



Vogrie Country Park

MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL AUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2020/21

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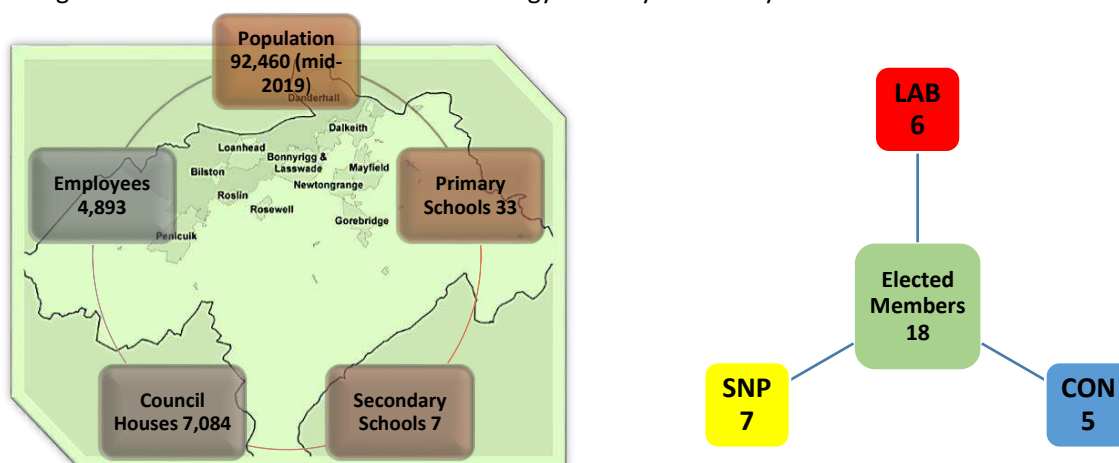
Management Commentary

The Management Commentary is intended to assist users in understanding the objectives and strategy of the Council and provide a review of its business and financial performance for the year. It also outlines the principal risks and uncertainties which are likely to affect the future development and performance of the Council.

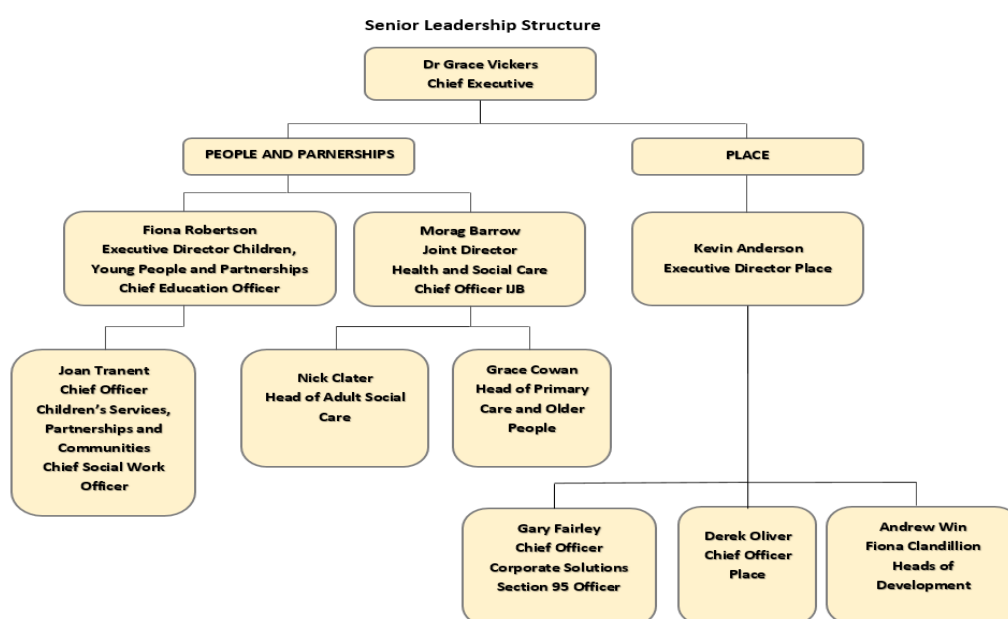
The Annual Accounts present the financial position and performance of the Council demonstrating the stewardship of public funds that support the Council's vision and key priorities. The format and content of the Annual Accounts are prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom*.

About Midlothian Council

Midlothian Council is located south of Edinburgh centred on the main towns of Penicuik, Dalkeith, Bonnyrigg and Lasswade. One of the smaller local authority areas, but also the fastest growing, it has emerged as a world centre for the Biotechnology industry. Some key facts about Midlothian are:



Council Service Structure



Key Priorities and Objectives

Midlothian Council's vision and priorities are set out in the [Single Midlothian Plan 2021](#) (SMP). These priorities are delivered through the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) which sets out how we work with communities and partners to deliver our vision, which is based on two key principles of 'People' and 'Place'. The principles aim to improve quality of life for everyone and safeguard the resources we have today for future generations and is encapsulated in the following vision statement ***"Midlothian – A Great Place to Grow"***.

The Council outlines its key objectives and associated performance indicators in annual service plans formally approved each year. These plans primarily relate to the Council's core, and often, statutory duties, which are mainly the responsibility of the local authority rather than the wider CPP.

The top priorities in the SMP for 2020/21 were as follows:

- Reduce the economic circumstances gap;
- Reduce the gap in learning outcomes;
- Reduce the gap in health outcomes; and
- Reduce Midlothian carbon emissions to net zero by 2030.

The SMP incorporates five overarching thematic groups, which support the achievement of outcomes. Quarterly public performance reporting reflects this thematic approach and the chart below demonstrates this:



The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) was approved by Council in June 2019. The public consultation visionary exercise supporting development of the MTFS highlighted the following key priorities for what Midlothian should be like in 2040:

- **A sense of belonging** – Pride in communities, working in partnership, transparency in decision making and accessibility in service provision;

- **A balanced infrastructure** – Manageable housing numbers, vibrant towns, protected green spaces, a clean carbon neutral environment and improved community transport;
- **Learning and working together** – High quality education and training, jobs close to where people live, a main provider of local food production, maximising technical solutions;
- **Integrational opportunities** – Reimagined older peoples services, being able to grow old in the one community, with support and good access to health and social care.

The annual Balanced Scorecard measures progress towards these outcomes and is used to demonstrate ongoing improvements and reflect the ongoing challenges within Midlothian. The full detail behind the performance indicators measured by the balanced scorecard for 2020/21 can be found on the Council's website [Balanced Scorecard 2020/21](#).

At Council in June 2019 the adoption of a Service Dominant Logic was approved which means that we will place our citizens and communities at the heart of our daily work. Also approved at Council in June 2019 were the key drivers for change as presented below.



Key Achievements and Highlights for 2020/21

Achievement	Commentary
Public Sector Transformation Award - Response to COVID-19	The Council was awarded the Improvement and Efficiency Social Enterprise (IESE) Certificate of Excellence Award to mark significant innovations in improving local public services for its #kindnessmidlothian campaign which was launched at the beginning of the pandemic back in March 2020. This was a collective effort across the Community Planning Partnership to support Midlothian's communities through this difficult time.
Public Sector Transformation Award – Climate Change	The Council was also awarded the IESE Certificate of Excellence Award to mark significant innovations in improving local public services for Midlothian's Climate Change approaches which include all of the work the Council is doing towards its goal of being carbon neutral by 2030.
Easter Bush Agritech Hub Business Case Approval	The City Deal Joint Committee approved the business case to allow for a world-leading centre in agritech based in Midlothian at Easter Bush to progress. This £74 million capital investment programme will deliver many more jobs for local people and a sustainable transport corridor so it will also help with Midlothian's Carbon Neutral by 2030 ambition. This will also put Midlothian on the world map with the hosting of world-leading applied researchers and projects forecasted to deliver another £116 million over a 15 year period and a gross value added direct economic benefit of up to £437 million - of which £250 million will directly benefit the City Region.

Achievement	Commentary
Funding Secured for Employability Programmes	Over £1.5 million funding has been secured for employability programmes including Foundation Apprenticeships, No One Left Behind, Modern Apprenticeships, third sector Kickstart partnership, Parental Employability Support and the Young Persons Guarantee.
Carriageway and Footway Renewal/Improvement Scheme	The capital roads programme commenced at the end of June 2020, following easing of Covid-19 restrictions. 16 of 25 individual carriageway schemes was completed equating to 3.71 km of carriageway resurfacing, and 6 of 19 individual footway schemes was completed equating to 2.7 km of footway resurfacing.
Provision of Affordable Housing	The Council's Strategic Housing Investment Programme (SHIP) was submitted to the Scottish Government in December 2020. To address the need for affordable housing the SHIP details potential sites for 2,602 new affordable homes to be built during 2021-26. During 2020/21 119 new Council Houses were completed, this brings the total completed to 1,310 over the past 14 years. In addition, 14 properties were purchased during the year to add to the overall housing stock with an increase of a further 32 due to repurposing of properties to create additional temporary accommodation.

Financial Performance for 2020/21

Financial information is part of the Council's Performance Management Framework with the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) financial performance regularly reported to Council. This section summarises our financial performance for 2020/21. Full details of the Council's financial performance was reported to Council on 29 June 21 and is available on the [Council's website](#).

Useable Reserves

The Council holds funds in a number of Usable Reserves for various purposes. Details of the balances and prior year comparatives are shown in the table below, more detail can be found in the Movement in Reserves Statement on Page 38:

Useable Reserve	Purpose	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
General Fund Non-Earmarked Reserve	Funds held as a general contingency.	3,812	4,048
General Fund Earmarked Reserve	Funds held for specific purposes (<i>see note 8</i>).	25,860	9,380
Housing Revenue Account	Funds held for investment in the Council's housing stock.	48,385	44,395
Capital Fund	Funds set aside for major capital developments or asset purchases.	24,158	25,364
Repairs and Renewals Fund	Funds held for specific types of repairs and maintenance work.	3,897	3,670

General Fund Performance

The General Fund is the statutory fund into which all the receipts of the Council are required to be paid and out of which all liabilities of the Council are to be met, except to the extent that statutory rules provide otherwise. Government Grants, Council Tax Income, fees and charges, Non-Domestic Rate Income (subject to pooling arrangements) and interest / returns on investments provide resources for the General Fund. The General Fund is split between uncommitted balances (the level of funding available to the Council to manage financial risks and unplanned expenditure) and balances that are earmarked for specific purposes.

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) on page 37 sets out the Council's funding and spending in accordance with accounting requirements which is different to the way we report

performance in the year. The Expenditure and Funding Analysis (EFA) on page 41 provides a link between the budget management reports, reported within the year and the figures in the CIES.

The table below shows actual outturns against budget for each of the Council's General Fund Service areas as well as a reconciliation to assist users of the Accounts to navigate from the Midlothian Council Budget Monitoring position to the first column in the Expenditure and Funding Analysis (EFA).

Budget Monitoring 2020/21				Building the EFA		
Service Area	Revised Budget	Net Expenditure	(Under)/Overspend	Budget Monitoring Net Expenditure	Adjustments for Internal Reporting Purposes	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances
Management and Members	1,947	1,921	(26)	1,921	41	1,962
Children's Services, Partnerships & Communities	19,722	19,774	52	19,774	0	19,774
Education	98,009	98,009	0	98,009	(9,585)	88,424
Adult Health & Social Care	4,605	4,353	(252)	4,353	0	4,353
Midlothian Integrated Joint Board	44,985	44,985	0	44,985	0	44,985
Place	33,850	34,168	318	34,168	(4,094)	30,074
Corporate Solutions	21,406	21,067	(339)	21,067	(7,330)	13,737
Housing Revenue Account	0	0	0	0	(17,747)	(17,747)
Joint Boards	572	567	(5)	567	0	567
Central Costs	7	65	58	65	0	65
Non-Distributable Costs	1,408	1,352	(56)	1,352	0	1,352
Loan Charges	5,296	4,869	(427)	4,869	22,426	27,295
NDR- Discretionary Relief	70	70	0	70	(70)	0
Investment Income	(36)	(34)	2	(34)	34	0
Allocations to HRA, Capital Account, etc.	(5,140)	(5,150)	(10)	(5,150)	5,150	0
Net General Fund Expenditure	226,701	226,016	(685)	226,016	(11,175)	214,841
Less Funding:						
Scottish Government Grant	185,845	185,845	0	185,845	(70)	185,775
Council Tax Income	54,477	54,558	81	54,558	(5,257)	49,301
Total Funding	240,322	240,403	81	240,403	(5,327)	235,076
General Fund Utilisation/(Enhancement) of Reserves	(13,621)	(14,387)	(766)	(14,387)	(5,848)	(20,235)

The most significant areas contributing to both adverse and favourable variances against budget in Council service areas were:

- Additional costs of £0.444 million associated with family, residential and day placements for children due to higher client numbers and extended periods of support;
- Adverse conditions over the winter months resulting in additional response costs of £0.386 million;
- Costs associated with European Union funded projects of £0.193 million that are now not eligible to be reclaimed through the grants process.

Offset by:

- Reduced running costs in some service areas of £0.995 million;

- Lower than forecast capital expenditure resulting in a reduction in related borrowing costs of £0.427 million;
- A reduction in residential respite places for children of £0.382 million.

Covid-19

Scottish Government provided additional revenue funding to the Council in 2020/21 of £23.832 million. £9.223 million was provided as general support with a further £10.586 million provided to meet specific costs including support to individuals, families and communities and to support education recovery. £4.023 million was also received in respect of the loss of income scheme. £10.806 million of this has been carried forward to meet COVID-19 pressures in 2021/22 and beyond.

The Council administered, on an agency basis (those associated with Non Domestic Rate valuations were processed by the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) on the Council's behalf), several COVID-19 funding streams on behalf of the Scottish Government. The total value of grants processes, mainly relating to business support, was £20.2 million of which £19.3 million was processed by CEC.

General Fund Reserve 2020/21

The Council approved the Reserves Strategy in February 2019 setting the minimum level of uncommitted reserve of 2% of net expenditure (excluding resources delegated to the IJB), which equates to £3.634 million. In 2020/21 there was an increase of £16.244 million in the General Fund Reserve comprising an underspend of £0.766 million as detailed above, planned increase in reserves during the year of £0.003 million and budgets to be carried forward for use in 2021/22 of £23.313 million. This total increase is offset by a decrease in earmarked reserves of £7.838 million which were utilised in the year. The effect of the 2020/21 movement of £16.244 million on the General Fund Reserve balance is demonstrated in the table below with uncommitted reserves £0.178 million in excess of the approved minimum level. Further details are provided in the Movement in Reserves Statement on page 38:

2019/20		2020/21		
Total Reserves £000	General Fund Reserve	Uncommitted Reserves £000	Earmarked Reserves £000	Total Reserves £000
(8,637)	Balance Brought Forward	(4,048)	(9,380)	(13,428)
(4,791)	(Increase in)/use of balances	236	(16,480)	(16,244)
(13,428)	General Fund Reserve Balance	(3,812)	(25,860)	(29,672)

The movement in the Earmarked General Fund balance of £16.480 million is outlined in Note 8 on page 65, which reflects the movements attributable to Earmarked Reserves.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Performance

The Council has a statutory obligation to maintain a revenue account for its housing provision in accordance with the *Housing (Scotland) Act 1987*. The Housing Revenue Account records all income and expenditure relating to the Council's own housing stock. Rent paid by tenant's funds the revenue expenditure on housing management, repairs and maintenance and financing of capital expenditure. The table below provides analysis of financial performance for 2020/21:

2019/20 £000	Housing Revenue Account Balance Spend	2020/21 £000
(39,084)	Opening Balance	(44,395)
(923)	(Positive) / Adverse Variance against Budget	(1,789)
(4,388)	Planned Increase of HRA Reserve	(2,201)
(44,395)	Closing Balance	(48,385)

Overall, the majority of operational costs showed favourable variances at the year-end due to rephasing of the Capital Plan resulting in reduced borrowing costs for the year. The closing balance on the Housing Revenue Account reserve is £48.385 million. This is committed to fund the Council's ambitious capital investment plan, which currently runs to 2035/36, to build further new housing stock and continue to improve and upgrade its existing stock, particularly through Scottish Housing Quality Standards (SHQS) improvement works. The majority of this plan is funded through prudential borrowing with costs of borrowing met from rental income and planned utilisation of the HRA reserve, which is projected to reduce to approximately £2 million by the end of the plan.

Capital Expenditure 2020/21

Capital expenditure represents money spent by the Council for buying, upgrading or improving assets such as buildings and roads. The difference between capital and revenue expenditure is that the Council receives the benefit from capital expenditure over a period exceeding one year. In 2020/21 the final budget for capital investment was £24.940 million (2019/20 £34.123 million), this budget was exceeded by £0.629 million mainly due to additional Digital Services capital costs in response to COVID-19. The table below identifies actual capital spend during the financial year for key projects:

2019/20 Budget £000	2019/20 Actual £000		2020/21 Budget £000	2020/21 Actual £000
		General Fund Capital Spend		
22,789	21,765	School Estate	10,383	10,319
0	0	Zero Waste	7,380	7,380
5,168	5,168	Roads, Pavements and Street Lighting	1,841	1,841
781	781	Fleet Replacement and Upgrades	1,495	1,495
1,198	1,198	Digital Assets	1,383	2,101
937	937	Centralised Property Upgrades	903	903
3,250	3,250	Other Capital Projects	1,555	1,530
34,123	33,099	Total Spend	24,940	25,569

The table below demonstrates the breakdown of the Housing Revenue Account Capital Spend for 2020/21:

2019/20 Budget £000	2019/20 Actual £000		2020/21 Budget £000	2020/21 Actual £000
		Housing Capital Spend		
17,024	18,690	New Social Housing	14,225	14,486
5,701	5,701	SHQS Improvement Works	866	866
878	544	Other Small Capital Projects	384	280
23,603	24,935	Total Spend	15,475	15,632

A combination of government grants, external funding contributions from third parties, capital receipts, Section 75 developer contributions and borrowing funded this expenditure. **Note 31** in the financial statements provides a full analysis of capital expenditure and the financing required.

Treasury Management and Investment

The Council is able to regulate its own capital spending limits within a prudential framework recommended by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and endorsed by Scottish Government, provided it operates within a series of indicators. The Council's capital expenditure is a key driver of treasury management activity and these indicators are relevant for the purposes of establishing an integrated treasury management strategy, which demonstrates that the Council's capital investment plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable.

Financial Indicator	2019/20	2020/21	Commentary
Capital financing requirement	£284.750m	£293.114m	Reflects the Council's underlying need to borrow to finance capital expenditure incurred historically by the Council that has yet to be financed.
Actual external borrowing	£269.077m	£274.795m	The actual external debt and long-term liabilities position of the Council. The actual figures should never exceed the Council's Authorised Debt Limits, which are calculated in line with the requirements of the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in local authorities.
Under/(Over) Borrowed	£15.673 m	£18.319m	This demonstrates that the Council's capital borrowing requirement has not been fully funded by loan debt and is using cash from working capital, reserves and balances to support capital programmes whilst investment returns are low.
Ratio of finance costs to net revenue stream – General Fund	2.69%	2.03%	This is a measure of how affordable the Council's capital plans are. It takes actual finance costs as a % of net revenue spend.
Ratio of finance costs to net revenue stream – HRA	36.23%	37.50%	As above.
External Loans Fund Interest Rate	3.44%	3.31%	Average rate of interest paid on external debt.
Internal Loans Fund Interest Rate	3.10%	2.95%	This combines the interest paid by the Council on money borrowed, with the interest earned by the Council on money invested, along with other charges to arrive at a weighted average 'loans fund rate' figure for the authority.

The borrowing strategy is prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Treasury Management in Local Authorities. The majority of the Council's borrowing comes from Public Works Loan Board (PWLb). Note 17 and Note 18 of the financial statements provides further details on the Council's borrowing.

Balance Sheet

The table below summaries the Council's Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2021. The Balance Sheet brings together assets and liabilities, year-end balances, money owed to and by the Council and reserves. More information on the balance sheet is provided on page 39 .

	31 March 21 £000	31 March 20 £000	Change £000
Long-term Assets	974,101	903,398	70,703
Current Assets	160,076	134,274	25,802
Current Liabilities	(87,361)	(91,235)	3,874
Long-term Liabilities	(510,838)	(457,864)	(52,974)
Net Assets	535,978	488,573	47,405

Movements in the net assets of the Council are attributed to:

- Long-term Assets – Asset growth of £32.022 million as well as gross upwards movement in asset values of £44.785 million flowing from valuation work undertaken during 2020/21, this is offset by movement in depreciation and other downwards movements of £6.104 million;
- Current Assets and Long-term liabilities – Long Term Public Works Loans Board borrowing, taking advantage of historically low interest rates and recognising the Council's current under borrowed position, was undertaken during 2020/21. This is reflected in the Balance Sheet at 31 March 21 with increased long-term liabilities sitting alongside higher short term and liquid investments.

Pension

The impact of the Local Government Pension Scheme and Scottish Teachers Superannuation Scheme on the Council's accounts has been disclosed in **Notes 33 and 34** to the accounts. As at 31 March 2021, the Council's share of the Lothian Pension Fund showed a net pension liability of £141.030 million (2019/20 £97.719 million). This figure represents the amounts that the actuary estimates at 31 March 21 that the Council will have to pay out in future years for all pension entitlements earned by current and previous staff which exceeds the assets held by the fund. This is an increase of £43.311 million from 31 March 2020. In the period to the accounting date investment returns have been significantly greater than expected (compared to last year's discount rate assumption). Counter to this, the real discount rate for obligations (discount rate net of inflation) has fallen compared to the previous year's accounting date. This is due to the combination of a lower discount assumption and a significantly higher CPI assumption. The Council continues to monitor and measure this pension liability and make changes to cash contributions as required as part of the regular assessment made by an independent actuary. The 2020 triennial actuarial valuation, on which the funding of the pension fund is determined, shows an increase in the overall funding position to 104% (99% in 2017). This indicates that based on current assumptions and projections all future pension costs can be met.

Risks and Uncertainties Facing the Council

COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery

The impact of the Covid-19 outbreak brings risk and uncertainty globally. Currently, predicting the impact for the national and local economy is extremely uncertain. A relevant local assessment is to be found in 'State of the Economy: September 2020' published by the Chief Economist to the Scottish Government on 29 September 2020. This report summarises recent developments in the global, UK and Scottish economies and provides an analysis of the performance of, and outlook for, the Scottish economy. It quotes:

'The Scottish economy has seen a record fall in output during the first half of 2020 during the national lockdown and, supported by unprecedented levels of fiscal and monetary stimulus over this period, we have seen the economy stabilise and start to recover as restrictions have eased.'

However, the ongoing need to manage the spread of coronavirus and what that might mean for the economic and social activity remains a central theme of uncertainty and risk to the economic outlook, alongside the changing scale and nature of fiscal support, and the pace at which businesses and households (domestically and internationally) can return to pre-pandemic levels of economic activity'

The full document can be found at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/state-economy/>

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented financial pressure on the Council, which has faced significant additional costs and lost income as a result of the curtailment of social and economic activity due to Scotland's efforts to contain the spread of the virus.

In order to help Scottish Councils cope with the additional financial pressures Scottish Government have made available significant grant support for 2020/21 and 2021/22 to provide general financial assistance, as well as a large number of funding streams to target particular policy areas.

Whilst the additional funding is welcome the full range of financial impacts for 2021/22 and beyond, are not yet fully apparent at this stage as the exact terms of the country's emergence from the current restrictions and the re-establishment of patterns of social and economic activity remain unclear.

Financial Pressures on Revenue and Capital Resources

Like all local authorities Midlothian Council is facing a period of unprecedented change with many factors affecting the need to adapt as an organisation. These pressures are only likely to increase as it reacts to future challenges, not least those which have been demonstrated so dramatically by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Some of the challenges the Council face include:

- Continued demographic pressures particularly around looked after children, people with learning disabilities, elderly care and the significant population growth in Midlothian. These pressures continue and present a considerable challenge to the Council in both financing them and transforming services to improve ways of managing some of the implications of these pressures;
- Pay inflation and Scottish Government Grant Income projections are critical areas of modelling given their overall significance and uncertainty. For 2020/21, and again for 2021/22, the Scottish Government published a one year budget and grant settlement, and as such Councils are currently unaware of the level of funding that will be available to them beyond 2021/22. There are a number of factors, which will influence the level of grant support the Council might expect for 2022/23 and beyond. Among these will be a range of economic factors which will influence the resources Scottish Government has at its disposal, whether from the UK Government block grant or through tax revenues directly controlled by Scottish Government. The other main factors will be the taxation and spending priorities of the Scottish Government which will be set out in the government's budget bill expected to be presented to Parliament in December 2021;
- Requirement to maintain the physical condition of major capital assets such as roads and schools;
- Potential impact on local economy following Covid-19 pandemic over the coming years.

Whilst an assessment of economic factors can be made at this time, based on the information available from the Office of Budget Responsibility, the Scottish Fiscal Commission and Scotland's Fiscal Outlook, the Scottish Government's second medium term financial strategy and the impact of Scottish Government's

tax and spending priorities will only become apparent when the Scottish Government's 2022/23 budget is published in December 2021.

In February 2021 the Council set a budget for 2021/22 which included a council tax freeze in recognition of the unique pressures created by the pandemic and to help protect household incomes. In the context of reduced funding and growth in demand for services, the Council has a considerable challenge to ensure its future expenditure plans are sustainable. When setting the 2021/22 budget the Council adopted a corporate solution as described further in the Development of the Medium Term Financial Strategy in '*How the Council Manages Risk Section*' below and has avoided the need for any additional service cuts. A similar solution is planned to secure financial balance in 2022/23.

How the Council Manages Risk

Action	Commentary
Service Risk Registers	The service Risk Registers contain operational risks and are managed by each Service Management Team. The Risk Management Group provides further scrutiny of service risks and significant risks are added to the corporate risk register.
The Corporate Risk Register	The Corporate Risk Register managed by the Corporate Management Team provides assurance through scrutiny and challenge and ensures that the significant risks facing the Council have been identified and effective treatment actions are implemented. The Corporate Risk Register is then submitted to Audit Committee for approval which provides effective scrutiny and challenge as part of the Council's corporate governance arrangements.
Covid Response	As the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic continued to evolve, Midlothian Council ensured critical services to its citizens continued to be delivered as a priority. The Council worked with the Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) to monitor the level of additional cost pressures and reduced income levels arising from COVID-19, which had impacted the Council's ability to ensure a balanced financial position. A Route Map through and out of the Crisis was also approved at Council on 16 June 2020 which seeks to both support recovery and to retain the best elements of transformation which took place in response to COVID-19. The Route map can be found on the Council's website Midlothian Council > Meetings 16 June 2020 .
Development of a Medium Term Financial Strategy	The Council's Long Term financial outlook highlights significant funding pressure that the Council may face over the next few years. On 25 June 2019 Council agreed a Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2020/21-2022/23 , which set out budget projections for 2020/21-2022/23 and has continued to be updated and reviewed during the budget setting process for 2020/21 and 2021/22 accordingly. The MTFS sets out cost projections for pay inflation, price inflation and the impact of demographic changes together with income projections and the impact of a range of measures designed to achieve significant progress towards addressing the projected budget gaps.

Looking Ahead

Moving into 2021/22, although the Council anticipates some easing of the immediate Covid-19 financial impacts focus will now need to shift towards medium and long-term recovery. As well as dealing with the impact on Council services, the Council will be a key partner in helping our citizens, communities and businesses to recover from the harms that have been caused. The pandemic will have caused many as yet unseen harms, and Councils will be required to identify the anticipated impacts as quickly as possible and put in place plans of action to address them and many of those plans will require funding deployed towards that effort.

In addition to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, Midlothian Council also faces additional pressure with being the fastest growing local authority in Scotland, resulting in greater demand for services. The General Services Capital Plan will also see further major investment in the following areas over the coming years:

Capital Expenditure	Commentary
School Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipped for Learning Programme; Wide-ranging school building, extension and refurbishment programme; A replacement of Beeslack Community High School and refurbishment of Penicuik High School A new school campus proposed at Shawfair; A new high school for Gorebridge; Replacement schools for Mayfield Campus and Lasswade Primary.
Provision of Care Services	A new care facility in Bonnyrigg which will provide accommodation for those in need of high quality care.
Carriageway and footway infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing investment in improved roads, footpaths and lighting across Midlothian; As part of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal major investment is also planned in the new A701 Relief Road and A702 link which will support planned investment in new research and technology facilities at Easter Bush.
Social Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A continuation of the new build housing programme and upgrading of existing housing.

The Council has recognised the need for a strategic step change in the form of the development, agreement and implementation of a Medium Term Financial Strategy, mentioned earlier, together with the proposed resource allocation measures that will enable the Council to balance revenue budgets for each financial year.

The Council continues to regularly monitor its financial position and provide full financial updates to the Council Management Team and the Council as appropriate, including options on addressing any new budget and spending pressures. This may include further use of reserves, reallocation of committed reserves, changes to capital spend, opportunities available through review of the Loans Fund or other cost savings. Management is continuing to liaise with Scottish Government and COSLA on ensuring sustainable funding going forward.

The Council will continue to assess the potential impact of Brexit, including the possible financial and economic impacts. From a financial perspective, the potential impact on future Scottish Government grant funding levels, and from an economic perspective, the potential lack of skilled resource and the impact on the local economy.

In delivering services, it is important to recognise that people are our most important asset. Our people have the potential to have a positive impact every day and can deliver life-changing impacts for our communities. Therefore, to maximise that positive impact, it is imperative that we work as One Council by removing any institutional barriers; and eliminate silo working to enable the organisation to implement simple solutions which make a big difference. This means placing our citizens and communities at the centre of our daily work; growing our own talent and empowering our staff and thereby enabling Midlothian to fulfil its potential as a Great Place to Grow.

Conclusion

2020/21 was a year of unprecedented challenges. The Council had to deal with the immediate impacts of a global pandemic as well as continued increasing demand pressures. Despite these pressures, the Council

made significant improvements across a range of areas and the Council continued to invest for the future in its asset base to provide essential infrastructure to support the growing population and it is important to appreciate these improvements.

We have concluded the year in a period of unprecedented uncertainty but with a focus on meeting the financial and service challenges identified in the Medium Term Financial Strategy to ensure the Council has continued financial sustainability.

Acknowledgments

I would like to acknowledge the tremendous effort in producing the Annual Accounts and express my thanks to my own team and to colleagues throughout the Council for the significant dedication and commitment shown throughout the year in financial matters.

X

Gary Fairley
Chief Officer, Corporate Solutions

Statement of Responsibilities

The Council's Responsibilities

The Council is required to:

- Make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Council, that officer is the Chief Officer, Corporate Solutions;
- Manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets;
- To make arrangements to approve the Annual Accounts.

X

Councillor Jim Muirhead
Deputy Leader of the Council

The Chief Officer, Corporate Solutions Responsibilities

The Chief Officer, Corporate Solutions is responsible for the preparation of the Council's Annual Accounts in accordance with proper practices as required by legislation and as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the code).

In preparing these Annual Accounts, the Chief Officer, Corporate Solutions 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;
- Kept proper accounting records, which were up to date;
- Taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

I certify that the financial statements present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council (and its group) at the reporting date and the transactions of the Council (and its group) for the year ended 31 March 2021.

X

Gary Fairley
Chief Officer, Corporate Solutions

Annual Governance Statement

Introduction

The Annual Governance Statement explains how the Council has complied with the terms of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework (2016) for the year ended 31 March 2021, sets out the Council's governance arrangements and systems of internal control, and reports on their effectiveness. The statement also covers relevant governance matters as they affect those entities included as part of the Council's Group Accounts.

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, on 16 March 2020 Group Leaders agreed that Standing Order 19.2 be implemented for any emergency decisions required at the start of the Pandemic. Standing Order 19.2 provides the Chief Executive, after discussion with the Leader of the Council, whom failing the Depute Leader of the Council, authority to take decisions where urgent or immediate action is required. Where such decisions are required, the Chief Executive will provide a report to the next available full Council meeting to inform the Council of these, this was in place from 24 March to 15 June 2020. Council and Committee meetings recommenced, using a virtual platform on 16 June 2020. During this period, from 24 March to 15 June 2020 the Corporate Incident Management Team met daily and the Chief Executive met weekly with the Leader and Depute Leader, the Administration and with Group Leaders. All meetings were held using the virtual platform. All 19.2 decisions taken during this period were reported to Group Leaders weekly and were also reported to the first available meeting of Council on 16 June 2020. At the start of 2021, whilst the legal requirement to stay at home except for essential purposes was in force, the Council moved to critical service delivery only. During this period the Chief Executive continued to meet regularly with the Leader and Depute Leader, and Group Leaders and whilst full Council continued to meet virtually other Committee activity was limited to critical business only.

Scope of Responsibility

Midlothian 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. The Council also has a statutory duty of Best Value under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement and performance, while maintaining an appropriate balance between quality and cost; and in making these arrangements and securing that balance, to have regard to economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

In discharging this overall responsibility, elected members and senior officers are responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of Midlothian Council's affairs and facilitating the exercise of its functions in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner. This includes setting the strategic direction, vision, culture and values of the Council, effective operation of corporate systems, processes and internal controls, engaging with and, where appropriate, lead communities, monitoring whether strategic objectives have been achieved and services delivered cost effectively, and ensuring that appropriate arrangements are in place for the management of risk.

The system can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.

Framework for Good Governance

The overall aim of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government' (Spring 2016) is to ensure that: resources are directed in accordance with agreed policy and according to priorities; there is sound and inclusive decision making; and there is clear accountability for the use of those resources in order to achieve desired outcomes for service users and communities.

The CIPFA/SOLACE defines the seven core principles of good governance, namely:

- A. Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law;
- B. Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement;
- C. Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits;
- D. Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes;
- E. Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it;
- F. Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management; and
- G. Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability.

The Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance, which is consistent with the principles and recommendations of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework and the supporting guidance notes for Scottish authorities (November 2016), has been updated during 2020/21 to reflect the changes in corporate governance during 2020/21 and was approved by Council in March 2021.

The Council's Governance Framework

The key elements of the Council's governance arrangements, as set out in the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance, include:

A. Behaving with integrity, demonstrating commitment to ethical values and respecting rule of law

The roles and responsibilities of elected members and officers and the processes to govern the conduct of the Council's business are defined in standing orders and scheme of delegation for officers, scheme of administration, and financial regulations.

Codes of conduct are in place for, and define the high ethical values and standards of behaviour expected from, elected members and officers to make sure that public business is conducted with fairness and integrity.

The Monitoring Officer is responsible for ensuring that agreed procedures are followed and that all applicable statutes and regulations are complied with. The Standards Committee is responsible for dealing with matters relating to conduct and ethical standards.

The Council seeks feedback from the public through its complaints and comments procedures for Corporate and Social Work (statutory) service areas, responds to the outcomes, as appropriate, and reports the results annually.

Professional advice on the discharge of statutory social work duties is provided to the Council by the Head of Adult Health and Social Care (Chief Social Work Officer). The CSWO promotes values and standards of professional practice and acts as the 'agency decision maker' taking final decisions on a range of social work matters including adoption, secure accommodation, guardianship, etc. The CSWO reports annually on the statutory work undertaken, regulation and inspection, workforce issues and significant social policy themes.

B. Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement

Council meetings are held in public unless there are good reasons for not doing so on the grounds of confidentiality. At the onset of the pandemic, Council meetings were suspended. Standing Order 19.2 was

implemented for any emergency decisions from 24 March to 15 June 2020. Council and Committee meetings recommenced on 16 June 2020 using a virtual platform.

Unless confidential, decisions made by Council or other Committees are documented in the public domain. All decisions are explicit about the criteria, rationale and considerations used. The impact and consequences of all decisions are clearly set out.

The Council seeks community views on a wide range of issues and undertakes regular consultation and engagement with citizens and service users.

C. Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits

The Council's vision, strategic objectives and priorities are set out in the Single Midlothian Plan developed through the Community Planning Partnership (of which the Council is a partner). The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and Service Plans outline how Midlothian Council will deliver its contribution to the Single Midlothian Plan.

Asset management planning and capital investment at a strategic level is structured to consider and balance the combined economic, social and environmental impact of policies and plans when taking decisions about service provision.

The Council fully supports community empowerment and recognises the importance of building community capacity and volunteering as a key factor in building stronger, safer, and supportive communities.

Implications are considered during the decision making process within the standard report template covering Resources, Risk, Single Midlothian Plan and Key Priorities, Impact on Performance and Outcomes, Adopting a Preventative Approach, Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders, Ensuring Equalities, Supporting Sustainable Development, and IT issues

D. Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes

Decision makers receive detailed information indicating how intended outcomes would be achieved together with the risks, financial and other implications associated with the proposals, by way of the compulsory sections of the Committee report template.

In determining how services and other courses of action should be planned and delivered the Council is increasingly engaging with internal and external stakeholders. The Council fosters effective relationships, collaborative working and contractual arrangements with other public, private, and voluntary organisations in delivering services that meet the needs of the local community including the achievement of 'social value' (community benefits) through service planning and commissioning.

E. Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it

The roles of officers are defined in agreed job descriptions. Staff performance is reviewed on an annual basis in accordance with the relevant appraisal processes in place during the year.

The Chief Executive is responsible and accountable to the Council for all aspects of management including promoting sound governance, providing quality information/support to inform decision making and scrutiny, supporting other statutory officers, and building relationships with all Councillors.

The Elected Members Induction Programme is periodically supplemented by training events, seminars and briefings. Members appointed to certain committees have also received specific training related to the responsibilities on these committees e.g. licensing, planning, audit.

F. Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management

The Council has overall responsibility for directing and controlling the organisation. The Cabinet is the principal decision-making committee of the Council. The Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for reviewing performance against policy objectives and commenting on decisions and policies and their impact.

The Council has a risk management policy and approach whose main priorities are the robust systems of identification, evaluation and control of risks which threaten the Council's ability to meet its objectives to deliver services to the public.

The Chief Officer Corporate Solutions (the Section 95 officer) is responsible for the proper administration of all aspects of the Council's financial affairs including ensuring appropriate advice is given to the Council on all financial matters.

The Council's system of internal financial control is based on a framework of financial regulations, regular management information, administrative procedures (including segregation of duties), management supervision and a system of delegation and accountability.

The Council has an approved strategy to tackling fraud, theft, corruption and crime, as an integral part of protecting public finances, safeguarding assets, and delivering services effectively.

A Medium Term Financial Strategy was approved by Council in June 2019.

Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring reports are presented to the Council on a quarterly basis for monitoring and control purposes including the annual outturn. The Management Commentary in the Statement of Accounts provides financial and other performance information regarding the operation of the Council, its wider achievements and areas for development.

G. Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability

The independent and objective audit opinion of the Chief Internal Auditor (Chief Audit Executive) is stated within the Internal Audit Annual Assurance Report 2020/21. This is based on work carried out by an in-house and shared services team in conformance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards to fulfil statutory Internal Audit provision.

The Council responds to the findings and recommendations of Internal Audit, External Audit, Scrutiny and Inspection bodies including associated Action Plans for improvement. The Audit Committee is integral to overseeing independent and objective assurance and monitoring improvements in internal control and governance.

Quarterly Performance Reports were presented to the Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee for monitoring the achievement of strategic priorities and key performance indicators.

The Annual Accounts and Report for 2020/21, setting out the financial position in accordance with relevant accounting regulations have been completed.

Review of Adequacy and Effectiveness of the Council's Governance Framework

An annual review of the adequacy and effectiveness of its overall governance framework is carried out. The output is this Annual Governance Statement which is presented to the Audit Committee.

The Corporate Management Team undertook a full self-evaluation of the Local Code of Corporate Governance during the year in consultation with the Internal Audit function. This included the consideration of examples of evidence such as systems, processes and documentation to demonstrate compliance with the Framework's seven core principles of good governance, supporting principles and a range of specific requirements as set out in the Local Code, which was approved by Council in March 2021.

The review was further informed by assurances from assessment of compliance against the Local Code; written assurance statements from the Executive Directors and Chief Officers/Heads of Service; Internal Audit annual opinion, findings and recommendations; External Audit, and comments and recommendations made by External Auditor and other external scrutiny bodies and inspection agencies.

Improvement Areas of Governance

The collective review activity outlined above has identified the following areas where improvement in governance arrangements can be made to enhance compliance with the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance and to demonstrate Best Value.

The Council at its meeting on 20 August 2019 approved the "Best Value Assurance Report: Midlothian Council Action Plan", following its consideration by the Corporate Management Team on 17 July 2019, to address the 8 recommendations made in order to demonstrate Best Value. A follow up Best Value Report was presented to Council in November 2020 and a further report is scheduled for June 2021.

In response to the Pandemic the Council has undergone significant transformation. In June 2020, Council approved the Midlothian Route Map. To support this strategic recovery route map the Council have been working together with Nesta and the recommendations contained in their Listen and Learn Report ([Listen and Learn](#)) were approved by Cabinet in September 2020. The Council previously worked with Nesta on the 100 day Mental Health Challenge and due to the success of that project Nesta were asked to assist with the listen and learn exercise to gather the views of staff and how they have managed through the Covid-19 emergency phase. In addition to approving the Nesta recommendations Cabinet instructed that service plans were updated to reflect these. In addition Council also approved a new Economic Renewal strategy and an accelerated Capital programme as part of the Council's commitment to supporting Economic Recovery.

During 2020/21 the Council has also developed and sustained more constructive relationships between members and between members and officers. During the Pandemic the Chief Executive met weekly with the three group leaders. The cross party Education group is also a highly effective example of cross part working. In addition, the cross-party Business Transformation Steering Group is driving forward the medium term financial strategy and the Midlothian Route Map in response to the Pandemic, and new Transformation Boards are in place to support the delivery of this work. Further action is required in respect of the remaining 4 recommendations;

1. The workforce strategy was approved by Council in December 2019. The Pandemic has resulted in significant changes to the workforce and the digital solutions now implemented. As a result workforce planning and digital by default approaches continue to be developed to support the Midlothian Route Map which includes a Remote Working Transformation Board which is chaired by the Chief Officer, Corporate Solutions. Workforce is also being addressed through the Hub and

Spoke Board in moving towards local by default service delivery and the Digital First Board in support of 21st Century ways of working.

2. The Council is continuing to implement financial planning arrangements to address budget gaps, and a balanced budget was set for 2021/22, as approved by Council in February 2021, with a Corporate Solution proposed for 2022/23.
3. Progress has been achieved with elected members in light of the recommendation to exercise appropriate scrutiny and to develop Professional Development Plans. This is also supported by Seminars and Briefings which complement Council and Committee meetings. Further work is ongoing for members to fully take ownership for personal development plans and access relevant training opportunities.
4. Reviews are progressing under the new leadership to continue to build on positive elements of community empowerment. In 2021 Midlothian was awarded the IESE Certificate of Excellence for the Kindness Midlothian Campaign which was led by the Community Planning Partnership. Development of future models for working with communities in designing and delivering services is progressing with Nesta, a social innovation foundation, as outlined in the Listen and Learn report, particularly in relation to the transformation of Neighbourhood Services.

A formal report on the progress with the Best Value action plan is scheduled to be presented to Council in June 2021.

In addition, there are other areas for improvement actions (below) that are not specifically covered by the above in order to enhance compliance with the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance:

5. Review and update the Financial Regulations and Financial Directives and associated guidance to reflect changes arising from organisation structures and systems and embed arrangements to support regular review and updating. Review and update the Scheme of Delegation, Standing Orders and Scheme of Administration, in preparation for the term of next Council and to ensure that they remain appropriate and reflect the current management structure. A cross party Standing Orders working group is currently in place.
6. Ensure that the action taken to strengthen resource capacity and skills in the Procurement function provides the necessary support to Service Managers, strengthens compliance with the Council's procurement strategy and procedures, and further improves contract monitoring to demonstrate delivery of value for money and to consistently ensure integrity and compliance with high ethical standards expected by the Council. A Chief Procurement Officer has been appointed in order to lead transformation of this service area and took up post in September 2021.
7. Continue to refine quarterly monitoring reports for both revenue and capital to improve the robustness of scrutiny and transparency of performance against financial plans.
8. Enhance the Performance Management Framework through the full application of appropriate and proportionate self-assessment processes in all Council services as a self-evaluation tool to demonstrate achievement of Best Value.
9. Provide ongoing training for managers relating to their roles and responsibilities to apply procedures and practices with a focus on new or refreshed policies.

10. Ensure that the Strategic Boards, supporting the work of the Business Transformation Board and the cross-party Business Transformation Steering Group secure the required outcomes at the required scale and pace.
11. Review and refresh the risk management policy and guidance and develop a consistent approach to quarterly risk review and reporting processes at service/operational level.

In addition, Health Boards and their partner local authorities have a statutory duty under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 to review the integration scheme every five years. Partners have agreed that the review of the integration scheme be delayed as a consequence of the pandemic and for the current scheme to continue until the new scheme is agreed as well as any governance issues associated with this (e.g. any expected changes that have not been able to be implemented) and the next steps and timeframe for completing this process.

Conclusion and Opinion on Assurance

The conclusion from the review activity outlined above and our opinion is that reasonable assurance can be placed upon the adequacy and effectiveness of Midlothian Council's systems of internal control and governance. Although areas for further improvement have been identified, the annual review demonstrates sufficient evidence that the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance is operating effectively and that the Council complies with that Local Code in most respects to meet its principal objectives. Systems are in place to regularly review and improve governance arrangements and the system of internal control.

X

Councillor Jim Muirhead
Deputy Leader of the Council

X

Dr Grace Vickers
Chief Executive

Remuneration Report

Introduction

The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014 require local authorities in Scotland to prepare a Remuneration Report as part of the annual statutory accounts.

The following report details Midlothian Council's remuneration policy for its senior councillors and senior employees, providing full details of the remuneration and pension benefits they receive. This report also provides information on the number of employees whose annual remuneration was £50,000 or more as well as summary information in relation to employees' exit packages agreed during the year.

Information disclosed in the tables in this report is subject to audit by Ernst & Young LLP to report on whether that information has been properly prepared in accordance with the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014 (with the exception of the table in note 4.4). All other sections of the Remuneration Report, including the table in respect of Trade Union Facility Time, are read and considered to identify any material inconsistencies with the financial statements.

Remuneration of Councillors

The remuneration of Councillors is regulated by the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Regulations 2007 (SSI No 2007/183) as amended. The Regulations provide for the grading of councillors for the purposes of remuneration arrangements, as Leader of the Council, Provost, Senior Councillors or Councillors. The Leader of the Council and the Provost cannot be the same person for the purposes of payment of remuneration. A Senior Councillor is a Councillor who holds a significant position of responsibility within the Council's political structure.

The Regulations permit the Council to remunerate one Leader of the Council and one Provost. For 2020/21 the Regulations set the salary for the Leader as £29,760 (2019/20 £29,119) and the maximum salary for the Provost as £22,320 (2019/20 £21,840).

The Regulations also set out the remuneration that may be paid to Senior Councillors and total number of Senior Councillors the Council may have. The maximum yearly amount that may be paid to a Senior Councillor is 75% of the total yearly amount payable to the Leader of the Council. For 2020/21, the maximum salary which could be paid to a Senior Councillor was £22,320 (2019/20 £21,840) with the maximum number of Senior Councillors set at eight (excluding the Provost and the Leader). The total remuneration for Senior Councillors (excluding the Provost and the Leader) should not exceed £160,696 (2019/20 £157,237). The Council is able to exercise local flexibility in the determination of the precise number of Senior Councillors and their salary within those maximum limits.

The Regulations also permit the Council to pay contributions or other payments as required by the Local Government Pension Scheme in respect of those Councillors who elect to become Councillor Members of the pension scheme.

In addition to the Senior Councillors of the Council, the regulations also set out the remuneration payable to Councillors with the responsibility of a Convener or a Vice-Convener of a Joint Board. The Regulations require the remuneration and any pension contributions, if a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme, to be paid by the Council of which the Convener and Vice-Convener is a member. The Council is reimbursed by the Joint Board for any additional remuneration paid to a member from being a Convener or Vice-Convener of a Joint Board.

Details of the Remuneration of Council Leader, Provost and Senior Councillors are shown in the table below:

Total Remuneration 2019/20	Councillor	Date From	Date To	Salary	Expenses	Total Remuneration 2020/21
£29,751	D Milligan Council Leader	Apr-20	Mar-21	£29,760	£3,466	£33,226
£21,869	J Muirhead Depute Leader	Apr-20	Mar-21	£22,320	£30	£22,350
£22,107	P Smaill Provost and Group Leader	Apr-20	Mar-21	£22,320	£267	£22,587
£21,986	M Russell Depute Provost	Apr-20	Mar-21	£22,320	£166	£22,486
£21,986	C Johnstone Group Leader	Apr-20	Mar-21	£22,320	£(16)	£22,304
£22,103	R Imrie Cabinet Member	Apr-20	Mar-21	£22,320	£257	£22,577
£21,963	S Curran Cabinet Member	Apr-20	Mar-21	£22,320	£32	£22,352
£21,955	J Hackett Cabinet Member	Apr-20	Mar-21	£22,320	£0	£22,320
£183,720	Total			£186,000	£4,202	£190,202

The total remuneration of all the Council's elected members (including Senior Councillors above) and including all business expenses for 2020/21 was £0. 369 Million (2019/20 £0.361 million). Detailed figures for these costs are available on the Council's website, [members' remuneration details for 2020/21](#).

Remuneration of Employees

The salary of senior employees is set by reference to national arrangement. The Scottish Joint Negotiating Committee (SJNC) for Local Authority Services sets the salaries for the Chief Executives of Scottish Local Authorities. The salaries of the Executive Directors, Chief Officers and Heads of Service are all now based on a fixed percentage of the Chief Executives salary.

The salaries of all other employees are set by reference to:

- Teaching staff – The Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers (SNCT);
- Other staff – The Scottish Joint Negotiating Committee (SJNC).

The table overleaf details the remuneration paid to Senior Employees (as defined in the regulations) of the Council during the financial year:

Total Remuneration 2019/20	Senior Employee	Date From	Date to	Total Salary, Fees & Allowances 2020/21
£120,188	G Vickers Chief Executive	Apr-20	Mar-21	£119,569
£22,658	M Barrow Joint Director: Health and Social Care (1)	Apr-20	Mar-21	£48,241
£109,448	K Anderson Executive Director: Place	Apr-20	Mar-21	£103,690
£20,026	F Robertson (Start date: January 2020) Executive Director : Children, Young People & Communities	Apr-20	Mar-21	£103,690
£86,008	G Fairley Chief Officer - Corporate Solutions (S95 Officer)	Apr-20	Mar-21	£87,522
£86,565	J Tranent Chief Officer: Children's Services, Partnerships and Communities	Apr-20	Mar-21	£87,522
£88,630	A White Head of Adult Health and Social Care (Chief Social Work Officer)	Apr-20	Mar-21	£87,522
£63,125	A Turpie Legal Services Manager (Monitoring Officer)	Apr-20	Mar-21	£64,964
596,648	Total			£702,720

(1) Post joint funded 50:50 with NHS Lothian, M Barrow Full Time Equivalent £96,482.

Pension Benefits

Pension benefits for Councillors and local government employees are provided through the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), which is administered by the Lothian Pension Fund. From 1 April 2015, this became a career average salary pension scheme, although it was a final salary scheme until that date. This means that pension benefits are based on an average of the pay over the number of years that a person has been a member of the scheme.

From 1 April 2009, a five-tier contribution system is in place with contributions from scheme members based on how much pay falls into each tier. This is designed to give more equality between costs and benefits of scheme membership. Part-time workers contribution rates are worked out on the whole time pay rate for the job, with actual contributions paid on actual pay earned.

The tiers and contribution rates are as follows:

Pensionable Pay 2020/21	Contribution Rate
On earnings up to and including £22,200	5.5%
On earnings above £22,201 and up to £27,100	7.25%
On earnings above £27,701 and up to £37,200	8.5%
On earnings above £37,201 and up to £49,600	9.5%
On earnings above £49,601	12%

There is no automatic lump sum on retirement. Pension scheme members may opt to commute pension for a lump sum payment up to the limits set by the Finance Act 2004. The rate and basis at which employees accrue their pension benefits has changed over time, this is shown in the table below:

Time Period	Pension Benefit	Pension Benefit	Lump Sum Basis
	Accrual Basis	Accrual Rate	
From 1 April 2015	Career Average	1/49 th pensionable pay each year	n/a
From 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2015	Final Salary	1/60 th pensionable pay each year	n/a
Prior to 1 April 2009	Final Salary	1/80 th pensionable pay each year	3/80 th final pensionable salary and years of pensionable service

The value of accrued benefits has been calculated on the basis of the age at which the person will become first entitled to receive a pension on retirement without reduction on account of its payment at that age, without exercising any option to commute pension entitlement into a lump sum, and without any adjustment for the effects of future inflation.

The pension entitlements for Senior Councillors for the year to 31 March 2021 are shown in the tables below, together with the contribution made by the Council to each Senior Councillor's pension during the year.

Senior Councillors In-Year Pension Contributions

Year to 31 March 2020	Senior Councillors	Year to 31 March 2021
£4,630	C Johnstone	£4,843
£4,630	R Imrie	£4,843
£4,630	S Curran	£4,843
£4,630	J Hackett	£4,843
£18,520	Total	£19,372

Senior Councillors Accrued Pension Benefits

	Pension at 31 March 2021	Lump Sum at 31 March 2021	Pension Difference from 31 March 2020	Lump Sum Difference from 31 March 2020
Senior Councillor	£000	£000	£000	£000
C Johnstone	1	0	0	0
R Imrie	5	2	0	0
S Curran	2	0	1	0
J Hackett	2	0	1	0
Total	10	2	2	0

The pension entitlements for Senior Employees for the year to 31 March 2021 are shown in the tables below, together with the contribution made by the Council to each Senior Employees (as defined in the regulations) pension during the year.

Senior Employees In-Year Pension Contributions

Year to 31 March 2020	Senior Employees	Year to 31 March 2021
£25,480	G Vickers Chief Executive	£25,946
£21,342	K Anderson Executive Director: Place	£22,501
£4,245	F Robertson (Jan 20) Executive Director : Children, Young People & Communities	£22,501
£17,136	G Fairley Chief Officer - Corporate Solutions (S95 Officer)	£18,992
£17,254	J Tranent Chief Officer: Children's Services, Partnerships and Communities	£18,992
£17,254	A White Head of Adult Health and Social Care (Chief Social Work Officer)	£18,992
£13,103	A Turpie Legal Services Manager (Monitoring Officer)	£14,097
£115,814	Total	£142,021

Senior Employees Accrued Pension Benefits

	Pension at 31 March 2021	Lump Sum at 31 March 2021	Pension Difference from 31 March 2020	Lump Sum Difference from 31 March 2020
Senior Employee*	£000	£000	£000	£000
G Vickers	11	0	2	0
M Barrow	21	54	5	13
K Anderson	56	103	4	3
F Robertson	8	0	2	0
G Fairley	47	84	5	6
J Tranent	31	41	2	1
A White	22	9	3	1
A Turpie	32	54	3	2
Total	228	345	26	26

* See Senior Employees in-Year Pension Contributions table above for post title.

All senior employees (as defined in the regulations) shown in the tables above except M Barrow are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme. M Barrow is employed by NHS Lothian and is a member of the NHS pension scheme. The pension figures shown relate to the benefits accrued as a consequence of total local government service, not solely on the current appointment.

Remuneration of Other Employees by Pay Bands

The Regulations require the Remuneration Report to provide information on the number of persons whose remuneration was £50,000 or above, this information is detailed in the table below:

Total Employees 2019/20	Remuneration Band	Non-Teaching Employees 2020/21	Teaching Employees 2020/21	Total Employees 2020/21
82	£50,000-£54,999	5	55	60
48	£55,000-£59,999	9	45	54
33	£60,000-£64,999	4	12	16
9	£65,000-£69,999	0	17	17
4	£70,000-£74,999	3	0	3
2	£75,000-£79,999	0	2	2
5	£80,000-£84,999	0	1	1
1	£85,000-£89,999	3	1	4
1	£95,000-£99,999	0	1	1
2	£100,000-£104,999	2	0	2
0	£115,000-£119,999	1	0	1
1	£120,000-£124,999	0	0	0
188	Total	27	134	161

Exit Packages

Termination benefits are amounts payable because of a decision by the Council to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy. They are charged on an accruals basis to Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when the Council is demonstrably committed to either terminating the employment of an officer or making an offer to encourage voluntary redundancy. The Council is only demonstrably committed to a termination when it has a detailed formal plan for the termination and it is without realistic possibility of withdrawal.

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

Details of the cost to the Council of voluntary redundancy packages for the year are as follows:

Total Employees 2019/20	Total Cost 2019/20 £000	Remuneration Band	Total Employees 2020/21	Total Cost 2020/21 £000
16	185	£0-£19,999	1	16
4	127	£20,000-£39,999	0	0
3	241	£40,000 +	3	215
23	553	Total	4	231

Trade Union Facility Time

The Council is now required to publish details of Trade Union facility time incurred during the year. Further information is published on the Council website: [Trade union facility time | Midlothian Council](#)

For the reporting year 2020/21, the equivalent of 5.6 FTE employees (across 14 individuals) of paid time facility was made available. The proportion of their working hours spent on facility time is as follows:

Percentage of Time	Number of Employees
1% - 50%	12
51% - 99%	1
100%	1

The percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time (calculated as total cost of facility time ÷ total pay bill) is:

Total cost of facility time	£210,322
Total Pay Bill	£153,370,826
Percentage total	0.14%

Time spend on paid TU activities as a percentage of total paid facility time: 10,519 hours = 100%

X

Councillor Jim Muirhead
Deputy Leader of the Council

X

Dr Grace Vickers
Chief Executive

Independent Auditor's Report

Independent Auditors Report to the members of Midlothian Council and the Accounts Commission

Reporting on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion on financial statements

We certify that we have audited the financial statements in the annual accounts of Midlothian Council and its group for the year ended 31 March 2021 under Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. The financial statements comprise the Group and Council Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, Movement in Reserves Statement, Balance Sheet, and Cash-Flow Statements, the council-only Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement, the Council Tax Income Account, and the Non-domestic Rate Account, and any other disclosures presented as financial statements 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 International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) as adopted by the European Union, and as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21 (the 2020/21 Code).

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements:

- give a true and fair view in accordance with applicable law and the 2020/21 Code of the state of affairs of the Council and its Group as at 31 March 2021 and of the income and expenditure of the Council and its Group for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with IFRSs as adopted by the European Union, as interpreted and adapted by the 2020/21 Code; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, and the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)), as required by the [Code of Audit Practice](#) approved by the Accounts Commission for Scotland. 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 were appointed by the Accounts Commission on 26 July 2016. The period of total uninterrupted appointment is five years. We are independent of the council and its group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. Non-audit services prohibited by the Ethical Standard were not provided to the Council. 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 basis of accounting

We have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Independent auditor's report to the members of Midlothian Council and the Accounts Commission (continued)

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

Risks of material misstatement

We report in a separate Annual Audit Report, available from the [Audit Scotland website](#), the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement that we identified and our judgements thereon.

Responsibilities of the Chief Officer Corporate Solutions and Audit Committee for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities, the Chief Officer Corporate Solutions is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting framework, and for such internal control as the Chief Officer Corporate Solutions determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Chief Officer Corporate Solutions is responsible for assessing the council'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 deemed inappropriate.

The Audit Committee is responsible for overseeing the 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.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities outlined above to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Procedures include:

- obtaining an understanding of the applicable legal and regulatory framework and how the council is complying with that framework;
- identifying which laws and regulations are significant in the context of the council;
- assessing the susceptibility of the financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur; and
- considering whether the audit team collectively has the appropriate competence and capabilities to identify or recognise non-compliance with laws and regulations.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is affected by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the council's controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed.

Independent auditor's report to the members of Midlothian Council and the Accounts Commission (continued)

Irregularities that result from fraud are inherently more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error as fraud may involve collusion, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. The capability of the audit to detect fraud and other irregularities depends on factors such as the skilfulness of the perpetrator, the frequency and extent of manipulation, the degree of collusion involved, the relative size of individual amounts manipulated, and the seniority of those individuals involved.

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

Reporting on other requirements

Opinion prescribed by the Accounts Commission on the audited part of the Remuneration Report

We have audited the part of the Remuneration Report described as audited. In our opinion, the audited part of the Remuneration Report has been properly prepared in accordance with The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014.

Statutory other information

The Chief Officer Corporate Solutions is responsible for the statutory other information in the annual accounts. The statutory other information comprises the Management Commentary, Annual Governance Statement, Statement of Responsibilities and the unaudited part of the Remuneration Report.

Our responsibility is to read all the statutory other information and, in doing so, consider whether the statutory other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this statutory other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the statutory other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon except on the Management Commentary and Annual Governance Statement to the extent explicitly stated in the following opinions prescribed by the Accounts Commission.

Opinions prescribed by the Accounts Commission on Management Commentary and Annual Governance Statement

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Management Commentary for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with statutory guidance issued under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003; and
- the information given in the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has

**Independent auditor's report to the members of Midlothian Council and the Accounts Commission
(continued)**

- been prepared in accordance with the Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016).

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We are required by the Accounts Commission to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements and the audited part of the Remuneration Report are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- there has been a failure to achieve a prescribed financial objective.

We have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

Conclusions on wider scope responsibilities

In addition to our responsibilities for the annual accounts, our conclusions on the wider scope responsibilities specified in the Code of Audit Practice, including those in respect of Best Value, are set out in our Annual Audit Report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the parties to whom it is addressed in accordance with Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and for no other purpose. In accordance with paragraph 120 of the Code of Audit Practice, we do not undertake to have responsibilities to members or officers, in their individual capacities, or to third parties.

Stephen Reid, for and on behalf of Ernst & Young LLP

Ernst & Young LLP

Atria One

144 Morrison Street

Edinburgh

EH3 8EX

Date:

Principal Financial Statements

The annual accounts summarise the Council's transactions for the year, its year-end position as 31 March 2021 and its cash flows. The Annual Accounts are prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21* (the Code), which is based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs). Every effort has been made to use plain language; where technical terms are unavoidable they have been explained in the Glossary.

The four principal statements and their relationships are explained in more detail below:

- Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement** – this shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation (or rents). Councils raise taxation (and rents) to cover expenditure in accordance with statutory requirements; this may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in both the Expenditure and Funding analysis and the Movement in Reserves Statement.
- Movement in Reserves Statement** – this shows the movement from the start of the year to the end on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other 'unusable reserves'. The statement shows how the movements in the year of the Council's reserves are broken down between gains and losses incurred in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices and the statutory adjustments required to return to the amounts chargeable to council tax (or rents) for the year. The net increase/decrease line shows the statutory General Fund balance and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) balance movements in the year following those adjustments.
- Balance Sheet** - this shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council. The net assets of the Council (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Council. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves are usable reserves, i.e. those reserves that the Council may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use. The second category of reserves is those that the Council is not able to use to provide services. This category of reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line 'adjustments between the accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'.
- Cash Flow Statement** – this shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Council 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 Council are funded by way of taxation and grant income or the recipients of services provided by the Council. Investing activities represent the extent to which cash outflows have been made for resources which are intended to contribute to the Council's future service delivery. Cash flows arising from financing activities are useful in predicting claims on future cash flows by providers of capital (i.e. borrowing) to the Council.

Group and Council Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

2019/20					2020/21				
Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure or (Income)	Group Net Expenditure		Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure or (Income)	Group Net Expenditure	
£000	£000	£000	£000	Service	£000	£000	£000	£000	Notes
2,155	(53)	2,102	2,102	Management and Members	2,080	(13)	2,067	2,067	EFA
20,005	(1,356)	18,649	18,649	Children's Services, Partnerships and Communities	22,855	(2,264)	20,591	20,591	EFA
110,203	(11,853)	98,350	98,350	Education	125,681	(19,538)	106,143	106,143	EFA
8,582	(5,440)	3,142	3,142	Adult Health and Social Care	5,136	(945)	4,191	4,191	EFA
109,706	(64,443)	45,263	45,263	Midlothian Integrated Joint Board	114,837	(67,198)	47,639	47,639	EFA
71,766	(34,158)	37,606	37,606	Place	68,605	(24,955)	43,650	43,650	EFA
38,659	(24,103)	14,556	14,556	Corporate Solutions	38,171	(25,383)	12,788	12,789	EFA
5,411	(29,864)	(24,453)	(24,453)	Housing Revenue Account	39,372	(29,780)	9,592	9,592	EFA
549	0	549	549	Lothian Valuation Joint Board	567	0	567	567	EFA
(346)	0	(346)	(346)	Central Costs	65	0	65	65	EFA
1,550	0	1,550	1,550	Non- Distributable Costs	1,363	0	1,363	1,369	EFA
368,240	(171,270)	196,968	196,968	Cost of Services	418,732	(170,076)	248,656	248,663	
		0	(286)	Share of Operating results of Associates			0	(4,150)	
		724	724	Other Operating (Income) or Expenditure			30	30	9
		17,113	17,113	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure			17,801	17,801	10
		(241,716)	(241,716)	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income			(258,062)	(258,062)	11
		(26,911)	(27,197)	(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services			8,425	4,282	12
		(44,276)	(44,276)	(Surplus) or Deficit on revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment assets			(90,163)	(90,163)	
		(42,897)	(42,897)	Re-measurement of the net defined benefit liability/(asset)			31,746	31,746	
		897	593	Other (Gains) / Losses			2,585	2,715	
		(86,276)	(86,580)	Other Comprehensive (Income) and Expenditure			(55,832)	(55,702)	
		(113,187)	(113,776)	Total Comprehensive (Income) and Expenditure			(47,407)	(51,420)	

Group and Council Movement in Reserves Statement

	General Fund Reserve	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Fund	Repairs and Renewals Fund	Total Usable Reserves	Total Unusable Reserves	Total Council Reserves	Council's Share of Reserves of Associates, Subsidiaries and Joint Ventures	Total Group Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 31 March 2020	(13,428)	(44,395)	(25,364)	(3,670)	(86,857)	(401,715)	(488,572)	(1,864)	(490,436)
Movement between Lothian Valuation Joint Board 2019/20 Unaudited and Audited Accounts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(31)	(31)
Revised Balance 31 March 2020	(13,428)	(44,395)	(25,364)	(3,670)	(86,857)	(401,715)	(488,572)	(1,895)	(490,467)
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	(7,739)	16,165	1,206	0	9,632	(57,039)	(47,407)	(4,014)	(51,421)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 7)	(6,874)	(22,013)	0	0	(28,887)	28,888	1	0	1
Transfers to/(from) other statutory reserves	(1,631)	1,858	0	(227)	0	0	0	0	0
Increase/(Decrease) in year	(16,244)	(3,990)	1,206	(227)	(19,255)	(28,151)	(47,406)	(4,014)	(51,420)
Balance at 31 March 2021 Carried Forward	(29,672)	(48,385)	(24,158)	(3,897)	(106,112)	(429,866)	(535,978)	(5,909)	(541,887)

	General Fund Reserve	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Fund	Repairs and Renewals Fund	Total Usable Reserves	Total Unusable Reserves	Total Council Reserves	Council's Share of Reserves of Associates, Subsidiaries and Joint Ventures	Total Group Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 31 March 2019	(8,637)	(39,083)	(20,169)	(2,957)	(70,845)	(304,539)	(375,384)	(1,380)	(376,764)
Movement between Lothian Valuation Joint Board 2018/19 Unaudited and Audited Accounts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	105	105
Revised Balance 31 March 2019	(8,637)	(39,083)	(20,169)	(2,957)	(70,847)	(304,539)	(375,384)	(1,275)	(376,659)
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	(9,029)	(17,882)	0	0	(26,911)	(86,276)	(113,187)	(589)	(113,776)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 7)	3,526	12,570	(5,195)	0	10,901	(10,901)		0	0
Transfers to/(from) other statutory reserves	713	0	0	(713)	0	0	0	0	0
Increase/(Decrease) in year	(4,791)	(5,312)	(5,195)	(713)	(16,010)	(97,177)	(113,187)	(589)	(113,776)
Balance at 31 March 2020 Carried Forward	(13,428)	(44,395)	(25,364)	(3,670)	(86,857)	(401,716)	(488,573)	(1,864)	(490,435)

Group and Council Balance Sheet

31 Mar 20	31 Mar 20		31 Mar 21	31 Mar 21	
Midlothian Council	Group		Midlothian Council	Group	
£000	£000		£000	£000	Notes
891,621	891,623	Property, Plant and Equipment	963,462	963,464	13
82	82	Heritage Assets	324	324	14
619	619	Intangible Assets	548	548	15
3,713	3,669	Long-term Debtors	3,943	3,897	16/17
7,363	7,363	Long-term Investments	5,824	5,824	17
0	1,820	Share of net assets of associates	0	5,871	39
903,398	905,176	Long-term Assets	974,101	979,928	
85,370	85,370	Short-term Investments	75,442	75,442	17
1,371	1,370	Assets held for Sale	1,254	1,253	19
744	744	Inventories	938	938	20
22,107	22,157	Short-term Debtors	29,260	29,311	17/21
24,682	24,682	Cash and Cash Equivalents	53,182	53,182	17/22
134,274	134,323	Current Assets	160,076	160,126	
(11,441)	(11,441)	Short-term Borrowing	(3,700)	(3,700)	17
(45,031)	(44,996)	Short-term Creditors	(44,275)	(44,243)	17/23
(836)	(836)	Provisions	(723)	(723)	24
(33,927)	(33,927)	Grants Received in Advance	(38,663)	(38,663)	28
(91,235)	(91,198)	Current Liabilities	(87,361)	(87,329)	
(260,427)	(260,427)	Long-term Borrowing	(273,893)	(273,893)	17
(99,718)	(99,718)	Other Long-term Liabilities (PPP Contracts)	(95,915)	(95,915)	17/32
(97,719)	(97,719)	Other Long-term Liabilities (Pensions)	(141,030)	(141,030)	34
(457,864)	(457,864)	Long-term Liabilities	(510,838)	(510,838)	
488,573	490,435	Net Assets	535,978	541,887	
86,857	89,291	Usable Reserves	106,112	112,743	25
401,716	401,144	Unusable Reserves	429,866	429,144	26
488,573	490,435	Total Reserves	535,978	541,887	

The unaudited accounts were authorised for issue on 29 June 2021 and the audited accounts authorised for issue on 28 September 2021.

I certify that the Balance Sheet presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council and its Group at 31 March 2021, and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2021.

X

Gary Fairley
Chief Officer, Corporate Solutions

Group and Council Cash Flow Statement

2019/20 Midlothian Council £000	2019/20 Group £000		2020/21 Midlothian Council £000	2020/21 Group £000
26,911	27,196	Net (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(8,425)	(4,282)
		Adjustments to Net Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services for Non-Cash Movements		
33,071	33,071	Depreciation	33,321	33,321
(18,660)	(18,660)	Impairment and downward revaluations	16,767	16,767
316	316	Amortisation	317	317
(1,568)	(1,565)	(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(7,291)	(7,292)
(1,573)	(1,575)	Increase/(decrease) in creditors	7,071	7,068
125	125	(Increase)/decrease in inventories	(196)	(196)
16,257	16,257	Movement in pension liability	11,565	11,565
4,632	4,632	Carrying amount of non-current assets sold or derecognised	317	317
69	(217)	Other non-cash items charged to the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services	(365)	(4,504)
32,669	32,384		61,506	57,363
		Adjust for Items included in the Net Surplus or Deficit that are Investing and Financing Activities		
64,985	64,985	Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments	84,986	84,986
(3,914)	(3,914)	Sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(287)	(287)
(40,295)	(40,295)	Any other items for which the cash effects are investing or financing cash flows	(22,993)	(22,993)
20,776	20,776		61,706	61,706
53,445	53,160	Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	123,212	119,069
		Investing Activities		
(56,045)	(56,045)	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(34,791)	(34,791)
(84,985)	(84,985)	Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	(74,985)	(74,985)
(551)	(551)	Other payments for investing activities	(864)	(864)
3,914	3,914	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	287	287
42,670	42,670	Other receipts from investing activities	28,661	28,661
(94,997)	(94,997)	Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities	(81,692)	(81,692)
		Financing Activities		
76,500	76,500	Cash receipts of short- and long-term borrowing	15,000	15,000
(3,156)	(3,156)	Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases and on balance-sheet PFI contracts	(10,471)	(10,471)
0	0	Other Receipts from Financing Activities	159	159
(44,701)	(44,701)	Repayments of short- and long-term borrowing	(9,283)	(9,283)
28,643	28,643	Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities	(4,595)	(4,595)
14,002	14,002	Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	28,500	28,500
10,680	10,680	Cash and Cash Equivalents at 1 April	24,682	24,682
24,682	24,682	Cash and Cash Equivalents at 31 March	53,182	53,182

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:

£000	£000	Cash Flow Statement: Interest Paid and Received	£000	£000
403	403	Interest Received	1,987	1,987
(16,192)	(16,192)	Interest Paid	(17,470)	17,470
0	0	Dividends Received	0	0

Expenditure and Funding Analysis

This statement shows how annual expenditure is used and funded from resources (government grants, rents, council tax and business rates) by the Council in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by the Council in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. It also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision-making purposes between the Council's Services. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

2019/20				2020/21		
Net expenditure chargeable to the General Fund and HRA balances	Adjustments (note 6)	Net expenditure in the CIES (note 12)		Net expenditure chargeable to the General Fund and HRA balances	Adjustments (note 6)	Net expenditure in the CIES (note 12)
£000	£000	£000	Service	£000	£000	£000
1,962	140	2,102	Management & Members	1,962	105	2,067
17,680	969	18,649	Children's Services, Partnerships & Communities	19,774	817	20,591
81,255	17,094	98,349	Education	88,424	17,719	106,143
2,193	949	3,142	Adult Health & Social Care	4,353	(162)	4,191
42,595	2,670	45,265	Midlothian Integrated Joint Board	44,985	2,654	47,639
26,846	10,762	37,608	Place	30,074	13,576	43,650
13,218	1,336	14,554	Corporate Solutions	13,737	(949)	12,788
(15,937)	(8,517)	(24,454)	Housing Revenue Account	(17,747)	27,339	9,592
549	0	549	Joint Boards	567	0	567
(937)	592	(345)	Central Costs	65	0	65
1,532	18	1,550	Non-Distributable Costs	1,352	11	1,363
170,956	26,014	196,969	Net Cost of Services	187,546	61,110	248,656
11,881	(11,157)	724	Other Income and Expenditure	11,846	(11,816)	30
13,972	3,141	17,113	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	15,449	2,352	17,801
(206,910)	(34,806)	(241,716)	Taxation and non-specific grant income	(235,076)	(22,986)	(258,062)
(10,101)	(16,808)	(26,910)	(Surplus) or Deficit	(20,235)	28,660	8,425
(47,720)			Opening General Fund and HRA Balance	(57,822)		
(10,102)			Less/Plus (Surplus) or Deficit on General Fund and HRA Balance in year	(20,235)		
(57,822)			Closing General Fund and HRA Balance at 31 March*	(78,057)		

*For a split of this balance between the General Fund and the HRA – See the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Notes to the Accounts

The notes to the Accounts provide further information about the basis of preparation of the Annual Accounts, the specific accounting policies used and where the materiality is such that further disclosure is merited.

The Council's Statement of Accounts for 2020/21 have been prepared on a going concern basis. The concept of a going concern assumes that the Council's functions and services will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The provisions in respect of going concern reporting requirements reflect the economic and statutory environment in which local authorities operate. These provisions confirm that, as authorities cannot be created or dissolved without statutory prescription, they must prepare their financial statements on a going concern basis of accounting. In accordance with the CIPFA Code of Local Government Accounting (2020/21), the Council is required to prepare its financial statements on a going concern basis unless informed by the relevant national body of the intention for dissolution without transfer of services or function to another entity. The accounts are prepared on the assumption that the Council will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

Midlothian Council approved an update to the Medium-Term Financial Strategy for the period 2021/22 to 2023/24 at the Council meeting of 23 February 2021, where a balanced budget was presented for the period 2021/22 and with no further proposed service reductions.

The council continues to face unprecedented challenges, including the impact of Covid-19, in delivering essential services whilst resources are constrained. While there remains uncertainty around Covid-19 implications going forward, an update to Council on 24 August 2021 reported that Covid funding provided to the Council by the Scottish Government late in 2020/21 alongside other funding streams aligned to COVID recovery were carried forward from 2020/21 to 2021/22. Funding continues to be applied in year to match costs and lost income with the planning assumption that the remainder will be applied in 2021/22 or in future years to mitigate the impact of the pandemic and support increase service costs across Midlothian.

The council's minimum uncommitted general fund balance is £3.650 million. The uncommitted general fund balance at 31 March 2021 is £3.812 million. The most recent budget monitoring update for 2021/22 reported to Council in August forecasts an underspend of £0.323 million which will increase the uncommitted balance to £4.142 million at 31 March 2022. Whilst further Scottish Government Covid-19 funding for 2021/22 is still to be determined recent projections show funding carried forward from 2020/21 is sufficient to cover additional costs incurred, although should additional cost pressures exceed the remaining general reserve balance, the Council will consider a range of options to balance the budget, as outlined below.

The Council continues to work with the Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) to monitor the level of additional cost pressures and reduced income levels arising from COVID-19. The Council continues to regularly monitor its financial position and provide full financial updates to the Council as appropriate, including options on addressing any new budget gaps and spending pressures. This may include approved financial flexibilities, including the option to exercise a Loans Fund repayment holiday, reprioritisation of earmarked reserves and balances, restrictions on expenditure, including recruitment, revisions to service delivery or service standards and identification of additional saving measures. Management is continuing to liaise with Scottish Government and COSLA on ensuring sustainable funding going forward.

Midlothian Council has a high level of balances of short-term investments, totalling £131.272 million at 31 March 2021 and £140.966 million at 31 August 2021. Normally when investments mature they are

reinvested for periods up to a year. During the pandemic maturing investments have been retained in highly liquid instruments, such as the overnight bank account or money market funds, to ensure that the funds are available as required. The Council's cash flow is monitored daily by management and the Council does not forecast any cash flow shortage through to 30 September 2022, with forecast cash of £66.028 million.

On this basis, the Council is satisfied that it has sufficient reserves and liquidity to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from authorisation of the financial statements.

1. Accounting Policies

i. General Principles

The Accounts summarise the Council's transactions for the 2020/21 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2021. The Council is required to prepare an Annual Statement of Accounts by the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, which Section 12 of the Local Government Scotland Act 2003 require to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices under Section 21 of the 2003 Act primarily comprise the *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21*, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and the statutory guidance issued under section 12 of the 2003 Act.

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

ii. Accruals of Income and Expenditure

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

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

iii. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours, or card payments made by customers with a two day business settlement period

or less. 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 and insignificant risk in change in value.

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

iv. Prior Period Adjustments, Changes in Accounting Policies and Estimations and Errors

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

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

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

v. Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

Services and support services 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 Council 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 by way of loans fund principal charges. Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisation are therefore replaced by the contribution in the principal repayment when determining the movement 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.

vi. 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 salaries, paid annual leave and flexi-time balances for current employees. They are recognised as an expense for services in the year in which employees render service to the Council. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements earned by employees but not taken before the year-end which employees can carry forward into the next financial year. The accrual is charged to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services, but then reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement

so that holiday entitlements are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs.

Termination Benefits

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

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

Post-Employment Benefits

Employees of the Authority are members of two separate pension schemes:

- The Teachers' Pension Scheme, administered by the Scottish Public Pensions Agency (SPPA) supported by Scottish Government;
- The Local Government Pensions Scheme, administered by the City of Edinburgh Council through Lothian Pension Fund;

Both schemes provide defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees work for the Council.

However, the arrangements for the teachers' scheme mean that liabilities for these benefits cannot be identified to the Council. The scheme is therefore accounted for as if it were a defined contribution scheme and no liability for future payments of benefits is recognised in the Balance Sheet. The education service revenue account in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is charged with the employer's contribution payable to teachers' pensions in the year.

The Local Government Pension Scheme

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

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

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

- 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 arising from current year decisions whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years – debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Non Distributed Costs;
- Net interest on the net defined liability (asset), i.e. net interest expense for the authority – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability (asset) that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – this is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability (asset) at the beginning of the period – taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability (asset) during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.

Remeasurements comprising:

- The return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined liability (asset) – charged to the pensions reserve as other comprehensive income and expenditure;
- Actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions – charged to the Pensions Reserve as other comprehensive income and expenditure;
- Contributions paid to the Lothian Pension Fund – cash paid as employer's contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the pension fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means that there are transfers to and from the Pension Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with debits for 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 Pension 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.

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

vii. Events after the Reporting Period

These are events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the reporting period (31 March) 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 annual 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.

viii. Financial Instruments

Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value and are carried at their amortised cost. Annual charges to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) for the interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts the estimated future cash payments over the life of the instrument to the amount at which it was originally recognised.

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

Where the premiums and discounts have been charged to the CIES, regulations allow the impact on the General Fund or Housing Revenue Account Balances to be spread over future years. The Council has a policy of spreading the gain or loss over the term that was remaining on the loan against which the premium was payable or discount receivable when it was repaid. The reconciliation of amounts charged to the CIES to the net charge required against the General Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Financial Assets

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

- Amortised Cost;
- Fair value through profit and loss (FVPL);
- Fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI).

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

Financial Assets Measured At Amortised Cost

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

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

Expected Credit Loss Model

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

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

Financial Assets Measured At Fair Value through Profit or Loss (FVPL)

The Council does not currently have any Financial Assets measured at FVPL.

Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income (FVOCI)

Financial assets that are measured at FVOCI are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured and carried at fair value. Fair value gains and losses are recognised as they arise in other comprehensive income.

Fair Value Measurements of Financial Assets

Fair value of an asset is the price that would be received to sell an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurements of the Council's financial assets are based on the following techniques:

- Instruments with quoted market prices - the market price; and
- Other instruments with fixed and determinable payments – discounted cash flow analysis. The Council does not carry any of these financial assets.

The inputs to the measurement techniques are categorised in accordance with the following three levels:

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

Any gains and losses that arise from the de-recognition of the asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, along with any accumulated gains or losses previously recognised in the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve.

The Council designates that investments held for strategic purposes be classified as being measured as FVOCI. Any gains and losses on these investments will be held in the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve.

Where assets are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a past event that payments due under the contract will not be made (fixed or determinable payments) or fair value falls below cost, the asset is written down and a charge made to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES. If the asset has fixed or determinable payments, the impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the revised future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. Otherwise the impairment loss is measured as any shortfall of fair value against the acquisition cost of the instrument (net of any principal repayment and amortisation).

ix. Government Grants and Contributions

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

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

Amounts recognised as due to the Council are not credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement until conditions attached to the grant or contribution have been satisfied. Conditions are stipulations that specify that the future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the asset in the form of the grant or contribution are required to be consumed by the recipient as specified, or future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the asset in the form of the grant and contribution are required to be consumed by the recipient as specified, or future economic benefits of 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. Where conditions are satisfied, the grant or contribution is credited to the relevant service (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 received in advance. Where it has been applied, it is posted to the Capital Adjustment Account once they have been applied to fund capital expenditure.

Additional Scottish Government funding provided in relation to Covid-19 has been accounted for as grant income in line with all other government grant income on an accruals basis, and any related expenditure recognised separately in the financial statements.

Grants have been designated as either principal or agency based on the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code) with further guidance provided by the LASAAC Guidance on Accounting for Coronavirus (Covid-19) Grants / Funding Streams. Definitions and treatment of grants are as follows: -

Agency

Grant income where the council is acting as an agent, as an intermediary in distributing funds from the Scottish Government, has not been recorded in the CIES as the council does not retain the risks and rewards of the income and related expenditure.

Note 37 provides a detailed analysis of grants where the council has acted as an agent for Covid-19 grant funding from Scottish Government.

Principal

Grant income where the council is acting as a principal, on its own behalf, has been recorded in the CIES and the notes to the financial statements. *Note 37* in the financial statements provides a detailed analysis of grants where the council has acted as principal for Covid-19 grant funding from Scottish Government.

Amounts recognised as due to the council are not credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and Capital Adjustment Account until conditions attached to each grant have been satisfied.

Monies advanced as revenue grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried in the balance sheet as creditors. When conditions are satisfied, the revenue grants are credited to the service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and, for capital grants, to the Capital Adjustment Account.

x. Heritage Assets

A heritage asset is defined as a tangible asset with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that is held and maintained principally for its contribution to knowledge and culture.

Heritage assets are valued at insurance replacement value where available, otherwise assets are held at depreciated historic cost since the cost of obtaining a valuation would outweigh the benefits to users of the accounts.

xi. Intangible Assets

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

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

xii. Interests in Companies and Other Entities

The Council has an interest in companies and other entities that have the nature of subsidiaries, associates and jointly controlled entities. In the Council's own single entity accounts these interests are recorded as the share of net assets.

xiii. Inventories

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

xiv. *Allocation of Central Support Services*

Support services will not be recharged although the costs of services provided by the Council will be charged to separate accounts such as the Housing Revenue Account. The costs of support and other services will be allocated in government returns as required.

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

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

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

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

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

Assets are carried in the balance sheet using the following measurement bases, in line with *IFRS 13*:

- Council dwellings – current value, determined using the basis of existing use value for social housing (EUV-SH). Gross valuations are reduced by applying the discount factor which is designed to reflect that houses are only available for social use. Any new build housing and newly purchased houses are valued at historic cost;
- Other land and buildings – current value, determined by the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value – EUV);
- Community and infrastructure assets – depreciated historical cost;
- Vehicles, Plant and Equipment – depreciated historical cost;
- Assets under construction – historical cost;
- Surplus Assets – fair value based on open market value.

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

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

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at current value are revalued as a minimum every five years to ensure their carrying amount is not materially different from their current value at year-end. As part of the Council's plan for revaluation, a move has been made to revalue all items in a specific category in the same year, if one of the assets in the category has been revalued. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise any unrealised gains. Exceptionally, gains might be credited to CIES where they arise from the reversal of a loss that has been previously charged to the service.

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

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

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

Impairment

Assets are assessed at each year-end to establish 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 subsequently reversed, the reversal is credited to the Revaluation Reserve or 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 valuers;
- Vehicles, plant and equipment – straight-line allocation over the useful life of the assets in Balance Sheet, as advised by a suitably qualified officer);
- Infrastructure – straight-line allocation;

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. Council policy is to only consider any asset with a gross book value of £1.5 million or above. The assessment of which components of these assets require to be recognised and depreciated separately is based on the cost of each of component. Significance is determined by comparing the cost of components against the overall cost of the asset. This threshold is set at 15% or more of the overall cost of the asset.

Revaluation gains are also depreciated, with an amount equal to the difference between the 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 the asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through its continuing use, it is reclassified as an Asset Held for Sale. The asset is revalued immediately before reclassification and then carried at the lower of this amount and fair value less costs to sell. Where there is a subsequent decrease to fair value less costs to sell, the loss is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure Line in the CIES. Gains in fair value are recognised only up to the amount of any previous losses recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services. Depreciation is not charged on Assets Held for Sale.

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

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

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

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts. The balance of receipts is credited to the Capital Fund and can then only be used for new capital investment or to defray debt. Receipts are appropriated to the Reserve from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

xvi. Public Private Partnership (PPP) and Similar Contracts

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

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

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

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

- Fair value of the services received during the year – debited to the relevant service in the CIES;
- Finance Cost – an interest charge on the outstanding Balance Sheet liability debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES, the interest charges are as follows:
 - Dalkeith Schools - 9.69%;
 - Midlothian Primary Schools - 7.29%;
 - Newbattle Community Campus - 5.06%;
 - Residual Waste Treatment Plant, Millerhill – 18.84%;
- Contingent rent – increases in the amount to be paid for the property arising during the contract, debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES;
- Liability repayment – applied to write down the Balance Sheet liability towards the PPP operator (the profile of write-downs is calculated using the same principles as for a finance lease);
- Service charge and lifecycle replacement costs – proportion of the amounts payable is posted to the Balance Sheet as a prepayment and then recognised as additions to Property, Plant and Equipment when the relevant works are eventually carried out.

*xvii. Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets***Provisions**

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

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

When payments are eventually made, they are charged to the provision carried in the balance sheet. Estimated settlements are reviewed at the end of each financial year – where it becomes less than probable

that a transfer of economic benefits will now be required (or a lower settlement than anticipated is made), the provision is reversed and credited back to the relevant service.

Where some or all of the payment required to settle a provision is expected to be recovered from another party (i.e. 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 settled the obligation.

Contingent Liabilities

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

Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the balance sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts.

Contingent Assets

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

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

xviii. Reserves

Reserves are created by transferring amounts out of the General Fund Balance. 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 transferred back into the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement so that there is no net charge against Council Tax for the expenditure.

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

xix. *Revenue Expenditure funded from Capital under Statute (Refcus)*

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

xx. VAT

Income and Expenditure excludes amounts relating to the Value Added Tax (VAT), as all VAT collected is payable to H.M. Revenue and Customs and all VAT paid out is recoverable from them.

xxi. Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets

The Council values some of its non-financial assets, such as Surplus Assets and some of its financial instruments at fair value at each reporting date. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurement assumes the transaction to sell the asset takes place either:

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

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

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

The Council 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 Council's financial statements are categorised within the fair value hierarchy, as follows:

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

2. Accounting Standards Issued, Not Yet Adopted

The code requires disclosure of 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. This applies to the adoption of the following new or amended standards within the 2021/22 code.

- Definition of a Business: Amendments to IFRS 3 Business Combinations;
- Interest Rate Benchmark Reform: Amendments to IFRS 9, IAS 39 and IFRS 7; and
- Interest Rate Benchmark Reform – Phase 2: amendments to IFRS 9, IAS 39, IFRS 7, IFRS 4 and IFRS 16.

The changes will be effective from the 1st April 2021 and none are expected to have a material impact on the Council's 2020/21 or 2021/22 financial statements.

3. Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies set out in **Note 1**, the Council has to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events (**see Note 4**). The accounting policies considered and critical judgements made in the annual accounts are:

- Uncertainty over future funding - There is a high degree of uncertainty around future levels of funding for local government, which may significantly impact the Council's ability to maintain its property, plant

and equipment. The council has determined that this uncertainty is not yet sufficient to provide an indication that the assets of the council might be impaired as a result of a reduction in funding and subsequent required changes to investment and capital strategies. In relation to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the council's income streams and the impact of increased operating costs, there remains uncertainty over the medium term. In particular in relation to the funding from Scottish Government to meet the additional costs arising from Covid-19 recovery and, as a consequence, the potential impact on the council's future budget strategy. The Council continues to monitor and update its Medium Term Strategy which is reported to Council to ensure continued financial sustainability;

- The Council has entered into Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and similar type contracts for the provision of educational buildings and waste facilities as detailed in **Note 32**. For each of these contracts the Council has considered the tests under IFRIC 12 and concluded the following:-

The Council is deemed to control the services provided under the scheme and ownership of schools will pass to the Council at the end of the contract. The educational buildings are therefore all recognised as Property, Plant and Equipment on the Council's Balance Sheet.

The Council is deemed to control 20% of the services provided under the Design, Build, Finance and Maintain (DBFM) for the Residual Waste Treatment Plant (80% controlled by Edinburgh Council) and is therefore recognised as Property, Plant and Equipment on the Council's Balance Sheet. The Council is not deemed to control the Millerhill Food Waste Treatment Plant and has therefore concluded this is a service concession.

The Council has therefore recognised assets in relation to PPP and similar type contracts on the council's balance sheet at a net book value of £172.668 million, with a corresponding liability in relation to future payments to be made under the scheme of £99.203 million.

- Acting as a principal or agent in income and expenditure transactions – The Council has applied its judgement in determining the recognition of income and expenditure related to government grants where it may be considered either an agent or the principal in receiving and distributing funds. In particular in 2020/21 the Council has applied its judgement in line with its understanding of [LASAAC guidance on accounting for coronavirus grants](#) in accounting for funds related to Covid-19 received and distributed in the year. The impact of this interpretation, detailed in **Note 37** has resulted in £0.853 million being recognised by the Council as income and subsequent expenditure where the Council is considered to be a principal, with £19.3 million disclosed in but not recognised in the financial statements where the Council is considered to be an agent.
- Associates - There valuation joint board is included within the group accounts under the wider definition of an "associate" although the council holds less than 20% of voting rights that is normally presumed to confer significant influence. This is in view of the funding arrangements in place whereby the Council provides £0.567 million annually, and as such is considered to hold significant influence. Details of the impact on the Group accounts is provided in **Note 39**.

4. Future Assumptions and Estimation Uncertainties

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

The items in the Council's Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2021 for which there is significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming year are as follows:

Property, Plant and Equipment

Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
<p>The valuation of the Council's property, plant and equipment which are subject to revaluation are subject to significant estimation due to a number of factors, including ongoing changes to estimates around the costs of replacing existing assets, the market value fluctuation of comparable assets used for valuation, the current condition and future maintenance costs of assets, changes to regulatory standards and the remaining useful economic lives of the assets. Given the material nature of the Council's assets, there is a high likelihood that changes in these estimates will result in material changes in the valuation of assets on the balance sheet. The total value of the Council's assets at 31 March 2021 is outlined and broken down by asset category at note 13.</p> <p>In particular, additional consideration continues to be given to the effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic on the council's property assets and their associated values. In order to take an informed view and to gauge the position of the wider valuation profession on this matter, consultation has taken place with colleagues from a wide range of Scottish local authorities, private practice surveyors, the Association of Chief Estate Surveyors (ACES) and the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).</p> <p>2020/21 revaluations</p> <p>In 2020/21, revaluations were undertaken for the following assets:</p> <p>31 March - housing stock discount factor, and the Council's schools. The housing assets were revalued on a EUV-SH basis and totalled £406,110 and the schools assets were revalued on a DRC basis and totalled £366,398, with a valuation movement of (£16,790) for housing and £57,910 for schools (from previous valuation (4.13%) for housing, 19.71% for schools).</p> <p>The changes in valuation in assets in 2020/21, compared to 2019/20, represent updated information around the assets since the most recent full valuation, in particular the cost of replacing assets based on indices for schools, the changes in adjustments for social rent discounts for housing stock, and updated information on the indices used to value Leisure Centres.</p> <p>Market Valuation Uncertainty Statement</p> <p>As at 31 March 2020 there was an unprecedented set of circumstances caused by Covid-19 and an absence of relevant/sufficient market evidence on which to base judgements. Consequently, the Council recognised that assets subject to valuation in the prior year, had less certainty, and a higher degree of caution, should be attached to the valuation than would normally be the case.</p> <p>From 9 September 2020 (Supplemented on 3 November 2020 and 5 January 2021) the RICS Material Valuation Uncertainty Leaders Forum (UK) recommended a general lifting of material valuation uncertainty which had been applied due to the unprecedented set of circumstances caused by Covid-19 and an absence of relevant/sufficient market evidence on which to base judgements. Despite this general lifting of material valuation uncertainty, the council considers that the non-housing assets valued as part of the quinquennial asset valuation programme should be reported on the basis of</p>	<p>The net book value of all council property, plant and equipment subject to revaluation through the 5 year revaluation cycle is £813.889 million. Assets revalued in 2020/21 totalled £302.201 million before revaluation.</p> <p>The impact of a 5% change in valuation of these would be £19.787 million, either resulting in an increase or decrease in the Council's revaluation reserve or an additional impairment charge. There would be no impact on the Council's general fund.</p> <p>Given the wide ranging nature of the assets under revaluation, as well as the differing and overlapping estimates involved in the valuations, it is not possible for management to provide an expected range of estimate outcomes going forward. However, given the experience in past years and materiality of the asset values, it is expected that these balances will continue to be subject to change as estimates are updated annually.</p> <p>If the useful life of the asset is reduced, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the asset falls. It is estimated that the annual depreciation charge would increase by £2.984m for every year that useful lives had to be reduced.</p>

Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
<p>material valuation uncertainty, as there was a lack of market activity on or around the valuation date on which to properly assess an opinion of value. In contrast, the council's housing stock will not be reported as being subject to material valuation uncertainty.</p> <p>For the avoidance of doubt this explanatory note, including the material valuation uncertainty declaration, does not mean that the valuations cannot be relied upon. Rather, this explanatory note has been included to ensure transparency and to provide further insight as to the market context under which the valuation was prepared. In recognition of the potential for market conditions to move rapidly in response to changes in the control or future spread of Covid-19 we highlight the importance of the valuation date.</p> <p>Ongoing assessment of asset valuation</p> <p>In addition to full valuations of property, plant and equipment on a rolling basis over a five year period, the council assesses all assets to ensure there are no material changes that should drive an earlier valuation, to ensure that, in line with the CIPFA code, assets are revalued with sufficient regularity to ensure that the carrying amount does not differ materially from that which would be determined using the current value at the end of the reporting period. The council's Corporate Estates Manager has determined in his professional opinion that, at 31 March 2021, there has been no material change in the assets not subject to revaluation in the year that would require an earlier revaluation. As a result of this process the Council's portfolio were subject to early revaluation. The council has also continued to assess the valuation of its asset base subsequent to the financial year end to ensure new information does not indicate a change in valuation at the balance sheet date.</p> <p>Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on a number of assumptions including 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 the assets.</p>	

Council Tax and Non- Domestic Rates Debt

Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
<p>As at 31 March the authority has Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates debt due of £42.722 million. Management reviewed this balance at 31 March and determined that an allowance for doubtful debts, detailed in Note 21, of £37.145 million was appropriate based upon historical assessment of recoverability/review of individual balances and correspondence with third parties at year-end. However, it is recognised that in the current economic climate and taking into account the impact of Covid-19 there is increased uncertainty around the recoverability of debtor balances. Management has continued to review all material outstanding balances at the year-end subsequent to 31 March, and has not determined any further allowance is required based on recovery to date.</p>	<p>If collection rates were to deteriorate then this will result in an increase in the provision required i.e. 1% would require an increase of £0.371 million, 3% an increase of £1.114 million and 5% an increase of £1.857million.</p>

Pension Liability

Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
<p>Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied by the Council in estimating these values at the balance sheet date.</p> <p>The actuarial inputs into the pension liability valuation are subject to annual review, and have a significant impact on the potential valuation. Historically it is common for small changes in the discount rate, salary assumption rate and pension rate to have material impacts on the year-end valuations on a year to year basis. We have outlined the potential impact of future changes below. The pension liability at 31 March 2021 following the updated actuarial valuation was £141.030 million, an increase of £43.311 million from 31 March 2020. This was driven by a 0.95% change in the discount rate and inflation rate.</p> <p>Given the history of significant changes to liability valuations in the past, the ongoing sensitivity to future changes, and the requirement to update assumptions annually, the Council expects future liabilities to continue to change significantly going forward.</p> <p>For sensitivity purposes, we estimate that a one year increase in life expectancy would approximately increase the Employer's Defined Benefit Obligation by around 3 - 5%, approximately between £4 million and £7 million. In practice the actual cost of a one year increase in life expectancy will depend on the structure of the revised assumption (i.e. if improvements to survival rates predominantly apply at younger or older ages).</p> <p>More information on the key assumptions used in the actuarial valuation of the estimates is available in note 34 to the accounts, including information on the key assumptions, risks and sensitivities. An update is also included in this note on the latest development around a number of equalisation adjustments to pension liabilities which have occurred in LGPS and may continue to materially impact the valuation of the Council's liability going forward.</p>	<p>The effects of the net pension liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured. For instance, it is estimated that a one year increase in life expectancy would approximately increase the Employers Defined Benefit Obligation by around 3-5%. However the assumptions interact in complex ways.</p> <p>During 2020/21 the Council's actuary advised that the net pensions liability had increased by £43.311 million as a result of estimates being corrected as a result of experience of £11.565 million and £31.746 million attributable to updating of the assumptions.</p>

5. Events after the Reporting Period

The Unaudited Accounts were authorised for issue by the Chief Officer, Corporate Solutions on 30th June 2021. Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31 March 21, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information.

On the 19 August 2021 a proposal was put forward to The City of Edinburgh Council Transport and Environment Committee to reform the Transport Arm's Length External Organisations (ALEO's), including Lothian Buses, of which the Council is a minority shareholder. Although legal work is still to be progressed to ensure the minority interests are protected it is not expected that the Council's current interest and obligations in Lothian Buses will be adversely impacted or the Council's share of net assets or commitment

to the pension guarantee be diluted as a result of the restructure, therefore the accounts have not been adjusted to reflect this event.

6. Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis

Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis 2020/21

Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (1)	Net change for pension adjustments (2)	Other Adjustments (3)	Total Adjustments
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Management and Members	0	86	19	105
Children's Services, Partnerships & Communities	328	463	26	817
Education	11,365	4,842	1,512	17,719
Adult Health and Social Care	(208)	0	46	(162)
Midlothian Integrated Joint Board	1,066	1,173	415	2,654
Place	8,894	2,434	2,248	13,576
Corporate Solutions	1,669	(183)	(2,435)	(949)
Housing Revenue Account	26,943	397	(1)	27,339
Joint Boards	0	0	0	0
Central Costs	0	0	0	0
Non-Distributable Costs	0	0	11	11
Net Cost of Services	50,057	9,212	1,841	61,110
Other income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(34,793)	2,352	(9)	(32,450)
Difference between General Fund Surplus or Deficit and CIES Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	15,264	11,564	1,832	28,660

Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis 2019/20

Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (1)	Net change for pension adjustments (2)	Other Adjustments (3)	Total Adjustments
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Management and Members	0	119	21	140
Children's Services, Partnerships & Communities	256	638	75	969
Education	8,146	6,668	2,280	17,094
Adult Health and Social Care	949	0	0	949
Midlothian Integrated Joint Board	679	1,615	377	2,671
Place	8,292	3,352	(882)	10,762
Corporate Solutions	1,534	179	(377)	1,336
Housing Revenue Account	(9,063)	546	0	(8,517)
Joint Boards	0	0	0	0
Central Costs	592	0	0	592
Non-Distributable Costs	0	0	18	18
Net Cost of Services	11,385	13,117	1,512	26,014
Other income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(45,954)	3,141	(9)	(42,822)
Difference between General Fund Surplus or Deficit and CIES Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(34,569)	16,258	1,503	(16,808)

(1) Adjustments for Capital Purposes

This column adds in for depreciation, impairment and revaluation gains and losses in the Services lines, and for:

- **Other operating expenditure** – adjusts for capital disposals with a transfer of income on disposal and the amounts written off for those assets;
- **Financing and investment income and expenditure** – the statutory charges for capital financing i.e. the minimum revenue provision and other revenue contributions are deducted from other income and expenditure as these are not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices;
- **Taxation and non-specific grant income expenditure** – capital grants are adjusted for income not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices. Revenue grants are adjusted from those receivable in the year to those receivable without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied throughout the year. Capital grants receivable in the year without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied in the year are credited to the account.

(2) Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments

Net change for the removal of pension contributions and the addition of *IAS 19 Employee Benefits* pension related expenditure and income:

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

(3) Other Adjustments

Other adjustments between amounts debited/credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the amounts payable/receivable to be recognised on a statutory basis:

- **For services** – this represents the amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CIES on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements and the removal of the impact of internal recharges from segments in the CIES, in accordance with IFRS 8 and associated guidance;
- **For financing and investment income and expenditure** – this is an effective interest adjustment on the Council's Lender Option/Borrower Option (LOBO) debt.

7. Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations

This note details the adjustments that are made to the total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) recognised by the Council in the year in accordance with proper accounting practice to the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to the Council to meet future capital and revenue expenditure. The following sets out the 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 the Council 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 on the General Fund balance, which is not necessarily in accordance with proper accounting practice. The General Fund balance therefore summarises the resources that the Council is statutorily empowered to spend on its services or on capital investment (or the deficit of resources that the Council is required to recover) at the end of the financial year.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) – The HRA balance reflects the statutory obligation to maintain a revenue account for local authority council housing provision in accordance with Part VI of the *Local Government and Housing Act 1989*. It contains the balance of income and expenditure as defined by the 1989 Act that is available to fund future expenditure in connection with the Council's landlord function or (where in deficit) that is required to be recovered from tenants in future years.

Capital Fund – Can be used to defray any expenditure of the Council to which capital is properly applicable, or in providing money for repayment of the principal of loans (but not any payment of interest of loans), subject to the provisions of Schedule 3, Section 22 (1) of the *Local Government (Scotland) Act 1975*.

Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations	General Fund Reserve	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Fund	Total Useable Reserves	Total Unusable Reserves
2020/21	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Adjustments to the Revenue Resources					
<i>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:</i>					
• Pensions Costs	(11,077)	(488)	0	(11,565)	11,565
• Financial Instruments	9	0	0	9	(9)
• Short-term Accumulated Absences	(1,841)	0	0	(1,841)	1,841
• Reversal of entries included in the surplus or deficit on the provision of services in relation to capital expenditure	(23,103)	(26,954)	0	(50,057)	50,057
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	(36,012)	(27,442)	0	(63,454)	63,454
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources					
Net gain or loss on sale of non-current assets	(11)	(19)	0	(30)	30
Statutory provision for the repayment of debt	6,164	5,447	0	11,611	(11,610)
Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources	6,153	5,428	0	11,581	(11,580)
Adjustments to Capital Resources					
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	22,986	0	0	22,986	(22,986)
Total Adjustments to Capital Resources	22,986	0	0	22,986	(22,986)
Total Adjustments	(6,873)	(22,014)	0	(28,887)	28,888

Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations	General Fund Reserve	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Fund	Total Useable Reserves	Total Unusable Reserves
2019/20	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Adjustments to the Revenue Resources					
<i>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:</i>					
• Pensions Costs	(15,589)	(668)	0	(16,257)	16,257
• Financial Instruments	9	0	0	9	(9)
• Short-term Accumulated Absences	(1,512)	0	0	(1,512)	1,512
• Reversal of entries included in the surplus or deficit on the provision of services in relation to capital expenditure	(23,595)	9,064	0	(14,531)	14,531
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	(40,687)	8,396	0	(32,291)	32,291
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources					
Net gain or loss on sale of non-current assets	0	(724)	0	(724)	724
Statutory provision for the repayment of debt	6,260	4,899	0	11,159	(11,159)
Net revenue expenditure financed from capital under statute (REFFCUS)	(592)	0	0	(592)	592
Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources	5,668	4,175	0	9,843	(9,843)
Adjustments to Capital Resources					
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	38,544	0		38,544	(38,544)
Adjustments involving the capital fund	0	0	(5,195)	(5,195)	5,195
Total Adjustments to Capital Resources	38,544	0	(5,195)	33,349	(33,349)
Total Adjustments	3,525	12,571	(5,195)	10,901	(10,901)

8. Movement in Earmarked Reserves

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund in earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from earmarked reserves to meet general fund expenditure in 2021/22.

	Balance at 1 April 2019	Transfers out 2019/20	Transfers in 2019/20	Balance at 31 March 2020	Transfers Out 2020/21	Transfers in 2020/21	Balance at 31 March 2021
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Scheme of Devolved Budget Management carry forwards	(3,220)	3,220	(8,580)	(8,580)	8,580	(23,607)	(23,607)
Business Transformation Programme	(750)	291	0	(459)	141	(1,250)	(1,568)
Management Policy	(364)	364	(142)	(142)	142	(486)	(486)
Training Budget	(199)	0	0	(199)	0	0	(199)
Total Earmarked Reserves	(4,533)	3,875	(8,722)	(9,380)	8,863	(25,343)	(25,860)
Non-Earmarked Reserves	(4,104)	56	0	(4,048)	236	0	(3,812)
Total General Fund Balance	(8,637)	3,931	(8,722)	(13,428)	9,099	(25,343)	(29,672)

9. Other Operating Income and Expenditure

2019/20 £000	Other Operating Income and Expenditure	2020/21 £000
724	(Gains)/Losses on disposal of non-current assets	30
724	Total	30

10. Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

2019/20 £000	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	2020/21 £000
15,859	Interest payable and similar charges	17,470
3,141	Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset)	2,352
(1,887)	Interest receivable and similar income	(2,021)
17,113	Total	17,801

11. Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income

2019/20 £000	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	2020/21 £000
46,380	Council Tax Income	49,301
31,520	Non-domestic Rates Income	19,517
129,010	Non-ring-fenced Government Grants	166,258
34,806	Capital Grants and Contributions (<i>note 27</i>)	22,986
241,716	Total	258,062

12. Group and Council Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature

The Group and Council's expenditure and income is analysed as follows:

2019/20 £000	Expenditure and Income Analysis	2020/21 £000
	Expenditure	
168,255	Employee Expenses	171,071
189,042	Other Service Expenses	201,190
14,532	Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	50,058
15,411	Interest payments	16,200
724	Gain/(Loss) on the disposal of non-current assets	30
(286)	Share of operating results of associates	(4,144)
387,678	Total Expenditure	434,405
	Income	
(81,650)	Fees, Charges and Other Service Income	(70,697)
(889)	Interest and Investment Income	(751)
(46,380)	Income from council tax	(49,301)
(285,953)	Government Grants and Contributions	(309,374)
(414,872)	Total Income	(430,123)
(27,194)	Total	4,282

13. Property, Plant and Equipment

Movements on Balances

Movements in 2020/21	Council Dwellings	Buildings	Land	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	Infrastructure Assets	Community Assets	Assets Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total
Cost or Valuation	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April 2020	415,856	403,917	16,431	35,789	75,867	7,753	37,779	3,012	996,404
Additions	5,887	3,249	76	3,501	2,200	114	17,238	0	32,265
De-recognition - Disposals	(370)	(30)	(34)	(1,277)	0	0	0	0	(1,711)
Reclassification of Assets	10,396	12,704	(904)	(356)	0	334	(22,171)	(3)	0
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the CIES	(16,814)	(1,112)	(55)	0	0	(180)	0	(83)	(18,244)
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	(72)	62,915	1,609	0	0	183	0	(1,849)	62,786
Other Movements	0	0	(34)	0	0	0	0	0	(34)
Balance at 31 March 2021	414,883	481,643	17,089	37,657	78,067	8,204	32,846	1,077	1,071,466
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment									
Balance at 1 April 2020	(8,109)	(26,287)	0	(25,571)	(44,682)	(134)	0	0	(104,783)
Depreciation Charge	(10,153)	(16,399)	0	(2,874)	(3,823)	(69)	0	0	(33,318)
De-recognition - Disposals	352	11	0	1,182	0	0	0	0	1,545
Reclassification of Assets	0	0	0	143	0	(143)	0	0	0
Depreciation written out to the CIES	0	1,414	0	0	0	105	0	0	1,519
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	0	26,962	0	0	0	71	0	0	27,033
Balance at 31 March 2021	(17,910)	(14,299)	0	(27,120)	(48,505)	(170)	0	0	(108,004)
Net Book Value									
At 31 March 2021	396,973	467,344	17,089	10,537	29,562	8,034	32,846	1,077	963,462
At 31 March 2020	407,747	377,630	16,431	10,218	31,185	7,619	37,779	3,012	891,621

Movements in 2019/20	Council Dwellings	Buildings	Land	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	Infrastructure Assets	Community Assets	Assets Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total
Cost or Valuation	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 31 March 2019	379,936	353,445	12,007	32,888	70,856	8,072	16,455	2,204	875,863
Adjustments			(736)					736	0
Balance at 1 April 2019	379,936	353,445	11,271	32,888	70,856	8,072	16,455	2,940	875,863
Additions	14,316	34,838	51	3,026	4,726	1	26,645	0	83,603
De-recognition - Disposals	0	0	(40)	(125)	0	0	(729)	0	(894)
Reclassification of Assets	4,172	(201)	(342)	0	285	243	(4,157)	(400)	(400)
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the CIES	17,944	(2,142)	2,284	0	0	(120)	0	(58)	17,908
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	(512)	17,977	3,207	0	0	(443)	0	530	20,759
Other Movements	0	0	0	0	0	0	(436)	0	(436)
Balance at 31 March 2020	415,856	403,917	16,431	35,789	75,867	7,753	37,779	3,012	996,404
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment									
Balance at 1 April 2019	(2,192)	(30,044)	0	(22,745)	(41,193)	(187)	0	(138)	(96,499)
Depreciation Charge	(8,906)	(17,566)	0	(2,921)	(3,489)	(139)	0	(46)	(33,067)
De-recognition - Disposals	0	0	0	95	0	0	0	0	95
Reclassification of Assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation written out to the CIES	0	3,038	0	0	0	5	0	0	3,043
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	2,989	18,285	0	0	0	188	0	184	21,646
Balance at 31 March 2020	(8,109)	(26,287)	0	(25,571)	(44,682)	(134)	0	0	(104,783)
Net Book Value									
At 31 March 2020	407,747	377,630	16,431	10,218	31,185	7,619	37,779	3,012	891,621
At 31 March 2019	377,744	323,401	12,007	10,143	29,663	7,885	16,455	2,066	779,364

Depreciation

The following useful lives are used in the calculation of depreciation for the categories of assets, except where the useful life is known to be different from these as a consequence of a Council decision:

- Council Dwellings – 40 to 60 years;
- Buildings – 10 to 30 years;
- Infrastructure – 5 to 10 years;
- Infrastructure – 15 years.

Capital Commitments

As at 31 March 2021, the Council was contractually committed to capital works which amounted to £30.422 million (31 March 2020 £15.862 million).

The value of work completed at 31 March 2021 has been established using a stage of completion methodology based on Contract Administrator's Certificates obtained at year-end. The main capital contractual commitments in place at 31 March 2021 are as follows:

	Original Contractual Commitment	Outstanding at 31 March 2021
Capital Commitments	£000	£000
Housing Revenue Account Programme		
• Phase 3 New Social Housing: Site 53 Morris Road, Dalkeith	9,874	7,334
• Phase 3 New Social Housing: Site 116 Newmills Road, Dalkeith	12,935	12,766
• Phase 3 New Social Housing: Site 140 Dalhousie Mains Road, Bonnyrigg	9,715	9,042
Other non-material contracts	16,253	1,280
Total Contractual Commitment	48,777	30,422

Revaluations

Valuations of the above categories of assets are undertaken by independent expert valuers engaged by the Council over a five-year rolling programme by Chartered Surveyors of the council's Estates department, in accordance with the Statement of Asset Valuation Practice and Guidance Notes of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

In 2020/21 valuations were undertaken for Primary Schools, Secondary Schools, Open Spaces and Heritage Assets. The majority of the asset valuations were based on a depreciated replacement cost (DRC) basis and resulted in a net upwards revaluation of assets of £69.750 million. The revaluations we have received to support the values included in the 2020-21 financial statements, with the exception of those for the housing assets, contain a 'material valuation uncertainty' declaration, due to the current Covid-19 pandemic. This does not mean the valuation cannot be relied upon, but to be clear and transparent under RICS standards, it is protocol to include the uncertainty clause within all reports for 31 March valuations during the present crisis. More information is provided on this uncertainty in note 4 to the financial statements "major sources of estimation uncertainty".

In addition to formal valuations of property, plant and equipment on a rolling basis over a five year period, the Council assesses all assets to ensure there are no material changes that should drive an earlier

valuation, to ensure that, in line with the CIPFA code, assets are revalued with sufficient regularity to ensure that the carrying amount does not differ materially from that which would be determined using the current value at the end of the reporting period. The Council's valuer has determined in his professional opinion that, at 31 March 2021, there has been no material change in the assets not subject to revaluation in the year that would require an earlier revaluation. The Council has continued to assess the valuation of its asset base subsequent to the financial year-end as summarised in note 5 to these financial statements.

Market activity is being impacted in many sectors and at the valuation date, it is considered that less weight can be attached to previous market evidence for comparison purposes, to inform opinions of value. The current response to COVID-19 means that valuers are faced with an unprecedented set of circumstances on which to base a judgement and as such their valuations of non-housing assets are therefore reported on the basis of 'material valuation uncertainty' as per VPS 3 and VPGA 10 of the RICS Red Book Global. Consequently, less certainty – and a higher degree of caution – should be attached to their valuations than would normally be the case. Given the unknown future impact that COVID-19 might have on the real estate market, valuation of properties will be kept under frequent review.

14. Heritage Assets

The Council's chains and badges of office are the main heritage assets and have been included in the Balance Sheet at reinstatement cost, obtained from the Council's insurer.

2019/20 £000	Heritage Assets Cost or Valuation Movement	2020/21 £000
86	Net Carrying amount at 1 April	82
(4)	Depreciation	(2)
0	Revaluations and Restatements	244
82	Net Carrying amount at 31 March	324

15. Intangible Assets

The Council 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 Property, Plant and Equipment. The intangible assets include software licences, warranties and internally generated assets.

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

2019/20 £000	Intangible Assets Movement in Balances	2020/21 £000
	Balance at start of year:	
2,536	Gross carrying amounts	2,547
(1,612)	Accumulated amortisation	(1,928)
924	Net carrying amount at 1 April	619
207	Additions - Purchases	246
(196)	Surrender of CRC Allowance	0
(316)	Amortisation for the year	(317)
619	Net carrying amount at 31 March	548
	Comprising:	
2,547	Gross carrying amounts	2,794
(1,928)	Accumulated amortisation	(2,246)
619	Net carrying amount 31 March	548

16. Long-Term Debtors

2019/20 £000	Long-Term Debtors	2020/21 £000
3,670	Prepayment to PPP Contractor	3,896
43	Pacific Shelf	47
3,713	Total Long-Term Debtors	3,943

17. Financial Instruments

Categories of Financial Instruments

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

Financial Assets

31 Mar 2020					31 Mar 2021			
Non-current	Current	Total			Non-current	Current	Total	
£000	£000	£000	Financial Assets	Category	£000	£000	£000	Note
0	24,682	24,682	Cash and Cash Equivalents	Amortised Cost	0	53,182	53,182	22
30,005	55,365	85,370	Short-term investments	Amortised Cost	60,449	14,993	75,442	See Below
0	15,900	15,900	Debtors	Amortised Cost	0	21,089	21,089	21
7,362	1	7,363	Long-term investments	Fair Value through Other Comprehensive income	5,823	1	5,824	See Below
37,367	95,948	133,315	Total Financial Assets		66,272	89,265	155,537	
3,713	6,207	9,920	Debtors not defined as financial instruments		3,943	8,171	12,114	16 & 21
41,080	102,155	143,235	Total		70,215	97,436	167,651	

The Short-term and Long-term investments on the balance sheet comprises:

31 Mar 2020				31 Mar 2021		
Long-term	Short-term	Total		Long-term	Short-term	Total
£000	£000	£000	Short-term Investments	£000	£000	£000
30,005	10,080	40,085	Other Local Authorities	60,449	0	60,449
0	45,285	45,285	Commercial Banks/Building Societies	0	14,993	14,993
30,005	55,365	85,370	Total Short-term Investments	60,449	14,993	75,442

Financial Liabilities

31 Mar 20					31 Mar 21			
Non-current	Current	Total			Non-current	Current	Total	
£000	£000	£000	Financial Liabilities	Category	£000	£000	£000	Note
260,427	11,441	271,868	Borrowings	Amortised Cost	273,893	3,700	277,593	See below
85,080	9,435	94,515	PPP Liability	Amortised Cost	82,729	2,714	85,443	32
14,638	593	15,231	Donated Asset Account Liability	Amortised Cost	13,186	574	13,760	32
0	17,353	17,353	Creditors	Amortised Cost	0	14,144	14,144	23
360,145	38,822	398,967	Total Financial Liabilities		369,808	21,132	390,940	
0	27,678	27,678	Creditors not defined as financial instruments		0	30,131	30,131	23
360,145	66,500	426,645	Total		369,808	51,263	421,071	

The Council's borrowing is presented in the Balance Sheet as the outstanding principal repayable (plus accrued interest) and interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement. Borrowing is classed as either a long-term liability, repayable after twelve months or longer, or a current liability if it is repayable within twelve months. The external borrowing as shown in the Balance Sheet comprises:

31 Mar 2020				31 Mar 2021		
Long-term	Short-term	Total		Long-term	Short-term	Total
£000	£000	£000	External Borrowings	£000	£000	£000
221,021	10,206	231,227	PWLB Loans	235,329	2,478	237,807
20,579	286	20,865	Lender Option/Borrower Option (LOBO) Loans	20,570	286	20,856
18,827	949	19,776	Loans from commercial lenders and other local authorities	17,994	936	18,930
260,427	11,441	271,868	Total Borrowings	273,893	3,700	277,593

*This reflects the contractual period to maturity for these instruments given the unlikelihood of call within the next 12 months.

Investments Designated at Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income

31 Mar 2020 £000	Non-Current Assets (Long-term)	31 Mar 2021 £000
7,036	Equity Shareholding in Lothian Buses (Level 2)	5,499
327	Subordinated Debt Subscription in Newbattle DBFMCo (Level 3)	325
7,363	Total	5,824

Lothian Buses Plc

Midlothian Council holds a 5.5% shareholding in Lothian Buses plc, a company incorporated in January 1986 under the terms of the Transport Act 1985 to operate buses in the City of Edinburgh and its surrounding area.

The valuation basis for the Council's shareholding (350,000 £1 ordinary shares) is calculated as net share of equity attributable to equity holders, this in line with the published results for the year ended 31

December 2020. The IAS 19 Pension Asset/Liability has now been removed from calculations due to its volatility. **Note 35** provides more detail on the potential guarantee liability associated with investment.

Year to 31 Dec 19 £000		Year to 31 Dec 20 £000
	Profit/(Loss):	
(7,386)	Profit before taxation	(11,844)
(647)	Taxation	(219)
(8,033)	Profit/(Loss) after Tax	(12,063)
	Other Relevant Financial Information:	
168,438	Revenue	131,431
0	Ordinary Dividend	0
(12,317)	Transfer to/(from) reserves	(58,620)
100,035	Equity attributable to equity holders (excluding IAS 19 Pension Asset/Liability)	100,535

Newbattle DBFMco Ltd

In 2017/18, the Council subscribed £0.333 million of subordinated debt in Newbattle DBFMco Limited, a company set up specifically to deliver the Council's Schools Newbattle Community Campus project.

Whilst the investment is sellable in the secondary market, the valuation basis for the Council's shareholding (nominal value of loan stock £0.333 million) is calculated based on the subscription value as there is no equivalent market data to estimate resale value.

The principal on this investment will be repaid fully over the 25-year project life. Interest will be paid biannually at 10.5% coupon based on the average principal outstanding over the relevant 6-month period.

Other entities and individuals includes an estimated provision for impairment. Individual balances are considered before a collective impairment for all remaining debtors based on their age profile. Impairment will apply to all outstanding debt at the balance sheet date for council tax, rents and all debts that are over six months past their payment date for sundry debtors.

Income, Expenses, Gains and Losses

Income, expenses, gains and losses associated with financial instruments are made up as follows:

2019/20	2019/20		2020/21	2020/21
Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure
£000	£000		£000	£000
		Net gains/losses on:		
(674)	0	Investments in equity instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income	(1,537)	0
(674)	0	Total net gains/losses	(1,537)	
		Interest Revenue:		
0	999	Financial assets measured at amortised cost	0	1,270
0	52	Other financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income	0	35
0	1,051	Total Interest Revenue	0	1,305
0	8,753	Interest Expense	0	9,512
		Fee Expense:		
0	102	Financial assets or financial liabilities that are not at fair value through profit and loss	0	98
0	102	Total Fee Expense	0	98

Fair Values of Assets and Liabilities

Financial assets and financial liabilities are carried on the balance sheet at amortised cost. Their fair value is determined by calculating the Net Present Value (NPV) of future cash flows, which provides an estimate of the value of payments in the future in today's terms.

The discount rate used in the NPV calculation is the rate applicable in the market on the date of valuation for an instrument with the same structure, terms and remaining duration. For debt this will be the new borrowing rate since premature repayment rates include a margin which represents the lenders profit as a result of rescheduling the loan; this is not included in the fair value calculation since any motivation other than securing a fair price should be ignored.

The rates quoted in this valuation were obtained by Link Asset Services, the Council's treasury management consultants, from the market on 31 March 2021.

Fair values have been calculated for all financial instruments in the portfolio using the following assumptions:

- The fair value of trade payables and other receivables is taken to be the carrying amount or billed amount;
- Interpolation techniques have been used between available rates where the exact maturity period was not available;
- The valuation of loans receivable is made by utilisation of the prevailing benchmark interest rates;
- The valuation of fixed term deposits (maturity investments) is made by comparison of the fixed term investment with a comparable investment with the same/similar lender for the remaining period of the deposit;
- Loans borrowed by the Council have been valued by discounting cash flows over the life of the loan at appropriate market rates.

The calculated fair values of financial liabilities and financial assets carried at amortised cost are as follows:

31 Mar 20				31 Mar 21		
Carrying Amount	Fair Value (New Loan Rate)	Fair Value (Premature Redemption Rate)		Carrying Amount	Fair Value (New Loan Rate)	Fair Value (Premature Redemption Rate)
£000	£000	£000	Financial Liabilities	£000	£000	£000
231,227	267,874	399,750	PWLB Loans (Level 2)	237,807	289,998	352,821
20,865	30,702	46,702	Lender Option/Borrower Option (LOBO) Loans (Level 2)	20,856	32,553	39,912
19,776	20,853	29,750	Loans from commercial lenders and other local authorities (Level 2)	18,930	20,619	24,188
17,353	17,353	17,353	Creditors	14,144	14,144	14,144
94,515	94,515	94,515	PFI and Finance Lease Liability	85,443	85,443	85,443
15,231	15,231	15,231	Donated Asset Account Liability	13,760	13,760	13,760
398,967	446,528	603,301	Total Financial Liabilities	390,940	456,517	530,268

The fair value is greater than the carrying amount because the Council's portfolio of loans includes a number of loans where the interest rate payable is higher than the current rates available for similar loans in the market at balance sheet date. This represents a notional future loss attributable to a commitment to pay interest to lenders above market rates.

31 Mar 20			31 Mar 21	
Carrying Amount	Fair Value		Carrying Amount	Fair Value
£000	£000	Financial Assets	£000	£000
24,682	24,682	Cash and Cash Equivalents	53,182	53,182
85,369	86,092	Short-term Investments	75,442	76,710
15,900	15,900	Debtors	21,089	21,089
125,951	126,674	Total Financial Assets	149,713	150,981

The fair value of the financial assets is higher than the carrying amount because the authority's portfolio of investments includes a number of fixed rate deposits where the interest rate receivable is higher than the rates available for similar deposits at the balance sheet date. This shows a notional future gain (based on economic conditions at 31 March 2021) attributable to the commitment to receive interest above current market rates.

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

18. Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments

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

- 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;
- Refinancing risk – the possibility that the Council might be requiring to renew a financial instrument on maturity at disadvantageous interest rates or terms;
- Market risk – the possibility that financial loss might arise for the Council as a result of the changes in such measures as interest rates and stock market movements.

The Council has fully adopted CIPFA's Code of Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and set treasury management indicators to control key financial instrument risks in accordance with CIPFA's Prudential Code.

The Council's management of treasury risks actively works to minimise the Council's exposure to the unpredictability of financial markets and to protect the financial resources available to fund services.

Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from the short-term lending of surplus funds to banks, building societies and other local authorities as well as credit exposures to the Council's customers.

The Treasury Management Strategy, which is set annually and is monitored throughout the year, sets out the limits on both duration and maximum levels of deposits. The lower an institution's creditworthiness the lower the maximum duration and level of deposit will be. These Counterparties are chosen, by officers, using credit data supplied by the Council's treasury advisers (based on data from the three main credit rating agencies, overlaid by:

- Credit watches and credit outlooks from credit rating agencies;
- Credit Default Swap (CDS) spreads to give early warning of likely changes in credit ratings;
- Sovereign ratings to select counterparties from only the most creditworthy countries.

It is the policy of the Council to place deposits only with a limited number of banks and building societies whose credit rating is independently assessed as sufficiently secure by the Council's treasury advisers and to restrict lending to a prudent maximum amount for each institution. The Council also has a policy of limiting deposits to £15 million per institution, other than for UK Nationalised and Part-Nationalised institutions where the maximum is extended to £30 million. No credit limits were exceeded during the financial year.

The expected credit loss for the Council's financial assets held at amortised cost has been calculated to be £0.003 million (2019/20 £0.007 million). The Council deems this immaterial and therefore has not included any impact of this with the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES).

The expected credit loss for the Council's financial assets held at FVOCI is expected to be zero, calculated on the following basis:

- Lothian Buses Shareholding – Excluding 2020 and 2021, there has been no default on the dividend payable to the Council over the period the Council has held this investment;
- Subordinated Debt Investment in Newbattle DBFM Co SPV – Whilst there is no directly observable indicators which would allow an expected credit loss for this investment to be accurately calculated, there are no indications of adverse performance with the DBFM Co or any indications that future scheduled lifecycle maintenance will not be able to take place or senior and/or subordinated debt will not be able to be repaid. The Council will continue to review the performance of the SPC on an annual basis.

An age analysis of cash and cash equivalents and short-term investments is shown in the table below:

2019/20 £000	Financial Assets	2020/21 £000
54,968	Less than 3 months	53,182
14,999	3 to 6 months	14,993
10,080	6 months to 1 year	0
30,005	More than 1 year	60,449
110,052	Total Financial Assets	128,624

Liquidity Risk

The Council manages its liquidity position through the approval of the treasury investment strategy reports, as well as through the comprehensive cash flow management system as required by CIPFA Code of Practice. This seeks to ensure that cash is available when needed.

The Council has ready access to borrowings from the money markets to cover any day-to-day cash flow need, and the PWLB and money markets for access to longer-term funds. The Council is also required to provide a balanced budget through the *Local Government Finance Act 1992*, which ensures sufficient monies are raised to cover annual expenditure. As a result, there is no significant risk that the Council will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments.

An age analysis of external borrowings are shown in the table below:

2019/20 £000	Financial Liabilities	2020/21 £000
11,441	Less than 1 year	3,700
1,500	1 to 2 years	1,497
3,752	2 to 5 years	3,687
14,623	5 to 10 years	24,098
63,404	10 to 20 years	53,572
14,529	20 to 30 years	13,456
90,570	30 to 40 years	95,534
67,049	40 to 50 years	77,049
5,000	Greater than 50 years	5,000
271,868	Total Financial Liabilities	277,593

Refinancing Risk

The Council maintains a significant debt and investment portfolio. Whilst the cash flow procedures above are considered against the refinancing risk procedures, longer-term risk to the Council relates to managing the exposure to replacing financial instruments as they mature. This risk relates to both the maturing of longer-term financial liabilities and assets.

The approved treasury indicator limits for maturity structure debt and the limits on investments placed on greater than one year in duration are the key parameters used to address this risk.

The Council has approved treasury investment strategies address the main risks and the treasury team address the operational risks within the approved parameters. This includes:

- Monitoring the maturity profile of financial liabilities and amending the profile through either new borrowing or the rescheduling of the existing debt;
- Monitoring the maturity profile of investments to ensure sufficient liability is available for the Council's day-to-day cash flow needs, and the spread of longer-term investments provide stability of maturities and returns in relation to the longer-term cash flow needs.

Furthermore, the Council has safeguards in place to ensure a significant proportion of its borrowing does not mature for repayment at any one time in the future to reduce the financial impact of re-borrowing at a time on unfavourable interest rates.

Market Risk

Interest Rate Risk

The Council is exposed to interest rate risk in two different ways; the first being the uncertainty of interest paid or received on variable rate instruments, and the second being the effect of fluctuations in interest rates on the fair value of an instrument.

The current interest rate risk for the Council is summarised below:

- Decreases in interest rates will affect the interest earned on variable rate investments, potentially reducing income credited to the CIES;
- Increases in interest rates will affect interest paid on variable rate borrowings potentially increasing interest expense charges to the CIES;
- The fair value of fixed rate financial assets will fall if interest rates rise. This will not affect the balance sheet or the CIES for the majority of assets held at amortised cost, but will affect the disclosure note for fair value. It would have a negative effect on the balance sheet for those assets shown at fair value;
- The fair value of fixed rate financial liabilities will rise if interest rates fall. This will not affect the balance sheet or CIES for the majority of liabilities held at amortised cost, but will affect the disclosure note for fair value.

The Council has a number of strategies for managing interest rate risk. The Council's policy is to aim to keep a maximum of 30% of its borrowings in variable rate loans. During periods of falling interest rates, and where economic circumstances make it favourable, fixed rate loans will be repaid early to limit exposure to losses.

The treasury management team has an active strategy for assessing interest rate exposure that feeds into the setting of the annual budget and which is used to update the budget quarterly during the year. This

allows any adverse changes to be accommodated. The analysis will also advise whether new borrowing taken out is fixed or variable.

According to this assessment strategy, at 31 March 2021, if interest rates had been 1% higher with all other values held constant, the financial effect would be:

2019/20 £000		2020/21 £000
	Impact on Taxpayer and Rent Payers:	
26	Increase on interest payable on variable rate borrowings	14
(869)	Increase on interest receivable on variable rate instruments	(1,331)
(843)	Net effect on Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(1,317)
	Other presentational Changes:	
(51,732)	Decrease in fair value of fixed rate borrowing liabilities (no impact on the Surplus or Deficit in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement)	(58,853)

The impact of a 1% fall in interest rates would be as above but with the movements being reversed.

Price Risk

There is no price risk associated with the Council's available for sale investments specified in **Note 18** of the Financial Statements.

Foreign Exchange Risk

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

19. Assets Held for Sale

2019/20 £000	Assets Held For Sale	2020/21 £000
5,543	Balance outstanding at 1 April	1,371
400	Assets newly classified as held for sale	0
(759)	Revaluations and Restatements	33
20	Additions	0
(3,833)	Assets disposed of during the year	(150)
1,371	Balance outstanding at 31 March	1,254

20. Inventories

2019/20 £000	Inventories	2020/21 £000
868	Balance outstanding at 1 April	744
766	Purchases	612
(890)	Recognised as an expense in the year	(418)
744	Total Inventories	938

21. Short-Term Debtors

2019/20 £000	Short-Term Debtors	2020/21 £000
5,294	Central Government Bodies	5,321
59	Other Public Sector Bodies	26
	Other Entities and Individuals (net of Impairment for bad debts)*:	
9,203	Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates	5,577
2,426	Rents	2,357
5,125	Other sundry debtors	15,979
22,107	Total Short-Term Debtors	29,260

* For impairment, significant individual balances are considered before a collective impairment of all remaining debtors based on their age profile. Impairment is applied to all outstanding debt at the balance sheet date for Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates of £37.145 million (2019/20 £22.751 million) and Rents of £1.780 million (2019/20 £1.6 million). For sundry debtors all debts that are over six months past their payment date impairment will be applied of £1.628 million (2019/20 £2.025 million).

22. Cash and Cash Equivalents

2019/20 £000	Cash and Cash Equivalents	2020/21 £000
238	Cash held by the Council	200
26,391	Short-term Deposits	56,287
(1,947)	Bank Current Accounts	(3,305)
24,682	Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	53,182

23. Creditors

2019/20 £000	Creditors	2020/21 £000
1,418	Central Government Bodies	868
2,075	Other Public Sector Bodies	8,421
41,538	Other Entities and Individuals	34,986
45,031	Creditors	44,275

24. Provisions

	Uninsured Losses (1)	Total
	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April 2020	836	836
New provisions made during the year	439	439
Increase/(decrease) to existing insurance provisions during the year	52	52
Amounts used during the year	(604)	(604)
Balance at 31 March 2021	723	723

Notes:

- (1) This relates to potential uninsured losses arising from insurance claims made against the Council.

25. Usable Reserves

Movements in the Council's usable reserves are detailed in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

26. Unusable Reserves

2019/20 £000	Unusable Reserves	2020/21 £000
(142,443)	Revaluation Reserve	(224,283)
(359,447)	Capital Adjustment Account	(352,279)
97,719	Pensions Reserve	141,030
7,145	Accumulated Absences Account	8,986
1,997	Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	1,829
(6,686)	Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve	(5,149)
(401,715)	Total Unusable Reserves	(429,866)

Revaluation Reserve

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

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

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

2019/20 £000	Revaluation Reserve		2020/21 £000
(143,590)	Balance at 31 March		(142,443)
35,521	Adjustments to Opening Balance		
(108,069)	Revised Balance at 1 April		(142,443)
(44,001)	(Surplus) or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services		(90,138)
7,166	Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	8,123	
2,461	Accumulated (gains)/losses on assets sold	175	
9,627	Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account		8,298
(142,443)	Balance at 31 March		(224,283)

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. The account is credited with the amounts set aside by the Council as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and subsequent expenditure.

The account also contains revaluation gains accumulated on property, plant and equipment before the 1st April 2007, the date that the Revaluation Reserve was created to hold such gains.

Note 7 provides further details of transactions posted to the account.

2019/20 £000	Capital Adjustment Account		2020/21 £000
(285,364)	Balance at 31 March		(359,447)
(35,521)	Adjustments to Opening Balance		0
(320,885)	Revised Balance at 1 April		(359,447)
	Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
33,071	• Charges for depreciation and impairment on non-current assets	33,321	
(18,856)	• Revaluation movements on property, plant and equipment	16,767	
316	• Amortisation of intangible assets	317	
592	• Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	0	
4,632	• Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CIES	317	
19,755			50,722
(9,627)	Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve		(8,297)
10,128	Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year		42,425
	Capital financing applied in the year:		
(3,909)	• Use of capital receipts to finance new capital expenditure	(287)	
(40,981)	• Capital grants and contributions credited to the CIES that have been applied to capital financing	(21,780)	
(11,158)	• Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	(11,611)	
7,632	• Capital Receipts transferred to Capital Fund	(1,206)	
(48,416)			(34,884)
(274)	Other movements		(373)
(359,447)	Balance at 31 March		(352,279)

Pensions Reserve

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

2019/20 £000	Pensions Reserve	2020/21 £000
124,359	Balance at 1 April	97,719
(42,897)	Re-measurements of the net defined benefit liability/(asset)	31,746
31,997	Reversal of items relating to net changes for retirement benefits charged to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the CIES	27,807
(15,740)	Employers' pension contributions	(16,242)
97,719	Balance at 31 March	141,030

Accumulated Absences Account

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

2019/20 £000	Accumulated Absences Account		2020/21 £000
5,633	Balance at 1 April		7,145
(5,633)	Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	(7,145)	
7,145	Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	8,986	
1,512	Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CIES on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements		1,841
7,145	Balance at 31 March		8,986

Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

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

2019/20 £000	Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	2020/21 £000
2,165	Balance at 1 April	1,997
(159)	Premiums incurred in the year charged to the CIES	(159)
(9)	Amount by which finance costs charged to the CIES are different from finance costs chargeable in year in accordance with statutory requirements	(9)
1,997	Balance at 31 March	1,829

Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve

The Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the Council arising from increases in the value of its investments that have quoted market process or otherwise do not have fixed or determinable payments. The balance is reduced when investments with accumulated gains are revalued downwards and the gains are lost or disposed of and the gains are realised.

2019/20 £000	Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve	2020/21 £000
(7,743)	Balance at 1 April	(6,686)
1,057	(Upward)/Downward Revaluation of Investments	1,537
(6,686)	Balance at 31 March	(5,149)

27. Grant Income

The Council credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2020/21.

2019/20 £000	Grant Income	2020/21 £000
	Credited to Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income and Expenditure:	
10,289	General Capital Grant	6,957
10,252	Affordable Housing Supply Programme	9,044
10,479	Developer Contributions	3,421
1,067	General Capital Grant – Early Years Childcare	2,849
740	Low Emission Zone Grant	0
1,979	Other Capital Grants and Contributions	715
34,806	Total	22,986
	Credited to Services:	
21,387	Housing Benefit Subsidy	20,868
0	Early Years Expansion Grant	11,725
2,444	Unitary Charge Funding	2,428
2,253	Pupil Equity Funding	2,210
1,341	Community Justice Grant	1,420
0	Education COVID Support Grant	1,175
1,073	LEADER Programme	575
0	Young Persons Guarantee	520
0	Energy Efficient Scotland	509
884	Regenerating Rosewell Project	0
0	Track 2 Train	0
2,107	Other Entities and Individuals	3,457
31,489	Total	44,887

28. Capital Grants Received in Advance

The Council has received a number of grants and contributions that have yet to be recognised as income as they have conditions attached to them that will require the monies to be returned to the grantor. The balances at year-end are as follows:

2019/20 £000	Capital Grants Received in Advance		2020/21 £000
31,040	Balance at 1 April		33,927
	New capital grants received in advance, conditions of use not met:		
6,300	• Scottish Government Early Years Grant	4,300	
699	• Scottish Government Town Centre Capital Fund	311	
7,806	• Section 75 contributions from private developers	5,617	
(4)	• Other Grants Received in Advance	36	
14,800			10,264
(11,913)	Amounts realised to CIES, conditions of use met		(5,528)
33,927	Balance at 31 March		38,663

29. External Audit Costs

The estimated fee payable to Audit Scotland in respect of the work carried out for audit services is £0.261 million (2019/20 £0.277 million). This includes external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor, Ernst and Young LLP. Where further additional work is required, fees will be agreed with management and reported to the Audit Committee.

30. Related Parties

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

The Scottish Government

The Scottish Government has significant influence over the general operations of the Council, being responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Council operates. The Scottish Government also provides the majority of the Council's funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties (such as Council Tax bills and Housing Benefits).

Officers

There are no related party transactions with officers of the Council.

Elected Members

Elected members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. The total of members' allowances paid in 2020/21 is shown in the Remuneration Report.

Members' Register of Interests can be viewed on the Council's website. A review of these interests has been conducted. Related party interests for which transactions exist in 2020/21 were declared by nine members:

- With voluntary bodies or charitable organisations that received funding totalling an estimated value of £0.559 million.
- With businesses or other organisations that have contracted for goods and services with the Council to the estimated value of £0.420 million.

In addition to the above many members have relationships or hold positions with other public bodies and voluntary organisations with which the Council does not have a financially material relationship but with which the Council has a financial or influential relationship.

Entities Controlled or Significantly Influenced by the Council

During the year the Council entered into material transactions with the Lothian Valuation Board. This amounted to £0.567 million (2019/20 £0.549 million). There was no balance due to or from the Lothian Valuation Board as at 31 March 2021.

The Council has a number of joint working arrangements with other local authorities. In 2020/21 payments of £1.755 million were made to other local authorities and income of £0.533 million was received from other local authorities.

The Council works in partnership with NHS Lothian, providing a range of Health and Social Care services across Midlothian. NHS Lothian transferred £4.903 million of resource transfer funding to the Council in 2020/21 in respect of activities delegated to the Midlothian Integration Joint Board, as well as an additional £4.816 million in relation to Social Care Fund, £1.524 million from the Integrated Care Fund. The funding supports various Adult Social Care services, both purchased and in-house.

The Council delegated resources totalling £44.985 million to the Midlothian Integration Joint Board in 2020/21. These resources were allocated to the Council for the provision of Adult Social Care services. NHS Lothian also delegated financial resources to the Board. The Board provides the strategic direction in

relation to the delivery of Health and Adult Social Care Services in Midlothian. The Council provides assistance in kind in terms of Board staff (Chief Officer) and administrative support for the operation of the Board. In addition no charge is made for central support functions provided over and above the resources delegated which relate specifically to Adult Social Care. As at 31 March 2021 the Council held £7.367million on behalf of the Board.

31. 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 PPP contracts), together with the resources that have been used to finance them.

2019/20 £000	Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing		2020/21 £000
359,774	Opening Capital Financing Requirement		394,261
	Capital Investment:		
55,745	Property, Plant and Equipment	32,964	
168	Intangible Assets	246	
27,743	Long-term liabilities	0	
592	Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	0	
84,248	Total Capital Investment		33,210
	Sources of Finance:		
(487)	Capital Receipts	(975)	
(22,916)	Government Grants	(19,632)	
(14,632)	Contributions from other bodies	(3,603)	
(11,726)	Loans fund and lease repayments	(18,101)	
(49,761)	Total Sources of Finance		(42,311)
34,487	Increase/(decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement		(9,101)
394,261	Closing Capital Financing Requirement		385,160

32. Public Private Partnership (PPP) and Similar Contracts

The Council has entered into five such contracts:

Dalkeith Schools Campus

This is a 30-year PPP contract with Dalkeith SPV Ltd for the provision and facilities management of the Campus. When the agreement ends in 2034 the Campus facilities will transfer to the Council with a guaranteed maintenance - free life of five years. The contractor does not have any right of renewal on contract expiry. Termination of contract is either at contract end date or following the issue of a contractor default notice of voluntary termination with one contract months' notice.

Midlothian Schools Ltd

This is a PPP contract for the provision and facilities management of Stobhill, Gorebridge, Tynewater, Moorfoot, Loanhead and St Margaret's, Lawfield and Strathesk Primary Schools. When the agreement ends in 2037 the facilities will transfer to the Council in a usable condition as defined by the contract. The contractor does not have any right of renewal on contract expiry. Termination of contract is either at contract end date or following the issue of a contractor default notice of voluntary termination with six months' notice.

Newbattle Community Campus

This is a 25-year Not for Profit Distributing Model (NPDM) contract with hubCo for the provision and lifecycle maintenance of the Campus. The facility opened in the financial year 2018/19 on 25th May 2018. When the agreement ends in 2043 the facilities will transfer to the Council in a useable condition as defined by the contract. The contractor does not have any right of renewal on contract expiry. Termination of contract is either at contract end date or following the issue of a contractor default notice of voluntary termination with variable notice periods as defined in the contract.

Food Waste Treatment Plant, Millerhill

This is a 20- year Design, Build, Finance and Maintain (DBFM) contract which was jointly procured between Midlothian and the City of Edinburgh Council. At the end of the concession period in 2036 the asset will not revert back to the partner Councils and will remain under the full control of the DBFO operator, who has the option to continue to operate the asset from year 20 through to year 40, paying the market rent for the lease of the land over this period. At the end of the 40th year, the asset will be decommissioned and the decommissioned site transferred back to the ownership of the Councils. Termination of contract is either at contract end date or following the issue of a contractor default notice or voluntary termination with 40 days' notice.

Residual Waste Treatment Plant, Millerhill

This is a 25- year DBFM contract which was jointly procured between Midlothian and the City of Edinburgh Council. At 1 April 2020 the contract was in the commissioning phase, with full service commencement achieved on 17 April 2019. The asset will be fully maintained throughout the life of the contract in accordance with the Partner Council's requirements and will be inspected 18 months prior to the end of the contract (contract end date 6 May 2044) to ensure that it has been maintained. The asset will then be handed back to the Partner Councils in a condition that is commensurate with such maintenance. The contractor does not have any right of renewal on contract expiry. Termination of contract is either at contract end date or following the issue of a contractor default notice, the issue of a Partner Council Default notice, or voluntary termination by the Partner Councils with variable notice periods as defined in the contract.

The value of assets held under such arrangement at 31 March 2021 are as follows:

2019/20 £000	Value of Assets	2020/21 £000
99,584	Balance at 1 April	143,308
(3,534)	Depreciation	(2,560)
4,038	Written Back Depreciation on Revaluation	4,240
15,026	Revaluation	27,324
28,194	Additions	356
143,308	Balance at 31 March	172,668

The assets used to provide the services at the Dalkeith Schools Community Campus, the Primary Schools, the Newbattle Community Campus and the Millerhill Residual Waste Plant are recognised in the Council's Balance Sheet under the Property, Plant and Equipment category.

There is a donated asset account at 31 March 2021 for the financing of the Millerhill Residual Waste asset of £13.760 million (2019/20 £15.230 million). The recognition of donated asset income will be on a flat line basis over the remaining 25 years of the contract.

There is a deferred liability at 31 March 2021 for the financing of these assets of £85.443 million (2019/20 £95.267 million), with the movement including the payment of the capital contribution for the Millerhill Facility of £7.380 million.

During the year a total of £10.856 million (2019/20 £3.096 million) was paid in relation to finance lease deferred liabilities under such contracts. Details of future payments to be made under arrangements are:

	Liability	Interest	Service Charge	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Dalkeith Schools Campus				
Within 1 Year	919	2,008	2,126	5,053
Within 2 to 5 Years	4,659	7,048	9,050	20,757
Within 6 to 10 Years	8,858	5,776	12,645	27,279
Within 11 to 15 Years	6,282	1,131	7,035	14,448
Total Remaining Contract	20,718	15,963	30,856	67,537

	Liability	Interest	Service Charge	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Midlothian Primary Schools				
Within 1 Year	929	2,040	2,114	5,083
Within 2 to 5 Years	4,444	7,430	8,999	20,873
Within 6 to 10 Years	7,640	7,202	12,574	27,416
Within 11 to 15 Years	10,863	3,979	14,226	29,068
Within 16 to 20 Years	4,089	402	4,674	9,165
Total Remaining Contract	27,965	21,053	42,587	91,605

	Liability	Interest	Service Charge	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Newbattle Community Campus				
Within 1 Year	808	1,602	127	2,537
Within 2 to 5 Years	3,662	5,978	542	10,182
Within 6 to 10 Years	5,720	6,329	758	12,807
Within 11 to 15 Years	7,321	4,729	857	12,907
Within 16 to 20 Years	9,369	2,681	970	13,020
Within 21 to 25 Years	4,797	378	455	5,630
Total Remaining Contract	31,677	21,697	3,709	57,083

	Donated Asset	Liability	Interest	Service Charge	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Millerhill Residual Waste					
Within 1 Year	574	58	955	1,026	2,613
Within 2 to 5 Years	2,293	215	3,717	4,457	10,682
Within 6 to 10 Years	2,867	298	4,422	6,343	13,930
Within 11 to 15 Years	2,867	757	3,987	7,040	14,651
Within 16 to 20 Years	2,867	1,695	2,918	7,985	15,465
Within 21 to 25 Years	2,292	2,060	747	5,454	10,553
Total Remaining Contract	13,760	5,083	16,746	32,305	67,894

33. Pension Schemes Accounted for as Defined Contribution Schemes

Teachers employed by the authority are members of this Scottish Teachers Superannuation scheme which is administered by the Scottish Government. The Scheme provides teachers with specified benefits upon their retirement, and the Council contributes towards the costs by making contributions based on the percentage of members' pensionable salaries.

The scheme is technically a defined benefit scheme. However, the scheme is unfunded and the Scottish Government uses a notional fund as the basis for calculating the employers' contribution rate by local authorities. The Council is not able to identify its share of underlying financial position and performance of the scheme with sufficient reliability for accounting purposes. For the purposes of this Statement of Accounts, it is therefore accounted for on the same basis as a defined contribution scheme.

In 2020/21 the Council paid £9.936 million (2019/20 £8.463 million) to the Scottish Government in respect of teachers' pension costs. The rate of contribution was 23% for 2020/21 (2019/20 1 Apr -31 Aug 2019 17.2%, 1 Sep 19 – 31 Mar 20 23%).

The authority is responsible for the costs of any additional benefits awarded upon early retirement outside the terms of the teachers' scheme. These costs are accounted for on defined benefit basis (detailed in **note 34**).

34. Defined Benefit Pension Schemes

As part of the terms and conditions of employment and its officers, the authority makes contributions towards the cost of post-employment benefits. 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 at the time the employees earn their future entitlement.

The Council participates in the *Local Government Pension (Scotland) Scheme*. Employees other than teachers are eligible to join this scheme. The scheme is administered by City of Edinburgh Council through Lothian Pension Fund. This is a funded defined benefit final salary scheme, meaning the authority and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension's liabilities with the investment assets.

The principal risks to the Council of the scheme are the longevity assumptions, statutory changes to the scheme, and structural changes to the scheme (i.e. large-scale withdrawals from the scheme), changed to inflation, bond yields and the performance of equity investments held by the scheme. These are mitigated to a certain extent by the statutory requirements to charge the General Fund and HRA the amounts required by statute as described in the accounting policies note.8

Transactions Relating to Post-Employment Benefits

The Council recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the net cost of services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are actually paid as pensions. However, the charge that is required to be made against council tax is based on cash payable in the year, so the real cost of post-employment/retirement benefits is reversed out of the General Fund and HRA via the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) and the Movement in Reserves Statement.

2019/20 £000	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	2020/21 £000
	Cost of services:	
28,714	Current service cost	25,383
142	Past service cost (including curtailments)	72
	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure:	
16,294	Interest cost	14,524
	Other Post Employment Benefit charged to the CIES:	
(13,153)	Expected Return on Scheme Assets	(12,172)
31,997	Total Net Charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	27,807
	Other post-employment Benefits Charged to Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	
(42,897)	Re-measurement of the net defined liability	31,746
(10,900)	Total post-employment benefits charged to the CIES	59,553
	Movement in Reserves Statement	
10,900	Reversal of net charges made to the surplus or deficit for the provision of services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the code	(59,553)
15,740	Employers Contributions payable to the scheme	16,242
26,640	Total Charged to the Movement in Reserves	(43,311)

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

2019/20 £000	Pensions Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet	2020/21 £000
(625,441)	Present value of the defined benefit obligation	(747,208)
527,722	Fair value of Plan Assets	606,178
(97,719)	Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation	(141,030)

2019/20 £000	Reconciliation of the present value of the scheme liabilities (defined benefit obligation)	2020/21 £000
669,772	Opening Balance at 1 April	625,441
28,714	Current service cost	25,383
16,294	Interest Cost	14,524
3,960	Contributions by Scheme Participants	4,112
(78,992)	Actuarial (gains)/losses	94,244
142	Past service cost (including curtailments)	72
(801)	Estimated Unfunded Benefits Paid	(770)
(13,648)	Estimated Benefits Paid	(15,798)
625,441	Closing Balance at 31 March	747,208

2019/20 £000	Reconciliation of the movements in the fair value of scheme assets	2020/21 £000
545,413	Opening Balance at 1 April	527,722
13,153	Expected Return on Assets	12,172
3,960	Contributions by Scheme Participants	4,112
14,939	Contributions by the Employer	15,472
801	Contributions in respect of Unfunded Benefits	770
(36,095)	Actuarial gains/(losses)	62,498
(801)	Unfunded Benefits Paid	(770)
(13,648)	Benefits Paid	(15,798)
527,722	Closing Balance at 31 March	606,178

Local Government legislation provides that Local Authorities have an obligation to meet their share of the expenditure of the Joint Boards of which they are constituent members. At 31 March 2021 the liability for Pensions sits at £8.125 million (2019/20 £6.113 million). As a consequence the Council has additional liabilities arising from the pension deficit of the Lothian Valuation Joint Board.

Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years are dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels etc. The pension fund liabilities have been assessed by the actuary and are based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2021.

The main assumptions used by the actuary have been:

2019/20	Mortality Assumptions	2020/21
	Longevity at 65 for Current Pensioners:	
21.7	- Men (Years)	20.5
24.3	- Women (Years)	23.3
	Longevity at 65 for Future Pensioners:	
24.7	- Men (Years)	21.9
27.5	- Women (Years)	25.2
	Financial Assumptions	
1.9%	Rate of Inflation/increase in pensions	2.85%
3.5%	Rate of increase in salaries	3.35%
2.3%	Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	2.0%
-4.2%	Expected Rate on Investment Returns	16.4%

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

Pension Sensitivities at 31 March 21	Approximate % increase to the Employer Obligation	Approximate monetary amount £000
0.5% decrease Real Discount Rate	10%	76,394
0.5% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	1%	7,869
0.5 % increase in the Pension Increase Rate (CPI)	9%	66,890

Local Government Pension Scheme Assets Comprised

2019/20 Fair Value of Scheme Assets	2019/20 Percentage of Total Assets		Quoted prices in active markets	2020/21 Quoted prices not in active markets	Total Fair Value of Scheme Assets	2020/21 Percentage of Total Assets
£000		Pension Fund Assets	£000	£000	£000	
51,090	10%	Cash and Cash Equivalents	62,016	0	62,016	10%
		Equity Instruments:				
50,296	10%	Consumer	78,822	0	78,822	13%
76,110	14%	Manufacturing	87,406	0	87,406	14%
33,658	6%	Energy and Utilities	30,882	0	30,882	5%
34,322	7%	Financial Institutions	37,154	0	37,154	6%
36,518	7%	Health and Care	37,875	0	37,875	6%
22,811	4%	Information Technology	28,726	0	28,726	5%
38,528	7%	Other	48,128	0	48,128	8%
292,243	55%	Sub-total Equity	348,993	0	348,993	57%
		Bonds:				
28,261	5%	Corporate	0	20,677	20,677	4%
32,488	6%	Government	48,633	0	48,633	8%
60,749	11%	Sub-total bonds	48,633	20,677	69,310	12%
		Property:				
34,580	7%	UK	0	31,613	31,613	5%
465	0	Overseas	0	71	71	0%
35,045	7%	Sub-total Property	0	31,684	31,684	5%
		Investment Trusts and Unit Trusts:				
6,461	1%	Equities	8,566	0	8,566	1%
2,265	0%	Bonds	12,476	0	12,476	2%
74,200	14%	Infrastructure	0	69,389	69,389	12%
82,926	15%	Sub-total Trusts	21,042	69,389	90,431	15%
4,592	1%	Private Equity (all)	0	3,712	3,712	1%
1,077	0%	Derivatives: Forward Foreign Exchange Contracts	32	0	32	0%
527,722	100%	Total Assets	480,716	125,462	606,178	100%

Impact on the Council's Cash Flows

The objectives of the scheme are to keep employers' contributions at as constant a rate as possible. The fund has agreed a strategy with the scheme's actuary to achieve a funding rate of 100% of the overall liabilities of the fund in the longer term. Funding levels are monitored on an annual basis. The most recent triennial valuation was completed during 2020/21. The Fund's actuary reported that, at 31 March 2020, the funding level was at 104% and a period of 20 years had been adopted in assessing the level of contribution required. Employer's contributions in 2021/22 to 2023/24 are unchanged from 2020/21 and

these are reflected in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy. The Council anticipates to pay £15.313 million in contributions to the scheme to 31 March 2022.

Projected Defined Benefit Cost

Analysis of projected amount to be charged to Operating Profit	Assets	Obligations	Net Liability/(Asset)	% of Pay
Period ended 31 March 2022	£000	£000	£000	
Projected Current Service Cost	0	35,899	(35,899)	(52.0)
Past Service Cost (including curtailments)	0	0	0	0
Effect of Settlements	0	0	0	0
Total Service Cost	0	35,899	(35,899)	(52.0)
Interest Income on Plan Assets	12,161	0	12,161	17.6
Interest Cost on Defined Benefit Obligation	0	15,179	(15,179)	(22.0)
Total Net Interest Cost	12,161	15,179	(3,018)	(4.4)
Total Included in Profit and Loss	12,161	51,078	(38,917)	(56.4)

35. Contingent Liabilities

The Council recognises the potential for compensation claims deriving from Scottish Government's Limitation (Childhood Abuse) (Scotland) Act 2017 which removes the three year time limit on claims of child abuse. Some claims will be historic and relate to Lothian Regional Council, Midlothian District Council or their predecessors and some will date post reorganisation and relate to Midlothian Council. At the current time the Council has eight ongoing cases. These are currently at differing stages which range from waiting on further information from the pursuer's solicitors to cases being handled by our insurers, where the extent of our cover and the level of excess payable is being investigated. Of these ongoing cases there have been no value cited in the letter of claim and little case law to give any indication of what value might be attached to the case.

The assimilation of the stand-alone Lothian Buses Pension Fund into the general Lothian Pension Fund required all four Council shareholders in Lothian Buses Limited to enter into a deed of guarantee and act as guarantors for Lothian Buses Limited contributions to the general fund. Previously, whilst there was no formal guarantee in place for the stand alone Lothian Buses Fund, in the event of a default then the City of Edinburgh Council (as administering authority) would have looked to the four Council shareholders to make good any liability.

36. Contingent Assets

The Council has sought reimbursement from HMRC of VAT accounted for on sport and leisure charges on the basis they should be treated as non-business. The claims, which date back to 1981 proceeded to a First Tier Tax Tribunal (FTT) on 23-26 September 2019 which considered three lead claims covering Northern Ireland (Mid Ulster), England and Wales (Chelmsford) and Scotland (Midlothian). The decision of the tribunal for Midlothian was released on 17 October 2020 and found in favour of Midlothian in respect of the question of the provision of leisure services being under a special legal regime. As such they could be treated as exempt or non-business which would mean VAT would not be accounted for on the charges. However the FTT did not consider the distortion of competition issue for Midlothian, with both parties content that this would then be determined after the principal issues were considered by the FTT.

The expectation was that the question of distortion of competition would need to return to FTT for consideration if additional evidence was required or proceed straight to an Upper Tier Tribunal for

consideration. The current position with these claims is that HMRC have advised, on a without prejudice basis, that they do not wish to appeal the FTT decision unless there are any objections raised by commercial operators in Scotland about the preferential VAT treatment which is to be afforded to local authorities as a consequence of the decision.

In accordance with the accounting code of practice, which adopts International Accounting Standard (IAS) 37- Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets, with no amendment, the claims are at this time considered to represent a contingent asset in that the flow of economic benefits is only probable. IAS 37 is clear that only where the realisation of income is virtually certain that the related asset is not a contingent asset and its recognition is appropriate.

37. Agency Covid Business Grants

During the financial year, the Council undertook the administration of several Covid-19 related business grants on behalf of the Scottish Government, on an agency basis, with those associated with non-domestic rates administered on the Council's behalf by The City of Edinburgh Council.

During the year grant payments administered by The City of Edinburgh Council totalled £19.3 million (2019/20 nil) with those paid directly by the Council totalling £0.853 million (2019/20 nil). These Grants were funded by agency income received from the Scottish Government.

38. Trusts, Bequests, Common Good and Community Funds

There are some 15 active trusts, bequest and community funds of varying size managed by the Council, each of which has specific objectives and conditions. None of the funds are currently registered charities.

The main funds are:

2019/20 £000	Trusts, Bequests, Common Good and Community Funds	2020/21 £000
12	Dalkeith Common Good Fund	7
2	Penicuik Common Good Fund	2
51	Community Mining Funds	51
22	Other Funds	23
87	Total	83

A total of £0.038 million has been committed to be spent from these funds.

The funds do not represent assets of the Council and are included in the Balance Sheet as creditors except the Community Mining Funds that are held in separate bank accounts.

39. Notes to the Group Accounts

The Code of Practice on Local Council Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21 (The Code) requires Local Authorities or similar bodies defined in section 106 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 e.g. statutory bodies such as Integration Joint Boards and Valuation Boards. Authorities are required to prepare a full set of group accounts in addition to their own Council's accounts where they have a material interest in such entities. The Group Accounts of Midlothian Council are prepared in accordance with the accounting policies of the Council with the additions and exceptions shown below. The Group Accounts consolidate the results of the Council with other entities. These organisations are entirely independent of the Council under law and for taxation.

Valuation of Property, Plant and Equipment

The basis of valuation across the combining entities is in accordance with the Code and there are no material inconsistencies with the policies adopted by Midlothian Council. The Integration Joint Board has no Property, Plant or Equipment.

Depreciation

The basis of valuation across the combining entities is in accordance with the Code and there are no material inconsistencies with the policies adopted by Midlothian Council.

Goodwill

The Council has not paid any consideration for its interest and thus no goodwill is involved in the acquisition.

Basis of Consolidation

Subsidiaries are consolidated on a line-by-line basis. All other entities are accounted for under the accounting conventions of the “acquisition basis” using the equity method – the Council’s share of the entities results and its share of other gains and losses (recognised in the Group CIES). All entities have the same reporting date as the Council.

Restrictions on the Transfer of Funds

The Council’s share of the reserves of its associate and joint ventures is unusable i.e. it cannot be used to fund the Council’s services to reduce taxation. Further details for each entity are as follows:

	Percentage Share in Entity	Share of Assets	Share of Liabilities	Net Share of Assets	Share of Revenues	Share of (Profit)/Loss
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Subsidiaries:						
Trusts, Bequests, Common Good and Community Funds	100%	84	(84)	0	(3)	3
Pacific Shelf 826 Ltd	100%	0	(44)	(44)	0	3
Midlothian Energy Limited	50%	0	0	0	0	0
		84	(128)	(44)	(3)	6
Associates:						
Lothian Valuation Joint Board	9%	214	(840)	(626)	(1,754)	166
Midlothian Integration Joint Board	50%	6,497	0	6,497	(78,501)	(4,186)
		6,711	(840)	5,871	(80,255)	(4,020)
		6,795	(968)	5,827	(80,258)	(4,014)

The information above agrees to the group accounts after the elimination of inter-company transactions.

Combining Entities

The following table provided further details about the entities incorporated into the Council’s Group Accounts:

Group Entities	Nature of Body	Accounts Available From
Subsidiaries:		
Trusts, Bequests, Common Good and Community Funds	To award grants across Midlothian.	Midlothian Council, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith
Pacific Shelf 826 Ltd	Property Development.	Midlothian Council, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith
Midlothian Energy Limited	Energy generation, distribution and supply	Midlothian Council, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith
Associates:		
Lothian Joint Valuation Board	Maintains the electoral, council tax and non-domestic rates registers for the Edinburgh, Midlothian, West Lothian and East Lothian Councils.	The Treasurer, Lothian Joint Valuation Board, Edinburgh Council, Waverly Court, Edinburgh
Midlothian Integration Joint Board	Its purpose is to improve the well-being of families, our communities and of people who use health and social care services. The Integration Scheme determines when the Council will have shared responsibility for additional funding with NHS Lothian and is linked to demographic shifts and demand volumes linked to service delivery.	Midlothian Council, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith

Non-material Interests in Other Entities

In addition to the organisations outlined above, the Council also has an interest in Seemis Group LLP who provide Scottish Local Authorities with an Education Management System. Midlothian have a 1.90% interest in Seemis. Net assets at 31 March 2021 were £ (0.133) million, which would equate to a share of £ (0.003) million for Midlothian.

Housing Revenue Account

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

2019/20 £000	HRA Income and Expenditure Statement		2020/21 £000
	Expenditure		
6,257	Repairs and Maintenance	5,005	
5,245	Supervision and Management	5,297	
(9,063)	Depreciation, impairment and revaluation non-current assets	26,954	
(50)	Movement in the allowance for bad debtors	180	
3,023	Other Expenditure	1,936	
5,412	Total Expenditure		39,372
	Income:		
(28,631)	Gross Dwelling Rents	(29,123)	
(360)	Non-dwelling Rents	(345)	
(837)	Service Charge Income	(314)	
(37)	Other Income	2	
(29,865)	Total Income		(29,780)
(24,453)	Net Expenditure or Income of HRA services as included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		9,592
250	HRA Share of Corporate and Democratic Core		250
(24,203)	Net Income/expenditure for HRA Services		9,842
	HRA share of the operating income and expenditure included in the whole authority Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
724	(Gain) or Loss on sale of HRA non-current assets	19	
6,028	Interest payable and similar charges	6,633	
(553)	Interest and investment income	(420)	
122	Net interest on the net defined liability benefit liability (asset)	91	
6,321			6,323
(17,882)	(Surplus)/Deficit for the year on HRA Services		16,165

Movement in the Housing Revenue Account

2019/20 £000	Movement on the HRA Statement		2020/21 £000
(39,084)	Balance on the HRA at the end of the previous reporting period		(44,395)
(17,882)	(Surplus) or deficit for the year on the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement		16,165
	Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statute:		
9,063	Depreciation, impairment and revaluation non-current assets	(26,954)	
(724)	Gain or (Loss) on sale of HRA non-current assets	(19)	
4,899	Loans Fund Principal	5,447	
0	Appropriation to General Fund Reserve	1,858	
(667)	Net charges made for retirement benefits in accordance with IAS 19	(487)	
12,571	Total Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statute		(20,155)
(5,311)	(Increase) or Decrease in year on the HRA		(3,990)
(44,395)	Balance on the HRA at the end of the current reporting period		(48,385)

Notes to the Housing Revenue Account**Housing Stock**

The number of council dwellings for the year can be analysed as follows:

2019/20	Housing Stock	2020/21
908	1 Bedroom	944
3,838	2 Bedroom	3,936
1,852	3 Bedroom	1,878
311	4 Bedroom	316
10	5/6 Bedroom	10
6,919	Total Housing Stock at 31 March	7,084

This represents an increase in the year of 165 (2019/20 73) of which 119 were new build completions, 14 were the market purchase of existing properties and 32 due to repurposing of properties to create additional temporary accommodation provision.

Other Information

2019/20 £000	Other Information	2020/21 £000
3,907	Total Rent Arrears	4,045
1,600	Bad Debt Provision	1,780
652	Void Rent Loss (netted against rental income)	881

Council Tax Income Account

The Council Tax Income Account (Scotland) shows the gross income raised from Council Taxes levied and deductions made under statute. The resultant net income is transferred to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement of the authority.

Local Authorities raise taxes from its residents through Council Tax, which is based on property values. Each dwelling in a local Council area is placed into one of eight valuation bands, A to H. The Council declares a tax for Band D properties and all other properties are charged a proportion of this, lower valued properties (Bands A to C) pay less; higher valued properties (Bands D to F) pay more.

2019/20 £000	Council Tax Income Account	2020/21 £000
58,547	Gross Council Tax levied and Contributions in Lieu	62,373
	Less:	
(4,810)	Council Tax Reduction Scheme	(5,257)
(5,855)	Other Discounts and Reductions	(6,321)
(1,573)	Write-off of Uncollectable Debts and Allowances for impairment	(1,674)
71	Prior year adjustments	180
46,380	Net Council Tax Income transferred to General Fund	49,301

Midlothian Council Tax Charge and Properties per Band

2019/20 Property Numbers	2019/20 £ per Property	Band	2020/21 Property Numbers	2020/21 £ per Property
2	747	A - Disabled	2	783
575	896	A	568	939
8,322	1,045	B	8,269	1,096
8,475	1,195	C	8,454	1,252
4,891	1,344	D	4,943	1,409
4,486	1,766	E	4,581	1,851
3,552	2,184	F	3,729	2,290
2,271	2,632	G	2,357	2,759
169	3,293	H	170	3,452
32,743			33,073	

Calculation of the Council Tax Base (shown as numbers of properties)

2020/21	A (Disabled)	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	Total No of Properties
Number of Properties	0	975	12,592	11,078	5,698	5,149	3,962	2,502	176	42,132
Properties subject to Empty Homes Premium	0	11	38	34	16	12	9	5	3	128
Properties subject to Disabled Relief	2	37	42	(49)	1	(1)	(7)	(24)	(1)	0
Less:										
Exempt Properties	0	68	507	279	85	185	50	34	4	1,212
Properties Entitled to 25% Discounts	0	150	1,484	952	425	268	131	64	4	3,478
Properties Entitled to 50% Discounts	0	1	4	5	1	2	2	2	0	17
Properties Entitled to Other Discounts	0	4	18	15	7	5	3	1	0	53
Reduction in Tax Base due to Council Tax Reduction	0	232	2,390	1,358	254	119	49	25	0	4,427
Total Equivalent Properties 2020/21	2	568	8,269	8,454	4,943	4,581	3,729	2,357	170	33,073
Ratio to Band D	0.56	0.67	0.78	0.89	1.00	1.31	1.63	1.96	2.45	
Band D Equivalent Properties	1	379	6,431	7,515	4,943	6,020	6,059	4,616	417	36,381
Contributions in Lieu - Band D Equivalents										193
Sub-total										36,574
Less Bad Debt Provision at 3%										(1,188)
Total Council Tax Base										35,386

2019/20	A (Disabled)	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	Total No of Properties
Band D Equivalent Properties	1	383	6,473	7,533	4,891	5,894	5,771	4,448	413	35,808
Contributions in Lieu - Band D Equivalents										197
Sub-total										36,005
Less Bad Debt Provision at 3%										(1,171)
Total Council Tax Base										34,834

Non-Domestic Rate Account

The Non-domestic Rate Account (Scotland) is a statement that reflects the statutory obligation for billing authorities to maintain a separate non-domestic rate account. The statement shows the gross income from the rates and deductions made under statute. The net income is paid to the Scottish Government as a contribution to the national non-domestic rate pool.

2019/20 £000	Non-Domestic Rate Income Account	2020/21 £000
43,428	Gross Council Tax levied and Contributions in Lieu	44,705
	Less:	
(10,306)	Reliefs and other deductions	(25,375)
(606)	Write-off of Uncollectable Debts and Allowances for impairment	(353)
32,516	Net Non-Domestic Rates Income	18,977
(768)	Prior year adjustments	(2,002)
(176)	Non-domestic rates income retained by the authority (BRIS)	0
31,572	Contribution to Non-Domestic Rate Pool	16,975
	Allocated:	
31,667	Contribution to non-domestic rate pool	17,045
(95)	Council Rate Income - non-pool	(70)
31,572		16,975
31,615	Amount distributed to Midlothian Council from non-domestic rate pool	19,587

The Business Rate Incentivisation Scheme (BRIS) permits the authority to retain 50 percent share of the Non-domestic rates income, which exceeds the income target set by Scottish Government.

Net Rateable Value Calculation

Occupiers of non-domestic property pay rate based on the valuation of the property within the valuation roll for Midlothian. The NNDR poundage is determined by the Scottish Government and was 49.8p (2019/20 49p) per £, where the rateable value was less than £51,000 (2019/20 £29,000), 51.1p where the rateable value is between £51,000 and £95,000 and 52.4p (2019/20 51.6p) per £ where the rateable value exceeded 95,000 (2019/20) £51,000.

Small Business Bonus Scheme – from 1 April 2017, a ratepayer who occupies or is entitled to occupy one of more non-domestic properties with a combined rateable value of £18,000 or less may be eligible for a discount between 25% and 100% on their bill. In addition, where the cumulative rateable value of a business falls between 18,000 and 35,000, the scheme will offer 25% relief to individual properties with rateable value of up to £18,000.

2019/20 Numbers	2019/20 £000	Analysis of Rateable Values and Number of Premises	2020/21 Numbers	2020/21 £000
1,864	48,911	Shops, Offices and Other Commercial Subjects	1,838	49,245
939	17,207	Industrial and Freight Transport	937	16,921
300	21,334	Miscellaneous (Schools etc.)	308	21,153
3,103	87,452	Total	3,083	87,319

Glossary of Terms

While much of the terminology used in this report is intended to be self-explanatory, the following additional definitions and interpretation of terms may be of assistance.

Actuarial Gains and Losses (Pension)

For a defined benefit scheme, the changes in actuarial deficits or surpluses 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.

Amortisation

Amortisation is the cost of reducing the value of an intangible asset over its useful economic life. A charge is made against services for the value of the assets they have used during the year.

Assets

An asset is any item that has value including cash, investments, properties, vehicles, etc. Assets are classified as current, which will be consumed within the current year, or non-current, which will be used to provide services over more than one year.

Associate

An entity other than a subsidiary or joint venture in which the reporting Council has a participating interest and over whose operating and financial policies, the reporting Council is able to exercise significant influence.

Capital Expenditure

This is expenditure incurred in creating, acquiring or improving assets where the expenditure is normally financed by borrowing with repayment over a period of years, or by utilising the income from the sale of existing assets.

Capital Financed from Current Revenue

This heading covers the costs of creating, acquiring or improving assets where the expenditure is charged directly to the Revenue Account.

Corporate and Democratic Core

Corporate and Democratic Core costs include the costs of policymaking and all other Councillor based activities together with costs that relate to the general running of the Council. The Best Value Accounting Code of Practice stipulates that such costs are to be excluded from the "total cost" relating to service activity.

Community Assets

Long-term assets that have no determinable useful economic life and are held in perpetuity by the Council, including parks and open spaces.

Creditors

Creditors are a kind of liability. They represent payments owed by the Council to another person or organisation for past events.

Debtors

Debtors are a kind of asset. They represent payments owed to the Council by another person or organisation for past events.

Defined Benefit Pension Scheme

A Defined Benefit Pension Scheme is a scheme where the benefits due to participants are predetermined based on earnings, length of service and age and are not directly dependant on the contributions paid or investment returns realised.

Depreciation

Depreciation is the measure of the cost of wearing out, consuming or reducing the useful life of the Council's assets. A charge is made against services for the value of the assets they have used during the year.

Entity

A body corporate, partnership, trust, unincorporated association, or statutory body that is delivering a service, or carrying on a trade or business, with or without a view to profit. It should have a separate legal personality and is legally required to prepare its own single-entity accounts.

Fair Value

The fair value of an asset or liability is the price at which it could be exchanged or settled in an arm's length transaction between two willing, knowledgeable parties.

Financial Instrument

A financial instrument is any contract, which gives rise to a financial asset or liability or an equity instrument in another entity, this includes cash, debtors, creditors, loans, borrowings and shares in other companies.

Infrastructure Assets

Non-current assets that cannot be transferred or sold, including roads, bridges and footpaths.

Inventories

Inventories are raw materials or goods which have been purchased but which have not yet been consumed in the delivery of Council services.

Liabilities

A liability represents a payment owed to another person or organisation including loans, outstanding invoices, provisions, contributions owed to third parties, etc. Short-term liabilities are due to be paid within the current year. Long-term liabilities are amounts that will not be paid until a later year.

Non-Distributable Costs

Non Distributable Costs represent costs that cannot be allocated to specific services and again, under the Best Value Accounting Code of Practice, are excluded from the total cost relating to service activity. Examples of Non Distributable Costs are charges for added pension years and early retirement.

Other Costs

This heading covers items of expenditure that cannot be accommodated in any of the other categories.

Provisions

A provision is a kind of liability. Where a payment for a liability is certain or very likely to occur but the exact amount and timing is not known, an amount must be put aside to meet the estimated future costs.

Revaluation / Impairment

Revaluations and impairments are adjustments to the value of an asset, either positively or negatively, to align the carrying value of an asset to an independent assessment of the asset's fair value.

Revenue Expenditure

Revenue expenditure includes the day-to-day costs of providing services including salaries and wages, property costs, transport costs and supplies and services. It also includes the costs of the repayment of loans used to finance capital expenditure.