assets and lease receivables at an amount equal to lifetime expected credit losses. For other financial assets, the loss allowance is measured at an amount equal to lifetime expected credit losses if the credit risk on the financial instrument has increased significantly since initial recognition, and otherwise at an amount equal to 12-month expected credit losses.

For financial assets that have become credit impaired since initial recognition, expected credit losses at the reporting date are measured as the difference between the net present value of all the contractual cash flows that are due to the Council in accordance with the contract for the instrument and the net present value of all the cash flows that the Council expects to receive, discounted at the original effective interest rate. Any adjustment is recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Service as an impairment gain or loss.

10) Government Grants and Contributions

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

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

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

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

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

11) Heritage Assets

Tangible and Intangible Heritage Assets

Heritage Assets are those with cultural, environmental or historical significance that make their preservation for future generations important.

The carrying amounts of heritage assets are reviewed where there is evidence of impairment for heritage assets, e.g. where an item has suffered physical deterioration. Any impairment is recognised and measured in accordance with the Authority's general policies on impairment – see accounting policy 18.

12) Intangible Assets

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

Internally generated assets are capitalised where it is demonstrable that the project is technically feasible and is intended to be completed (with adequate resources being available) and the Authority will be able to generate future economic benefits or deliver service potential by being able to sell or use the asset. Expenditure is capitalised where it can be measured reliably as attributable to the asset and is restricted to that incurred during the development phase (research expenditure cannot be capitalised).

Expenditure on the development of websites is not capitalised if the website is solely or primarily intended to promote or advertise the Authority's goods or services.

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

Where expenditure on intangible assets qualifies as capital expenditure for statutory purposes, amortisation, impairment losses and disposal gains and losses are not permitted to have an impact on the General Fund Balance. The gains and losses are therefore reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement and posted to the Capital Adjustment Account and (for any sale proceeds greater than

13) Interests in Companies and Other Entities

The Authority has material interests in companies and other entities that have the nature of subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures and require it to prepare group accounts. In the Authority's own single-entity accounts, the interests in companies and other entities are recorded as financial assets at cost, less any provision for losses.

14) Inventories and Long Term Contracts

Inventories are included in the Balance Sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value. The cost of inventories is assigned using the weighted average costing formula.

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

15) Joint Operations

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

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

16) 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 Authority as Lessee

Finance Leases

- a charge for the acquisition of the interest in the property, plant or equipment – applied to write down the lease liability, and
- a finance income (credited 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 authority at the end of the lease period).

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

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 Authority as Lessor Finance Leases

Where the Authority grants a finance lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the relevant asset is written out of the Balance Sheet as a disposal. At the commencement of the lease, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (whether Property, Plant and Equipment or Assets Held for Sale) is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. A gain, representing the Authority's net investment in the lease, is 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), matched by a lease (long-term debtor) asset in the Balance Sheet.

Lease rentals receivable are apportioned between:

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

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

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

Operating Leases

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

17) Materiality

Materiality is an expression of the relative significance or importance of a particular matter in the context of the financial statements as a whole. A matter is material if its omission would reasonably influence the reader of the accounts. Notes are only included where items are considered to be material by value or nature.

18) Overheads and Support Services

In the Financial Statements overheads are reported under the Strategic Purpose where they are managed which is usually Enabling the Authority.

19) **Property, Plant and Equipment**

Assets that have physical substance and are held for use in the production or supply of goods or services, for rental to others, or for administrative purposes and that are expected to be used during more than one financial year are classified as Property, Plant and Equipment.

Recognition

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

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

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

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

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

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

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

- infrastructure, community assets and assets under construction – depreciated historical cost
- dwellings – current value, determined using the basis of existing use value for social housing (EUV-SH)
- council offices - current value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value - EUV), except for a few offices that are situated close to the council's housing properties, where there is no market for office accommodation and that are measured at depreciated replacement cost (instant build) as an estimate of current value.
- surplus assets - the current value measurement base is fair value, estimated at highest and best use from a market participant's perspective
- Vehicles, Plant & Equipment (VPE) – depreciated historical cost

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

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

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

Impairment

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

Where impairment losses are identified, they are accounted for by:

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

- where there is no balance in the Revaluation Reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
- Where an impairment loss is reversed subsequently, the reversal is credited to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, up to the amount of the original loss, adjusted for depreciation that would have been charged if the loss had not been recognised.

Depreciation

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

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- dwellings and other buildings – straight-line allocation over the useful life of the property as estimated by the valuer
- vehicles, plant and equipment – a percentage of the value of each class of assets in the Balance Sheet, as advised by a suitably qualified officer
- infrastructure – straight-line allocation over 25 years.

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

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

Disposals and Non-Current Assets Held for Sale

When it becomes probable that the carrying amount of an asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than 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 only recognised 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 as 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 and their recoverable amount at the date of the decision not to sell.

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

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

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts. Receipts are appropriated to the Reserve from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

20) **Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets** **Provisions**

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

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

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

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

Contingent Liabilities

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

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

Contingent Assets

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

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

21) **Reserves**

The Authority 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 Authority – these reserves are explained in the relevant policies.

22) **Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute**

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

23) **Shared Services**

Bromsgrove District Council provides the hosting for a number of shared service arrangements with Redditch Borough Council and Wyre Forest District Council. A number of other shared services are hosted by Redditch Borough Council (including Worcestershire Regulatory Services which is a Jointly Controlled Operation), Worcester City Council and Wyre Forest District Council.

Each arrangement is accounted for within the records of Bromsgrove District Council with a monitoring report prepared for the partner authority on a monthly basis for consideration of the operational costs together with an annual statement of assets and liabilities extracted from the accounts of Bromsgrove District Council. There is a responsibility for each partner Council to account for their share of the arrangement within their statement of accounts.

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When entering into shared services with Redditch Borough Council all capital assets that are purchased are financed by each authority separately and accounted for on their own Balance Sheet. Any assets purchased prior to the start of the shared service are not included in the shared service; the costs associated with this remain on the accounts of the Authority that purchased the asset only.

The Management team is shared across both authorities as well as other services. Cross-charging occurs where a resource is used by the other Authority where there is not a formal shared service in place.

Each Authority pays a fair share of services which are shared, in line with the Business Case; all direct expenditure is shared on this basis, with income staying with the home Authority. Where a cost is only in relation to one Authority, this falls outside the Business Case and the Authority that gains the benefit for this is fully charged.

24) Value Added Tax (VAT)

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

Bromsgrove District Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Note 2 Accounting Standards That Have Been Issued but Have Not Yet Been Adopted

The code requires that the Council disclose information relating to the impact of an accounting change that will be required by a new standard that has been issued but not yet adopted. These amendments are listed below; it is expected that these will have no material impact on the Statement of Accounts.

- Amendments to IAS 40 Investment Property: Transfers of Investment Property. This is to provide further guidance for instances where a property is reclassified as an investment property.
- Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2014-2016 Cycle.
- IFRIC 22 Foreign Currency Transactions and Advance Consideration. This clarifies the treatment of payments in a foreign currency made in advance of obtaining or delivering services or goods.
- IFRIC 23 Uncertainty over Income Tax Treatments. This is to provide additional guidance on income tax treatment where there is uncertainty.
- Amendments to IFRS 9 Financial Instruments: Prepayment Features with Negative Compensation. This has been amended to make clear that amortised costs should be used where prepayments are substantially lower than the unpaid principal and interest.

There is also an amendment to IFRS 16 Leases, this implementation has been delayed until April 2020.

- IFRS 16 Leases. The amendment requires Local Authorities who are lessees to recognise leases on the balance sheet as right of use assets with a corresponding lease liability.

Note 3 Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

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

There is a high degree of uncertainty about future levels of funding for local government. However, the Authority has determined that this uncertainty is not yet sufficient to provide an indication that the assets of the Authority might be impaired as a result of a need to close facilities and reduce levels of service provision. The Council holds earmarked reserves of £5,777k and General Fund Balances of £4,926k.

The Council has determined that the Worcestershire Regulatory Services Shared Service meets the definition of a Jointly Controlled Operation. The Council has therefore accounted for its share of the Joint Committee's assets and liabilities and income and expenditure as documented in the Legal Agreement.

The Council has determined that a Group Accounting relationship exists with Bromsgrove Arts Development Trust as it has been identified that the Council is able to appoint the majority of the Board responsible for governing this Trust. Where material the Group position is disclosed on the face of the applicable Core Statements. Further information is disclosed in note 15.

The Council has made a 100% provision against the potential cost of business rates appeals arising from the 2010 rating list based on indicative information from Analyse Local informed by data from the Valuation Office. In addition, a provision has been made for appeals against the 2017 rating list. There is still insufficient appeal data to inform the provision calculation against the 2017 list so the Council, along with all Worcestershire District Councils, has provided for appeals based on 4.7% of the net rate debit in line with the Government assumption when setting the rate multiplier for 2017/18. This provision has been set aside for 2017/18 and 2018/19. Further information on these appeals is provided The Council has determined that it does not hold any assets solely for income or capital appreciation and therefore does not hold any investment properties.

Bromsgrove District Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

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

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

The items in the Authority's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2019 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
Property, Plant and Equipment	Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about the level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual assets. The current economic climate makes it uncertain that the Council will be able to sustain its current spending on repairs and maintenance, bringing into doubt the useful lives assigned to assets.	If the useful life of assets are reduced, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the assets falls. It is estimated that the annual depreciation charge for PPE would increase by £296k if the life of all the depreciated assets reduced by one year
Pensions Liability	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Council with expert advice about	The effects on the net pension liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured. For instance, a 0.1% increase in the discount rate would result in a decrease in the pension liability of £3,105k. Further sensitivity analysis can be seen in the defined
Bad Debt Provisions	As at 31 March 2019 the Council had sundry debtor balances of £279k . Provisions for bad debts are made according to the age of the debt and past experience and a provision of £31k is in place in respect of these balances.	If recoverability of these balances were to fall the amount set aside as a provision for bad debts would have to increase. For example, if recoverability of all ages of debt fell by 10% an additional £11k would have to be set aside.
Provision for Business Rates Appeals	The Council has made a provision against the potential cost of business rates appeals arising from the 2010 rating list based on indicative information from Analyse Local informed by data from the Valuation Office. In addition, a provision has been made for appeals against the 2017 rating list. There was insufficient appeal data to inform the provision calculation so the Council has provided for appeals based on 4.7% of the net rate debit in line with the Government assumption when setting the rate multiplier for 2017/18.	Should the success rate of appeals increase the provision would need to increase accordingly. A 10% increase in the cost of successful appeals would increase Councils share of the provision required by £130k. The provision only covers appeals lodged to date. It is not possible to quantify appeals that have not yet been lodged with the Valuation Office so there is a risk that national and local appeals may have a future impact on the accounts.

Bromsgrove District Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Note 5 Material Items of Income and Expense

The following items have had an impact on the 2018/19 Financial Statements:-

In 2017/18 the Council held two assets as held for sale which have now been declassified. One of the assets has been transferred back to operational Property, Plant and Equipment. There is still an offer that has been received on the site but this is conditional on the planning process and therefore there is uncertainty around when the sale will complete. The other asset held for sale, Hanover Street Phase 2, had a conditional offer held on it, the sale of this site has now fallen through and has therefore been transferred to surplus assets.

In April 2017 the Council made an advanced payment to Worcestershire Pension Fund for the deficit payments due 2017/18-2019/20 and 90% of the expected pension contributions for current employees for the same period. The total payment was £6,591k compared with a cost of £7,048k if the payments had been made monthly. After allowing for estimated interest costs (£46k) the net savings are estimated at £411k over the 3 years.

The net pension liability for 2018/19 is £44,095k. Note 37 provides a detailed analysis of the pension changes but the main reasons for the change is actuarial losses. As at 31st March 2019 the Pension Liability is £2,151k lower than the Pension Reserve representing the advance payment relating 2019/20 and as at 31st March 2018 it was £2,198k higher relating to the 2018/19 advance payment.

Note 6 Events after the Reporting Period

On the 27th June 2019, the Supreme Court denied the Government's request for permission to appeal against the Court of Appeal's decision in the cases of McCloud and Sargeant, regarding age discrimination and transitional protection arrangements in the New Judges Pension Scheme and the New Firefighters Pension Scheme. The refusal could have significant implications for all public service pension schemes.

The Court of Appeal ruled on 20 December 2018 that the transitional protections in these two cases which allowed older members either to

- Remain members of their existing scheme until retirement, rather than become members of the replacement scheme; or
- Remain members of their existing scheme until the end of a period of tapered protection (dependent on their age) and then become a member of the replacement scheme

were unlawful on the grounds of age discrimination and could not be objectively justified.

The transitional protections were given to scheme members who, on 1 April 2012 were either within ten years of their normal retirement (full protection) or for those who were three to four years younger tapered protection.

Although the two cases related specifically to the judicial and firefighters pension schemes, similar transitional arrangements were agreed in relation to all other public service pension schemes, so there will also be a potential additional liability arising on the Local Government Pension Scheme. As a result of this significant changes are likely to be required to the public service pension schemes, though due to the uncertainties surrounding the outcome at this time this is difficult to quantify.

Additional actuary calculations were requested to reflect the pension position following the outcome of the McCloud and Sargeant cases. The accounts have been adjusted to reflect these additional costs.

Bromsgrove District Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Note 7 Expenditure and Funding Analysis For the current and comparative year

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis shows how annual expenditure is used and funded from resources (government grants, rents, council tax and business rates) by local authorities in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by authorities in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. It also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the Council's strategic purposes.

2018/19			Strategic Purpose	2017/18		
Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund Balances	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
5,437	429	5,008	Enabling of the Authority	5,699	570	5,129
249	(55)	304	Help me be financially independent	135	(67)	202
536	(258)	794	Help me find somewhere to live in my locality	557	(261)	818
(637)	(1,069)	432	Help me run a successful business	(707)	(49)	(658)
(123)	(928)	805	Help me to live my life independently	(46)	(828)	782
4,822	(2,909)	7,731	Keep my place safe and looking good	4,353	(1,826)	6,179
627	(750)	1,377	Provide good things for me to see do and visit	965	(804)	1,769
10,911	(5,540)	16,451	Net Cost of Services	10,956	(3,265)	14,221
(13,415)	(1,077)	(12,338)	Other Income and Expenditure	(11,319)	2,684	(14,003)
(2,504)	(6,617)	4,113	Surplus or Deficit	(363)	(581)	218
(8,194)			Opening General Fund Balance	(7,831)		
(2,504)			Less/Plus Surplus or (Deficit) on General Fund Balance in Year	(363)		
(10,698)			Closing General Fund Balance at 31 March	(8,194)		

Bromsgrove District Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Note 7a Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis

This note provides a reconciliation of the main adjustments to Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund to arrive at the amounts in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The relevant transfers between reserves are explained in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	2018/19				
	Adjustments for Capital Purposes £000	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments £000	Other Statutory Adjustments £000	Other Differences £000	Total £000
Enabling of the Authority	(112)	459	0	82	429
Help me be financially independent	(55)	0	0	0	(55)
Help me find somewhere to live in my locality	(157)	-101	0	0	-258
Help me run a successful business	(1,069)	0	0	0	(1,069)
Help me to live my life independently	(928)	0	0	0	(928)
Keep my place safe and looking good	(973)	-1936	0	0	-2909
Provide good things for me to see do and visit	(750)	0	0	0	(750)
Net Cost of Services	(4,044)	(1,578)	0	82	(5,540)
Other Income and Expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	1,748	(885)	(1,858)	(82)	(1,077)
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(2,296)	(2,463)	(1,858)	0	(6,617)

Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	2017/18				
	Adjustments for Capital Purposes £000	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments £000	Other Statutory Adjustments £000	Other Differences £000	Total £000
Enabling of the Authority	(113)	690	1	(8)	570
Help me be financially independent	(55)	(12)	0	0	(67)
Help me find somewhere to live in my locality	(197)	(64)	0	0	(261)
Help me run a successful business	(49)	0	0	0	(49)
Help me to live my life independently	(828)	0	0	0	(828)
Keep my place safe and looking good	(622)	(1,206)	2	0	(1,826)
Provide good things for me to see do and visit	(795)	(9)	0	0	(804)
Net Cost of Services	(2,659)	(601)	3	(8)	(3,265)
Other Income and Expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	3,186	(919)	409	8	2,684
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	527	(1,520)	412	0	(581)

Bromsgrove District Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Note 7b Segmental Income and Expenditure

Income and expenditure on a segmental basis are analysed below:

2018/19	Revenue from External Customers £000	Revenues from Transactions with Other Operating Segments of the Authority £000	Depreciation and Amortisation £000
Enabling of the Authority	(2,425)	(1)	92
Help me be financially independent	(684)	0	55
Help me find somewhere to live in my locality	(396)	0	157
Help me run a successful business	(1,578)	0	64
Help me to live my life independently	(390)	0	1
Keep my place safe and looking good	(7,114)	(319)	988
Provide good things for me to see do and visit	(285)	0	611
Total Income Analysed on a Segmental Basis	(12,872)	(320)	1,968

2017/18	Revenue from External Customers £000	Revenues from Transactions with Other Operating Segments of the Authority £000	Depreciation and Amortisation £000
Enabling of the Authority	(2,579)	(33)	86
Help me be financially independent	(591)	0	55
Help me find somewhere to live in my locality	(412)	0	121
Help me run a successful business	(1,473)	0	49
Help me to live my life independently	(296)	0	1
Keep my place safe and looking good	(6,825)	0	717
Provide good things for me to see do and visit	(220)	0	302
Total Income Analysed on a Segmental Basis	(12,396)	(33)	1,331

Bromsgrove District Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Note 8 Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature

The authority's expenditure and income are analysed as follows:

Expenditure:	2018/19 £000	2017/18 £000
Employee Benefits Expenses	14,952	14,352
Other Expenditure	28,146	27,501
Depreciation, Amortisation, Impairment	1,968	1,331
Interest Payments	940	915
Precepts and Levies	882	851
Gain on the Disposal of Assets	(100)	(16)
Income:	2018/19 £000	2017/18 £000
Fees, Charges and other service Income	(12,872)	(12,396)
Interest and Investment Income	(7)	(2)
Income for Council tax, non-domestic rates, district rate income	(9,984)	(9,712)
Government grants and Contributions	(19,492)	(22,573)
Internal Recharges	(320)	(33)
(Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	4,113	218

Revenue from contracts with service recipients

Revenue from contracts with service recipients amounts to £4,798k of the £28,617k income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES). The £4,798k equates to 16.8% of income which is significant and in the areas received fund a large part of the costs of providing the services. Compared with 2017/18 there has been a £321k increase in income mainly from trade waste, garden waste and rents. The percentage of income from customer receipts has increased from 15.5% in 2017/18 to 16.8% in 2018/19. A summary of the income from service recipients is provided below:-

Service Area:	2018/19 £000	2017/18 £000
Car Parking	1,238	1,247
Garden, trade and bulky waste	1,521	1,310
Planning and Building Control	531	584
Licences - taxi and general	207	188
Cesspool emptying	196	180
Lifeline services	279	270
Beavement	142	144
Leisure	155	138
Land Charges	78	110
Rents	267	79
Other	184	227
Total income from contracts with service recipients	4,798	4,477

The Council Policy on fees and charges is that

- all services should be charged where it is appropriate to do so, unless there are conflicting policies or legal reasons not to do so.
- the charge should (subject to market conditions) aim to maximise income from fees and charges by ensuring that the full cost of provision and enforcement is recovered, unless there are contrary policies, legal or contractual reasons.
- decisions to subsidise services, or to not make a charge for a service should be clearly linked to Council objectives, and the potential income that is not earned must be a consideration in the decision.
- Where the Council continues to subsidise the cost of services provided to customers, the level of subsidy should be clearly understood by the Service unit.
- Charges must be linked to both service and strategic objectives and must be clearly understood. the direct implications of charging for residents, and the indirect implications for public, private and voluntary sector partners should be clearly understood.
- any concessionary scheme should be based on ability to pay and be applied in a consistent and transparent approach across all Council services.
- where appropriate annual inflationary uplifts will be applied through the budget setting process, this will be agreed by the Council as part of the budget setting process.

Bromsgrove District Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Note 9 Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations

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

Usable Reserves			
2018/19	General Fund Balance	Capital Receipts Reserve	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£000	£000	£000
Adjustments to the Revenue Resources			
Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements.			
Pension cost (transferred to (or from) the Pensions Reserve)	2,464	0	(2,464)
Financial Instruments (transferred to the Financial Instruments Adjustments Account)	0	0	0
Council tax and NDR (transfers to or from the Collection Fund)	1,858	0	(1,858)
Holiday pay (transferred to the Accumulated Absences reserve)	0	0	0
Equal pay settlements (transferred to the Unequal Pay / Back Pay)	0	0	0
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure (these items are charged to the Capital Adjustment Account)	3,141	0	(3,141)
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	7,463	0	(7,463)
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources			
Transfer of non-current asset sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve	(341)	341	0
Administrative costs of non-current asset disposals (funded by a contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve)	1	(1)	0
Statutory Provision for the repayment of debt (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)	(487)	0	487
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)	(14)	0	14
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	(841)	340	501
Adjustments to Capital Resources			
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure	0	0	0
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	0	0	0
Total Adjustments to Capital Resources	0	0	0
Total Adjustments	6,622	340	(6,962)

Usable Reserves			
2017/18	General Fund Balance	Capital Receipts Reserve	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£000	£000	£000
Adjustments to the Revenue Resources			
Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements.			
Pension cost (transferred to (or from) the Pensions Reserve)	1,520	0	(1,520)
Financial Instruments (transferred to the Financial Instruments Adjustments Account)	0	0	0
Council tax and NDR (transfers to or from the Collection Fund)	(409)	0	409
Holiday pay (transferred to the Accumulated Absences reserve)	(4)	0	4
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure (these items are charged to the Capital Adjustment Account)	(118)		118
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	989	0	(989)
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources			
Transfer of non-current asset sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve	(141)	141	0
Statutory Provision for the repayment of debt (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)	(267)	0	267
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	(408)	141	267
Adjustments to Capital Resources			
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure	0	(131)	131
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	0	0	0
Total Adjustments to Capital Resources	0	(131)	131
Total Adjustments	581	10	(591)

Bromsgrove District Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Note 10 Movements in Earmarked Reserves

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund balances in earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from earmarked reserves to meet General Fund expenditure in 2018/19

	Balance as at 1 April 2017	Transfers In 2017/18	Transfers Out 2017/18	Balance as at 31 March 2018	Transfers In 2018/19	Transfers Out 2018/19	Balance as at 31 March 2019
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
General Fund:							
Building Control Other	7	0	0	7	0	0	7
Building Control Partnerships	44	28	(14)	58	26	(22)	62
Business Transformation	11	0	0	11	0	(11)	0
Commercialism	50	0	(9)	41	0	(7)	34
Community Safety	33	0	(3)	30	0	(30)	0
Community Services	40	0	0	40	0	(9)	31
Economic Regeneration	501	0	0	501	0	(25)	476
Election Services	203	35	(140)	98	14	(25)	87
Environmental Services	15	11	(13)	13	0	(5)	8
Financial Services	586	375	(149)	812	2,902	(95)	3,619
Housing Schemes	367	119	(36)	450	181	(119)	512
ICT/Systems	222	0	(100)	122	52	(10)	164
Leisure/Community Safety	266	177	(166)	277	176	(187)	266
Litigation Reserve	5	0	0	5	0	(5)	0
Local Development Framework	142	0	0	142	0	(112)	30
Local Neighbourhood Partnerships	16	0	0	16	0	0	16
Other	99	0	(9)	90	17	(21)	86
Planning & Regeneration	100	0	(100)	0	30	0	30
Regulatory Services (Partner Share)	33	8	0	41	0	(3)	38
Replacement Reserve (Inc. Recycling)	556	0	(216)	340	0	(340)	0
Shared Services (Severance Costs)	311	0	0	311	0	0	311
Total General Fund	3,607	753	(955)	3,405	3,398	(1,026)	5,777

Bromsgrove District Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Note 11 Other Operating Expenditure

	2018/19	2017/18
	£000	£000
Parish council precepts	882	851
(Gains)/losses on the disposal of non current assets	(100)	(16)
Total	782	835

Note 12 Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

	2018/19	2017/18
	£000	£000
Interest payable and similar charges	55	23
Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset)	885	892
Interest receivable and similar income	(7)	(2)
Total	933	913

Note 13 Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income and Expenditure

	2018/19	2017/18
	£000	£000
Income		
Council Tax Income	(8,884)	(8,510)
Non Domestic Rates Income and Expenditure	(1,100)	(1,202)
Non-ring-fenced government grants	(2,910)	(3,136)
Grants to Parishes	0	0
Capital Grants and Contributions	(1,159)	(2,903)
Total	(14,053)	(15,751)

Bromsgrove District Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Note 14 Property, Plant and Equipment

Current Year

	Property, Plant & Equipment (PP&E)								Group Asset £000	Total Group PPE £000
	Land £000	Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £000	Infrastructure Assets £000	Community Assets £000	PP&E Under Construction £000	Surplus Assets £000	Total PP&E £000		
Cost or Valuation										
Balance as at 1 April 2018	9,268	24,711	15,796	874	832	85	1,770	53,336	5,434	58,770
Additions (Note 35)	0	12	1,356	137	0	9	66	1,580	0	1,580
Revaluation increases/decreases to Revaluation Reserve	(352)	114	0	0	0	0	(133)	(371)	(215)	(586)
Revaluation increases/decreases to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(1,195)	123	0	0	0	0	(65)	(1,137)	0	(1,137)
Derecognition - Disposals	0	(227)	(534)	0	0	0	0	(761)	0	(761)
Reclassifications & Transfers	278	0	0	0	0	0	755	1,033	0	1,033
Balance as at 31 March 2019	7,999	24,733	16,618	1,011	832	94	2,393	53,680	5,219	58,899
Depreciation and Impairment										
Balance as at 1 April 2018	0	(438)	(8,212)	(390)	0	0	0	(9,040)	0	(9,040)
Depreciation Charge	0	(593)	(1,187)	(42)	0	0	0	(1,822)	(114)	(1,936)
Depreciation written out on Revaluation Reserve	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	15	114	129
Depreciation written out on Revaluation taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	67	0	0	0	0	0	67	0	67
Derecognition - Disposals	0	0	521	0	0	0	0	521	0	521
Balance as at 31 March 2019	0	(949)	(8,878)	(432)	0	0	0	(10,259)	0	(10,259)
Net Book Value										
Balance as at 31 March 2019	7,999	23,784	7,740	579	832	94	2,393	43,421	5,219	48,640
Balance as at 31 March 2018	9,268	24,273	7,584	484	832	85	1,770	44,296	5,434	49,730

Bromsgrove District Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Note 14 a Comparative Year

	Property, Plant & Equipment (PP&E)								Group Asset £000	Total Group PPE £000
	Land £000	Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £000	Infrastructure Assets £000	Community Assets £000	PP&E Under Construction £000	Surplus Assets £000	Total PP&E £000		
Cost or Valuation										
Balance as at 1 April 2017	9,420	14,020	12,473	635	832	8,826	1,770	47,976	4,922	52,898
Adjusted opening balance	9,420	14,020	12,473	635	832	8,826	1,770	47,976	4,922	52,898
Additions (Note 35)	0	0	1,480	151	0	4,938	0	6,569		6,569
Revaluation increases/decreases to Revaluation Reserve	(394)	630	0	0	0	0	0	236	512	748
Revaluation increases/decreases to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(158)	0	0	0	0	0	0	(158)	0	(158)
Derecognition - Disposals	0	(54)	(436)	0	0	0	0	(490)	0	(490)
Derecognition - Other	0	(436)	(361)	0	0	0	0	(797)	0	(797)
Reclassifications & Transfers	400	10,551	2,640	88	0	(13,679)	0	0	0	0
Reclassified to/from Held for Sale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance as at 31 March 2018	9,268	24,711	15,796	874	832	85	1,770	53,336	5,434	58,770
Depreciation and Impairment										
Balance as at 1 April 2017	0	(791)	(8,112)	(360)	0	0	0	(9,263)	0	(9,263)
Adjusted opening balance	0	(791)	(8,112)	(360)	0	0	0	(9,263)	0	(9,263)
Depreciation Charge	0	(337)	(824)	(30)	0	0	0	(1,191)	(133)	(1,324)
Depreciation written out on Revaluation Reserve	0	252	0	0	0	0	0	252	133	385
Depreciation written out on Revaluation taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derecognition - Disposals	0	2	309	0	0	0	0	311	0	311
Derecognition - Other	0	436	415	0	0	0	0	851	0	851
Balance as at 31 March 2018	0	(438)	(8,212)	(390)	0	0	0	(9,040)	0	(9,040)
Net Book Value										
Balance as at 31 March 2018	9,268	24,273	7,584	484	832	85	1,770	44,296	5,434	49,730
Balance as at 31 March 2017	9,420	13,229	4,361	275	832	8,826	1,770	38,713	4,922	43,635

Bromsgrove District Council

Notes to the Financial Statements FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Depreciation

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

- Other Land and Buildings - 8-75 years (Land is not depreciated but Buildings are based on Valuers Assessment)
- Vehicles, Plant and Equipment - 1-25 years
- Infrastructure - 5-20 years

Capital Commitments

There are no major capital commitments as at the 31st March 2019.

Revaluations

The basis for valuation of the individual classes of assets owned by the Council is explained in the Statement of Accounting Policies. The net book value as at 31 March represents the value of the assets belonging to the Council. The Council carries out a rolling programme that ensures that all Property, Plant and Equipment that is required to be measured at fair value is revalued at least every five years. All valuations were carried out by the Council's valuation provider, Place Partnership Limited. Valuations of land and buildings were carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. Valuations of vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment are based on current prices where there is an active second-hand market or latest list prices adjusted for the condition of the asset.

Valuations of non-current assets carried at current value:

Description	Land £000	Building £000	Surplus Assets £000	Other Asset Classes £000	Total £000
Valued at Historical Cost				9,245	9,245
Valued at current value in:					
2018/19	6,051	793	2,393	0	9,237
2017/18	430	16,521	0	0	16,951
2016/17	286	347	0	0	22,432
2015/16	1,233	3,588	0	0	7,975
2014/15	0	2,535	0	0	4,901
Total	8,000	23,784	2,393	9,245	70,741

Other Asset Classes include Vehicles, Plant and Equipment (£7,740k), Infrastructure (£579k), Community Assets (£832k) and Assets Under Construction (£94k).

Fair Value Hierarchy for Surplus Assets

Details of the authority's surplus assets and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 31 March 2019 and 2018 are as follows:

2018/19 Recurring fair value measurement using:	Quoted Prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1) £000	Other significant observable inputs (Level 2) £000	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) £000	Fair value as at 31st March 2019 £000
Council House		1,401		1,401
Hanover Street		542		542
Dolphin Centre		450		450
Total	0	2,393	0	2,393

2017/18 Recurring fair value measurement using:	Quoted Prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1) £000	Other significant observable inputs (Level 2) £000	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) £000	Fair value as at 31st March 2018 £000
Council House		1,770		1,770
Total	0	1,770	0	1,770

Transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy

There were no transfers between Levels 1 and 2 during the year.

Valuation Techniques used to Determine Level 2 and 3 Fair Values for Surplus Assets Significant observable inputs – Level 2

The fair value for the asset have been based on the market value approach using current market conditions and recent sales prices and other relevant information for similar assets in the local authority area. Market conditions are such that similar properties are actively purchased and sold and the level of observable inputs are significant, leading to the properties being categorised at Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy.

Highest and best use of surplus assets

In estimating the fair value of the authority's surplus assets, the highest and best use of the assets is their current use.

Valuation Techniques

There has been no change in the valuation techniques used during the year for surplus assets.

Valuation Process for Surplus Assets

The fair value of the authority's Surplus Assets is measured at £2,393k. All valuations are carried out internally, in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. The authority's valuation experts work closely with finance officers reporting directly to the chief financial officer on a regular basis regarding all valuation matters.

Bromsgrove District Council

Notes to the Financial Statements FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Note 15 Group Accounts

1.1 Nature of the relationship between Bromsgrove District Council and Bromsgrove Arts

The Bromsgrove Arts Development Trust was established on 23 April 2003 by Trust Deed, the Trustees have been registered with the Official Custodian of Charities, these include Members of Bromsgrove District Council.

The Council appoints the majority of the Members to this Trust with a representation of 6 of the 8 Trustees. As such this gives them the ability to influence decisions made by this Board. The Council supplies no funding for this Trust which solely holds the building known as the Artrix, it is not responsible for service provision and any assets or liabilities arising there from. As such the figures used for consolidation are based on the property valuation which has been carried out by an independent valuation service provided from Place Partnership Limited.

The Arts Development Trust asset shown in the Group Balance Sheet (PPE) is the Artrix. This is used in the provision of Arts and Culture for the Community and is not the property of Bromsgrove District Council. It should be noted that although consolidation is being undertaken for this asset, not only does the Council not own it, in the event of a possible sale the Council has no right to a share the proceeds nor can the Council determine whether or not sale of this property should be undertaken.

The Trust is not required to produce accounts by the Charities Commission because it has no actual income or expenditure during the year. The only entry for the Trust would be the depreciation calculated for the building.

There is no goodwill as the group did not arise through a purchase.

1.2 Property, Plant and Equipment

	31/03/2019		31/03/2018	
	BDC £000	Trust £000	BDC £000	Trust £000
Property, Plant & Equipment	43,421	5,219	44,296	5,434

The Property, Plant and Equipment Asset being consolidated within the group accounts relates solely to the Artrix Building held by Bromsgrove Arts Development Trust.

1.3 Reconciliation of Group Movement in Reserves Statement to the Group Balance Sheet

	31/03/2019 £000	31/03/2018 £000
Total Reserves in the Group Movement in Reserves	(6,908)	2,888
Minority interest's share of reserves in subsidiaries	1,739	1,811
Total Reserves in the Group Balance Sheet	(5,169)	4,699

1.4 Usable Reserves

There is no impact on the Council's usable reserves as a result of preparing Group Accounts.

1.5 Unusable Reserves

	31/03/2019 £000	31/03/2018 £000
Revaluation Reserve	5,701	6,267
Capital Adjustment Account	18,534	20,964
Pensions Reserve	(46,244)	(38,453)
Collection Fund Adjustment Account	(1,841)	17
Accumulated Adjustments Account	(183)	(183)
Group Revaluation Reserve	3,125	3,338
Building Reserve	2,093	2,096
Total	(18,815)	(5,954)

1.6 Group Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement

The group comprehensive income and expenditure mirrors the single entity accounts with the exception of the following items:-

- depreciation charged in relation to the Artrix Building (£152k) and within Provide Good things for me to see do and visit. There has been a revaluation of £136k recorded under Surplus or deficit on revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment. The recognition of the minority interest of depreciation and revaluation is recorded under Associates and Joint Ventures accounted for on an equity basis (£72k).

Bromsgrove District Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Note 16 Intangible Assets

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

The carrying amount of intangible assets is amortised on a straight-line basis. The amortisation of £146k charged to revenue in the current year was charged to the service area using the software, the largest being IT and Finance who report to the strategic priority Enabling of the Authority.

All software is given a finite useful life, based on assessments of the period that the software is expected to be of use to the Authority. The useful lives assigned to the major software suites used by the Authority are:

	Other Assets
3 years	Software
5 years	Shared Software with Redditch BC
10 years	Large Projects with longer term benefits

The Movement in Intangible Assets for the Year is as follows:

	2018/19 £000	2017/18 £000
Balance at start of year:		
· Gross carrying amounts	3,665	3,630
· Accumulated amortisation	(3,205)	(3,065)
Net carrying amount at start of year	460	565
Additions:		
· Purchases	0	35
Derecognition Other	0	0
	460	600
Derecognition Other		
Amortisation for the period	(146)	(140)
Net carrying amount at end of year	314	460
Comprising:		
· Gross carrying amounts	3,665	3,665
· Accumulated amortisation	(3,351)	(3,205)
Total	314	460

Bromsgrove District Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Note 17 Financial Instruments

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

	Long-term		Current	
	31/03/2019	31/03/2018	31/03/2019	31/03/2018
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cash and Cash Equivalents		0	1,687	314
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	0	0	1,687	314
Debtors				
Loans and receivables	320	310	4,615	5,394
Total Debtors	320	310	4,615	5,394
Borrowings				
Financial liabilities at amortised cost	0	0	(13,500)	(13,000)
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit and loss	0	0	(22)	(22)
Total borrowings	0	0	(13,522)	(13,022)
Other Long Term Liabilities				
Bank overdraft	0	0	0	(306)
Total other long term liabilities	0	0	(13,522)	(13,328)
Creditors				
Financial liabilities carried at contract amount	0	0	(3,820)	(4,489)
Total creditors	0	0	(3,820)	(4,489)

Soft Loans

	2018/19	2017/18
Opening Soft Loans	215	114
Nominal Value of New Loans Granted During the Period	7	11
The fair value adjustment on initial recognition	(2)	(2)
Loans Repaid During the Period	(2)	(12)
Reclassification	0	98
The fair value adjustment on reclassification/prior year advances	6	6
Nominal value of loans at the end of the period	224	215

The new advances are lifetime loans granted to owner occupiers which will be repaid on the sale of the property. No interest is charged on the loans and a fair value adjustment has been made assuming the loan is repaid after 10 years.

In 2017/18 there was a review of long term loans which identified that the balance had been understated by £98k. The main reason was that loans in previous years to owner occupiers had not been treated as long term debtors but recorded as revenue expenditure financed by capital under statute.

No interest is charged on any of the loans and a fair value adjustment is based on a lifetime loan being repaid after 10 years and rent to buy loans after 25 years.

Bromsgrove District Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Note 18 Inventories

	Consumable Stores	
	2018/19	2017/18
	£000	£000
Balance outstanding at start of year	208	213
Purchases	633	549
Recognised as an expense in year	(619)	(573)
Written off balances	7	19
Balance outstanding at year end	229	208

Note 19 Debtors

	Long term debtors		Short term debtors	
	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Central Government Bodies	0	0	810	1,114
Other Local Authorities	0	0	2,333	3,433
Other entities and individuals	320	310	5,270	4,617
Less bad debt provision	0	0	(1,589)	(1,595)
Total	320	310	6,824	7,569

Included within the debtors balance are provisions for bad and doubtful debts which reduce the value of the related debtor as per the breakdown below:

	2018/19	2017/18
	£000	£000
General Fund Debtors	32	29
Council Tax	374	337
NNDR	371	481
Housing Benefit	812	748
Total	1,589	1,595

Note 20 Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period can be reconciled to the related items in the Balance Sheet as follows:

	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17
	£000	£000	£000
Cash and Bank balances	1,687	314	303
Short Term Investments	0	0	0
Short Term Deposits	0	0	0
Bank Overdraft	0	(306)	0
Total	1,687	8	303

Bromsgrove District Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Note 21 Assets Held for Sale

	Current	
	2018/19 £000	2017/18 £000
Balance outstanding at start of year	1,033	1,033
Additions	0	0
Assets declassified as held for sale:		
- Property Plant and Equipment	(793)	0
- Surplus Assets	(240)	0
Assets sold	0	0
Balance outstanding at year-end	0	1,033

In 2017/18 the Council held two assets as held for sale. These have now been declassified from assets held for sale.

One of the assets has been transferred back to operational Property, Plant and Equipment. There is still an offer that has been received on the site but this is conditional on the planning process and therefore there is uncertainty around when the sale will complete.

The other asset held for sale, Hanover Street Phase 2, had a conditional offer held on it, the sale of this site has now fallen through and has therefore been transferred to surplus assets.

Note 22 Creditors

	Short term creditors	
	2018/19 £000	2017/18 £000
Central government bodies	(327)	(1,078)
Other local authorities	(3,330)	(2,691)
Other Entities and Individuals	(1,465)	(3,075)
Total	(5,122)	(6,844)

Bromsgrove District Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Note 23 Provisions

	Balance as at 1 April 2018 £000	Change in provision during year £000	Utilised during year £000	Balance as at 31 March 2019 £000
Business Rates Appeals	(1,303)	(440)	432	(1,311)
Employee Benefits	(183)	0	0	(183)
Insurance Provision	(67)	0	0	(67)
Total	(1,553)	(440)	432	(1,561)

Comparative Year

	Balance as at 1 April 2017 £000	Change in provision during year £000	Utilised during year £000	Balance as at 31 March 2018 £000
Business Rates Appeals	(762)	(541)	0	(1,303)
Employee Benefits	(186)	0	3	(183)
Insurance Provision	0	(67)	0	(67)
Total	(948)	(608)	3	(1,553)

Business Rates Appeals Provision

The Council has set aside a provision for any potential liabilities as a result of business rates appeals against rateable value. The Council is responsible for a 40% share of any successful appeals. A provision has been made for all outstanding appeals relating to the rate revaluation undertaken in 2010 and this accounts for almost £300k of the provision.

A new rate revelation was implemented from 1st April 2017 but it is too early to calculate a provision on actual appeals received to date. Therefore a judgement has been made to create a provision based on the calculation applied when setting the 2017/18 rate poundage (known as the multiplier) where nationally 4.7% of the net rate yield was set aside for appeals. The 4.7% was informed by appeals from the 2010 rate revaluation.

Insurance Provision

An insurance provision was created in 2017/18 to cover the cost of a potential levy from Municipal Mutual Insurance Limited (MMI). MMI previously provided assets, employer and public liability insurance to the Council but is now in administration. The levy represents 25% of the claims. There has been no change in the provision for 2018/19.

Bromsgrove District Council

Notes to the Financial Statements FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Note 24 Usable Reserves

	31/03/2019 £000	31/03/2018 £000
General Fund Balances	4,926	4,789
Earmarked Reserves	5,777	3,405
Capital Receipts Reserve	988	648
Total Usable Reserves	11,691	8,842

Capital Receipts Reserve

These are receipts from the sale of Council assets, which have not yet been used to finance capital expenditure.

	31/03/2019 £000	31/03/2018 £000
Balance 1 April	648	638
Capital Receipts in year	340	141
Sub-Total	988	779
Less:		
Capital Receipts used for financing	0	(131)
Balance 31 March	988	648

Since 1st April 2016 local authorities have had more flexibility in the use of capital receipts. There is greater scope to use the capital receipts to fund upfront costs that will generate ongoing savings and/or transform service delivery. All of the £988k held at 31st March 2019 are available to be used either for financing capital investment or funding projects qualifying for the flexible use.

Bromsgrove District Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Note 25 Unusable Reserves

	31/03/2019	31/03/2018
	£000	£000
Revaluation Reserve	5,701	6,267
Capital Adjustment Account	18,534	20,964
Pensions Reserve	(46,244)	(38,453)
Collection Fund Adjustment Account	(1,841)	17
Accumulated Absences Account	(183)	(183)
Total Unusable Reserves	(24,033)	(11,388)

Revaluation Reserve

The Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the Authority arising from increases in the value of its Property, Plant and Equipment.

The balance is reduced when assets with accumulated gains are:

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

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

	31/03/2019	31/03/2018
	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April	6,267	5,828
Upward revaluation of assets	0	488
Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(356)	488
Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	(117)	(33)
Revaluation balances on assets scrapped or disposed of	(93)	0
Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	(210)	(33)
Derecognition of Property disposed of	0	(16)
Balance at 31 March	5,701	6,267

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

Note 9 provides details of the source of all the transactions posted to the Account, apart from those involving the Revaluation Reserve.

Capital Adjustment Account

	31/03/2019		31/03/2018	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April		20,964		20,301
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	(1,822)		(1,191)	
Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Amortisation of Intangible Assets	(1,070)		(158)	
	(146)		(140)	
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(1,022)		(1,170)	
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	(240)		(126)	
		(4,300)		(2,785)
Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve		210		33
Net written out amount of the cost of non current assets consumed in the year		(4,090)		(2,752)
Capital financing applied in the year:				
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0		131	
Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital	1,159		2,903	
Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	0		0	
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	487		267	
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	14		0	
		1,660		3,301
Derecognition of Property disposed of		0		16
Reclassification from Fixed Assets to Long Term Debtors		0		0
Recognition of Long Term Debtors which in previous years were treated as revenue expenditure charged to capital under statute		0		98
Balance at 31 March		18,534		20,964

Pensions Reserve

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

	31/03/2019 £000	31/03/2018 £000
Balance at 1 April	(38,453)	(42,468)
Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability/(asset)	(5,327)	5,535
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	(5,084)	(4,009)
Employers pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	2,620	2,489
Balance at 31 March	(46,244)	(38,453)

Collection Fund Adjustment Account

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

	31/03/2019 £000	31/03/2018 £000
Balance at 1 April	17	(392)
Amount by which council tax and non-domestic 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	(1,858)	409
Balance at 31 March	(1,841)	17

Accumulated Absences Account

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

	31/03/2019 £000	31/03/2018 £000
Balance at 1 April	(183)	(187)
Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	183	187
Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	(183)	(183)
Balance at 31 March	(183)	(183)

Bromsgrove District Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Note 26 Cash Flow Statement - operating activities

The cash flows from operating activities include the following items

	2018/19 £000	2017/18 £000
Interest Paid	(55)	(2)
Interest Received	7	23

	2018/19 £000	2017/18 £000
Adjustment to surplus or deficit on the provision of services for noncash movements		
Depreciation	1,822	1,191
Impairment & downward valuations	1,070	158
Amortisation	146	140
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	1,713	(1,207)
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	(819)	429
(Increase)/Decrease in Inventories	(22)	4
Movement in pension liability	3,511	(2,829)
Carrying amount of non-current assets, and non-current assets held for sale, sold or de-recognised	240	126
Other items charged to the net surplus or deficit on provision of services	3	600
Total	7,664	(1,388)

Adjust 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 PP&E, investment property and intangible assets	(341)	(141)
Any other items	(1,159)	(2,903)
Total	(1,500)	(3,044)

Note 27 Cash Flow From Investing Activities

	2018/19 £000	2017/18 £000
Purchase of PP&E, investment property and intangible assets	(1,874)	(7,554)
Purchase of Short Term Investments (not considered to be cash equivalents)	(157,200)	(42,000)
Other Payments for Investing Activities	(22)	(83)
Proceeds from the sale of PP&E, investment property and intangible assets	341	141
Proceeds from Short Term Investments (not considered to be cash equivalents)	157,200	42,000
Other Receipts from Investing Activities	1,109	2,220
Net Cash flows from Investing Activities	(446)	(5,276)

Note 28 Cash flows from Financing Activities

	2018/19 £000	2017/18 £000
Cash Receipts from Short and Long Term Borrowing	54,500	81,000
Repayment of Short and Long Term Borrowing	(54,000)	(72,000)
Other payments for Financing Activities	(1,577)	631
Net Cash flows from Financing Activities	(1,077)	9,631

Note 29 Reconciliation of Liabilities from Financial Activities

2018/19

	Long Term Borrowing £000	Short Term Borrowing £000
Balance as at 1st April 2018	0	13,022
Cashflows:		
Repayments	0	(54,000)
Borrowing	0	54,500
Balance as at 31st March 2019	0	13,522

Short term borrowing is required to fund the capital financial requirement (see note 35). It is therefore funding property, plant and equipment with long useful lives. In the medium term it is likely that Council will replace short term with long term borrowing when this is considered to be in the best financial interest of the Council.

Bromsgrove District Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Note 30 Members' Allowances

During the year Members allowances, including Employer's costs totalled £208k (2017/18 £207k) and are as follows:

	2018/19 £000	2017/18 £000
Basic Allowances	136	135
Special Allowances	61	62
Expenses Inc. Car Allowances	11	10
Total	208	207

Note 31 External Audit Costs

The Council has incurred the following costs relating to the annual audit of the Statement of Accounts, certification of grant claims and other services provided by the Councils external auditors.

	2018/19 £000	2017/18 £000
Housing Benefit Fee Variations	4	1
Fee Variations agreed for External Audit *	5	2
Housing Benefit Audit	13	9
Fees payable with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year	37	49
Fees payable in respect of other services provided during the year	0	0
Total	59	61

* Please note the fee variations agreed for External audit are in relation to previous years and not 2018/19.

Bromsgrove District Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Note 32 Employee Remuneration

Since 2010/11 the management team has been shared between Bromsgrove District Council and Redditch Borough Council, with each Council charging 50% of the cost of each post.

		Salary, Fees and Allowances £	Pension Contribution £	Total £	50% share to Redditch £	Revised Total
Officers Remuneration Bromsgrove District Council (50% recharged to Redditch Borough Council):						
Chief Executive	2018/19	132,664	19,104	151,768	75,884	75,884
	2017/18	130,063	18,729	148,792	74,396	74,396
Executive Director of Finance & Resources	2018/19	98,171	14,137	112,308	56,154	56,154
	2017/18	96,505	13,859	110,364	55,182	55,182
Head Of Legal & Democratic Services	2018/19	81,190	11,691	92,881	46,441	46,441
	2017/18	78,072	11,493	89,565	44,783	44,783
Total	2017/18	312,025	44,932	356,957	178,478	178,478
	2016/17	304,640	44,081	348,721	174,361	174,361
Officers Remuneration Redditch Borough Council (50% recharged to Bromsgrove District Council):						
		Salary, Fees and Allowances £	Pension Contribution £	Total £	50% share to Bromsgrove £	Total
Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Leisure, Environmental & Community	2018/19	106,131	15,601	121,732	60,866	60,866
	2017/18	105,468	15,295	120,763	60,382	60,382
Total	2018/19	106,131	15,601	121,732	60,866	60,866
	2017/18	105,468	15,295	120,763	60,382	60,382

Senior Employees' Remuneration

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

Bromsgrove District Council

	2018/19	2017/18
£50,001 to £55,000	1	2
£55,001 to £60,000	10	10
£60,001 to £65,000	0	0
£65,001 to £70,000	1	0
£70,001 to £75,000	1	1
£75,001 to £80,000	0	2
£80,001 to £85,000	1	0
£85,001 to £90,000	1	1
Total	15	16

Redditch Borough Council

	2018/19	2017/18
£50,001 to £55,000	1	1
£55,001 to £60,000	2	2
£60,001 to £65,000	1	0
£65,001 to £70,000	0	1
£70,001 to £75,000	0	1
£75,001 to £80,000	0	3
£80,001 to £85,000	1	0
£85,001 to £90,000	2	0
Total	7	8

Exit Packages

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

Exit package cost band (including special payments)	Number of compulsory redundancies		Number of other departures agreed		Total number of exit packages by cost band		Total cost of exit packages in each band	
	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19
£0-£20,000	0	0	3	0	3	0	41,785	0
£20,001 - £40,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£40,001 - £60,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£60,001 - £80,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£80,001 - £100,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£101,001 - £150,000	0	0	1	0	1	0	103,445	0
£150,001 - £200,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total cost included in bandings							145,230	0
Recharge to Redditch Borough Council							(72,615)	0
Cost to Bromsgrove District Council							72,615	0
Exit Packages undertaken by Redditch Borough Council with a shared cost to Bromsgrove District Council							164,491	59,491
Total cost included in the CIES							237,106	59,491

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Note 33 Grant Income

The Authority credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2018/19.

Credited to Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	2018/19 £000	2017/18 £000
Revenue Support Grant	0	(114)
New Homes Bonus	(1,643)	(1,917)
Section 31	(1,250)	(1,105)
Capital Grants	(1,159)	(2,903)
Non ring-fenced Grant	(17)	0
Total	(4,069)	(6,039)

Credited to Services	2018/19 £000	2017/18 £000
DCLG Local Council Tax Support Admin Subsidy	(71)	(75)
DCLG New Burdens	(27)	(5)
DCLG NNDR Cost of Collection	(121)	(119)
DCLG Homelessness Grants	(147)	(101)
Other DCLG Grant Income	(45)	0
DWP Admin Grant	(165)	(175)
DWP Discretionary Housing	(86)	(86)
DWP Housing Benefit Subsidy	(14,621)	(15,861)
DWP Homelessness Grants	0	(55)
Other DWP Grant Income	(92)	0
Heritage Lottery Funding	0	(30)
Cabinet Office Grants	(14)	(13)
WCC Council Tax Hardship Fund	0	(14)
WCC Rough Sleepers	(27)	0
Other WCC Grants	(5)	0
Apprenticeship Levy	(2)	0
Total	(15,423)	(16,534)

The Authority has received a number of grants, contributions and donations that have yet to be recognised as income as they have conditions attached to them that will require the monies or property to be returned to the giver if the conditions are not met. The balances at year-end are as follows:

Current Liabilities

Grants Received in Advance (Revenue)	2018/19 £000	2017/18 £000
DEFRA	(6)	(6)
Improvement and Development Agency - Productivity Expert	(6)	(6)
Other Grants	(5)	(20)
Total	(17)	(32)

Long-term Liabilities

Grants Received in Advance (Capital)	2018/19 £000	2017/18 £000
Disabled Facilities Grants	(187)	(176)
Section 106	(632)	(696)
Total	(819)	(872)

Bromsgrove District Council

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Note 34 Related Parties

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

Central Government

Central government has significant influence over the general operations of the Council – it is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Council operates, provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties (e.g. council tax bills, housing benefits).

Members

Members of the council have direct control over the council's financial and operating policies. The total of members allowances paid in 2018/19 is shown in Note 30. The Council maintains a register of Councillors interests that is regularly updated and available online for public inspection.

During 2018/19, many Bromsgrove District Councillors were also County Councillors and/or elected members of the parish council. The Council also has member representatives on various outside bodies, including Bromsgrove Arts Centre Trust and Bromsgrove District Housing Trust. Members also represent the Council on the Worcestershire Regulatory Shared Service Joint Committee.

The Council has entered into a contract with BDHT for the provision of homelessness services and is also part of the Worcestershire wide choice based lettings housing allocations service. Bromsgrove paid to BDHT £303k for the homelessness service.

Officers

There were no disclosures made by officers in 2018/19.

Entities Controlled or Significantly Influenced by the Council

As part of the shared services with Redditch Borough Council, Bromsgrove paid £3,210k for Redditch hosted services and received £6,186k for services hosted at Bromsgrove.

The Council has been involved in shared service arrangements for Markets, Economic Development, Land Drainage and Shared Emergency Planning with Wyre Forest District Council. The Council has paid £315k to Wyre Forest for services hosted by them.

A shared service arrangement has also been set up between the Council, Redditch Borough and Wyre Forest for the provision of Building Control. Bromsgrove received receipts of £123k from Wyre Forest.

For the provision of Car Park Services, the Council paid £228k to Wychavon District Council.

Under the Internal Audit Shared Service, the Council paid £54k to Worcester City Council.

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As host of the Worcester Regulatory Shared Service Bromsgrove has received £407k from Malvern Hills District Council, £479k from Wyre Forest District Council, £734k from Wychavon District Council, £550k Worcester City Council, and £562k from Redditch Borough Council.

At 31 March 2019 the following amounts were owed to the partners of shared service:

	£000
Worcester City Council	101
Redditch Borough Council	85
Wychavon District Council	108
Wyre Forest District Council	91
Malvern Hills District Council	67

The following amounts were owed to Bromsgrove for hosting the shared service:

	£000
Worcester City Council	32
Redditch Borough Council	18
Wychavon District Council	10
Wyre Forest District Council	5
Malvern Hills District Council	13

These balances have been included within the relevant debtors and creditors balances.

From June 2016 Worcestershire County Council withdrew from Worcester Regulatory Services.

Bromsgrove District Council

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Note 35 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 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 Authority, the expenditure results in an increase in the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), a measure of the capital expenditure incurred historically by the Authority that has yet to be financed. The CFR is analysed in the second part of this note.

Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing	2018/19	2017/18
	£000	£000
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	18,978	14,494
Capital Investment		
Property, Plant and Equipment	1,580	6,569
Intangible Assets	0	35
Long Term Debtor	7	11
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	1,022	1,170
Total	2,609	7,785
Sources of finance		
Capital receipts	0	(131)
Government grants and other contributions	(1,159)	(2,903)
Sums set aside from revenue:		
Direct revenue contributions:		
General Fund	(14)	0
Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)	(487)	(267)
	(1,660)	(3,301)
Closing Capital Finance Requirement	19,927	18,978
Explanation of movements in year		
Increase in underlying need to borrowing (unsupported by government	948	4,484
Increase/(decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement	948	4,484

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Note 36 Leases

Operating and Finance Leases

Authority as Lessee:

Operating Leases (Authority as lessee)

The Authority has entered into an agreement for a lease of land to operate a car park at Market Place, Bromsgrove which became operational in 2017/18.

The future minimum lease payments due under operating leases in future years are set out below:

	31/03/2019 £000	31/03/2018 £000
Minimum lease rentals payable:		
No later than 1 year	0	0
Later than 1 year and no later than 5 years	100	125
Later than 5 years	200	200
Total	300	325

Authority as Lessor:

Operating Leases (Authority as lessor)

The Authority, in accordance with its statutory and discretionary responsibilities, leases out property and equipment under operating leases for the following purposes:

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

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

	31/03/2019 £000	31/03/2018 £000
No later than 1 year	61	61
Later than 1 year and no later than 5 years	233	233
Later than 5 years	250	264
Total	544	558

The Authority leases out Land and Buildings on operating leases these include Sanders Park, Victoria Ground and Barnsley Hall Football Pitches. The income for these have been credited to the CIES. The amounts received in 2018/19 were £62k and 2017/18 £57k.

Bromsgrove District Council

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Note 37 Defined Benefit Pension Schemes

Retirement Benefits

Participation in the Local Authority Pension Scheme

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its officers, the Authority makes contributions towards the cost of post-employment benefits within the Local Government Pension Scheme. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the Authority has a commitment to make the payments (for those benefits) and to disclose them at the time that employees earn their future entitlement.

The Authority participates in two post-employment schemes:

- * The Local Government Pension Scheme, administered locally by Worcestershire County Council - this is a funded defined benefit final salary scheme, meaning that the Authority and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension's liabilities with investment assets.
- * Arrangements for the award of discretionary post-retirement benefits upon early retirement - this is an unfunded defined benefit arrangement, under which liabilities are recognised when awards are made. However there are no investment assets built up to meet these liabilities, and cash has to be generated to meet actual pension payments as they eventually fall due.
- * The Worcestershire County Council pension scheme is operated under the regulatory framework for the Local Government Pension Scheme and the governance of the scheme is the responsibility of Worcestershire County Council. Policy is determined in accordance with the Public Service Pensions Act 2013.
- * The principal risks to the Authority of the scheme are the longevity assumptions, statutory changes to the scheme, structural changes to the scheme (i.e. large-scale withdrawals from the scheme), changes to inflation, bond yields and the performance of the equity investments held by the scheme. These are mitigated to a certain extent by the statutory requirements to charge to the General Fund the amounts required by statute as described in the accounting policies note.

Transactions relating to Post-Employment Benefits

The Authority recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the reported cost of service when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions.

However, the charge the Authority is required to make against council tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of post-employment/retirement benefits is reversed out of the General Fund via the Movement on Reserves Statement. The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the General Fund balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement during the year:

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Discretionary Benefits	
	2018/19 £000	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000	2017/18 £000
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement				
<i>Cost of services:</i>				
<i>Service cost comprising:</i>				
Current service cost	2,924	3,110	0	0
Past service cost	1,275	7	0	0
(Gain)/loss from settlements	0	0	0	0
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure:				
Net Interest expense	832	838	53	54
Total post-employment benefits charged to the Surplus of Deficit on the Provision of Services	5,031	3,955	53	54

Other post-employment benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement				
<u>Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability comprising:</u>				
Return on plan assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense)	(1,120)	(942)	0	0
Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	0	0	0	0
Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	6,340	(4,581)	70	(48)
Other	37	36	0	0
Total post employment benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	10,288	(1,532)	123	6

Movement in Reserves Statement				
Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the Code	-5031	(3,955)	(53)	(54)
Actual amount charged against the general fund balance for pensions in the year:				
Employers' contributions payable to scheme	2,493	2,363		
Retirement benefits payable to pensioners	0	0	127	126

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:

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Discretionary Benefits	
	2018/19 £000	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000	2017/18 £000
Present value of the defined obligation	(122,245)	(111,395)	(2,086)	(2,090)
Fair value of plan assets	78,085	75,030	0	0
Sub-total	(44,160)	(36,365)	(2,086)	(2,090)
Advance Payment of Pension Contributions	2,151	4,349	0	0
Net liability arising from the defined benefit obligation	(42,009)	(32,016)	(2,086)	(2,090)

The present value of the defined obligations includes £1,151k past service costs as an estimated cost following the decision of the Sargeant/McCloud cases (generally referred to as McCloud) which rules that the transitional protections offered to older members when the Public Service Pension Schemes were amended constituted unlawful age discrimination. At this stage it is uncertain whether or not there is an issue for the Local Government Pension Scheme and its employers, nor is it clear of any required changes, but the £1,151k provides an approximate cost if the transitional protections needed to be extended to younger members.

In April 2017 the Council made an advance payment of pension contributions 2017/18 to 2019/20 to the Pension Fund in order to secure a reduction in the amount in each of the three financial years. Greater detail is provided later in this note under the heading 'Impact on the Authority's cash flows'. As at 31st March 2019 the Pension Liability is £2,151k lower than the Pension Reserve representing the advance payment relating 2019/20 and as at 31st March 2018 it was £2,198k higher relating to the 2018/19 advance payment.

Reconciliation of movements in the fair value of scheme assets

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Discretionary Benefits	
	2018/19 £000	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000	2017/18 £000
Opening fair value of scheme assets	75,030	71,535	0	0
Interest income	2,036	1,939		0
Remeasurement gain/(loss): the return on plan assets, excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	1120	942		
The effect of changes in foreign exchange rates				
Contributions from employer	2,493	2,363	127	126
Contributions from employees into the scheme	626	621		
Benefits/transfers paid	(3,183)	(2,334)	(127)	(126)
Administration Expenses	(37)	(36)		
Closing value of scheme assets	78,085	75,030	0	0

Reconciliation of present value of the scheme liabilities:

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Discretionary Benefits	
	2018/19 £000	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000	2017/18 £000
Opening balance at 1 April	(111,395)	(111,795)	(2,090)	(2,210)
Current service cost	(2,924)	(3,110)		
Interest cost	(2,868)	(2,777)	(53)	(54)
Contributions from scheme participants	(626)	(621)		
Remeasurement (gains) and losses: Actuarial (gains)/losses from changes in demographic assumptions Actuarial (gains)/losses from changes in financial assumptions	(6,340)	4,581	(70)	48
Experience (gains/losses)				
Past service cost	(1,151)	0		0
Losses/(gains) on curtailments where relevant	(124)	(7)		
Liabilities assumed on entity combinations				
Benefits/transfers paid	3,183	2,334	127	126
Balance as at 31 March	(122,245)	(111,395)	(2,086)	(2,090)

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Local government pension scheme assets comprised:

	Fair value of scheme assets	
	31/03/2019	31/03/2018
	£000	£000
Cash and cash equivalents	1,796	901
Equities:		
UK Quoted	158	300
Overseas Quoted	20,612	21,458
PIV- UK Managed	10,464	18,383
PIV- UK Managed (overseas)	24,910	24,685
PIV- Overseas Managed		
Sub-total equity	56,144	64,826
Bonds:		
Corporate	234	300
Overseas Corporate	3,592	3,301
UK Government Fixed	6,324	0
Sub-total bonds	10,150	3,601
Property:		
European Property Fund	2,030	1,876
UK Property Debt	703	600
Overseas Property Debt	469	375
UK Property Funds	1,718	300
Sub-total property	4,920	3,151
Alternatives		
UK Infrastructure	2,811	2,551
European Infrastructure	1,484	0
US Infrastructure	234	0
UK Stock Options	546	0
Sub-total other investment funds	5,075	2,551
Total assets	78,085	75,030

All scheme assets have quoted prices in active markets.

Basis for estimating assets and liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in the future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels, etc.

Both the Local Government Pension Scheme and discretionary benefits liabilities have been assessed by Mercers, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the County Council Pension Fund being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 1 April 2016.

The significant assumptions used by the actuary are set out below:

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Discretionary Benefits Arrangements	
	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18
Mortality assumptions:				
<i>Longevity at 65 current pensioners:</i>				
Men	22.8	22.7	22.8	22.7
Women	25.8	25.7	25.8	25.7
<i>Longevity at 65 for future pensioners:</i>				
Men	25.1	24.9	25.1	24.9
Women	28.2	28.0	28.2	28.0
Financial assumptions:				
Rate of inflation	2.2%	2.1%	2.2%	2.1%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.7%	3.6%	3.7%	3.6%
Rate of increase in pensions	2.3%	2.2%	2.3%	2.2%
Discount Rate	2.4%	2.7%	2.4%	2.7%

The estimation of the defined benefit obligation is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above.

The sensitivity analysis below have been determined based on reasonably possible changes to the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period and assumes for each change that the assumption analysed changes while all the other assumptions remain constant.

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

	Impact on the Defined Benefit Obligation in the	
	Increase in assumption	Decrease in assumption
	£000	£000
Longevity (increase or decrease in one year)	2,451	(2,451)
Rate of inflation (increase or decrease by 0.1%)	2,255	(2,255)
Rate of increase in salaries (increase or decrease by 0.1%)	339	(339)
Rate for discounting liabilities (increase or decrease by 0.1%)	(2,215)	2,215

Impact on the Authority's cash flows

The objectives of the scheme are to keep employers' contributions at as constant a rate as possible. The County Council has agreed a strategy with the scheme's actuary to achieve a funding level of 100% over the next 19 years. Funding levels are monitored on an annual basis.

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

The weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation for scheme members is 18 years, 2018/19 (17 years

In April 2017 the Council made an advanced payment to Worcestershire Pension Fund for the deficit payments due 2017/18-2019/20 and 90% of the expected pension contributions for current employees for the same period. The total payment was £6,591k compared with a cost of £7,048k if the payments had been made monthly. After allowing for estimated interest costs (£46k) the net savings are estimated at £411k over the 3 years.

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Note 38 Contingent Liabilities

Contingent liabilities are possible obligations that arise from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events that are not wholly within the Council's control.

Various NHS trusts and limited companies have made applications for relief for business rates, this is an on-going issue and the outcome of these appeals will not be known until future years, no provision has been made for this.

Note 39 Contingent Assets

A Contingent Assets is a possible asset that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council.

There are no Contingent Assets as at 31 March 2019.

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Note 40 Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments

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

- credit risk – the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the Council
- liquidity risk – the possibility that the Council might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments
- market risk – the possibility that financial loss might arise for the Council as a result of changes in such measures as interest rates and stock market movements

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

Credit Risk

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

This risk is minimised through the Annual Investment Strategy, which requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet identified minimum credit criteria, as laid down by Fitch Ratings Services.

Investment decisions are made by reference to the lowest published long-term credit rating from Fitch, Moody's or Standard & Poor's. Where available, the credit rating relevant to the specific investment or class of investment is used (for example the rating assigned to a secured investment), otherwise the counterparty credit rating is used.

Credit ratings are obtained and monitored by the Council's treasury advisers, who will notify changes in ratings as they occur. Where an entity has its credit rating downgraded so that it fails to meet the approved investment criteria then:

- no new investments will be made,
- any existing investments that can be recalled or sold at no cost will be, and
- full consideration will be given to the recall or sale of all other existing investments with the affected counterparty

The Council defines "high credit quality" organisations and securities as those having a credit rating of A- or higher that are domiciled in the UK or a foreign country with a sovereign rating of AA+ or higher. For Money Market Funds and other pooled funds "high credit quality" is defined as those having a credit rating of A- or higher.

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

Credit rating	Banks unsecured	Banks	Government	Corporates
		secured		
UK Govt	n/a	n/a	£ Unlimited	n/a
			50 years	
AAA	£2m	£2m	£2m	£2m
	5 years	20 years	50 years	5 years
AA+	£2m	£2m	£2m	£2m
	5 years	10 years	25 years	5 years
AA	£2m	£2m	£2m	£2m
	4 years	5 years	15 years	5 years
AA-	£2m	£2m	£2 m	£2m
	3 years	4 years	10 years	3 years
A+	£2m	£2m	£2m	£2m
	2 years	3 years	5 years	2 years
A	£2m	£2m	£2m	£2m
	13 months	2 years	5 years	2 years
A-	£2m	£2m	£2 m	£2m
	6 months	13 months	5 years	13 months
None	£0.5m	n/a	£3m	£500k
	6 months		25 years	1 year
Pooled funds	£2m per fund			

Banks Unsecured: call and notice accounts, deposits, certificates of deposit and senior unsecured bonds with banks and building societies. These investments are subject to the risk of credit loss via a bail-in should the banking regulator determine that the bank/building society is failing or likely to fail.

Banks Secured: covered bonds, reverse repurchase agreements and other collateralised arrangements with banks and building societies. These investments are exempt from bail-in and are secured on the financial institution's assets, which limits the potential losses in the unlikely event of insolvency.

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Government: Investments with local authorities or guaranteed by national governments, investments with multilateral development banks. These are not subject to bail-in, and there is an insignificant risk of insolvency. Investments with the UK Central Government may be made in unlimited amounts for up to 50 years. Investments with the DMADF are guaranteed by HM Treasury. Following advice from the Council's treasury advisors, no upper limit was imposed on investments with the DMADF.

Corporates: Loans, bonds and commercial paper issued by companies other than banks and registered providers. These investments are not subject to bail-in, but are exposed to the risk of the company going insolvent.

Pooled Funds: Shares in diversified investment vehicles consisting of the any of the above investment types, plus equity shares and property. These funds have the advantage of providing wide diversification of investment risks, coupled with the services of a professional fund manager in return for a fee. Short-term Money Market Funds that offer same-day liquidity and very low or no volatility will be used as an alternative to instant access bank accounts, while pooled funds whose value changes with market prices and/or have a notice period will be used for longer investment periods.

Debtors

At 31st March 2019, Bromsgrove District Council had no investments held in our call accounts, the Council did hold £2,113k in the Current Account.

The Council does not generally allow credit for customers. An aged analysis of the Council's sundry debtor balances at 31st March 2019 is shown in the table below:

	2018/19 £000	2017/18 £000
Less than three months	250	658
Three to six months	5	18
Six months to one year	3	1
More than one year	20	28
Total	278	705

Liquidity Risk

The Council has a comprehensive cash flow management system that seeks to ensure that cash is available as needed. If unexpected movements happen, the Council has ready access to borrowings from the money markets and the Public Works Loans Board. There is no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments.

Market Risk

Interest Rate Risk

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

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

Borrowings are not carried at fair value, so nominal gains and losses on fixed rate borrowings would not impact on the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services or Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. However, changes in interest payable and receivable on variable rate borrowings and investments will be posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services and affect the General Fund Balance.

The Council is exposed to risk in terms of its exposure to interest rate movements on its investments. It has a number of strategies for managing interest rate risk and these are addressed in the Treasury Management Strategy. In 2018/19, the Council had no variable long term investments or borrowings.

Price Risk

The Council, excluding its exposure to the Pension Fund, does not invest in equity shares.

Bromsgrove District Council

Collection Fund Statement FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

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

2017/18			2018/19		
Business Rates £000	Council Tax £000	Total £000	Business Rates £000	Council Tax £000	Total £000
			Collection Fund		
			INCOME		
	(60,654)	(60,654)		(64,162)	(64,162)
(26,847)		(26,847)			
	(6)	(6)		0	0
(26,847)	(60,660)	(87,507)	(24,749)	(64,162)	(88,911)
			EXPENDITURE		
			Apportionment of Previous Year (Surplus)/Deficit		
(253)		(253)	1,741		1,741
(203)	88	(115)	1,393	109	1,502
(46)	434	388	313	537	850
(5)	30	25	35	88	123
	73	73		37	37
			Precepts, demands and shares		
11,162		11,162	12,341		12,341
8,929	8,431	17,360	9,873	8,792	18,665
2,009	41,657	43,666	2,221	44,290	46,511
223	2,868	3,091	247	2,992	3,239
	6,836	6,836		7,199	7,199
			Charges to Collection Fund		
0	0	0	0	0	0
420	306	726	456	222	678
1,352		1,352	19		19
2,093		2,093	593		593
			Payments to General Fund		
119		119	121		121
25,800	60,723	86,523	29,353	64,266	93,619
(1,047)	63	(984)	4,604	104	4,708
1,349	(1,046)	303	302	(983)	(681)
302	(983)	(681)	4,906	(879)	4,027

Bromsgrove District Council

Collection Fund Statement
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Note 1 - Council Tax Income

The amount of Council Tax payable is calculated by establishing a 'Council Tax Base'. This is the Council's estimated number of chargeable dwellings expressed in relation to those dwellings in Band D. Once this has been determined, the Council Tax payable for each band is established as follows: (The actual amount payable for each property is also subject to discounts where applicable.)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Band	Valuation band limits		Calculated number of dwellings	Adjusted number of dwellings	Ratio to Band D	Equated number of dwellings	Council Tax Payable
	£	£	£	£			
				5	2.52		120.94
A	Up to & including	40,000		3,597	2,010.04	5/9	1.43
B		40,001	-	7,207	5,547.23	6/9	1,340.03
C		52,001	-	8,810	7,442.81	7/9	4,314.51
D		68,001	-	88,000	6,944.48	8/9	6,615.83
E		88,001	-	120,000	6,770	9/9	6,944.48
F		120,001	-	160,000	6,375.94	11/9	7,792.81
G		160,001	-	320,000	3,584	13/9	4,910.28
H	More Than			314	2,752	15/9	4,368.46
						18/9	612.28

Adjustment 0.99

Council tax base 36,531.10

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

Band	Valuation band limits		Calculated number of dwellings	Adjusted number of dwellings	Ratio to Band D	Equated number of dwellings	Council Tax Payable
	£	£	£	£			
				3.0			116.80
A	Up to & including	40,000		3,652	2,005.2	5/9	1.67
B		40,001	-	7,213	5,494.8	6/9	1,336.80
C		52,001	-	8,754	7,333.9	7/9	4,273.73
D		68,001	-	88,000	6,987.0	8/9	6,519.02
E		88,001	-	120,000	6,802	9/9	6,986.99
F		120,001	-	160,000	6,260.5	11/9	7,651.72
G		160,001	-	320,000	3,557	13/9	4,836.29
H	More Than			339	2,707	15/9	4,217.83
						18/9	596.80

Adjustment 0.99

Council tax base 36,056.65

The breakdown above is for Bromsgrove District Council only, below is the total payable for band D equivalent for the district for all Preceptors:

	2018/19	2017/18
	£	£
Bromsgrove District Council	216.53	210.24
Worcestershire County Council	1,212.38	1,155.31
Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia	197.07	189.60
Hereford and Worcestershire Fire and Rescue	81.90	79.53
Total Council Tax for non parish areas	1,707.88	1,634.68
Parish Councils (Average)	24.13	23.59
Average Council Tax for the District in parish areas	1,732.01	1,658.27

Note 2 - Non-Domestic Rates

Non-Domestic Rates are organised on a local basis. The Government specifies a rate poundage and subject to the effects of transitional arrangements, local businesses pay rates calculated by multiplying their rateable value by that amount. In 2018/19 the rate poundage was 49.3p (47.9p 2017/18). The reason for the rate poundage reduction was a national revaluation of rateable values effective from 1 April 2017 and the poundage was set to achieve the same national yield. The Council is responsible for collecting rates due from the ratepayers in its area and distributing the amount collected between itself, central government and major preceptors in proportions specified by central government. The Council share is shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and analysed at Note 13. The total rateable value at 31 March 2019 was £67,678,391 (31 March 2018 £67,167,742).

Bromsgrove District Council

Notes to the Financial Statements FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Glossary

AAA FITCH RATING

Highest credit quality - 'AAA' ratings denote the lowest expectation of credit risk. They are assigned only in case of exceptionally strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. This capacity is highly unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events.

AA FITCH RATING

Very high credit quality - 'AA' ratings denote a very low expectation of credit risk. They indicate very strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. This capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.

A FITCH RATING

High credit quality - 'A' ratings denote a low expectation of credit risk. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be more vulnerable to changes in circumstances or in economic conditions than is the case for higher ratings.

ACCOUNTING PERIOD

The period of time covered by the accounts, normally a period of twelve months commencing on 1 April. The end of the accounting period is the Balance Sheet date.

ACCRUALS

Sums included in the final accounts to recognise revenue and capital income and expenditure earned or incurred in the financial year, but for which actual payment had not been received or made as at 31 March.

ACTUARIAL GAINS AND LOSSES

For a defined benefit pension scheme, the changes in actuarial surpluses or deficits that arise because:

- Events have not coincided with the actuarial assumptions made for the last valuation (experience gains and losses); or
- The actuarial assumptions have changed

ASSET

An item having value to the authority 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 Authority 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.

AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

An independent examination of the Authority's financial affairs.

BALANCE SHEET

A statement of the recorded assets, liabilities and other balances at the end of the accounting period.

BORROWING

Using cash provided by another party to pay for expenditure, on the basis of an agreement to repay the cash at a future point, usually incurring additional interest charges over and above the original amount.

BUDGET

The forecast of net revenue and capital expenditure over the accounting period.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Expenditure on the acquisition of a fixed asset, which will be used in providing services beyond the current accounting period, or expenditure which adds to and not merely maintains the value of an existing fixed asset.

CAPITAL FINANCING

Funds raised to pay for capital expenditure. There are various methods of financing capital expenditure including borrowing, leasing, direct revenue financing, usable capital receipts, capital grants, capital contributions, revenue reserves and earmarked reserves.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The capital schemes the Authority intends to carry out over a specific period of time.

CAPITAL RECEIPT

The proceeds from the disposal of land or other fixed assets. Proportions of capital receipts can be used to finance new capital expenditure, within rules set down by the government but they cannot be used to finance revenue expenditure.

CIPFA

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy

COLLECTION FUND

A separate fund that records the income and expenditure relating to Council Tax and non-domestic rates.

COMMUNITY ASSETS

Assets that the Authority intends to hold in perpetuity, that have no determinable useful life and that may have restrictions on their disposal. Examples of community assets are parks and historical buildings.

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

The account of the Authority that reports the net cost for the year of the functions for which it is responsible and demonstrates how that cost has been financed from precepts, grants and other income.

CONSISTENCY

The concept that the accounting treatment of like items within an accounting period and from one period to the next are the same.

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 Authority's accounts.

CONTINGENT LIABILITY

A contingent liability is either:

- 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 Authority'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.

CORPORATE AND DEMOCRATIC CORE

The corporate and democratic core comprises all activities that local authorities engage in specifically because they are elected, multi-purpose authorities. The cost of these activities are thus over and above those which would be incurred by a series of independent single purpose, nominated bodies managing the same services. There is therefore no logical basis for apportioning these costs to services.

CREDITOR

Amount owed by the Authority for work done, goods received or services rendered

within the accounting period, but for which payment has not been made by the end of that accounting period.

CURRENT SERVICE COST (PENSIONS)

The increase in the present value of a defined benefits pension scheme's liabilities, expected to arise from employee service in the current period.

DEBTOR

Amount owed to the Authority for works done, goods received or services rendered within the accounting period, but for which payment has not been received by the end of that accounting period.

DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEME

Pension schemes in which the benefits received by the participants are independent of the contributions paid and are not directly related to the investments of the scheme.

DEPRECIATION

The measure of the cost of wearing out, consumption or other reduction in the useful economic life of the Authority's fixed assets during the accounting period, whether from use, the passage of time or obsolescence through technical or other changes.

DISCRETIONARY BENEFITS (PENSIONS)

Retirement benefits, which the employer has no legal, contractual or constructive obligation to award and are awarded under the Authority's discretionary powers such as the Local Government (Discretionary Payments) Regulations 1996.

EQUITY

The Authority's value of total assets less total liabilities.

EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

Events after the Balance Sheet date are those events, favourable or unfavourable, that occur between the Balance Sheet date and the date when the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue.

EXPECTED RETURN ON PENSION ASSETS

For a funded defined benefit scheme, this is the average rate of return, including both income and changes in fair value but net of scheme expenses, which is expected over the remaining life of the related obligation on the actual assets held by the scheme.

FAIR VALUE

The fair value of an asset is the price at which it could be exchanged in an arm's length transaction.

FINANCE LEASE

A lease that transfers substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of a fixed asset to the lessee.

GOING CONCERN

The concept that the Statement of Accounts is prepared on the assumption that the Authority will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Grants made by the government towards either revenue or capital expenditure in return for past or future compliance with certain conditions relating to the activities of the Authority. These grants may be specific to a particular scheme or may support the revenue spend of the Authority in general.

HOUSING BENEFITS

A system of financial assistance to individuals towards certain housing costs administered by authorities and subsidised by central government.

IMPAIRMENT

A reduction in the value of a fixed asset to below its recoverable amount, the higher of the

asset's fair value less costs to sell and its value in use.

INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

Fixed assets belonging to the Authority that cannot be transferred or sold, on which expenditure is only recoverable by the continued use of the asset created. Examples are highways, footpaths and bridges.

INTANGIBLE ASSETS

An intangible (non-physical) item may be defined as an asset when access to the future economic benefits it represents is controlled by the reporting entity. This Authority's intangible assets comprise computer software licences.

INTEREST COST (PENSIONS)

For a defined benefit scheme, the expected increase during the period of the present value of the scheme liabilities because the benefits are one period closer to settlement.

INVESTMENTS (PENSION FUND)

The investments of the Pension Fund will be accounted for in the statements of that fund. However, authorities are also required to disclose, as part of the disclosure requirements relating to retirement benefits, the attributable share of the pension scheme assets associated with their underlying obligations.

LIABILITY

A liability is where the Authority owes payment to an individual or another organisation.

- A current liability is an amount which will become payable or could be called in within the next accounting period, e.g. creditors or cash overdrawn.
- A deferred liability is an amount which by arrangement is payable beyond the next year at some point in the future or to be paid off by an annual sum over a period of time.

LIQUID RESOURCES

Current asset investments that are readily disposable by the Authority without disrupting its business and are either:

- Readily convertible to known amounts of cash at or close to the carrying amount; or
- Traded in an active market.

LONG-TERM CONTRACT

A contract entered into for the design, manufacture or construction of a single substantial asset or the provision of a service (or a combination of assets or services which together constitute a single project), where the time taken to substantially complete the contract is such that the contract activity falls into more than one accounting period.

MATERIALITY

The concept that the Statement of Accounts should include all amounts which, if omitted, or mis-stated, could be expected to lead to a distortion of the financial statements and ultimately mislead a user of the accounts.

MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION (MRP)

The minimum amount which must be charged to the revenue account each year in order to provide for the repayment of loans and other amounts borrowed by the Authority.

NET BOOK VALUE

The amount at which fixed assets are included in the Balance Sheet, i.e. their historical costs or current value less the cumulative amounts provided for depreciation.

NET DEBT

The Authority's borrowings less cash and liquid resources.

NON-DISTRIBUTED COSTS

These are overheads for which no user now benefits and as such are not

apportioned to services

NON-DOMESTIC RATES (NDR)

The Non-Domestic Rate is a levy on businesses, based on a national rate in the pound set by central government and multiplied by the assessed rateable value of the premises they occupy. In England it is collected by the Authority on behalf of itself, central government and major preceptors. In Scotland it is collected by the Authority on behalf of central government and then redistributed back to support the cost of services.

NON-OPERATIONAL ASSETS

Fixed assets held by the Authority but not directly occupied, used or consumed in the delivery of services. Examples are investment properties, assets under construction or assets surplus to requirements pending sale or redevelopment.

OPERATING LEASE

A lease where the ownership of the fixed asset remains with the lessor.

OPERATIONAL ASSETS

Fixed assets held and occupied, used or consumed by the Authority in the pursuit of its strategy and in the direct delivery of those services for which it has either a statutory or discretionary responsibility.

PAST SERVICE COST (PENSIONS)

For a defined benefit pension scheme, the increase in the present value of the scheme liabilities related to employee service in prior periods arising in the current period as a result of the introduction of, or improvement to retirement benefits.

PENSION SCHEME LIABILITIES

The liabilities of a defined benefit pension scheme for outgoings due after the valuation date. Scheme liabilities measured during the projected unit method reflect the benefits that the employer is committed to provide for service up to the valuation date.

PRECEPT

The levy made by precepting authorities by billing authorities, requiring the latter to collect income from Council Tax on their behalf.

PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENT

Material adjustments applicable to previous years arising from changes in accounting policies or from the correction of fundamental errors. This does not include normal recurring corrections or adjustments of accounting estimates made in prior years.

PROVISION

An amount put aside in the accounts for future liabilities or losses which are certain or very likely to occur but the amounts or dates of when they will arise are uncertain.

PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD (PWLB)

A Central Government Agency, which provides loans for one year and above to authorities at interest rates only slightly higher than those at which the government can borrow itself.

RATEABLE VALUE

The annual assumed rental of a hereditament, which is used for NDR purposes.

RELATED PARTIES

The definition of related parties for the Council's purposes are deemed to include the Authority's members, the Chief Executive, its Directors and their close family and household members.

RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Statement Of Recommended Practice requires the disclosure of any material transactions between the Authority and related parties to ensure that stakeholders are aware when these transactions occur and the amount and implications of such.

REMUNERATION

All sums paid to or receivable by an employee and sums due by way of expenses allowances (as far as those sums are chargeable to UK income tax) and the money value of any other benefits. Received other than in cash. Pension contributions payable by the employer are excluded.

RESERVES

The accumulation of surpluses, deficits and appropriations over past years. Reserves of a revenue nature are available and can be spent or earmarked at the discretion of the Authority. Some capital reserves such as the fixed asset restatement account cannot be used to meet current expenditure.

RESIDUAL VALUE

The net realisable value of an asset at the end of its useful life.

RETIREMENT BENEFITS

All forms of consideration given by an employer in exchange for services rendered by employees that are payable after the completion of employment.

REVENUE EXPENDITURE

The day-to-day expenses of providing services.

REVENUE EXPENDITURE CAPITALISED UNDER STATUTE (REFCUS)

Expenditure which ordinarily would be revenue, but is statutorily defined as capital. Examples of REFCUS include grants of a capital nature to voluntary organisations and back pay expenditure capitalised under Secretary of State Direction

REVENUE SUPPORT GRANT

A grant paid by Central Government to authorities, contributing towards the general cost of their services.

STOCKS

Items of raw materials and stores an authority has procured and holds in expectation of future use. Examples are consumable stores, raw materials and products and services in intermediate stages of completion.

TEMPORARY BORROWING

Money borrowed for a period of less than one year.

TRUST FUNDS

Funds administered by the Authority for such purposes as prizes, charities, specific projects and on behalf of minors.

USEFUL ECONOMIC LIFE (UEL)

The period over which the Authority will derive benefits from the use of a fixed asset.

WORCESTERSHIRE PENSION FUND (WPF)

The Worcestershire Pension Fund is administered by Worcestershire County Council and consists of the County and Districts within Worcestershire together with admitted bodies such as Academy Schools.