

Notice of Meeting and Agenda Council

Date	Time	Venue
Thursday, 27 June 2024	09:30	Council Chambers (Renfrewshire), Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

MARK CONAGHAN
Head of Corporate Governance

Membership

Provost Lorraine Cameron (Convener): Councillor Iain Nicolson (Leader): Councillor Cathy McEwan (Depute Convener): Councillor Jacqueline Cameron (Depute Leader):

Councillor Jennifer Adam: Councillor Fiona Airlie-Nicolson: Councillor Alison Ann-Dowling: Councillor Stephen Burns: Councillor Michelle Campbell: Councillor Graeme Clark: Councillor Carolann Davidson: Councillor Eddie Devine: Councillor Andy Doig: Councillor Audrey Doig: Councillor Chris Gilmour: Councillor Edward Grady: Councillor Gillian Graham: Councillor Neill Graham: Councillor John Gray: Councillor Anne Hannigan: Councillor John Hood: Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes: Councillor Robert Innes: Councillor Alec Leishman: Councillor Bruce MacFarlane: Councillor James MacLaren: Councillor Kenny MacLaren: Councillor Mags MacLaren: Councillor Colin McCulloch: Councillor Janis McDonald: Councillor David McGonigle: Councillor Jamie McGuire: Councillor Marie McGurk: Councillor Iain McMillan: Councillor John McNaughtan: Councillor Kevin Montgomery: Councillor Sam Mullin: Councillor Will Mylet: Councillor Jim Paterson: Councillor Emma Rodden: Councillor John Shaw: Councillor Ben Smith: Councillor Andy Steel:

Members of the Press and Public

Members of the press and public wishing to attend the meeting should report to the customer service centre where they will be met and directed to the meeting.

Further Information

This is a meeting which is open to members of the public.

A copy of the agenda and reports for this meeting will be available for inspection prior to the meeting at the Customer Service Centre, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley and online at <http://renfrewshire.cmis.uk.com/renfrewshire/CouncilandBoards.aspx>

For further information, please email democratic-services@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Hybrid Meeting

Please note that this meeting is scheduled to be held in the Council Chambers. However, it is a hybrid meeting and arrangements have been made for members to join the meeting remotely should they wish.

Webcasting of Council Meeting

This meeting will be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site – at the start of the meeting the Provost will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed. Generally the public seating areas will not be filmed. The cameras focus on the main participants. If you have any queries regarding this please contact Committee Services on democratic-services@renfrewshire.gov.uk.

To find the webcast please navigate to: <https://renfrewshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home> and select the meeting from the calendar.

Information Bulletin

To reduce the reporting of routine operational matters to Policy Boards, to allow Boards to focus on major policy issues and to streamline business for Members' consideration and determination, a Bulletin, issued in line with the Council meeting timetable, is produced. The Bulletin is intended to provide members with a concise summary of significant decisions and action taken by officers in the exercise of their delegated powers, and details of issues which do not require a decision. A copy of the Bulletin has been attached under separate cover to this agenda.

Items of business

Apologies

Apologies from members.

Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare an interest in any item(s) on the agenda and to provide a brief explanation of the nature of the interest.

1 Minutes of Meetings of Council, Boards and Panels

Council, 9 May 2024

Placing Requests and Exclusions Appeals Panel, 15 May 2024

Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board, 20 May 2024

Appointment Board - Head of Education, Learning Estate and Resources, 21 May 2024

Communities and Housing Policy Board, 21 May 2024

Appointment Board - Head of People & Organisational Development, 22 May 2024

Regulatory Functions Board, 22 May 2024

Special Finance, Resources and Customer Services Policy Board, 23 May 2024

Education and Children's Services Policy Board, 23 May 2024

Economy and Regeneration Policy Board, 28 May 2024

Planning and Climate Change Policy Board, 28 May 2024

Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board, 29 May 2024

Personnel Appeals and Applied Conditions of Service Appeals Panel, 30 May 2024

Special Personnel Appeals and Applied Conditions of Service Appeals Panel, 31 May 2024

Appointment Board - Head of Education, 31 May 2024

Local Review Body, 4 June 2024

Placing Requests and Exclusions Appeals Panel, 5 June 2024

Regulatory Functions Board, 6 June 2024

Finance, Resources and Customer Services Policy Board, 13 June 2024

Appointment Board - Head of Education, Learning Estate and Resources, 18 June 2024

Leadership Board, 19 June 2024

Appointment Board - Head of Education, 20 June 2024

2 Provost's Update

Hear from Provost

3 Unaudited Annual Accounts 2023/24

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Report by Director of Finance & Resources

4 Treasury Management Annual Report for 2023/24

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Report by Director of Finance & Resources

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| 5 | Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board Annual Report 2023/24
Report by Director of Finance & Resources | 153 - 166 |
| 6 | Governance Arrangements
Report by Director of Finance & Resources | 167 - 168 |
| 7 | United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child (Incorporation) Scotland) Act 2024
Report by Chief Executive | 169 - 174 |
| 8 | Notice of Motion 1 by Councillors Devine and Hood
"St Mirren Football Club – Exhibition to celebrate 150th Anniversary

Council calls upon OneRen, with the support of the Council, to produce an exhibition to celebrate the 150th anniversary of St Mirren Football Club in 2027." | |
| 9 | Notice of Motion 2 by Provost L Cameron and Councillor Hughes

"That Renfrewshire Council recognises and celebrates the 250th Anniversary of the birth of Paisley's Weaver Poet, Robert Tannahill, on 3rd June 1774, recognising his contribution to Scottish culture in poetry and song, and his enduring legacy in Renfrewshire, Scotland and the world.

Renfrewshire Council notes that Council, OneRen, and several local organisations and individuals including our Tannahill Makar Shaun Moore, The Tannahill MacDonald Club, Professor Fred Freeman, Jackie Cruickshanks, and local artists are working collaboratively to deliver celebratory events over this anniversary year as part of their ongoing work to promote Tannahill's legacy, with two events having been held at Paisley Central Library on 3rd and 4th of June to mark the anniversary, and further events planned in future." | |
| 10 | Notice of Motion 3 by Councillors Andy Doig and Hood
"Code of Conduct and Complaints Procedure for Community Councils

Renfrewshire Council commends the positive work carried out by Community Councils in articulating the views of their respective communities which they serve. Council, in particular, values their contribution regarding planning matters.

Council notes that Community Councils, and how they operate, will be subject to a review later in the year, and calls for such a review to introduce a Code of Conduct and Complaints Procedure for members of Community Councils." | |

11 Notice of Motion 4 by Councillors Andy Doig and Hood

"Action on Empty and Abandoned Homes in Renfrewshire

Council notes that Shelter Scotland have recently highlighted that there are 28,280 empty houses which have been abandoned for more than a year. Council believes this reduces the number of private rented lets, damages the fabric of neighbouring properties, and is a blight on communities.

Council commends the Scottish Empty Homes Partnership for their work in acting to bring empty and abandoned homes back into use, recognises that the Scottish Government has a strong record in building social housing, and agrees to write to the Scottish Minister for Housing to seek new legislation to reduce the scandal of empty and abandoned homes."



To: Council

On: 27 June 2024

Report by: Director of Finance and Resources

Heading: Unaudited Annual Accounts 2023/24

1. Summary

- 1.1. The Council's Accounts and Group Accounts for 2023/24 will be submitted for audit by the statutory deadline of 30 June 2024 and a copy is attached for members' approval, along with the accounts of the Coats Observatory Trust.
 - 1.2. Once approved the unaudited accounts and associated working papers will be passed to the external auditor (Azets) for their review. Their report on the Accounts will be submitted to the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board in September for consideration prior to the audited accounts being presented to Council for approval.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that members:
 - a) Consider, subject to audit, the Renfrewshire Council Annual Accounts for 2023/24 (Appendix 2); and delegate authority to the Director of Finance and Resources to submit the accounts to external audit within the relevant timescales;
 - b) Approve the annual governance statement for 2023/24;
 - c) Note the revenue outturn position for the Council and approve the sums earmarked within the General Fund reserves and HRA reserves as outlined in section 4 below and Appendix 1;

- d) Approve the transfer of resources outlined in Table 1 and Appendix 1;
 - e) Approve, subject to audit, the annual accounts attached for the Coats Observatory Trust Fund, which under accounting regulations require to be prepared and audited separately from the Council's accounts (Appendix 3).
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3. Unaudited Annual Accounts 2023/24

- 3.1 The Council's Accounts and Group Accounts for 2023/24 will be submitted for audit by the statutory deadline of 30 June and a copy is attached for members' consideration. The accounts have been produced to comply with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and relevant government accounting regulations.
- 3.2 Separate accounts have been prepared for the Coats' Observatory Trust in accordance with registered charities accounting requirements, and these are also included for members' approval.
- 3.3 The Annual Governance Statement 2023/24 has been incorporated into the annual accounts document, and this also requires specific approval by Council.
- 3.4 The Management Commentary prefacing the Accounts provides an overview of the Council's financial performance and the key features are:
 - As reported to the Council over the course of the year, significant additional spend was experienced during 2023/24, particularly in relation to inflationary cost pressures. General Fund revenue net spending at 31 March 2024 was overspent by £3.460m compared to budget including an overspend in Adult Services of £0.848m. Excluding the Adult Services position, which is managed by the HSCP, the overspend on Council services is £2.612m (0.5% of turnover).
 - The forecast outturn position reported to members at Period 10 was an expected overspend of £8.652m (excluding anticipated reserve movements). In closing the financial year, anticipated drawdowns of £1m from reserves for parking income loss and £3m for childcare placements have been actioned, as well as a further £0.450m for Proactive Tree Management, all from the Financial Sustainability Fund. Further detail is provided in section 4 below.
 - Capital spending of £23m for housing and £102m for non-housing projects was managed within the overall expenditure control limits approved by Council. As reported over the course of the year, planned spend was

impacted by inflationary pressures and the availability of contractors. The 2024/25 capital plan has been adjusted accordingly.

- The Council's in-year council tax collection performance for 2023/24 was 94.3%, a reduction on the 95.5% collected in 2022/23. However, actual Council tax revenues performed above expectation, returning an over-recovery of £0.420m compared to budget. This sum also includes recovery of prior year arrears.

4. Reserve balances

4.1 Unallocated balances have marginally reduced to £10.308m moving into 2024/25, consistent with the recommended minimum level of £10m agreed by Council in September 2020, and reconfirmed as a core financial planning principle since then.

4.2 Of the overall General Fund reserves, a significant majority is earmarked as detailed at Appendix 1. This represents funding set aside by the Council to support a wide range of key priorities, investments and long-term funding arrangements, including service concession commitments. The Council continues to assess the adequacy and use of ringfenced balances and to ensure that any grant funding carried forward is utilised in accordance with its conditions. Details of all earmarked balances are provided at Appendix 1.

4.3 The Financial Sustainability Fund has reduced by £8.262m, as follows:

Description	Drawdown £m
Transfer to other Earmarked reserves*	0.595
2023/24 General Services Overspend	2.612
2023/24 Approved budget (deficit)	0.605
Parking Income	1.000
Proactive Tree Management	0.450
Children's Residential Care	3.000
Total	8.262

* There was £0.595m in the opening balance of the Financial Sustainability Fund that had been included from former COVID funding in error as it was previously ring-fenced for economic recovery. This was transferred in-year to the Local Authority Economic Recovery Fund.

4.4 The balance of HRA reserves as at 31 March 2024 is £6.164m, after a drawdown of £0.333m to bring the HRA to a break-even position in 2023/24. This balance is still viewed as prudent in terms of risks to the HRA revenue position over the medium term.

- 4.5 As detailed in Table 1 below, statutory reserves now total £90.917m, a net decrease in year of £3.062m, which relates to resources committed to the Council's capital investment programme and the provision of school ICT. There is a new statutory reserve that holds contributions to the AMIDS DHN Component Replacement Fund.

Table 1	Opening balance	Contributions to Reserves	Reserves Used / Transferred	Closing balance
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Insurance Fund	2.768	0.133	-	2.901
DHN Repair and Renewal Fund	-	0.186	-	0.186
Reservoir Repair Fund	0.327	0.014	-	0.341
Education Capital Items	2.106	0.231	(0.883)	1.454
Investment Capital Fund	88.778	-	(2.743)	86.035
Total	93.979	0.564	(3.626)	90.917

5. Financial Performance – General Fund Revenue

- 5.1 In summary, the position across services departments, after adjusting for planned carry forwards and committed resources, is as follows:

Table 2:	Revised Budget	Actual Outturn	Variance (Adverse)/ Favourable
	£m	£m	£m
Chief Executive's Service	28.872	28.749	0.123
Children's Services	251.415	252.456	(1.041)
Environment, Housing and Infrastructure	68.929	74.227	(5.298)
Finance and Resources	48.691	48.943	(0.252)
Miscellaneous Services	17.809	14.373	3.436
Adult Services (HSCP)	97.917	98.765	(0.848)
Sub-Total General Fund	513.633	517.513	(3.880)
Council Tax over-recovery	-	(0.420)	0.420
Total General Fund	513.633	517.093	(3.460)

- 5.2 While Table 2 shows the service position, an overview of the revenue budget performance by Policy Board is outlined at Appendix 2, with the significant budget variances and movements as follows:

Education and Children's Services Policy Board - £1.059m overspend

The final overspend within Children and Families was £2.926m (£2.854m at Period 10), the majority of which related to pressures within children's residential accommodation placements, which was mitigated by a planned £3m draw from the Financial Sustainability Fund, as board reports have indicated throughout the financial year.

There was a final overspend of £1.134m within Education, predominantly due to an increase in school transport contracts (£1.556m), an overspend in employee costs relating to teacher cover (£1.220m) and an overspend in water charges and refuse collection (£0.520m). Service overspends have been partially offset by an underspend of £2.079m within Early Learning and Childcare, due mainly to staff vacancies. The overspend relating to the Early Years Sustainable Rate uplift of £0.657m, as anticipated, was drawn from the Early Years Change Fund earmarked reserve.

Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board - £2.244m overspend

The main drivers of the year-end overspend are the loss of parking income, as has been the case since the pandemic; and refuse collection cost increases, largely driven by inflationary costs and absence cover as a result of annual leave carried forward from the pandemic. Following a report to board in 2023, Proactive Tree Management costs of £0.450m have been incurred, for which a drawdown from the Financial Sustainability Fund was actioned. A further £1m from the same earmarked reserve was drawn down to cover the parking income loss, as indicated to board through the financial year.

Finance, Resources and Customer Services Policy Board - £0.027m overspend

Within Environment, Housing and Infrastructure services reporting to this board, the year-end overspend (£3.073m) relates mainly to an overspend of £1.782m for Public Building Repairs due to costs within Building Services being under considerable pressure from supply price increases and contractor inflation. Soft Facilities Management Services ended the year with a £1.184m overspend, largely due to the under-recovery of income advised to board during the year.

These pressures have been offset by a year-end underspend within Miscellaneous Services of £3.436m. Following the £0.800m underspend in Council Tax Reduction reported at Period 10, there was also a £1.178m VAT recovery received in March 2024, relating to a historic claim which has now been settled by HMRC. Funding set aside in the 2023/24 budget to pay for increased Non-Domestic Rates across the Council's estate underspent by

£0.886m; and funding to cover the impact of the first year of devolved Empty Property Relief was underspent by £0.661m.

When the Council approved the 2023/24 revenue budget, there was an expectation that an overspend in loan charges would require to be drawn from earmarked reserves. However, at the end of the year the final interest received position was £5.202m higher than budget, owing to the persistence of higher interest rates across the financial year, and this negated the requirement for a draw from reserves.

Planning and Climate Change Policy Board - £0.217m underspend

This underspend arises from higher than budgeted income from planning applications, and underspends in employee costs across the service due to vacancies.

5.2 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) – break-even

The break-even position within HRA at year-end was achieved after a £0.333m drawdown from unallocated HRA reserves. The 2023/24 budget assumed a £1.276m drawdown would have been required to bring the outturn to break-even, therefore this represents a favourable variance against budget of £0.943m. The remaining balance of £6.164m still represents a prudent level of unallocated reserves for the HRA, which remain available to mitigate continuing inflationary pressure and any other uncertain cost pressures, including the ICT Housing System replacement.

The in-year net overspend of £0.333m arose from higher than anticipated demand for repairs and maintenance, particularly in void properties, as well as additional Council Tax costs for these properties; this has been offset by higher than budgeted interest received on balances.

6. Financial Performance – Capital

6.1 Non-Housing Capital Budget Performance

Non-Housing capital expenditure totalled £102.489m during 2023/24. Capital receipts of £0.545m were generated from asset sales. These receipts are added to the £8.184m balance from prior years, available within the Useable Capital Receipts Reserve to provide total receipts of £8.729m. From this, £1.211m was utilised to support current year investment, leaving a balance of £7.518m that has been committed to support the ongoing investment programme in future years. The capital investment performance was delivered within the approved prudential expenditure and borrowing limits set by the Council.

6.2 Housing Capital Budget Performance

Housing capital expenditure totalled £22.995m during 2023/24. Capital receipts of £1.286m were realised from asset sales during the year. These receipts were fully utilised in 2023/24 to support the approved investment programme.

7. Prudential Framework

- 7.1 The Prudential Framework approved by the Council is supported by a number of indicators and the Council's performance against these indicators is reported in the Management Commentary in the Accounts. A further report outlining the treasury management activity undertaken during 2023/24 is also on the agenda for this meeting.

8. Group Accounts

- 8.1 The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 ("the Code"), requires local authorities to consider accounting for their interests in all types of entity e.g. Joint Boards and Committees, Leisure Trusts, companies etc. This includes other local authorities or similar bodies as defined in section 106 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 e.g. statutory bodies such as Valuation Joint Boards plus all Joint Committees. Under the Code, 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.
- 8.2 To comply with the mandatory requirement for such disclosures we have once again reviewed over the last year a number of organisations with which the Council is involved against the accounting guidelines as detailed in the code. We have concluded that the Council is required to prepare Group Accounts and to consolidate the results of the Council with a share of a number of other entities.
- 8.3 The entities that are deemed to fall within the Council's group boundary are:
- Joint Boards encompassing the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, the Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board and the Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board,
 - Johnstone, Paisley and Renfrew Common Good Funds and the Observatory Trust administered by the Council,
 - OneRen Limited,

- Park Lane Developments (Renfrewshire) LLP,
- Paisley Museum Reimagined Limited,
- AMIDS (Renfrewshire) LLP.

8.4 Both the Council's own Accounts and the Group Accounts will be submitted to external audit by 30 June in accordance with the statutory deadline.

9. Coats Observatory Trust Fund Accounts and Common Good Funds

9.1 Under accounting requirements introduced in 2010/11, the Council is required to present the annual accounts of the Coats Observatory Trust separately from the Council's main accounts. Separate audit arrangements are also required.

9.2 Enclosed therefore, for members' approval for submission for audit, are the annual accounts for the Coats' Observatory Trust, which have been prepared in line the Charities Statement of Recommended Accounting Practice (Charities SORP).

9.3 Following their removal from the charities register in May 2022, the financial performance of the Johnstone, Paisley and Renfrew Common Good Funds is now disclosed as a statement within the Council's annual accounts.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – the report provides an overview of the Council's financial performance over the course of 2023/24 and as at 31 March 2024. The Annual Accounts will be presented for audit in September, with the audit findings being reported to the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board. The report indicates ongoing pressures on Council finances driven by the high inflationary economic climate, and action being taken to mitigate this risk by careful management of reserve balances.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – none arising from this report.
3. **Community/Council Planning** – the report outlines continued sound financial management, which supports the Council to deliver on its key community and council plan objectives.
4. **Legal** – subject to approval by Council, the annual accounts will be released to external audit within the statutory timescales.
5. **Property/Assets** – none arising from this report.
6. **Information Technology** – none arising from this report.

7. **Equality & Human Rights** – none arising from this report.
8. **Health & Safety** – none arising from this report.
9. **Procurement** – none arising from this report.
10. **Risk** – none arising from this report.
11. **Privacy Impact** – none arising from this report.
12. **Cosla Policy Position** – none arising from this report.
13. **Climate Risk** – none arising from this report.

Author: Alastair MacArthur, Director of Finance & Resources

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £m	Transfers out £m	Transfers in £m	Balance at 31 March 2023 £m	Transfers out £m	Transfers in £m	Balance at 31 March 2024 £m
COVID-19 General Recovery Fund	9.160	(1.780)	(7.380)	-	-	-	-
COVID-19 Education Recovery Fund	6.328	(0.403)	(5.925)	-	-	-	-
COVID-19 Recovery Construction Fund	10.000	(2.735)	(7.265)	-	-	-	-
Inflation Mitigation	4.990	-	(4.990)	-	-	-	-
Financial Sustainability Fund	-	(6.054)	27.560	21.506	(8.262)	-	13.244
Social Renewal Plan	1.795	(1.180)	(0.615)	-	-	-	-
Tackling Poverty	1.402	(0.770)	(0.632)	-	-	-	-
Fairer Renfrewshire Programme	-	(1.584)	6.081	4.497	(1.642)	-	2.855
Climate Change Action Fund	0.611	(0.256)	(0.355)	-	-	-	-
Community Empowerment Fund	0.339	(0.038)	(0.301)	-	-	-	-
Sustainable Communities Fund	-	-	0.656	0.656	(0.262)	-	0.394
PPP Schools Replacement Fund	12.670	-	(12.670)	-	-	-	-
Loan Charges Flexibility Fund	-	-	44.759	44.759	-	4.000	48.759
Alcohol and Drugs Commission	1.804	(0.601)	0.100	1.303	(0.536)	-	0.767
City Deal	1.750	(0.237)	0.106	1.619	(0.716)	1.000	1.903
Civil Contingencies Shared Service	-	-	0.114	0.114	(0.026)	0.038	0.126
Culture Bid Legacy	3.567	(0.869)	0.395	3.093	(1.084)	-	2.009
Development Contribution – Paisley Town Centre	1.057	-	-	1.057	(0.538)	-	0.519
Digital Infrastructure	2.389	-	0.033	2.422	(0.981)	-	1.441
Discretionary business grants	0.392	-	-	0.392	(0.392)	-	-
Early Years Change Fund	1.900	-	1.000	2.900	(1.112)	0.312	2.100
Employability	9.481	(0.171)	-	9.310	(1.355)	2.635	10.590
Environment & Infrastructure	1.015	(0.500)	0.045	0.560	(0.510)	0.740	0.790
Fly Tipping Enforcement	-	(0.208)	0.450	0.242	(0.242)	-	-
Local Authority Economic Recovery Fund	-	0.305	-	0.305	(0.800)	0.595	0.100
Leisure: Inclusive Play Facility	0.050	(0.043)	-	0.007	-	-	0.007
Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy	-	-	0.075	0.075	(0.075)	-	-
Memorial Headstone Safety	0.625	(0.511)	-	0.114	(0.114)	-	-
Paisley Town Centre Heritage Asset Strategy	1.254	(0.369)	-	0.885	(0.551)	-	0.334
Private Sector Housing Grant	2.206	(0.167)	-	2.039	(0.231)	0.500	2.308

APPENDIX 1

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Transfers out	Transfers in	Balance at 31 March 2023	Transfers out	Transfers in	Balance at 31 March 2024
Pupil Equity Fund	1.259	(0.599)	0.370	1.030	(0.506)	-	0.524
Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan	-	(0.114)	0.154	0.040	(0.040)	-	-
Resettlement and Asylum Fund	-	-	0.585	0.585	(0.398)	1.242	1.429
School Music Participation	0.285	(0.125)	0.062	0.222	-	0.054	0.276
Service Modernisation & Reform	11.059	(0.225)	0.185	11.019	(1.331)	0.974	10.662
Town Centre Public WiFi	0.033	(0.033)	-	-	-	-	-
Villages Improvement Fund	0.133	(0.133)	-	-	-	0.200	0.200
Welfare Reform	1.033	(0.447)	0.493	1.079	(0.780)	0.700	0.999
<i>Year-end flexibility:</i>					-	-	
Children's Services	5.291	(2.645)	2.597	5.243	(1.365)	1.127	5.005
General Fund Ring-fenced Total	93.878	(22.493)	45.687	117.073	(23.849)	14.117	107.341
Unallocated element of the General Fund Balance	10.788	(0.470)	-	10.318	(0.010)	-	10.308
Total General Fund Balance	104.666	(22.963)	45.687	127.391	(23.859)	14.117	117.649

RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL
REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT 2023/24
1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Policy Board	Approved Annual Budget	Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget	Actual Annual Outturn	Budget Variance (Adverse) or Favourable		Projected Variance at Period 10	Movement
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%	£000	£000
Communities and Housing	13,566	1,706	15,273	15,254	19	0.1%	(21)	40
Education and Children's Services	239,035	8,394	247,429	248,488	(1,059)	(0.4%)	(1,888)	829
Infrastructure, Land and Environment	31,123	4,274	35,397	37,641	(2,244)	(6.3%)	(3,321)	1,077
Finance, Resources and Customer Services	95,832	(4,932)	90,900	90,927	(27)	0.0%	(2,610)	2,583
Adult Services	94,264	3,653	97,917	98,765	(848)	(0.9%)	(822)	(26)
Planning	595	101	696	479	217	31.2%	(33)	250
Economy and Regeneration	3,085	(1,314)	1,771	1,751	20	1.1%	39	(19)
Chief Executive's Service	21,842	2,408	24,250	24,208	42	0.2%	3	39
GENERAL SERVICES NET EXPENDITURE	499,342	14,290	513,633	517,513	(3,880)	(0.8%)	(8,652)	4,772
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0
NET EXPENDITURE	499,342	14,290	513,633	517,513	(3,880)	(0.8%)	(8,652)	4,772

Subjective Summary	Approved Annual Budget	Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget	Actual Annual Outturn	Budget Variance (Adverse) or Favourable		Projected Variance at Period 10	Movement
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%	£000	£000
Employees	357,984	10,977	368,961	368,686	275	0.1%	3,416	(3,141)
Premises Related	44,690	1,160	45,850	54,000	(8,150)	(17.8%)	(5,764)	(2,386)
Transport Related	13,749	(154)	13,595	16,275	(2,680)	(19.7%)	(2,498)	(182)
Supplies and Services	87,509	(436)	87,073	91,302	(4,229)	(4.9%)	(4,093)	(136)
Third Party Payments	96,094	18,236	114,330	92,772	21,558	18.9%	(4,457)	26,015
Transfer Payments	70,578	8,359	78,937	104,020	(25,083)	(31.8%)	(377)	(24,706)
Support Services	5,905	1,612	7,517	9,029	(1,512)	(20.1%)	85	(1,597)
Depreciation and Impairment Losses	27,023	11,563	38,586	39,813	(1,227)	(3.2%)	373	(1,600)
GROSS EXPENDITURE	703,532	51,317	754,849	775,897	(21,048)	(2.8%)	(13,316)	(7,733)
Income	(204,190)	(37,026)	(241,216)	(258,384)	17,168	7.1%	4,664	12,504
NET EXPENDITURE	499,342	14,291	513,633	517,513	(3,880)	(0.8%)	(8,652)	4,772

Renfrewshire Council

Unaudited Accounts

2023–2024



Renfrewshire
Council

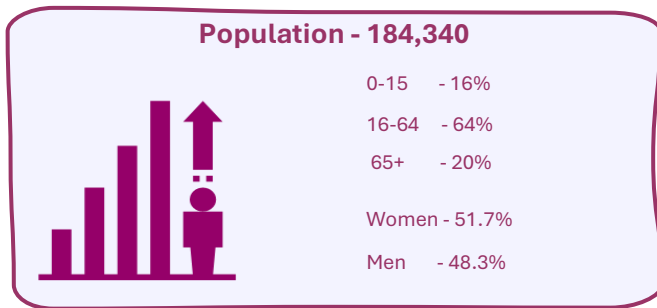
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Management Commentary

The purpose of the Management Commentary is to present an overview of Renfrewshire Council’s performance during the 2023/24 financial year and to help readers understand its financial position at 31 March 2024. In addition, it outlines the main issues and risks that may impact the performance of the Council in the future.



Renfrewshire Council, one of 32 local authorities in Scotland, was established by the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994 and came into being on 1 April 1996. It provides services to over 184,000 residents in the entire Renfrewshire area, which has a mixed geography, with many villages complementing its three main towns of Johnstone, Paisley and Renfrew.



The Council is part of a wider Group, with partnerships spanning a number of organisations to varying degrees.



The Council also works closely with the Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership, which delivers care services across the region; and with OneRen, which delivers leisure and cultural services. During 2023/24, Renfrewshire Council was organised into four directorate services, as follows:

- 
CHIEF EXECUTIVES SERVICE
 Responsible for the development of corporate policy, particularly in the areas of social inclusion, equalities, best value, as well as planning, regeneration and economic development services.
- 
CHILDRENS SERVICES
 Responsible for education services, children’s social work services and criminal justice social work services.
- 
ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE
 Services include the management of roads and transportation, housing services (including our corporate landlord function), public protection, fleet, neighbourhood services, waste and facilities management.
- 
FINANCE AND RESOURCES
 Core activities are geared towards providing services to the Council and its elected members, other council services and the general public.

The kind of services that the Council provides includes:



- HOUSING
- NURSERY
- PRIMARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION
- WASTE MANAGEMENT
- ROADS
- REGENERATION

Our Aims and Objectives

The aims of the Council Plan 2022-2027 were revised during 2022 with a refreshed [Community Plan](#) and a new [Council Plan](#). The Community Plan is Renfrewshire's Local Outcomes Improvement Plan, and the Council works with local partners to achieve a Renfrewshire that is Thriving, Well, Fair and Safe.

The new Council Plan presents the Council's vision for the next 5 years as:

*'Creating a fairer
Renfrewshire built on
innovation, wellbeing, and
opportunity'.*

It outlines five strategic outcomes, which the Council will work with partners, communities, and businesses to deliver, and one cross-cutting theme that will underpin the delivery of the outcomes. These are:

- **Place: Working together to enhance wellbeing across communities**
- **Economy: Building an inclusive, green, and resilient economy**
- **Fair: Nurturing bright, happy, and healthy futures for all**
- **Green: Leading Renfrewshire to Net Zero**
- **Living Our Values: Making a difference together**
- **Improving outcomes for Children and Families: Cross-cutting**

Each Council service prepares a [Service Improvement Plan](#), themed around the Council Plan's strategic outcomes, demonstrating how the services will contribute to the delivery of the Council Plan.

Financial Strategy

The financial strategy and service plans of the Council support the delivery of the Council's priorities outlined in the Council Plan. In order to achieve this, the financial strategy must ensure that resources are effectively and efficiently used in line with overall objectives; and ensure that resources are managed sustainably and in a way that continues to ensure the stability of service delivery.

The medium-term Financial Outlook was reported to the Council on 14 December 2023, with a further update on 29 February 2024. These reports highlight the increasingly challenging financial and economic environment the Council is facing, predominantly linked to high levels of inflation, coupled with low income growth.

The Council's medium-term financial outlook continues to be based on an assumed flat-cash revenue settlement over the short term; however, it is cost pressures that are increasing significantly and the principal driver for the extremely challenging financial outlook.

Incorporating an affordable level of pay increase over the period 2024/25 to 2027/28, and an assumed lower level of inflation on supplies and services costs, suggests that the Council is facing a £45-50m funding gap over this period, before any decisions on Council Tax. This could reduce to c£30m if Council Tax was to increase by 19.5% over the four year period.

The Council chose to freeze Council Tax in 2024/25 following the Scottish Government announcement of compensatory funding, which equated to a 4.4% increase. The Council is now targeting cost reductions and savings averaging at least £8m each year; however this still leaves an £8m recurring financial gap at the end of 2027/28. For this reason, financial sustainability and stability risks remain high on the Council's priorities going into 2024/25.

Information on the year-end financial position of the Council at 31 March 2024 is detailed later in the Financial Performance section.

Review of the Year

The Council publishes updates on progress delivering the Council Plan every six months, and the most recent report will be reported to the Leadership Board on 19 June 2024. The December report can be found [here](#). The Council also publishes an annual Public Performance Report, which gives residents an overview of how the Council performs in relation to its key priorities, and how we perform in terms of the 108 indicators included in the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF).

Scottish local authorities continue to operate in a very challenging financial environment, and this has been highlighted by the Improvement Service in its annual LGBF overview report. This report notes that it is becoming increasingly difficult for local authorities to maintain good levels of performance. A detailed report on Renfrewshire's performance in 2022/23 was presented to Council's Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board on 20 May 2024 and is available [here](#).

Key Achievements 2023/24

Place

- We delivered two key buildings within our ambitious Cultural Infrastructure Investment programme. The refurbished Paisley Town Hall reopened in October 2023 and the new Paisley Learning and Cultural Hub opened in November 2023.
- We secured £2m from Transport Scotland's Active Travel Transformation Fund, and £540,000 will be used to improve active travel infrastructure around Inchinnan Business Park.
- We delivered another year of successful events, including gala days, the hosting of the Royal National Mod and Paisley's Halloween festival.

Economy

- Our employability services worked with over 1,500 people in 2023/24. Over 600 people gained new qualifications and 528 were supported into paid employment.

- Our Procurement and Economic Development teams are developing our approach to Community Wealth Building, which focuses on inclusive growth. The teams have already taken part in a Scottish Government pilot and will finalise our future plans once legislation is published.
- We have Developing the Young Workforce Coordinators in all of our secondary schools, as part of our partnership with Invest in Renfrewshire, Skills Development Scotland and West College Scotland.

Fair:

- We launched a Tenant Support Fund in October 2023 to provide support with rent payments for those who meet the criteria, and in the first six months of operation we have supported 161 tenants.
- We supported 520 families who were not accessing all the benefits they were entitled to, with our advice services helping them raise their collective income by £109,000.
- We won a COSLA Excellence Award for our interactive Alcohol and Substance Education Awareness programme, which is being implemented across our schools.

Green:

- Our District Heating Network (DHN) at Inchinnan is the first of its kind in Scotland, and provides an energy solution that produces 90% less carbon than conventional heating.
- Our new build housing Zero Carbon Innovation Project, a partnership with John Gilbert Architects and the University of Strathclyde was shortlisted for a national award for its theoretically net zero build specification.
- Our Team Up to Clean Up initiative now has over 5,000 Facebook members

Living Our Values:

- We launched a new Customer Strategy which sets out our plans to make the most of technology to

help improve our engagement with our customers.

- Our People and Organisational Development team produced an updated suite of HR policies with a clear focus on staff wellbeing, including a refreshed Carer's Policy, new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Plan, and a new Health and Wellbeing Plan.
- We undertook a corporate self-assessment exercise and refreshed our performance management approach.

Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People:

- As part of Renfrewshire Council's commitment to The Promise, we have recruited 266 Promise Keepers from across our staff, acting as local champions and helping improve services for care experienced people.
- Our Promise Arts and Cultural Engagement programme delivered opportunities for care-experienced young people to participate in a range of activities, from co-designing installations at two of Paisley's biggest public events, creating a mural, taking part in arts sessions and contributing to Youth Service's LOVE2CARE week.

Performance Indicators

Our Council Plan is one way in which we report to elected members and Renfrewshire residents on our performance. The Council Plan reports on 39 indicators, of which 22 have a target.

In 2023/24, six of our indicators met or exceeded their target, five narrowly missed the target and four were behind target. There are seven indicators for which 2023/24 data is not yet available.

Our areas of strong performance include:

- Helping our citizens back into work, with 268 people supported by our employability service this year sustained in work for at least six months;

- Tackling homelessness, with the timescales for completion of cases still well within target despite increasing demands;
- Keeping our looked after children in family settings wherever possible, with 90.9% looked after in the community;
- Contributing to our goal of net zero by 2030 by having 30% of our vehicle fleet running on alternative fuel sources;
- Making our public spaces a nice place to be, with 93.3% of streets assessed as clean when independently checked;
- Promoting Renfrewshire as a great place to live, work and visit with extensive media reach for council activity and local events.

We narrowly missed our annual targets in the following areas:

- Responding to frontline complaints within the required timescale;
- Responding to Freedom of Information requests within the required timescale;
- Supporting new businesses through to launch;
- Reducing the level of CO2 emissions from our vehicle fleet;
- Upgrading our housing stock to meet the latest energy efficiency requirements.

Areas for Improvement and Development

Detailed consideration of performance is a core part of our Service Improvement Plan and Council Plan reporting, which note areas for continued improvement and development as well as successes. As well as the achievements noted above, services have identified areas where progress has been delayed or where further work is required. These are:

- Encouraging uptake of free school meals within primary schools;
- Encouraging uptake of free school meals in secondary schools;

- The percentage of Council housing stock which meets the Scottish Housing Quality Standard;
- The average days lost to sickness absence per employee.

We do not yet have data for the number of affordable housing completions, the number of private housing completions, the percentage of household waste recycled, or the percentage of procurement spend with local businesses. Data in relation to educational attainment and accredited awards are based on academic years (August to July) so 2023/24 figures are not yet available.

Findings from the independent review into capacity issues at Dargavel Primary school were reported to the Council at its meeting on 22 June 2023. The report can be found on the Council's website at the following link: [Dargavel Primary – Independent External Review](#)

There were eight recommendations arising from the independent review, and the Council's Chief Executive reported a response to the findings at the same meeting, with actions related to each of these recommendations set out in detail. This report can be found on the Council's website at the following link: [Dargavel Primary School Independent Review – Response to Recommendations](#).

During 2023/24 there have been regular updates to the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board on progress against these actions.

At its meeting on 28 September 2023, the Council approved a capital budget of £45m to build a second primary school in the Dargavel area, and a further £30m to extend the associated secondary provision at Park Mains High School.

General performance information can be found on the Council's website at the following path: [Your Council>Information, performance and statistics>Council Performance](#).

LGBF data can be found at: [Your Council>Information, performance and statistics>Council Performance>Benchmarking](#).

Service Update Reports, Service Delivery Plans and Operational Performance Reports are reported to the relevant Policy Board and can be found on the Council Committee Management Information System at: <https://renfrewshire.cmis.uk.com/renfrewshire/CouncilandBoards.aspx>

Working Towards Net Zero by 2030

Renfrewshire Council's Public Bodies Climate Change Duties reported a 17.2% emissions reduction compared with the previous year, and overall annual emissions reduction of 63.6% against the 2012/13 baseline.

Activity in 2023/24 includes delivering change across Council operations, and large-scale projects with local benefits aligned to the five themes of Renfrewshire's Plan for Net Zero, which are Clean Energy, Sustainable Transport, Circular Economy, Connected Communities and Resilient Place. Further detail of activity within each theme is set out in the following sections.



Clean Energy:

- AMIDS District Heating Network (operational May 2023) provides low carbon heating, cooling and hot water to businesses at Paisley's Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District site, with an estimated 95% emissions reduction over its 40-year lifetime, compared to gas boilers.
- Approval of Renfrewshire's Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy: a data-driven, area-based approach to fuel poverty, energy efficiency and the decarbonisation of heat. The Strategy was approved by the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Board on 24th January 2024, and the Delivery Plan is currently in development.



Sustainable Transport:

- Successful trials of hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) as alternative fuel for bin lorries and large fleet - reducing CO₂ emissions by up to 90% and contributing to improved air quality.

- Infrastructure Investment: active travel networks to link key destinations, e.g. the 5km Paisley to Renfrew route, connecting the towns by a direct link; and electric vehicle charging infrastructure – with 148 public EV chargers and 102 fleet charging bays to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.



Circular Economy:

- Maximising recycling opportunities across 56 Renfrewshire schools and nurseries, resulting in reducing residual waste by 59,000 litres per week and increasing recycling by 93,000 litres per week in 2023/24.
- A Reuse Hub for working small waste electricals launched at Paisley Recycling Centre. Items are collected and sold by the Salvation Army, with profits reinvested in local community initiatives.



Connected Communities:

- Sustainable Communities Fund Launch: to build community capacity, identify opportunities within local areas and develop local projects to benefit those who live there – connecting people through regenerated local spaces and tackling inequality through community collaboration.

- Climate Engagement: Community Climate Conversations - Key Stakeholder event with attendees from 57 local, regional and national bodies; and internal workshop with 70 officers from across the Council to optimise climate opportunities, priorities, partnership working and collaboration.



Resilient Place:

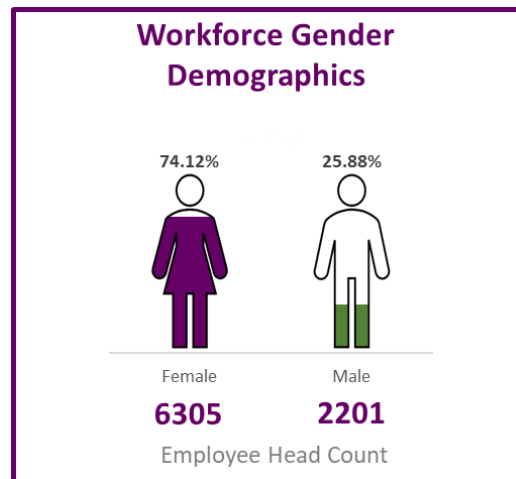
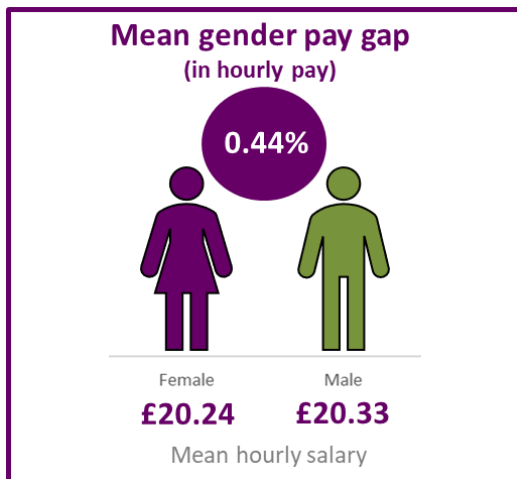
- Offsetting: a specialist feasibility evaluation identified 216 hectares at West Tandlemuir for peatland restoration, sequestering 556 tonnes of carbon. Consents for the work are now being secured.
- Tree Planting: delivery of initial phases of the Clyde Climate Forest, planting c3,000 trees to bring climate and ecological benefits to Renfrewshire and the wider Glasgow City Region.

Work continues on developing costed delivery plans to identify project opportunities for carbon reduction, cost savings and revenue generation, alongside wider community benefits; and finalising a proposed Carbon Budget for Renfrewshire Council.

Development of an Adaptation Plan for Renfrewshire, including an Offsetting Strategy will commence in the coming year.

Gender Pay Gap

The gender pay gap is the difference between the average hourly rates of pay of men and women expressed as a percentage, where a positive figure indicates that women are paid less than men. The gender pay gap is different from equal pay, which is a direct comparison of two people or groups carrying out the same or an equivalent role. At 31 March 2024, the mean gender pay gap for Renfrewshire Council was 0.44% (0.48% at 31 March 2023).



Key Financial Ratios

The following tables provide information regarding the financial performance of the Council in 2023/24 and the affordability of its ongoing commitments:

Financial Indicator	2023/24		2022/23	Commentary
	Estimate	Actual	Actual	
Reserves				
Uncommitted General Fund reserves as a % of budgeted net expenditure	2.1%	2.0%	2.1%	Reflects the level of funding available to meet unplanned expenditure and manage financial risk
Movement in uncommitted General Fund balance	n/a	-0.1%	-4.4%	Reflects Council spending decisions during the financial year
Council Tax				
In-year collection rate	95.5%	94.3%	95.5%	Reflects the Council's effectiveness in collecting Council Tax debt
Council Tax income as a proportion of total taxation and non-specific grant income	18.7%	19.8%	17.6%	Reflects the Council's ability to vary expenditure by raising Council Tax, the principal local authority controlled source of finance
Debt/Long term borrowing				
Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)	£552.0m	£510.1m	£442.1m	The information in this section demonstrates that the level of external debt (driven by the capital programme) is affordable, owing to the low proportion of our budget spent on servicing debt. Further information, including descriptions of these terms and their significance, is available in the Treasury Management Annual Report, presented to the June Council meeting each year.
External debt	£382.9m	£386.1m	£374.9m	
Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream (General Fund)	3.6%	3.1%	3.0%	

Financial Performance

Primary Financial Statements

The annual accounts summarise the Council's transactions for the year, its financial position at 31 March 2024, and its cashflows. The annual accounts are prepared in accordance with the International Accounting Standards Board Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements as interpreted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom ("the Code").

The Primary Financial Statements include the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES), Movement in Reserves Statement (MIRS), Balance Sheet and Cashflow Statement. These

statements are accompanied by notes to the accounts, which provide more details on the figures shown in the statements and set out the accounting policies adopted by the Council. There are also separate statements for Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates, the Housing Revenue Account and the Common Good Funds.

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) presents the total cost of providing Council services in 2023/24 along with the income available to fund those services.

The outturn explained in the following section differs from the accounting deficit shown in the CIES due to accounting adjustments required to comply with proper accounting practice, but which under statute should not impact on local taxpayers. A reconciliation of these

figures can be found in the Note 1: Expenditure and Funding Analysis.

General Fund

The General Fund is funded by government grant and Council Tax revenues and the Council is also able to apply usable reserves from the General Fund Balance to fund expenditure.

As mentioned previously, the Council's medium-term Financial Outlook highlights the increasingly challenging financial and economic environment the Council is facing, predominantly linked to high levels of inflation.

In setting its 2023/24 General Services revenue budget, the Council anticipated a deficit position in-year of £7.5m, arising from increases in the cost of pay, food, fuel, energy, construction and other contracts, details of which have featured in regular budget monitoring reports throughout the financial year. This has culminated in a year-end overspend against budget of £3.9m. Specific pressures that contributed to this position were as follows:

- Children's residential care: the number and cost of complex care packages has increased significantly;
- The refuse collection service was impacted by high fuel costs as well as overtime arising from carried forward holiday entitlement; and
- Car-parking income under-recovered by £1m, having not recovered since the pandemic despite charging being re-introduced in 2021.

These pressures were offset by underspends within the Miscellaneous Service in the following areas: a £1.2m VAT recovery received, relating to a historic claim which has now been settled by HMRC; Non-Domestic Rates

payments across the Council's estate (£0.9m); devolved Empty Property Relief (£0.7m); and Council Tax Reduction (£0.8m).

The Council's largest category of spend is staffing, so naturally any pay settlement linked to high levels of inflation will create a further cost pressure. In 2023/24 a national pay settlement of 6.05% was agreed for local government workers. In recognition of the exceptional inflationary environment, the Scottish Government provided councils with additional funding in support of the 2023/24 pay settlements. For Renfrewshire, this amounted to £7.7m.

Adult Services experienced a year-end overspend of £0.8m which decreased the reserves of the Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership, who operates these services.

The Council fell just short of its target in-year Council Tax collection rate of 95.9% in 2023/24, instead returning a creditable 94.3% in light of the prevailing cost of living crisis on household finances. Income from Council Tax actually over-recovered by £0.4m compared to budget, owing mainly to more prior year arrears being collected than had been anticipated.

As planned and reported through the year, £4.450m was drawn from the Financial Sustainability Fund at year-end to cover overspends in Children's residential care (£3m), car-parking income loss (£1m) and Proactive Tree Management (£0.45m).

After adjusting for this, as well as the Adult Services overspend and the over-recovery in Council Tax revenues, the final position for the Council's General Fund balance at 31 March 2024 was an overspend of £3.5m

2023/24	Revised Budget £m	Actual £m	Variance £m
Chief Executive's Service	28.872	28.749	0.123
Children's Services	251.415	252.456	(1.041)
Environment, Housing and Infrastructure	68.929	74.227	(5.298)
Finance and Resources	48.691	48.943	(0.252)
Miscellaneous Services	17.809	14.373	3.436
Adult Services*	98.765	98.765	0.000
Net Expenditure	514.481	517.513	(3.032)
Revenue Support Grant	(280.920)	(280.920)	0.000
Council Tax Income	(95.108)	(95.528)	0.420
Non-Domestic Rates Income**	(131.323)	(131.323)	0.000
Funding	(507.351)	(507.771)	0.420
Use of General Fund Balances	7.130	9.742	(2.612)

*Adult Services overspent against budget in the year by £0.848m; this was transferred from HSCP reserves and does not impact on the Council's General Fund balance.

**The Council collected £108.7m directly from local businesses with £22.6m due from the Scottish Government National Non-Domestic Rates Pool at 31 March 2024.

The Council's Reserves

The Council holds the following balances in reserve. Further details can be found in Note 7: Usable reserves.

As at 31 March 2023 £m	Usable Reserves	As at 31 March 2024 £m
127.391	General Fund Balance	117.649
6.497	Housing Revenue Account	6.164
8.184	Capital Receipts Reserve	7.518
93.979	Other Statutory Funds	90.917
236.051	Total	222.248

The General Fund balance of £117.6m will be carried forward to 2024/25. Of this balance, £107.3m has been earmarked for a particular purpose, as outlined in Note 7: Usable reserves. This leaves unallocated reserves of £10.3m (2.0% of the Council's net annual running costs), which is in line with levels agreed by the Council under its revised financial planning principles.

It is viewed that this balance is appropriate to the financial risk environment the Council is facing both in light of the ongoing response and recovery from the

pandemic, but also to mitigate adverse risks anticipated in public finances generally over the medium to longer term.

Housing Revenue Account

The balance on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) as at 31 March 2024 has reduced to £6.2m. This remains a prudent level of unallocated reserves for the HRA to mitigate the impact of any unforeseen risks and to provide an element of mitigation against forecast pressures related to the prevailing economic climate.

The year-end break-even position was arrived at after some large budget variances were experienced in-year. Property repairs and maintenance, including voids management, significantly overspent; however, this was offset by lower capital charges and increased interest receivable following higher interest rates over the year, as well as a drawdown from reserves of £0.3m.

Infrastructure Assets

The Scottish Government published a Statutory Override in August 2022, to allow councils to continue the current

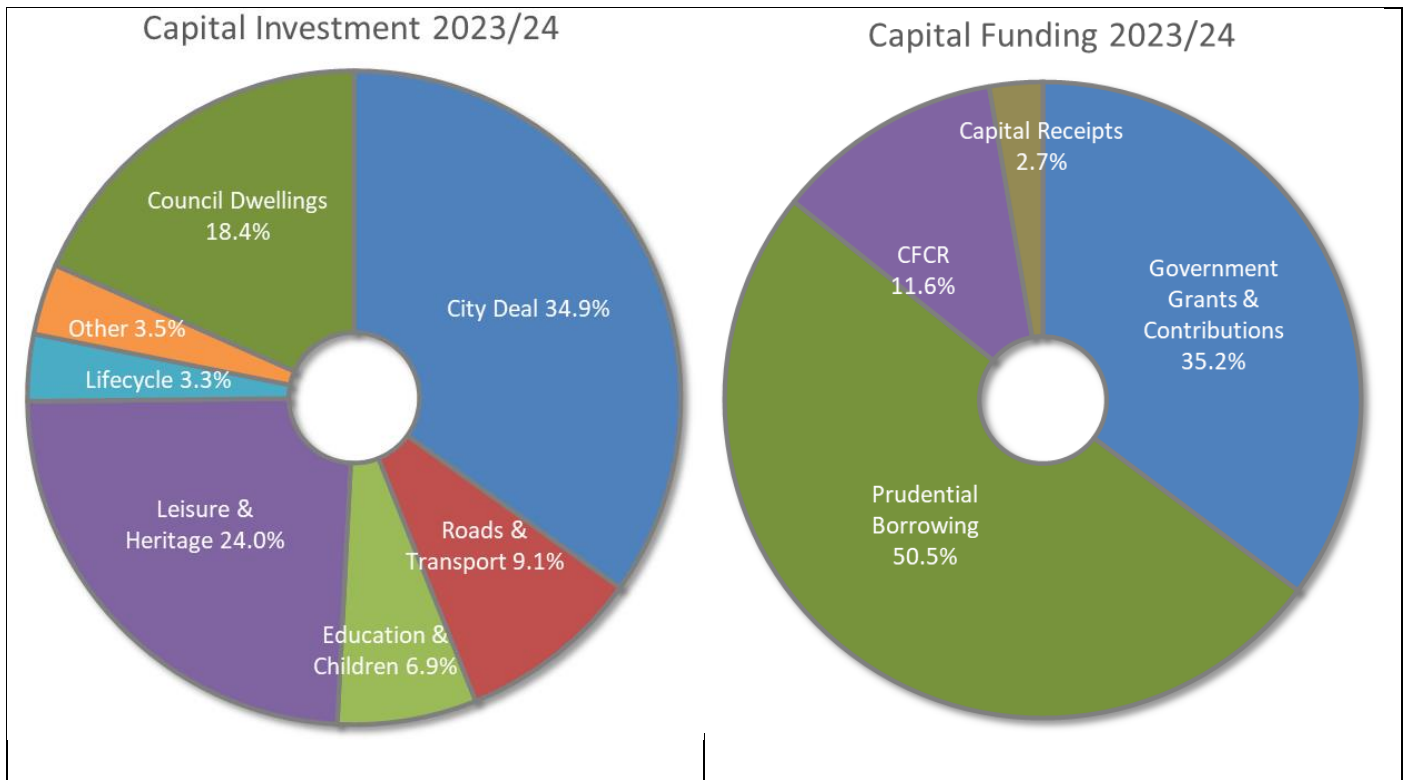
accounting treatment for Infrastructure assets until 31 March 2024. Further detail is provided at Note 9.

Capital and Borrowing

Renfrewshire Council continues to make significant capital investment in council housing, schools, culture, roads and the town centre estate. On 2 March 2023, the Council approved the housing capital investment programme for 2023/24 of £30m; and the General Fund capital investment programme for 2023/24 of £146m. The capital investment programmes were affected by the availability of contractors, as well as high levels of inflation impacting construction costs and professional

fees. Programmes have therefore been re-profiled during the year to reflect revised timescales of individual projects, or where project completion dates have been delayed, resulting in actual capital spend for the year of £23m for housing capital investment and £105m for the General Fund. Further detail is provided in Note 14: Capital expenditure and capital financing.

The following charts show the actual expenditure incurred and income received in relation to the 2023/24 capital programme.



During the course of 2023/24 there was new long-term external borrowing from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) of £20m to support the capital programme. The level of cash balances available to the Council remains consistent with daily cash requirements, treasury and capital investment plans. The decrease in cash balances compared to 31 March 2023 is attributable in part to a significant capital programme, particularly the Council's cultural and heritage investment over the year, with Paisley Town Hall the first of a number of transformed cultural facilities planned that opened in October 2023.

The Council's 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 the Public Works Loan Board with the remainder from market and other loans. Further details are provided in Note 22: Financial Instruments.

The Council regulates its capital spending limits within a prudential framework recommended by CIPFA and endorsed by the Scottish Government. Each year, the Council sets its capital financing requirement (CFR) for

the forthcoming year in its Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS), approved by the Council on 2 March 2023 with a mid-year update on 14 December 2023. The TMSS for 2023/24 can be found on the Council Committee Management Information System at: <http://renfrewshire.cmis.uk.com/renfrewshire/Home.aspx>.

The CFR is a prudent assessment of the aggregate external borrowings for capital investment purposes that are affordable and sustainable over the longer-term. The actual CFR at 31 March 2024 was £510.1m, within the authorised limit of £571.0m. The Council's external borrowings have only been applied for capital investment purposes, with the Council's net external debt being £358.0m at 31 March 2024 compared to the operational boundary of £553.0m. The Council's costs of borrowing remain consistently one of the lowest of all Scottish local authorities, are affordable, and align to the Council's medium to long-term financial strategy.

The Council's non-housing financing costs were 3.1% as a proportion of the Council's non-housing net revenue stream. Housing related financing costs as at 31 March 2024 were 27.7% of net housing revenues, lower than the mid-year forecast of 29.0%.

Net Pension Position

The disclosure requirements for pension benefits under IAS19 are detailed in Notes 27 and 28. The appointed actuaries, have confirmed an increase of £58.7m in their assessment of the Council's share of the actuarial position of the local government pension fund as at 31 March 2024. This is largely attributable to the corporate bond yield (upon which the pension discount rate is derived) having risen over the past year, which served to reduce the employer's pension obligations and led to the gain on the balance sheet.

The assessment provides only a snapshot as at 31 March 2024 and necessarily changes on a day-to-day basis to reflect stock market movements in particular. The appointed actuaries remain of the view that the asset holdings of the Strathclyde Pension Scheme and the contributions from employees and employers provide

sufficient security and income to meet future pension liabilities.

Accounting rules require that a cap is placed on the value of a pension asset that can be reported in the Balance Sheet. For 2023/24, this has adjusted the value of the pension asset shown in the balance sheet to nil (£175.9m in 2022/23). This nil value only relates to pension obligations funded through the LGPS, so the balance sheet shows a pension liability of £74.4m to reflect the Council's unfunded pension obligations.

A potential change to pension rules is outlined in Note 29: Contingent liabilities; however, this has not been reflected in the pension liability reported in the Balance Sheet.

Provisions and Contingencies

The Council has provided for eventualities which may have a material effect on the financial position of the Council. The reasons for the provisions made are outlined in Note 21: Provisions. In general, any contingent liabilities known to the Council are covered by insurance arrangements. As outlined at Note 7, the Council has also set aside £2.9m for uninsured claims. Any contingencies that cannot yet be accurately quantified are outlined in Note 29: Contingent liabilities.

The Renfrewshire Council Group

Local authorities are required to prepare Group Accounts in addition to their own Council's accounts where they have a material interest in other organisations. The Group Accounts consolidate the results of the Council with five subsidiaries:

- Renfrewshire Leisure Limited, trading as OneRen;
- the Common Good Funds;
- the Coats Observatory Trust;
- Park Lane Developments (Renfrewshire) LLP; and
- Paisley Museum Reimagined Limited.

The Group Accounts also consolidate the Council's share of five other entities treated as associates or joint ventures:

- Strathclyde Partnership for Transport;
- Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee;
- Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board;
- Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board; and
- AMIDS Renfrewshire LLP.

The Council has non-material interests in a number of other entities namely Scotland Excel; Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority; and Glasgow City Region – City Deal Cabinet.

Financial Outlook and Key Risks

Financial Sustainability

The Financial update reports throughout 2023/24 outlined continued and considerable uncertainty for local government finances. In 2020, the Council agreed to replenish unallocated reserves to a threshold of £10m in order to address the risks of significant and unplanned cost pressures which may emerge over the medium term, and this has been maintained in 2023/24.

The Council continued to feel the impact of the UK's exit from the EU and the war in Ukraine during 2023/24, though general inflation did reduce over the latter part of the year. Certain areas of supplies, such as energy, food and provisions and fuel, retained very high levels of inflation.

The Scottish Government published its Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) on 25 May 2023, outlining its potential spending and funding position over the next 5 years. The MTFS outlines a growing financial gap for the Scottish Government, with spending pressures are expected to outstrip the resources available from 2024/25, with an estimated funding gap of approaching £2 billion by 2027/28. The outlook for the local government settlement is likely to remain very constrained and in line with that previously outlined in the Resource Spending Review i.e. effectively real terms cuts. An updated MTFS is expected in summer 2024.

As outlined in the Revenue Estimates 2023/24 report to Council in March 2023, after adjusting for new responsibilities, areas of growing responsibility and other conditional aspects of the settlement to provide a like-for-like comparison to 2023/24, the underlying core grant for Renfrewshire Council increased by £0.239m (0.1%). The Council decided to increase Council Tax by 6% in 2023/24 and used £0.605m of earmarked reserves to balance the revenue budget.

Existing service and cost pressures arising from pay settlements, demographic and socio-economic factors will continue to play a major role in driving spending pressures for the Council; however, the predominant focus of the Council will be addressing its projected medium-term funding gap. As reported to the Council in February 2024, the current central forecast is a financial gap of £45-50m by the end of 2027. This forecast is prior to any decisions on Council Tax increases. Assuming a 5% uplift in Council Tax in each year is decided, the cumulative gap would reduce to a range of £30-35m.

The Council continues to mitigate treasury risks, including those associated with the security of cash deposits, by actively considering debt restructuring as outlined in the Council's agreed Treasury Management Strategy. The Council also continually reviews, in consultation with its treasury advisors, the criteria for placing deposits with financial institutions on the Council's approved counterparty list.

As part of the Council's treasury strategy, it continues to utilise internal cash balances, deferring or minimising external borrowing with the dual objectives of reducing the level of cash deposits held by the Council, whilst generating ongoing savings in net interest costs. This strategy is monitored carefully in order to ensure that the Council retains sufficient cash balances to support its ongoing requirements and remains alert to any anticipated adverse movement in future borrowing rates.

Other Key Risks

Risk	Mitigating Actions
<p>Economy</p> 	<p>A range of strategic challenges – the COVID-19 pandemic, the UK leaving the EU, the climate emergency, high inflation in the UK economy leading to high food and energy costs– impact on the local and national economy. Renfrewshire’s economy has well-established strengths in transport, manufacturing, construction and retail, but all sectors and supply chains have been impacted by these economic challenges. We mitigate the impact through our large-scale infrastructure investment programme which includes the AMIDS development, our investment in housing and heritage assets, our employability programmes and our support for new and existing businesses, which includes support to bid for council contracts and to reduce carbon emissions.</p>
<p>Reducing inequalities</p> 	<p>The pandemic has exacerbated many existing inequalities and had a disproportionate impact on our poorer communities. In Renfrewshire, we seek to address unequal outcomes through strong partnership working, through our Fairer Renfrewshire programme, through specific programmes which tackle local priorities (such as our focus on alcohol and drug use), through national programmes such as the Scottish Attainment Challenge, and on building community capacity. In the short-term, we are significantly focused on food insecurity and income maximisation.</p>
<p>Climate, Sustainability and Adaptability</p> 	<p>Renfrewshire Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019. The climate emergency brings risk to the Council and to our communities and we are focused on mitigation and on working toward a just transition to net zero. Our Plan for Net Zero was approved in 2022 and our Council Plan and Service Improvement Plans set out how each part of the Council will contribute to Net Zero. Our procurement strategy considers sustainability and community benefits in all contract strategies. Our Climate Panel provided an opportunity for community voices (including under-represented groups) to be heard. Our Community Climate Fund supported community organisations to enable behaviour change and deliver local green projects. Internally, we manage our corporate assets and capital investment programme to optimise use of the estate and promote reductions in energy use.</p>

Common Good Funds and Coats Observatory Trust

The Council administers the Common Good Funds for the areas of Paisley, Renfrew and Johnstone, as well as the Coats Observatory Charitable Trust. In order to comply with the Code, Audit Scotland and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) requirements, the Council separately prepares the financial statements of the Coats Observatory Trust, with the financial performance of the Common Good Funds disclosed in the Council's Annual Accounts. Balances are also included in the Group Accounts. Azets is the appointed auditor for the Coats Observatory Charitable Trust.

Overall, the Common Good Funds incurred a combined in-year surplus of £2.7m which is added to the previous surplus brought forward. The total net asset value

increased by £2.7m, including an increase in investments of £1.7m. Both the market values of investments and income generated from dividends are likely to be subject to ongoing volatility as the economy recovers from the pandemic and is subject to ongoing inflationary risk.

Conclusion and Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge efforts by the whole Finance team in producing the annual accounts, as well as colleagues in other services for their continued hard work and support.

Further information on the annual accounts or on the Council's general finances can be obtained on the Council website (www.renfrewshire.gov.uk), or by telephoning 0300 300 0285.

Cllr Iain Nicolson
Leader of the Council

Alan Russell
Chief Executive

Alastair MacArthur
Director of Finance and Resources

Statement of Responsibilities

The Authority's Responsibilities

The Authority is required to:

- make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs (section 95 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973). In Renfrewshire Council, that officer is the Director of Finance and Resources;
- manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets;
- ensure that the Annual Accounts are prepared in accordance with legislation (The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014), and so far as is compatible with that legislation, in accordance with proper accounting practices (section 12 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003), and;
- approve the Annual Accounts for signature.

I can confirm that these annual accounts were approved for signature by the Council at its meeting on 27 June 2024.

Signed on behalf of Renfrewshire Council.

CLlr Iain Nicolson
Leader of the Council

The Director of Finance and Resources' Responsibilities

The Director of Finance and Resources is responsible for the preparation of the Authority'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 Accounting Code).

In preparing the Annual Accounts, the Director of Finance and Resources has:

- selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently;
- made judgements and estimates which were reasonable and prudent;
- complied with legislation; and
- complied with the local authority Accounting Code (in so far as it is compatible with legislation).

The Director of Finance and Resources has also:

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

I certify that the financial statements give 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 2024.

Alastair MacArthur
Director of Finance and Resources

Annual Governance Statement

Scope of responsibility

Renfrewshire Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively. The Council also has a statutory duty to make arrangements to secure best value under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003. In discharging this overall responsibility, the Council's members and the corporate management team are responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for its affairs and facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, which includes arrangements for the management of risk.

The Council has approved and adopted a Local Code of Corporate Governance, which is consistent with the principles of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) framework; Delivering Good Governance in Local Government. A copy of the Local Code is available on our website at: www.renfrewshire.gov.uk > Your Council > Information, performance and statistics > Information Governance

This statement explains how Renfrewshire Council has complied with the Local Code and also meets the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK, which details the requirements for an Annual Governance Statement.

The purpose of the governance framework

The governance framework comprises the systems and processes, and culture and values, by which the Council is directed and controlled and through which it accounts to, engages with and leads the community. It enables the Council to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives set out in the Council Plan.

The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. Internal control cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives

and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Council's policies aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

The governance framework

The main features of our governance arrangements are described in the Local Code but are summarised below:

The overarching strategic priorities and vision of the Council are set out in the Council Plan 2022-2027 and the Renfrewshire Community Plan 2017-2027. The Council Plan is aligned to the Community Plan and sets out 5 strategic outcomes that the organisation will work to achieve over a 5-year period with specific priorities relating to tackling inequality, promoting economic and cultural regeneration, attainment and sustainability. Renfrewshire's Community Plan (which also acts as Renfrewshire's Local Outcome Improvement Plan as required by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015) details how community planning partners will work together to achieve the key priorities identified for Renfrewshire. A mid-term review of the Community Plan was also undertaken in 2022 in tandem with the development of the new Council Plan, which identified three key areas of focus which should be progressed by partners.

- The key outcomes the Council is committed to delivering with its partners, are set out in the Community Plan;
- The Council operates within an established governance framework which incorporates a scheme of delegated functions, financial regulations, standing orders relating to contracts and procedural standing orders. These elements of the framework are kept under regular review by the Council;
- The Council facilitates policy and decision making through a policy board structure;
- Services are able to demonstrate how their own activities link to the Council's vision and priorities

through their Service Improvement Plans.

Performance management and monitoring of service delivery is reported through policy boards regularly including six monthly updates to the Leadership Board on progress against the implementation of the Council Plan;

- The Corporate Management Team has agreed a new refreshed approach to its performance monitoring and the Council Plan scorecard will be considered alongside other performance information each quarter and followed up with an in-depth look at performance in one service particular area of interest at regular intervals.
- An annual report on the Local Government Benchmarking Framework, which includes data for over 100 indicators for all 32 local authorities, is provided to the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board each year.
- The Council makes a range of performance information available on its website, including the publication of its public performance report “How are we doing?”, in line with statutory requirements.
- The Council has adopted a code of conduct for its employees. Elected members adhere to the nationally prescribed Code of Conduct for Members. In addition, the Council has in place a protocol for Relationships between Political Groups, Elected Members and Officers;
- The Council’s approach to risk management is set out in the risk management strategy and is well embedded. Risks are reported 6 monthly to the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board and a Risk Management Annual Report is also provided to Board in respect of corporate risk management arrangements. In 2023/24 the Council launched its self-developed Business as Usual Risk Assurance Model. All Heads of Service self-assessed their levels of assurance in relation to implementing risk controls covering various aspects of governance, risk and internal control. The Corporate Management Team are required to confirm the overall assurances for their service areas.
- The Director of Finance and Resources is the Council’s Senior Information Risk Owner and

information risk is monitored through the Information Management and Governance Group and its sub-groups. The Managing Solicitor (DPO) is the statutory Data Protection Officer;

- Comprehensive arrangements are in place to ensure members and officers are supported by appropriate training and development;
- Registers of interests for elected members and senior officers are maintained and published on the Council’s website;
- The Council complies with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption and the Council’s arrangements for fraud prevention, detection and investigation are managed through the corporate counter fraud service;
- The Council’s approach to ‘whistleblowing’ is outlined in the whistleblowing policy;
- Cyber-attacks are both increasing and becoming more sophisticated and while no system of internal control can provide absolute assurance, the Council has a range of multi layered Cyber Security controls in place and tested annually to check standards are in line with government guidance. Industry cyber security standards are followed and explicitly those belonging to Public Sector Network (PSN), National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) guidance, Scottish Government Public Sector Cyber Resilience Plan and Payment Card Industry (PCI) data security standards. The O365 security and compliance toolset provides a wide range of protection against cyber-attacks including identity theft and phishing. The Council holds a current Certificate of Compliance for PSN standards. ICT network and digital services are monitored monthly through our cyber security partner. These are all monitored and managed through the Cyber Security team which is headed up by a CISM qualified Cyber Security Architect (Cyber Information Security Manager). Events and alerts are monitored 24 x 7 by our cyber security partner who are authorised to take emergency preventative action where necessary;
- Clear and independent governance arrangements are in place with One Ren and the Renfrewshire

Health and Social Care Partnership with oversight from the Head of Policy and Commissioning and the Head of Corporate Governance respectively and the Council's Leadership Board.

- Seven Local Partnerships have been established and have identified initial local priorities. Decision making including that relating to relevant grants is delegated to each Local Partnership through a Lead Officer appointed by the Council, through the Chief Executive.

This governance framework has been in place at Renfrewshire Council for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The system of internal financial control

The system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information, financial regulations, administrative procedures (including segregation of duties), management and supervision, and a system of delegation and accountability. Development and maintenance of the system is undertaken by managers within the Council.

The system includes:

- Guidance on financial management supported by comprehensive financial regulations and codes;
- Comprehensive budgeting systems, and detailed guidance for budget holders;
- Regular reviews of periodic and annual financial reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts;
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- The preparation of regular financial reports that indicate actual expenditure against the forecasts;
- Clearly defined capital expenditure guidelines;
- As appropriate, formal project management principles;
- The Chief Finance Officer is the Director of Finance and Resources who complies with the CIPFA Statement on the Role of The CFO in Public Services.

The role and responsibilities of the Audit Committee and the Chief Auditor

The role of the audit committee is under the remit of the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board, which is chaired by a member of the opposition. Its role is:

- to approve the internal audit charter and annual internal audit plans;
- to review internal and external audit reports and the main issues arising, including those relating to the annual accounts and seek assurance that action has been taken and make recommendations to the Council where appropriate;
- to receive and consider the Chief Auditor's annual report, summarising internal audit activity and the level of assurance this provides over the arrangements for internal control, risk management and governance within the Council;
- to monitor the performance of Internal Audit;
- to consider the annual review of the Local Code of Corporate Governance.

The Internal Audit service operates in accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and reports to the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board. Internal Audit undertakes an annual programme of work, approved by the Board, based on a strategic risk assessment. The Council's Chief Auditor provides an independent opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the governance framework, risk management and internal control. The Council conforms to the requirements of the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Head of Internal Audit (2019).

Members and officers of the Council are committed to the concept of sound governance and the effective delivery of Council services. The Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board complies with the CIPFA guidance Audit Committees: Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police. The Council's Chief Auditor has responsibility to review independently and report to the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board annually, to provide assurance on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Local Code and the extent of compliance with it. The Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board performs a scrutiny role in relation to the application of the Local Code of Corporate Governance

and regularly monitors the performance of the Council's Internal Audit service.

Internal Audit reporting arrangements include communication of finalised audit engagements, monitoring the progress of agreed management actions and communication of any unacceptable risk identified to the Board.

Review of effectiveness and continuous improvement

Renfrewshire Council has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control. The review of effectiveness of the framework is informed by the work of the Corporate Management Team who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment, the Chief Auditor's annual report, and reports from the external auditors and other review agencies and inspectorates.

The effectiveness of the governance framework and how the organisation manages its risks is reviewed annually by the Corporate Management Team, including the use of an annually updated self-assessment tool covering twelve key areas of governance, internal control and risk as follows:

- Asset Management
- Complaints, Comments and Claims
- Financial Control and Governance
- Health and Safety, and managing adverse events
- Information Handling
- Organisational Resilience
- Partnership Management
- People, Wellbeing and Development
- Programme Management
- Service Performance
- Community and Public Safety

This self-assessment indicated the governance framework is being complied with in all material respects. In addition, the review of the effectiveness of

the governance arrangements and the systems of internal control within the group entities places reliance upon the individual bodies' management assurances in relation to the soundness of their systems of internal control.

The Council's approach to continuous improvement has a number of strands. Our Council Plan and Service Improvement Planning processes drive much of this and allow for elected member scrutiny of improvement activity. Services also undertake improvement work linked to their core duties and to statutory requirements. Registered services in education, housing, social work and social care regularly undertake self-assessment activity as part of their regulatory framework and inspection process. Services within Environment, Housing and Infrastructure maintain their ISO 9001 accreditation as one means of demonstrating quality. The Council has recently developed its own model of corporate self-assessment based on the Public Service Improvement Framework.

The Corporate Management Team introduced an updated programme of corporate self-assessment in 2023 linked to the previous EFQM/PSIF model used across the public sector. All Chief Officers participated in this programme initially before it was further extended to a wider group of senior leaders across the Council. The outputs from this are informing an improvement plan led by the Corporate Management Team.

The Council continues to recognise the need to exercise strong financial management arrangements to manage the financial pressures common to all local authorities, and has robust financial control and financial planning processes in place. The CIPFA Financial Management (FM) Code was adopted in June 2021, and the resulting Action Plan contains 59 improvement actions with target dates ranging until 2025. Work to refresh the initial engagement will be undertaken by the end of 2025 to ensure that improvement work continues to be focused, relevant and effective.

The Council continues to manage a number of very significant challenges and is operating within a context of new and emerging challenges which require the Council to respond very flexibly to the changing needs of

local businesses, communities and citizens. These factors include:

- Ongoing economic uncertainty, which has significantly increased costs and impacted supply chains utilized by the Council and its partners. The linked cost of living crisis has also required the Council to respond in new ways with partners to meet the needs of those most vulnerable across Renfrewshire through our Fairer Renfrewshire Programme.
- New and developing demand pressures continue to impact the Council, including in relation to issues such as migration and asylum, in relation to support for Ukrainian Displaced Persons, Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and Young People and more recently the widening out of the asylum dispersal programme.
- In the post-pandemic period, the Council has had a strong focus on recovering from Covid-19 and continuing to mitigate some of the impacts on our communities, including those relating to rapidly increasing living costs. As an organisation, the Council has continued to adopt new ways of working, building on the strong approach developed during the pandemic in areas such as digital access for customers, and embracing hybrid working. Whilst this is still a recovery phase, much of the business-as-usual work has fully resumed, including:
 - the work on social renewal, which began during the pandemic, is now part of the wider Fairer Renfrewshire programme, which is overseen by a sub-committee of the Leadership Board. Services have returned to the regular programme of reporting performance to elected members through policy boards, with service improvement plans submitted for approval in spring 2024 and regular progress updates provided.
 - the Right for Renfrewshire programme recommenced over 2022, and the service redesigns progressed were in those areas where it was anticipated that there would be potentially less direct impact from the pandemic recovery process and where the greatest opportunity exists for appropriate management and service capacity to be directed towards the Right for Renfrewshire agenda;

- the Council commenced planning for Brexit during 2019/20 and identified risks have been incorporated into the Strategic and Corporate Risk Registers. Some of these risks will be further exacerbated by the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the associated sanctions on Russia which will place additional cost and supply pressures on some products and materials that are likely to increase and continue into 2024/25.

Audit Scotland has introduced a new approach to auditing Best Value in local government which commenced this year as part of the next 5-year Best Value Audit programme. This approach involves thematic areas of focus each year which will be considered for all local authorities within the same snapshot in time rather than the previous rolling programme of deep dive audits which inspect each local authority across a five-year programme.

This significant shift in approach and for year one (2023), this examined the effectiveness of leadership within Councils across Scotland, with a separate thematic report published for Renfrewshire Council in September 2023 alongside the Annual Audit Report. For 2024, the national theme will be Workforce Innovation.

Alongside the ongoing Best Value auditing and this new approach with annual themes, there will also be further external audit activity as requested by the Accounts Commission following the Section 102 report instructed in response to the Dargavel School pupil roll forecast error. It is expected a Best Value report will be produced by the end of 2024 for Renfrewshire Council. The action plan arising from the Independent Review of the Dargavel School Project is reported to and monitored by the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board.

The Council undertook a comprehensive review of its governance arrangements through a member led cross party working group, the recommendations arising were reported to and approved by the Council on 29 February 2024. A separate self-assessment against the CIPFA guidance for effective Audit Committees was undertaken with the members of the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board and actions for improvement were identified and have been progressed. A leadership

development programme was also delivered to support senior managers and comprehensive financial governance training was undertaken across the Council's senior and middle managers.

The external auditors, Azets, provided an unqualified and unmodified audit opinion on the 2022/23 annual accounts.

Regular reviews of the Council's arrangements are undertaken by Internal Audit. Two specific areas were identified in the 2022/23 governance statement as impacting on the overall internal control, risk management and governance arrangements. These were:

- Business continuity plans – All services now have up-to-date business continuity plans, with a programme of quality assurance being undertaken.
- Manual creditor payments – A corporate project to address this area is currently underway.

The programme of work undertaken by Internal Audit in 2023/2024 identified 8 occasions where a limited or no assurance level was provided in relation to the internal control, risk management and governance objectives for the specific areas of each audit review. Of these, 6 were specific to individual service areas and although these areas require to be addressed there is no significant impact on the Council's overall system of internal control and action plans are in place to address the risk identified.

The remaining three areas identified as impacting on the overall internal control, risk management and governance arrangements are:

- Disaster recovery – The Council's critical systems are increasingly moving to a Software as a Service (SaaS) operating model and, as these systems are externally hosted, the Council's role in relation to disaster recovery differs from traditional, on-premises solutions, where IT would have a more active role. Nonetheless it is important that the Council has adequate arrangements in place for obtaining assurance from SaaS providers that disaster recovery will be handled in a timely manner,

with minimum business impact, should an event occur. The review identified that improvements were required, including formal identification of critical systems and formalising the procurement guidance to ensure that services procured meet the required disaster recovery arrangement. An action plan is in place to ensure that the required actions are implemented.

- Health and Safety – The corporate arrangements for health and safety require to be improved. It was identified that procedures require to be reviewed and updated. Improvements are required in terms of corporate oversight, compliance and performance reporting.
- Purchasing processes (corporate credit cards) - Compliance against the corporate procedures requires to be improved, the main areas for improvement included eliminating off-contract spend and improving the authorisation process to ensure that all purchases are properly authorised. The Corporate Procurement Unit has reminded all relevant employees of the requirement to comply with the established procedures.

Internal Audit undertakes an annual exercise to ensure that recommendations arising from Internal Audit engagements have been implemented by service management and the results are reported to the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board. This work highlighted that 88% of recommendations were implemented by the due date. 9% had passed their original due date and revised implementation dates have now been set and 3% were superseded. Of the 44 recommendations followed up that were deemed to be critical, 41 have been fully implemented and 3 have been partially implemented. Revised implementation dates have been agreed for each of these recommendations.

It is our view that the Council has in place a sound for governance, risk management and internal control and that appropriate mechanisms are in place to identify any areas of weakness.

This is corroborated by an Annual Report incorporating the Annual Assurance Statement prepared by the Council's Chief Auditor stating that subject to

management addressing the critical and important recommendations made the limited and no assurance reports, it is considered that reasonable assurance can

be placed upon the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's internal control, risk management and governance arrangements.

Action Plan

Following consideration of the review of adequacy and effectiveness the following action plan has been agreed to ensure continual improvement of the Council's governance.

Agreed action	Responsible person	Date
Implement improvement plan arising from the Corporate Self-Assessment Exercise.	Head of Policy and Partnerships	December 2024

Agreed action	Responsible person	Date
The recommendations arising for the review of the corporate health and safety internal audit report, will be considered and an action plan developed will be agreed for implementation.	Director of Finance and Resources	December 2024

The agreed actions will be subject to review to identify the progress being made in implementing them.

Update on the 2022/23 Action Plan

Agreed action	Progress Update	Responsible person	Date
All service level business continuity plans are to be updated to record all the ICT risks referred to in the Council's business continuity plan template for all service areas	All service areas have updated their business continuity plan templates. These plans are currently being externally quality assured	Service Directors	December 2024
A review of the current manual payment process is under review with key stakeholders from the Corporate Procurement Unit and the Finance Business Partners, this will enable and introduce an exception policy to support the No Purchase Order No Payment. Once the review is conducted the exception policy will be implemented and the No Purchase Order No Payment approach will commence, this is anticipated to take up to 12 Months.	A Strategic P2P Lead officer was appointed in November 2023. The programme's Strategic and Operational Governance boards have now been established and meet on a monthly basis to discuss key decision points, with regular updates to the Corporate Management Team. Nine Project Workstreams have been established, with lead officers appointed to progress these and as part of this, the No PO No Payment initiative will be taken forward, it is now expected to be implemented by December 2024.	Strategic Lead (P2P)	December 2024

Assurance

Subject to the above, and on the basis of the assurances provided, we consider the governance and internal control environment operating during 2023/24 provides reasonable and objective assurance that any significant risks impacting on the achievement of our principal objectives will be identified and actions taken to avoid or mitigate their impact. Systems are in place to continually review and improve the governance and internal control environment and action plans are in place to address identified areas for improvement.

Cllr Iain Nicolson
Leader of the Council

Alan Russell
Chief Executive

Remuneration Report

The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2014 (SSI No. 2014/200) amend the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (SI No 2011/64) and requires local authorities in Scotland to prepare a Remuneration Report as part of the annual statutory accounts. All information disclosed in sections 3 to 8 in this Remuneration Report has been audited by the Council's appointed auditor, Azets. The other sections of the Remuneration Report will be reviewed by Azets to ensure that they are consistent with the financial statements.

1. Remuneration Policy for Senior Employees

The salary of senior employees is set by reference to national arrangements. 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 Corporate Directors and Heads of Service are based on a spinal column point model as agreed by the Finance and Resources Policy Board on 14 May 2014. Senior employees received a 6.05% pay award in 2023/24 and no other benefits.

2. Remuneration policy for the Leader of the Council, the Provost and Senior Councillors

The annual salary of the Leader of the Council and the upper limit for the annual salary of the Provost (or civic head) are set by the Scottish Government in terms of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Regulations 2007, as amended by the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Amendment Regulations 2021. The salary for the Leader of the Council in 2023/24 was £40,205 per annum (£39,148 in 2022/23) and the salary for the Provost was £30,154 per annum (£29,361 in 2022/23).

In terms of the same Regulations, the Scottish Government permits Renfrewshire Council to nominate up to 14 senior councillors (in addition to the Leader of the Council and the Provost), whose salaries in aggregate must not exceed a specified amount, in

2023/24 being £351,766 per annum; and whose salaries individually must be on a specified scale, in 2023/24 £20,099 to £30,154. At the Council meeting of 30 June 2022, it was agreed that Renfrewshire Council would have 13 senior councillors: six Policy Board Conveners (salary of £28,951 per annum in 2023/24); four Regulatory Board Conveners (salary of £24,032 in 2023/24); Chair of OneRen Board; Chair/Vice-Chair of Integration Joint Board and one Leader of the Opposition (salary of £24,032 in 2023/24).

3. Remuneration of Senior Employees

The regulations define a senior employee as any employee who meets one or more of the following criteria:

- has responsibility for the management of the local authority to the extent that the person has power to direct or control the major activities of the authority whether solely or collectively with other persons.
- holds a post that is politically restricted by reason of section 2(1)(a), (b) or (c) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- whose annual remuneration, including any annual remuneration from a local authority subsidiary body is £150,000 or more.

The Council has interpreted the above criteria as including the Chief Executive, Directors and the Chief Executive of OneRen.

The term 'remuneration' means gross salary, fees and bonuses, allowances and expenses and compensation for loss of office. The table below outlines the remuneration details for senior employees, including prior year figures. The table shows the relevant amounts, before tax and other deductions, due to, or receivable by, each of the persons named for the year to 31 March 2024, whether or not those amounts were actually paid to, or received by, those persons within that period. There were no non-consolidated bonuses or performance-related payments made to any senior officer in 2023/24, nor any remuneration in connection with election activities (this totalled £4,509 in 2022/23).

2022/23	Senior employees		2023/24
Total Remuneration £	Name	Post held	Total Remuneration £
160,779	Alan Russell	Chief Executive	167,893
129,136	Mary Crearie	Director of Communities and Housing Services until 2 April 2023	2,839
126,216	Alastair MacArthur	Director of Finance and Resources	136,907
129,936	Gordon McNeil	Director of Environment, Housing & Infrastructure*	136,924
129,436	Steven Quinn	Director of Children's Services until 11 August 2023 <i>Full-year equivalent £136,924</i>	51,508
0	Janie O'Neil	Director of Children's Services from 04 December 2023 <i>Full-year equivalent £130,138</i>	41,002
675,503	Total		537,073

* Gordon McNeil's post changed from Director of Environment and Infrastructure on 24 May 2023.

2022/23	Senior Employees of Subsidiary Bodies		2023/24
Total Remuneration £	Name	Post held	Total Remuneration £
108,924	Victoria Hollows	Chief Executive, OneRen	115,493
108,924	Total		115,493

4. Remuneration of Senior Councillors

Under the regulations, remuneration disclosures are to be made for the Leader of the Council, the Civic Head and any councillor designated a Senior Councillor by the Council. The table below shows the relevant amounts, before tax and other deductions, due to each of the persons named for the year to 31 March 2024, whether or not those amounts were actually paid or received within that period and relate only to the Senior Councillor posts indicated. No payments were made in connection with loss of employment or office, nor were any other payments made that are not included in the table.

A local government election took place on 6 May 2022. Elected members who held a senior councillor position on 1 April 2022 were paid at that remuneration level until 5 May 2022. All members elected to Renfrewshire Council on 6 May 2022 reverted to basic councillor remuneration on that date.

Senior Councillor appointments were then made at the statutory meeting of the Council on 19 May 2022, except for the Chair/Vice Chair of the Integration Joint Board, who was formally appointed on 24 June 2022 at the first meeting of that Board, and the Licensing Board Convener, who was formally appointed on 5 September 2022 at the first meeting of that Board.

The following table reports on remuneration related to senior councillor positions only.

2022/23	Senior Councillors		2023/24
Total Remuneration £	Name	Position held	Total Remuneration £
Until 5 May 2022			
2,589	Cathy McEwan	Policy Board Convener	0
2,175	Jennifer Adam	Chair/Vice Chair IJB (2)	0
2,357	Bill Binks	Regulatory Board Convener	0
2,175	Andy Steel	Regulatory Board Convener	0
2,589	Jacqueline Cameron	Chair/Vice Chair IJB	0
2,141	Eddie Devine	Leader of largest opposition group	0
2,175	Neill Graham	Leader of 2nd largest opposition group	0
From 19 May 2022			
23,753	Michelle Campbell	Policy Board Convener	28,868
23,753	Emma Rodden	Policy Board Convener	28,868
23,753	Andy Steel	Policy Board Convener	28,868
19,637	Andy Doig	Regulatory Board Convener	23,963
19,637	Stephen Burns	Regulatory Board Convener	23,963
13,197	Cathy McEwan	Regulatory Board Convener ⁽¹⁾	23,963
21,573	Jennifer Adam	Chair/Vice Chair IJB ⁽²⁾	28,868
19,637	Iain McMillan	Leader of largest opposition group	23,963
Full Year (excluding 6-19 May)			
36,821	Iain Nicolson	Leader Of the Council	40,089
27,580	Lorraine Cameron	Provost	30,067
26,341	Marie McGurk	Policy Board Convener	28,868
26,341	Jim Paterson	Policy Board Convener	28,868
26,341	John Shaw	Policy Board Convener	28,868
21,812	John McNaughtan	Regulatory Board Convener	23,963
23,796	Lisa-Marie Hughes	Chair, OneRen ⁽³⁾	28,868
370,174	Total		420,915

Notes:

1. Cllr McEwan was appointed as Convener of the Licensing Board on 5 September 2022, which was the first meeting of that board following the election
2. Cllr Adam was appointed as Chari/Vice-Chair of the Renfrewshire Integrated Joint Board (IJB) on 24 June 2022, which was the first meeting of that board following the election
3. Cllr Hughes was appointed as Chair of OneRen on 28 June 2022, which was the first meeting of that board following the election

No payments were made in connection with loss of employment or office, nor were any other payments made which are not included in the table.

5. Pension Entitlement

Pension benefits for councillors and local government employees are provided through the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

Councillors' pension benefits are based on career average pay. The councillor's pay for each year or part year ending 31 March (other than the pay in the final year commencing 1 April) is increased by the increase in the cost of living, as measured by the appropriate index (or indices) between the end of that year and the last day of the month in which their membership of the scheme ends. The total of the revalued pay is then divided by the period of membership to calculate the career average pay. This is the value used to calculate the pension benefits.

From 1 April 2015 benefits for local government employees are based on career average pay. Pension benefits are based on the pay received for each year in the scheme increased by the increase in the cost of living, as measured by the appropriate index (or indices). The scheme's normal retirement age is linked to the state pension age of each member.

From 1 April 2009 a five-tier contribution system was introduced with contributions from scheme members being based on how much pay falls into each tier. This is designed to give more equality between the cost and benefits of scheme membership. Prior to 2009 contributions rates were set at 6% for all non-manual employees. The tiers and members contribution rates are as follows:

Tiered contribution rates on whole time pay 2023/24		Equivalent bandings for 2022/23
Up to £25,300	5.5%	Up to £23,000
£25,301 to £31,000	7.25%	£23,001 to £28,100
£31,001 to £42,500	8.5%	£28,101 to £38,600
£42,501 to £56,600	9.5%	£38,601 to £51,400
Over £56,601	12%	Over £51,401

If a person works part-time their contribution rate will be based on their part-time pay.

There is no automatic entitlement to a lump sum. Members may opt to give up (commute) pension for lump sum up to the limit set by the Finance Act 2004. The accrual rate guarantees a pension based on 1/49th of pensionable pay for each year of membership, adjusted in line with the cost of living (prior to 2015 the accrual rate guaranteed a pension based on 1/60th of final pensionable salary).

The value of the accrued benefits has been calculated on the basis of the age at which the person will first become 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 Employees and Senior Councillors for the year to 31 March 2024 are shown in the table below, together with the contribution made by the Council to each individual's pension during the year.

Any senior employees and councillors omitted from the following tables are not members of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

Name	Post held	In-year pension contributions by Renfrewshire Council		Accrued pension benefits as at 31 March 2024		Change in accrued pension benefits since 31 March 2023	
		2023/24 £	2022/23 £	Pension £000	Lump Sum £000	Pension £000	Lump Sum £000
Senior Employees							
Alan Russell	Director of Finance and Resources	32,403	30,560	80	101	11	6
Mary Crearie	Director of Communities and Housing Services	548	24,923	65	86	2	3
Alastair MacArthur	Director of Finance and Resources	26,423	24,167	62	78	9	6
Gordon McNeil	Director of Environment, Housing & Infrastructure	26,426	24,923	50	36	8	1
Steven Quinn	Director of Children's Services until 11 August 2023	9,941	23,778	29	0	6	0
Janie O'Neil	Director of Children's Services from 04 December 2023	7,913	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total		103,654	128,351	286	301	36	16

Senior Employees of Subsidiary Bodies							
Name	Post held	In-year pension contributions by Renfrewshire Leisure		Accrued pension benefits as at 31 March 2024		Change in accrued pension benefits since 31 March 2023	
		2023/24 £	2022/23 £	Pension £000	Lump Sum £000	Pension £000	Lump Sum £000
Victoria Hollows	Chief Executive, OneRen	22,290	21,022	41	48	0	0
Total		22,290	21,022	41	48	0	0

The following table reports on in-year pension contributions relating to senior councillor positions only. Pension benefits shown relate to those that the individual has accrued as a consequence of their total local government service and not just their current appointment.

Leader of the Council, Provost, Senior councillors							
Name	Post held	In-year pension contributions by Renfrewshire Council		Accrued pension benefits as at 31 March 2024		Change in accrued pension benefits since 31 March 2023	
		2023/24 £	2022/23 £	Pension £000	Lump Sum £000	Pension £000	Lump Sum £000
Iain Nicolson	Leader Of the Council	7,737	6,944	13	3	2	0
Cathy McEwan	Policy Board Convener/ Regulatory Board Convener	787	2,870	9	0	3	0
Marie McGurk	Policy Board Convener	5,571	5,015	5	0	1	0
Jim Paterson	Policy Board Convener	5,571	5,015	4	0	0	0
John Shaw	Policy Board Convener	5,571	5,015	5	0	1	0
Emma Rodden	Policy Board Convener	5,571	3,943	4	0	1	0
Michelle Campbell	Policy Board Convener	5,571	3,943	4	0	1	0
Andy Steel	Regulatory Board Convener/Policy Board Convener	5,571	4,918	4	0	1	0
John McNaughtan	Regulatory Board Convener	4,625	4,180	4	0	1	0
Jennifer Adam	Regulatory Board Convener/Chair/Vice Chair Integration Joint Board	5,571	4,370	4	0	1	0
Jacqueline Cameron	Chair/Vice Chair Integration Joint Board until 5 May 2022	0	642	4	0	0	0
Lisa-Marie Hughes	Chair, OneRen	5,571	4,393	5	0	1	0
Stephen Burns	Regulatory Board Convener	4,625	3,359	3	0	n/a	n/a
Andy Doig	Regulatory Board Convener	4,625	3,359	3	0	n/a	n/a
Eddie Devine	Leader of largest opposition group until 5 May 2022	0	642	8	1	0	0
Neill Graham	Leader of 2nd largest opposition group until 5 May 2022	0	642	2	0	0	0
Iain McMillan	Leader of opposition group from 19 May 2022	4,625	3,989	1	0	1	0
Total		71,592	63,238	82	4	14	0

Note: Councillor McEwan left the pension scheme in May 2023.

6. Councillors' remuneration

The Council paid the following amounts to its elected members (councillors) during the year.

2022/23 £		2023/24 £
948,984	Salaries	987,073
2,129	Travel costs – reimbursed	1,915
4,480	Travel costs – paid directly by the Council	5,971
200	Subsistence expenses - accommodation	0
0	Training and Conferences	1,802
4,649	Telephone and information technology expenses – paid directly by the Council	2,870
960,442	Total	999,631

The public record of members' salaries, allowances and expenses for 2023/24 is available for inspection on the Register of Councillors' Interests page of the Council's website and navigating to: [Your Council>Councillors> Record of councillor salaries, allowances, expenses and training register.](#)

7. Remuneration of Employees

The following table gives a statement of the number of employees whose remuneration, excluding pension contributions, was in excess of £50,000 during 2023/24, in bands of £5,000; and also details of the number of those employees highlighted who left the employment of the Council during 2023/24. This information includes those senior employees who are subject to the fuller disclosure requirements in the tables above. Note that leavers may be included due to retirement or redundancy costs. Bands with nil employees for both years are not shown.

2022/23			Remuneration band	2023/24		
Teachers	Non-teachers	Total		Teachers	Non-teachers	Total
92	43	135	£50,000 to £54,999	113	116	229
131	80	211	£55,000 to £59,999	85	60	145
96	18	114	£60,000 to £64,999	116	58	174
64	11	75	£65,000 to £69,999	67	24	91
20	20	40	£70,000 to £74,999	52	30	82
9	2	11	£75,000 to £79,999	10	6	16
5	7	12	£80,000 to £84,999	4	10	14
4	6	10	£85,000 to £89,999	2	5	7
1	1	2	£90,000 to £94,999	8	5	13
2	10	12	£95,000 to £99,999	1	4	5
0	1	1	£100,000 to £104,999	2	4	6
0	3	3	£105,000 to £109,999	0	3	3
0	0	0	£110,000 to £114,999	0	1	1
0	0	0	£115,000 to £119,999	0	4	4
0	3	3	£125,000 to £129,999	0	0	0
0	0	0	£135,000 to £139,999	0	2	2
0	1	1	£155,000 to £159,999	0	1	1
424	206	630		460	333	793

Of the staff noted above, 26 left during the year and their termination payments are included in the above analysis; however, they would have been included as an over £50k earner in a normal year (five in 2022/23).

8. Exit Packages

The Council has agreed a number of exit packages in 2023/24 as detailed in the table below. The exit packages agreed were all on a voluntary basis; there were no compulsory redundancies. The Council only agrees exit packages where they are consistent with wider workforce planning and service delivery objectives; and where the savings accruing from an individual ceasing employment with the Council are sufficient to pay back the costs of the exit package within an acceptable period. The assessment of the payback period takes account of the total costs of the exit package.

The total exit package costs in the table below include redundancy, pension strain and compensatory lump sum payments; and also, the notional capitalised costs of compensatory added years. These notional costs are not based on actual costs, but are the estimated present value of projected costs over the lifetime of the individuals in receipt of the exit package, based on the following assumptions:

	2023/24	2022/23
Future Life expectancy at age 65 – males	20.6 years	20.5 years
Future Life expectancy at age 65 – females	24.2 years	24.2 years
Pension increase rate	2.8%	3.0%
Discount Rate	4.8%	4.8%

Exit Package Cost	2023/24		2022/23	
	Number of Employees	Value £m	Number of Employees	Value £m
£0 - £20,000	2	0.024	4	0.065
£20,001 - £40,000	4	0.111	5	0.112
£40,001 - £60,000	1	0.055	2	0.107
£60,001 - £80,000	3	0.204	6	0.420
£80,001 - £100,000	2	0.187	4	0.351
£100,001 - £150,000	2	0.230	17	2.082
£150,001 - £200,000	2	0.318	11	1.808
£200,001 - £250,000	2	0.411	3	0.604
£300,001 - £350,000	2	0.621	3	0.989
Total	20	2.161	42	4.594

Trade Union Facility Time

Renfrewshire Council recognises that it is to the mutual benefit of the Council and its employees that employees are represented by Trade Unions. The Council is committed to the principle of collective bargaining at both national and local level. The Council recognises the key role of Trade Unions in promoting and developing good employee relations and health and safety practices.

The Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017 requires public sector employers to publish information relating to facility time taken by union representatives.

Trade Union (TU) representative	
Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the period	29
FTE employee number	28.03

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time	
Total cost of facility time	£273,142
Total pay bill	£351,322,677
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time	0.08%

Percentage of time spent on facility time		
Number of representatives	% time	
24	1%	50%
3	51%	99%
2	100%	

Paid Trade Union activities	
Time spent on paid TU activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	39.82%

Cllr Iain Nicolson
Leader of the Council

Alan Russell
Chief Executive

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

This statement shows the accounting cost of providing services and managing the Council during the year. It includes, on an accruals basis, all of the Council's day-to-day expenses and related income. It also includes transactions measuring the value of non-current assets actually consumed during the year and the real projected value of retirement benefits earned by employees during the year. The statement shows the accounting cost in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the cost according to the statutory regulations that specify the net expenditure that Councils need to take into account when setting the annual Council Tax charge. The required adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations are shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

2022/23 (restated)			Note	2023/24		
Gross expenditure £m	Gross income £m	Net expenditure £m		Gross expenditure £m	Gross income £m	Net expenditure £m
294.465	(38.357)	256.108	Children's Services	298.114	(37.488)	260.626
174.401	(63.762)	110.639	Environment, Housing and Infrastructure	248.250	(138.827)	109.423
109.077	(48.963)	60.114	Finance and Resources	105.684	(58.953)	46.731
37.895	(9.097)	28.798	Chief Executive's Service	50.794	(13.411)	37.383
17.692	(14.653)	3.039	Miscellaneous Services	18.847	(14.358)	4.489
260.152	(161.744)	98.408	Adult Services	142.665	(44.721)	97.944
893.682	(336.576)	557.106	Cost of Services	864.354	(307.758)	556.596
0.103	0.000	0.103	(Gain)/Loss on the disposal of non-current assets	0.000	(0.302)	(0.302)
24.322	(6.646)	17.676	Financing and investment income and expenditure	20.230	(8.509)	11.721
0.000	(505.934)	(505.934)	Taxation and non-specific grant income	0.000	(513.914)	(513.914)
918.107	(849.156)	68.951	Deficit/(Surplus) on the Provision of Services	884.584	(830.483)	54.101
		(104.500)	(Surplus)/Deficit on the revaluation of non-current assets		8	(33.185)
		0.469	(Surplus)/Deficit from investments in equity instruments designated as Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income		8	(0.030)
		(269.861)	Actuarial (gain)/loss on pension assets and liabilities		28	251.674
		(373.892)	Other comprehensive (income) and expenditure			218.459
		(304.941)	Total comprehensive (income) and expenditure			272.560

Figures shown in brackets represent income or gains and figures without brackets represent expenditure or losses.

During the year the Council restructured, with services in Communities and Housing moving to Chief Executive's Service (Community Learning and Development) and Environment and Infrastructure (Housing and Public Protection), now called Environment, Housing and Infrastructure. There is no resulting change to the 2022/23 Deficit on the Provision of Services, or Total Comprehensive Income.

Movement in Reserves Statement

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into usable reserves (those reserves that can be applied to fund expenditure or to reduce local taxation) and unusable reserves. The surplus or deficit on the provision of services line shows the true economic cost of providing the Council's services, more details of which are shown in the CIES. These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance and the Housing Revenue Account for Council Tax-setting and dwellings rent-setting purposes. The net increase or (decrease) before transfers to other statutory reserves line shows the statutory General Fund Balance and the Housing Revenue Account Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from the other statutory reserves of the Council.

2023/24	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Revenue statutory funds	Capital Funds	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total reserves
Note	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Balance at 1 April 2023	127.391	6.497	3.095	99.068	236.051	1,562.167	1,798.218
Movement in reserves during the year							
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(38.097)	(16.004)	0.000	0.000	(54.101)	(218.459)	(272.560)
Adjustments to Usable Reserves permitted by accounting standards	21.356	14.832	0.000	0.000	36.188	(36.188)	0.000
Transfers to / (from) other statutory reserves	7 (0.333)	0.000	0.333	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Adjustment for Service Concession Arrangements	1.597	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.597	(1.597)	0.000
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	6 5.735	0.839	0.000	(4.061)	2.513	(2.513)	0.000
Increase / (Decrease) in year	(9.742)	(0.333)	0.333	(4.061)	(13.803)	(258.757)	(272.560)
Balance at 31 March 2024	117.649	6.164	3.428	95.007	222.248	1,303.410	1,525.658

Comparative movements in 2022/23	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Revenue statutory funds	Capital Funds	Total usable reserves	Unusable reserves	Total reserves
Note	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Balance at 1 April 2022	104.667	6.497	2.974	100.319	214.457	1,278.820	1,493.277
Movement in reserves during the year							
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(50.865)	(18.086)	0.000	0.000	(68.951)	373.892	304.941
Adjustments to Usable Reserves permitted by accounting standards	25.394	11.784	0.000	0.000	37.178	(37.178)	0.000
Transfers to / (from) other statutory reserves	7 (0.121)	0.000	0.121	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Adjustment for Service Concession Arrangements	27.601	0.000	0.000	0.000	27.601	(27.601)	0.000
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	6 20.715	6.302	0.000	(1.251)	25.766	(25.766)	0.000
Increase / (Decrease) in year	22.724	0.000	0.121	(1.251)	21.594	283.347	304.941
Balance at 31 March 2023	127.391	6.497	3.095	99.068	236.051	1,562.167	1,798.218

Balance Sheet

The balance sheet shows the value as at 31 March 2024 of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council. The net assets of the Council are matched by the reserves held by the Council. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category comprises usable reserves, which are reserves that the Council may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use (for example the Capital Receipts Reserve, which may only be used to fund capital expenditure or to repay debt). The second category of reserves comprises those that the Council is not able to use to provide services. This category includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses in the value of assets (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold, and reserves that hold differences shown as 'adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations' in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

As at 31 March 2023			As at 31 March 2024
£m		Note	£m
1,797.350	Property, plant and equipment	9	1,857.421
44.186	Heritage assets	10	44.186
1.593	Investment property	11	1.593
2.524	Intangible assets	13	1.724
4.157	Long-term investments	22	4.321
2.582	Long-term debtors	19	2.365
175.891	Other long-term assets	28	0.000
2,028.283	Long-term assets		1,911.610
0.100	Assets held for sale	12	0.100
166.751	Short-term investments	22	67.755
1.314	Inventories	17	1.287
67.422	Short-term debtors	19	65.586
11.632	Cash and cash equivalents	18	30.229
247.219	Current assets		164.957
(93.653)	Short-term borrowing	22	(65.492)
(89.147)	Short-term creditors	20	(83.303)
(0.252)	Short-term provisions	21	(0.721)
(183.052)	Current liabilities		(149.516)
(65.690)	Long-term creditors	20	(63.352)
(4.942)	Long-term provisions	21	(4.630)
(223.600)	Long-term borrowing	22	(258.931)
0.000	Other long-term liabilities	28	(74.480)
(294.232)	Long-term liabilities		(401.393)
1,798.218	Net assets		1,525.658
(236.051)	Usable reserves	7	(222.248)
(1,562.167)	Unusable reserves	8	(1,303.410)
(1,798.218)	Total reserves		(1,525.658)

Alastair MacArthur
Director of Finance
and Resources

The unaudited accounts were issued on 27 June 2024.

Cashflow Statement

This statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Council during the year. It shows how the Council generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities. The amount of net cash flows arising from operating activities is a key indicator of the extent to which the operations of the Council are funded by way of taxation and grant income or from the recipients of services provided by the Council. Investing activities represent the extent to which cash outflows have been made for resources that 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 (that is, borrowing) to the Council.

2022/23 £m		2023/24 £m
(68.951)	Net surplus/(deficit) on the provision of services	(54.101)
	Adjustment for non-cash movements:	
51.918	Depreciation, amortisation, impairment and revaluations	97.867
18.982	Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(1.452)
14.628	(Increase)/decrease in debtors	2.053
(0.282)	(Increase)/decrease in inventories	0.027
38.749	Pension (liability)/asset	(1.302)
0.610	Carrying amount of non-current assets sold	1.531
(0.163)	Other non-cash items charged to the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services	0.157
(44.807)	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	(30.658)
10.684	Net cash flows from operating activities	14.122
	Net cash flows from investing activities :	
(87.082)	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(128.944)
(1.697)	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(1.832)
22.188	Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments	98.862
46.504	Other receipts from investing activities	32.490
	Net cash flows from financing activities	
(3.220)	Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liability relating to finance leases and on-balance sheet PFI /PPP contracts	(3.271)
5.438	Repayment of short-term and long-term borrowing	7.170
(7.185)	Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	18.597
18.817	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	11.632
11.632	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	30.229

The Net cash flow from operating activities above includes the following elements of interest paid and received:

2022/23 £m	Interest Paid and Received	2023/24 £m
(6.646)	Interest received	(9.595)
11.660	Interest paid	11.347
4.923	Interest element of finance lease and PPP payments	4.976
9.937		6.728

Note 1: Expenditure and Funding Analysis

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis shows how annual expenditure is used and funded from resources (government grants, rents, Council Tax and non-domestic 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 service departments. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted account practices is presented more fully in the CIES.

2023/24	Net Expenditure chargeable to the General Fund and HRA £m	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting basis £m	Depreciation charged to Revaluation Reserve £m	Net Expenditure in the CIES £m
Children's Services	252.456	8.153	0.000	260.626
Environment, Housing and Infrastructure	74.560	34.997	0.000	109.423
Finance & Resources	48.943	(2.212)	0.000	46.731
Chief Executive's Service	28.749	8.634	0.000	37.383
Miscellaneous Services	14.373	(8.652)	0.000	4.489
Adult Services	98.765	(0.820)	0.000	97.944
Net cost of services	517.846	40.100	0.000	556.596
Other income and expenditure	(507.771)	3.932	0.000	(502.495)
(Surplus) / Deficit	10.075	44.032	0.000	54.101
Opening General Fund and HRA balance	(133.888)			
Less (Surplus) / Deficit in the year	10.075			
Closing General Fund and HRA at 31 March 2024	(123.813)			

2023/24	Adjustments for capital purposes £m	Net change for the pensions adjustments £m	Other differences £m	Total Adjustments £m
Children's Services	34.106	(0.830)	(25.123)	8.153
Environment, Housing and Infrastructure	33.155	(0.518)	2.360	34.997
Finance & Resources	3.901	(0.500)	(5.613)	(2.212)
Chief Executive's Service	7.206	(0.178)	1.606	8.634
Miscellaneous Services	(0.223)	2.286	(10.715)	(8.652)
Adult Services	0.003	(0.475)	(0.348)	(0.820)
Net cost of services	78.148	(0.215)	(37.833)	40.100
	(32.792)	(1.087)	37.811	3.932
Total adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis	45.356	(1.302)	(0.022)	44.032

- Adjustments for capital purposes: adds in depreciation, impairment and revaluation gains and losses to the service net expenditure including income on the disposal of assets and the amounts written off for those assets and the statutory charges for capital financing and capital grants which are not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices.
- Net change for the pensions adjustments: removes employer pension contributions as allowed by statute and replaces with the current and past service costs within the IAS 19 employee benefits pension related expenditure and income. The net interest on the defined benefit liability is also included as charged to the CIES.

- Other differences: any other differences between those amounts debited or credited to the CIES and amounts payable or receivable to be recognised under statute, including those primarily involved in the financial instruments adjustment account, the employee statutory adjustment account and other statutory funds. Any other non-statutory adjustments would also be included here.

2022/23	Net Expenditure chargeable to the General Fund and HRA £m	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting basis £m	Depreciation charged to Revaluation Reserve £m	Net Expenditure in the CIES £m
Children's Services	233.285	2.433	20.390	256.108
Communities and Housing Services	10.897	(12.289)	11.799	10.407
Environment & Infrastructure	61.470	38.013	0.749	100.232
Finance & Resources	43.686	14.853	1.575	60.114
Chief Executive's Service	27.605	(1.269)	2.462	28.798
Miscellaneous Services	20.795	(17.959)	0.203	3.039
Adult Services	93.580	4.828	0.000	98.408
Net cost of services	491.318	28.610	37.178	557.106
Other income and expenditure	(486.441)	(1.714)	0.000	(488.155)
(Surplus) / Deficit	4.877	26.896	37.178	68.951
Opening General Fund and HRA balance	(111.164)			
Less (Surplus) / Deficit in the year	4.877			
Add other items not charged to the Surplus /	(27.601)			
Closing General Fund and HRA at 31 March*	(133.888)			

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

2022/23	Adjustments for capital purposes £m	Net change for the pensions adjustments £m	Other differences £m	Total Adjustments £m
Children's Services	18.383	11.212	(26.999)	2.596
Communities and Housing Services	5.936	3.386	(21.609)	(12.287)
Environment & Infrastructure	12.990	8.466	16.557	38.013
Finance & Resources	1.969	6.831	6.053	14.853
Chief Executive's Service	(2.736)	2.381	(0.914)	(1.269)
Miscellaneous Services	(0.202)	(1.746)	(15.037)	(16.985)
Adult Services	0.003	6.235	(1.410)	4.828
Net cost of services	36.343	36.765	(43.359)	29.749
Other income and expenditure	(46.897)	1.984	42.181	(2.732)
Total adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis	(10.554)	38.749	(1.178)	27.017

Note 2: Financing and investment income & expenditure

2022/23 £m		2023/24 £m
22.338	Interest payable and similar charges	21.316
1.984	Net interest on the net defined benefit liability	(1.086)
(6.646)	Interest receivable and similar income	(8.509)
17.676	Total	11.721

Note 3: Taxation and non-specific grant income

2022/23 £m		2023/24 £m
(80.713)	Income from Council Tax and community charge	(95.528)
(108.076)	Distribution from the national non-domestic rate pool	(131.322)
(270.144)	General Revenue Grant from the Scottish Government	(254.574)
(47.001)	Capital grants and contributions	(32.490)
(505.934)	Total	(513.914)

Note 4: Expenditure and income analysed by nature

This note presents the subjective analysis of expenditure and income shown by operational service area in the CIES.

2022/23 £m		Note	2023/24 £m
	Expenditure		
383.749	Employee benefits expenses		368.451
420.837	Other service expenses		398.338
89.096	Depreciation, amortisation, impairment		97.867
24.322	Interest Payments	2	20.230
0.103	(Gain) /Loss on the disposal of assets	8	(0.302)
918.107	Total expenditure		884.584
	Income		
(336.576)	Fees, charges and other service income		(306.974)
(6.646)	Interest and investment income	2	(9.595)
(188.789)	Income from council tax and non-domestic rates	3	(226.850)
(317.145)	Government grants and contributions	3	(287.064)
(849.156)	Total income		(830.483)
68.951	(Surplus) or deficit on the provision of services		54.101

Note 5: Grant income

The Council credited the following grants, contributions and donations direct to services in the CIES during 2023/24.

2022/23 £m		2023/24 £m
40.841	Housing benefit	39.996
0.549	Housing benefit and Council Tax administration	0.638
0.687	Discretionary Housing Payment	0.937
0.200	Private sector housing grant	0.600
0.491	Education Maintenance Allowance	0.554
0.061	Gaelic Education	0.050
4.663	Pupil Equity Fund	4.663
18.716	Early Years Expansion	18.430
7.772	Other Education	6.833
3.203	Children's Services	3.203
12.254	Adult Services	12.257
3.406	Employability	4.809
3.415	Other grants	8.040
96.258	Total	101.010

Note 6: Adjustment between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations

This note details the adjustments that are made to the total comprehensive income and expenditure recognised by the 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 first table outlines the current year position, and the second table outlines the comparative prior year position.

2023/24	Usable reserves				Unusable reserves £m
	General Fund Balance £m	Housing Revenue Account Balance £m	Capital Statutory Funds £m	Capital Receipts Reserve £m	
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account:					
Reversal of items charged to the CIES:					
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(44.202)	(16.610)	0.000	0.000	60.812
Amortisation of intangible assets	(0.866)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.866
Capital grants and contributions applied	30.424	2.066	0.000	0.000	(32.490)
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain or loss on disposal to the CIES	0.145	0.157	0.000	0.000	(0.302)
Insertion of items not charged to the CIES:					
Statutory provision for the repayment of Loans Fund & Finance Lease principal	3.708	9.747	0.000	0.000	(13.455)
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA Balances	3.285	3.924	3.395	0.000	(10.604)
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:					
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain or loss on disposal to the CIES	0.000	0.000	0.000	(1.832)	1.832
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.498	(2.498)
Adjustment primarily involving the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account:					
Amount by which finance costs charged to the CIES are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	0.176	0.077	0.000	0.000	(0.253)
Adjustments primarily involving the Pension Reserve:					
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the CIES	(38.545)	0.050	0.000	0.000	38.495
Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	40.027	(0.230)	0.000	0.000	(39.797)
Adjustment primarily involving the Employee Statutory Adjustment Account:					
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CIES on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	0.113	(0.020)	0.000	0.000	(0.093)
Total adjustments	(5.735)	(0.839)	3.395	0.666	2.513

2022/23	Usable reserves				Unusable reserves £m
	General Fund Balance £m	Housing Revenue Account £m	Capital Statutory Funds £m	Capital Receipts Reserve £m	
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account:					
Reversal of items charged to the CIES:					
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(34.956)	(16.099)	0.000	0.000	51.055
Amortisation of intangible assets	(0.863)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.863
Capital grants and contributions applied	46.599	0.402	0.000	0.000	(47.001)
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain or loss on disposal to the CIES	0.173	(0.276)	0.000	0.000	0.103
Insertion of items not charged to the CIES:					
Statutory provision for the repayment of Loans Fund & Finance Lease principal	1.815	11.434	0.000	0.000	(13.249)
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA Balances	2.325	0.000	1.841	0.000	(4.166)
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:					
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain or loss on disposal to the CIES	0.000	0.000	0.000	(1.697)	1.697
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.107	(1.107)
Adjustment primarily involving the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account:					
Amount by which finance costs charged to the CIES are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	0.323	0.173	0.000	0.000	(0.496)
Adjustments primarily involving the Pension Reserve:					
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the CIES	(74.376)	(0.089)	0.000	0.000	74.465
Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	37.587	(1.871)	0.000	0.000	(35.716)
Adjustment primarily involving the Employee Statutory Adjustment Account:					
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CIES on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	0.658	0.024	0.000	0.000	(0.682)
Total adjustments	(20.715)	(6.302)	1.841	(0.590)	25.766

Note 7: Usable reserves

Usable reserves are those reserves the Council is able to apply to fund expenditure or reduce taxation and comprise both capital and revenue reserves. Movements in the revenue reserves during the year are outlined in the Movement in Reserves Statement and a summary is shown in below.

More information about the Housing Revenue Account can be found on page 94.

As at 31 March 2023 £m	Usable Reserves	As at 31 March 2024 £m
(127.391)	General Fund Balance	(117.649)
(6.497)	Housing Revenue Account Balance	(6.164)
(8.184)	Capital Receipts Reserve	(7.518)
(93.979)	Other Statutory Funds	(90.917)
(236.051)	Total	(222.248)

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund Balance in statutory funds established under Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1975 to provide financing for specific areas of expenditure, and the amounts transferred back from these funds to meet General Fund expenditure in 2023/24.

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £m	Transfers out £m	Transfers in £m	Balance at 31 March 2023 £m	Transfers out £m	Transfers in £m	Balance at 31 March 2024 £m
Insurance Fund	2.653	0.000	0.115	2.768	0.000	0.133	2.901
DHN Repair and Renewal Fund	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.186	0.186
Reservoir Repair Fund	0.321	0.000	0.006	0.327	0.000	0.014	0.341
Revenue statutory funds	2.974	0.000	0.121	3.095	0.000	0.333	3.428
Education Capital Items Fund	2.269	(0.509)	0.346	2.106	(0.883)	0.231	1.454
Investment Capital Fund	90.456	(2.175)	0.497	88.778	(2.743)	0.000	86.035
Capital statutory funds	92.725	(2.684)	0.843	90.884	(3.626)	0.231	87.489
Total	95.699	(2.684)	0.964	93.979	(3.626)	0.564	90.917

- The Insurance Fund is the funding mechanism for the control of insurable risk and covers the main classes of insurance. It is earmarked for premiums and self-funded insurance costs.
- The DHN Repair and Renewal Fund is earmarked for future component replacement of the District Heating Network at the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District Scotland (AMIDS).
- The Reservoir Repair Fund is funding received from a contractor for repairs in perpetuity to the Thornly Dam.
- The Education Capital Items Fund is earmarked funding for specific schools to be used in future years for planned purchases of a capital nature, such as computers and information communication technology equipment.
- The Investment Capital Fund represents planned funding earmarked to support the Council's investment programme and the wider strategic management of the Council's associated debt profile.
- In addition to the capital statutory funds above the Capital Receipts Reserve is also a statutory fund. The Capital Receipts Reserve holds cash receipts from asset sales and is used to fund planned capital expenditure.

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £m	Sale proceeds £m	Capital exp funded £m	Balance at 31 March 2023 £m	Sale proceeds £m	Capital exp funded £m	Balance at 31 March 2024 £m
Capital Receipts Reserve	7.594	1.697	(1.107)	8.184	1.832	(2.498)	7.518

The following note sets out the amounts within the General Fund Balance that the Council has ring-fenced for future expenditure plans. The unallocated balance of £10.308m represents 2.0% of the Council's net annual running costs.

Ring-fenced elements of the General Fund Balance	Balance at 1 April 2022 £m	Transfers out £m	Transfers in £m	Balance at 31 March 2023 £m	Transfers out £m	Transfers in £m	Balance at 31 March 2024 £m
COVID-19 General Recovery Fund	9.160	(1.780)	(7.380)	-	-	-	-
COVID-19 Education Recovery Fund	6.328	(0.403)	(5.925)	-	-	-	-
COVID-19 Recovery Construction	10.000	(2.735)	(7.265)	-	-	-	-
Inflation Mitigation	4.990	-	(4.990)	-	-	-	-
Financial Sustainability Fund	-	(6.054)	27.560	21.506	(8.262)	-	13.244
Social Renewal Plan	1.795	(1.180)	(0.615)	-	-	-	-
Tackling Poverty	1.402	(0.770)	(0.632)	-	-	-	-
Fairer Renfrewshire Programme	-	(1.584)	6.081	4.497	(1.642)	-	2.855
Climate Change Action Fund	0.611	(0.256)	(0.355)	-	-	-	-
Community Empowerment Fund	0.339	(0.038)	(0.301)	-	-	-	-
Sustainable Communities Fund	-	-	0.656	0.656	(0.262)	-	0.394
PPP Schools Replacement Fund	12.670	-	(12.670)	-	-	-	-
Loan Charges Flexibility Fund	-	-	44.759	44.759	-	4.000	48.759
Alcohol and Drugs Commission	1.804	(0.601)	0.100	1.303	(0.536)	-	0.767
British Sign Language	0.001	(0.001)	-	-	-	-	-
City Deal	1.750	(0.237)	0.106	1.619	(0.716)	1.000	1.903
Civil Contingencies Shared Service	-	-	0.114	0.114	(0.026)	0.038	0.126
Culture Bid Legacy	3.567	(0.869)	0.395	3.093	(1.084)	-	2.009
Development – Paisley Town Centre	1.057	-	-	1.057	(0.538)	-	0.519
Digital Infrastructure	2.389	-	0.033	2.422	(0.981)	-	1.441
Discretionary business grants	0.392	-	-	0.392	(0.392)	-	-
Early Years Change Fund	1.900	-	1.000	2.900	(1.112)	0.312	2.100
Employability	9.481	(0.171)	-	9.310	(1.355)	2.635	10.590
Environment & Infrastructure	1.015	(0.500)	0.045	0.560	(0.510)	0.740	0.790
Fly Tipping Enforcement	-	(0.208)	0.450	0.242	(0.242)	-	-
Local Authority Economic Recovery	-	0.305	-	0.305	(0.800)	0.595	0.100
Leisure: Inclusive Play Facility	0.050	(0.043)	-	0.007	-	-	0.007
Local Heat and Energy Efficiency	-	-	0.075	0.075	(0.075)	-	-
Memorial Headstone Safety	0.625	(0.511)	-	0.114	(0.114)	-	-
Paisley Town Centre Heritage Asset	1.254	(0.369)	-	0.885	(0.551)	-	0.334
Private Sector Housing Grant	2.206	(0.167)	-	2.039	(0.231)	0.500	2.308
Pupil Equity Fund	1.259	(0.599)	0.370	1.030	(0.506)	-	0.524
Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan	-	(0.114)	0.154	0.040	(0.040)	-	-
Resettlement and Asylum Fund	-	-	0.585	0.585	(0.398)	1.242	1.429
School Music Participation	0.285	(0.125)	0.062	0.222	-	0.054	0.276
Service Modernisation & Reform	11.059	(0.225)	0.185	11.019	(1.331)	0.974	10.662
Town Centre Public WiFi	0.033	(0.033)	-	(0.000)	-	-	-
Villages Improvement Fund	0.133	(0.133)	-	(0.000)	-	0.200	0.200
Welfare Reform	1.033	(0.447)	0.493	1.079	(0.780)	0.700	0.999
Year-end flexibility: Children's Svc	5.291	(2.645)	2.597	5.243	(1.365)	1.127	5.005
General Fund: Ring-fenced	93.879	(22.493)	45.687	117.073	(23.849)	14.117	107.341
Unallocated Balance	10.788	(0.470)	-	10.318	(0.010)	-	10.308
Total General Fund Balance	104.667	(22.963)	45.687	127.391	(23.859)	14.117	117.649

Note 8: Unusable reserves

Unusable reserves are those reserves that the Council is not able to utilise to provide services, and comprise:

- Reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses, particularly in relation to the revaluation of property, plant and equipment and financial instruments, where amounts will only become available to provide services (or limit resources in the case of losses) once the gains or losses are realised as the assets are disposed of. This category of reserves comprises the Revaluation Reserve and the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve.
- Adjustment accounts that deal with situations where income and expenditure are recognised according to statutory regulations against the General Fund Balance and the Housing Revenue Account Balance on a different basis from that expected by generally accepted accounting practices. These adjustment accounts will carry either a debit balance (showing that the Council is required by statute to fund its expenditure more slowly than accounting standards would expect) or a credit balance (where the Council has set resources aside under statute earlier than accounting standards require). The adjustment accounts effectively offset the General Fund Balance and the Housing Revenue Account Balance to give the Council more or less spending power in the short term than proper accounting practices would allow. The adjustment accounts comprise the Capital Adjustment Account, the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account, the Capital Receipts Reserve, the Pension Reserve and the Employee Statutory Adjustment Account.

As at 31 March 2023 £m	Unusable Reserves	As at 31 March 2024 £m
(772.123)	Revaluation Reserve	(768.193)
(175.892)	Pension Reserve	74.480
(631.565)	Capital Adjustment Account	(626.734)
10.941	Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	10.688
(0.528)	Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve	(0.558)
7.000	Employee Statutory Adjustment Account	6.907
(1,562.167)	Total Unusable Reserves	(1,303.410)

Revaluation Reserve

The Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the Council arising from increases in the value of its non-current assets. The balance is reduced when assets with accumulated gains are:

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

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

As at 31 March 2023 £m	Revaluation Reserve	As at 31 March 2024 £m
(705.624)	Balance at 1 April	(772.123)
(104.500)	Upward revaluation of non-current assets	(33.185)
37.178	Difference between fair value depreciation and historic cost depreciation	36.188
0.823	Accumulated (gains) / losses on disposal of non-current assets transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account	0.927
(66.499)	Movement in Year	3.930
(772.123)	Balance at 31 March	(768.193)

Pension 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 or regulations. The Council accounts for post-employment benefits in the CIES as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs. However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed as the Council makes employer's contributions to pension funds. The debit balance on the Pension Reserve shows a significant shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the Council's share of Strathclyde Pension Fund resources available to meet them. The statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid.

As at 31 March 2023 £m	Pension Reserve	As at 31 March 2024 £m
55.220	Balance at 1 April	(175.892)
(528.066)	Actuarial (gains) / losses on pension assets and liabilities	(315.646)
258.205	Restriction to Asset Ceiling	567.320
74.465	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the surplus	38.495
(35.716)	Employer's pension contributions payable in the year	(39.797)
(175.892)	Balance at 31 March	74.480

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. The Capital Adjustment Account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the CIES (with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert fair value figures to a historical cost basis).

The Capital Adjustment Account is credited with the amounts set aside by the Council as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement.

The Capital Adjustment Account contains accumulated gains and losses on investment properties and gains recognised on donated assets that have yet to be consumed by the Council, and also revaluation gains accumulated on property, plant and equipment before 1 April 2007. The Revaluation Reserve was created to hold such gains arising from 1 April 2007 onwards.

As at 31 March 2023 £m	Capital Adjustment Account	As at 31 March 2024 £m
(646.538)	Balance at 1 April	(631.565)
	Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure charged to the CIES:	
51.055	Charges for depreciation, impairment and revaluation losses of non-current assets	60.812
0.863	Amortisation of intangible assets	0.866
1.697	Non-current assets sale proceeds	1.832
0.103	(Gain)/Loss on disposal of non-current assets charged to the CIES	(0.302)
(0.823)	Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	(0.927)
52.895	Net written out amount of non-current assets consumed in the year	62.281
	Capital financing applied in the year:	
(1.107)	Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	(2.498)
(47.001)	Capital grants and contributions credited to the CIES that have been applied to	(32.490)
(13.249)	Loans Fund and Finance Lease principal repayments	(13.455)
(4.166)	Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and Housing Revenue	(10.604)
27.601	Adjustment for Service Concession Arrangements	1.597
(37.922)		(57.450)
(631.565)	Balance at 31 March	(626.734)

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 in accordance with statutory provisions [or regulations]. The Council uses the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account to:

- Manage premiums incurred on the early repayment of borrowings. Generally accepted accounting practices require that premiums are debited to the CIES when they are incurred (except where the loan debt being repaid is exchanged for new loan debt on substantially similar terms). However, statutory arrangements or regulations allow any premiums that would normally require to be taken immediately to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services, to be amortised to the General Fund Balance over the various periods of time as specified in the regulations/statutory guidance. Furthermore, statutory arrangements [or regulations] require that any premiums that were on the Council's balance sheet at 31 March 2007 be amortised to the General Fund Balance over the unexpired term that was outstanding on the associated loans when they were redeemed. The Council had various premiums totalling £17.630m at 31 March 2007 and, under the statutory arrangements, these will be fully amortised to the General Fund Balance by financial year 2053-2054.
- Manage borrowings that were on the Council's balance sheet at 31 March 2007 and that have a stepped interest rate feature. These borrowings comprise four 'lender option borrower option' (LOBO) loans for which the interest rate was fixed for an initial period, and at a pre-agreed later date the interest rate changed. Generally accepted accounting practices require that interest charges relating to borrowings that have a stepped interest rate feature are

debited to the CIES on the basis of a single effective interest rate (EIR) over the expected life of the loans, rather than based on the contractual cash outflows of interest. However, statutory arrangements [or regulations] allow such borrowings that were on the Council's balance sheet at 31 March 2007 to be charged to the General Fund Balance in accordance with the accounting treatment prior to 1 April 2007, which did not require the use of the effective interest rate as the basis for the interest charge.

- Manage 'soft loans' that were on the Council's balance sheet at 31 March 2007. Soft loans are loans advanced by the Council at nil or below prevailing interest rates. Generally accepted accounting practices require that the discounted interest rate is recognised as a reduction in the fair value of the loan, with the difference being debited to the CIES as service expenditure. However, statutory arrangements [or regulations] require that, for soft loans on the Council's balance sheet at 31 March 2007, the reduction in value and corresponding charge to be reversed, so that there is no impact on the General Fund Balance. As at 31 March 2007 interest free loans amounting to £0.156m had been advanced to employees who had had changes implemented to their pay cycle. These loans are repayable when employees leave the Council's employment.

Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	Refinancing premiums and discounts £m	Borrowing on stepped interest rate loans £m	Loans to third parties at less than market rate £m	Total £m
Balance at 1 April 2023	10.078	0.845	0.018	10.941
Premiums incurred in previous financial years to be charged against the General Fund Balance in accordance with statutory requirements	(0.470)	0.000	0.000	(0.470)
Amount by which finance costs charged to the CIES are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	0.000	0.221	(0.004)	0.217
Balance at 31 March 2024	9.608	1.066	0.014	10.688

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 are measured at fair value through other comprehensive income.

The balance is reduced when investments with accumulated gains are:

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

As at 31 March 2023 £m	Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve	As at 31 March 2024 £m
(0.997)	Balance at 1 April	(0.528)
0.469	Downward/(Upward) revaluation of investments	(0.030)
(0.528)	Balance at 31 March	(0.558)

Employee Statutory Adjustment Account

The Employee Statutory Adjustment Account absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise on the General Fund Balance from accruing for short-term accumulating compensated absences at the end of the financial year.

As at 31 March 2023 £m	Employee Statutory Adjustment Account	As at 31 March 2024 £m
7.682	Balance at 1 April	7.000
(7.682)	Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the prior year	(7.000)
7.000	Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	6.907
7.000	Balance at 31 March	6.907

Note 9: Property, Plant and Equipment

The Code requires that where a component of an asset is replaced, the carrying amount (i.e. net book value) of the old component shall be derecognised to avoid double counting and the new component is reflected in the carrying amount of the infrastructure asset. However, due to practical difficulties in applying component accounting for the recognition and derecognition of replaced components of infrastructure assets, most local authorities have been unable to comply with the requirement to assess the net book value of the replaced component and have treated the amount of the replaced component as zero, because the replaced component is considered to have been fully used up at the point that it is replaced.

In recognition of this difficulty, the Scottish Government issued a Statutory Override in August 2022. Renfrewshire Council has elected to apply both of the following provisions:

- **Statutory Override 1:** For accounting periods commencing from 1 April 2021 until 31 March 2024 a local authority is not required to report the gross cost and accumulated depreciation for infrastructure assets.
- **Statutory Override 2:** For accounting periods commencing from 1 April 2010 until 31 March 2024 the carrying amount to be derecognised in respect of a replaced part of an infrastructure asset is required to be a nil amount, and no subsequent adjustment shall be made to the carrying amount of the asset with respect to that part.

Note 9: Property, Plant and Equipment (continued)

Movements in 2023/24	Council dwellings £m	Other land and buildings £m	Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment £m	Infrastructure assets £m	Assets under construction £m	Surplus assets £m	Total £m	Of which funded by PFI £m
Balance sheet net carrying amount at 31 March 2023	714.690	343.150	371.154	222.732	124.526	21.098	1,797.350	127.539
Reclassified (to)/ from Assets Held for Sale	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Other Reclassifications	8.153	35.812	2.612	5.519	(51.856)	(0.240)	(0.000)	0.000
Additions	17.184	5.469	14.554	10.393	77.818	0.000	125.418	1.735
Disposals	(1.094)	(0.035)	(0.063)	0.000	0.000	(0.339)	(1.531)	0.000
Depreciation	(23.823)	(10.408)	(45.885)	(10.608)	0.000	(0.088)	(90.812)	(9.585)
Revaluation adjustments taken to the Revaluation Reserve	18.798	4.538	8.814	0.000	0.000	1.035	33.185	(10.185)
Revaluation adjustments recognised in the CIES	0.000	(3.504)	(2.041)	0.000	0.000	(0.644)	(6.189)	(1.996)
Balance sheet net carrying amount at 31 March 2024	733.908	375.022	349.145	228.036	150.488	20.822	1,857.421	107.508
Gross carrying amount at 31 March 2024	733.908	398.942	626.536	n/a	150.488	25.958	1,935.832	123.901
Accumulated depreciation at 31 March 2024	0.000	(23.920)	(277.391)	n/a	0.000	(5.136)	(306.447)	(16.393)
Infrastructure Assets	0.000	0.000	0.000	228.036	0.000	0.000	228.036	0.000
Balance sheet net carrying amount at 31 March 2024	733.908	375.022	349.145	228.036	150.488	20.822	1,857.421	107.508

Movements in 2022/23	Council dwellings £m	Other land and buildings £m	Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment £m	Infrastructure assets £m	Assets under construction £m	Surplus assets £m	Total £m	Of which funded by PFI £m
Balance sheet net carrying amount at 31 March 2022	618.804	341.319	408.817	214.168	57.786	22.258	1,663.152	135.370
Reclassified (to)/ from Assets Held for Sale	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.297	0.297	0.000
Other Reclassifications	6.656	(0.147)	1.966	4.766	(13.177)	0.000	0.064	0.000
Additions	7.414	1.529	16.625	13.538	79.917	0.000	119.023	1.685
Disposals	0.000	(0.227)	(0.130)	0.000	0.000	(0.918)	(1.275)	0.000
Depreciation	(20.627)	(9.380)	(51.712)	(9.740)	0.000	(0.092)	(91.551)	(9.516)
Revaluation adjustments taken to the Revaluation Reserve	102.701	2.519	(0.939)	0.000	0.000	0.219	104.500	0.000
Revaluation adjustments recognised in the CIES	(0.258)	7.537	(3.473)	0.000	0.000	(0.666)	3.140	0.000
Balance sheet net carrying amount at 31 March 2023	714.690	343.150	371.154	222.732	124.526	21.098	1,797.350	127.539
Gross carrying amount at 31 March 2023	714.690	361.314	617.573	n/a	124.526	26.180	1,844.283	139.579
Accumulated depreciation at 31 March 2023	0.000	(18.164)	(246.419)	n/a	0.000	(5.082)	(269.665)	(12.040)
Infrastructure Assets	0.000	0.000	0.000	222.732	0.000	0.000	222.732	0.000
Balance sheet net carrying amount at 31 March 2023	714.690	343.150	371.154	222.732	124.526	21.098	1,797.350	127.539

Note 10: Heritage Assets

2022/23 £m	Heritage Assets	2023/24 £m
44.186	Balance at 1 April	44.186
0.000	Revaluations to CIES	0.000
0.000	Revaluations to Revaluation Reserve	0.000
44.186	Balance at 31 March	44.186

A valuation of the fair value of the Council's Heritage Assets was carried out by an external valuer in 2021/22. In the five years prior to 2023/24, there were no acquisitions, donations, or disposals of Heritage Assets.

The combined collections managed by the Renfrewshire Arts and Museums Service number in excess of 350,000 objects and it is impractical to undertake a full valuation of all the items in the collection. The balances above reflect the valuation of materials examined by the external valuer during 2021/22. Further detail on the valuation of each category of asset is outlined in Accounting Policy K on page 83.

The details of the valuations of the assets are as follows:

- Archaeology items
- Natural history and science book collections
- Art collection
- Ceramics
- Natural history and Numismatics
- Science and social history collections
- Special collections
- Textiles
- Transport collection
- World cultures

Note 11: Investment properties

The following items of income and expense have been accounted for in the 'Financing and Investment income and expenditure' line in the CIES.

2022/23 £m	Investment Properties	2023/24 £m
(0.120)	Rental income from investment property	(0.122)
(0.120)	Net Loss / (Gain)	(0.122)

There are no restrictions on the Council's ability to realise the value inherent in its investment property or on the Council's right to the remittance of income and the proceeds of disposal. The Council has no contractual obligations to purchase, construct or develop investment property, nor does it have contractual obligations in relation to repairs, maintenance or enhancement.

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

2022/23 £m	Fair Value of Investment Properties	2023/24 £m
1.479	Opening balance at 1 April	1.593
0.178	Net gains or (losses) from fair value adjustments	0.000
(0.064)	Transfers from inventories and property, plant and equipment	0.000
1.593	Closing balance at 31 March	1.593

Fair Value Hierarchy

Detail of the authority's investment properties and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 31 March 2024 are as follows:

	Quoted Prices in active markets for identical assets (level 1) £m	Other significant observable inputs (level 2) £m	Other significant unobservable inputs (level 3) £m	Fair Value as at 31 March 2024 £m
Commercial Units	0.000	0.690	0.000	0.690
Office Units	0.000	0.075	0.000	0.075
Commercial Sites	0.000	0.700	0.000	0.700
Other	0.000	0.128	0.000	0.128
Total	0.000	1.593	0.000	1.593

Valuation Techniques used to Determine Level 2 and 3 Fair Values for Investment Properties

Sufficient title and lease information is available in the respect of Investment Properties. This, coupled with knowledge of the rent being achieved, or likely to be achieved, has enabled the market approach to be used in respect of the fair value measurement of Investment Properties.

Market knowledge, through sales evidence of surplus development sites within Renfrewshire has also been factored into the fair value measurement. Therefore, the level of observable inputs is significant, leading to the properties being categorised at level 2 in the fair value hierarchy.

Note 12: Assets held for sale

The following table summarises the movement in the fair value of assets held for sale during the year:

2022/23 £m	Assets Held for Sale	2023/24 £m
0.922	Opening balance at 1 April	0.100
	Assets reclassified as held for sale:	
(0.297)	Surplus Assets	0.000
(0.525)	Assets sold	0.000
0.100	Closing balance at 31 March	0.100

Note 13: Intangible assets

The Council accounts for purchased software licences as intangible assets. The cost of the licences is amortised on a straight-line basis over the expected life of the licences, which is three to five years for all ICT systems. Amortisation charges are initially charged to ICT services and then absorbed as an overhead across all the service headings in the net expenditure of services.

The movement on intangible asset balances during the year is shown in the following table.

2022/23 £m	Purchased Software Licences	2023/24 £m
	Balance at 1 April	
6.061 (2.712)	Gross carrying amount Accumulated amortisation	5.861 (3.337)
3.349	Net carrying amount at 1 April	2.524
0.038 (0.238)	Additions: purchases Disposals	0.066 0.000
0.238 (0.863)	Disposal amortisation Amortisation for the year	0.000 (0.866)
2.524	Net carrying amount at 31 March	1.724
	Comprising:	
5.861 (3.337)	Gross carrying amount Accumulated amortisation	5.927 (4.203)
2.524	Balance at 31 March	1.724

There are no individual intangible assets that are material to the financial statements and there are

currently no contractual commitments for the acquisition of intangible assets.

receipts of £2.498m (£1.107m in 2022/23) were used to fund spending on capital projects.

Note 14: Capital expenditure and capital financing

Capital expenditure involves the creation of assets, the benefit of which will be available to future Council Tax and non-domestic rate payers. It is financed from borrowing and capital income (sales receipts), and so the cost of the asset is effectively borne over a number of years.

The Council's overall capital investment programme is sub-divided into two programmes: housing and non-housing. In 2023/24 total spending on capital projects was £125.484m (£119.061m in 2022/23) and was within the overall prudential limits approved by Council. Capital

The net capital expenditure for the year of £79.892m (£66.787m in 2022/23) was financed from external borrowing, credit arrangements and from cash balances. The table below shows the total amount of capital expenditure incurred in the year, including the value of assets acquired under finance leases and Service Concession Arrangements.

Also shown are the resources that have been used to finance this capital expenditure. Where capital expenditure is to be financed in future years by charges to revenue as assets are used by the Council, the expenditure results in an increase in the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), a measure of the capital expenditure incurred historically by the Council that has yet to be financed. The movement in the CFR during the year is also analysed in the table below.

As at 31 March 2023 £m		As at 31 March 2024 £m
360.926	Opening Capital Financing Requirement	442.065
	Capital investment:	
119.023	Property, plant and equipment	125.418
0.038	Intangible assets	0.066
	Sources of finance:	
(1.107)	Capital receipts – sale of council assets	(2.498)
(47.001)	Government grants and other contributions	(32.490)
(4.166)	Sums set aside from revenue – direct revenue contributions	(10.604)
(13.249)	Loans Fund/Finance Lease principal repayments	(13.455)
27.601	Adjustment for Service Concession Arrangements	1.597
442.065	Closing Capital Financing Requirement	510.099
	Explanation of movements in year:	
84.357	Increase/(decrease) in underlying need to borrow (unsupported by government financial assistance)	71.265
(0.114)	Reduction in finance leases obligations	(0.117)
(3.104)	Increase/(decrease) in PPP finance lease creditor	(3.114)
81.139	Increase/(Decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement	68.034

At 31 March 2024 the Council had commitments on capital contracts for non-housing projects of £29.164m (£89.723m in 2022/23) and for housing projects of £25.932m (£28.542m in 2022/23). This expenditure will be funded from a combination of government grants, external borrowing, income from selling assets and contributions from revenue budgets.

Note 15: Service Concession Arrangements

The Council entered into a Public Private Partnership on 1 July 2006 for the provision and maintenance of educational buildings and other facilities. This agreement provides the Council with replacement buildings such as primary and secondary schools and community education premises. The provider is required to ensure the availability of these buildings to a pre-agreed standard, with deductions from the fee payable being made if facilities are unavailable or performance is below the minimum standard.

When the agreement ends in 2038, the buildings will be handed to the Council at nil consideration with a guarantee of no major maintenance requirements for a five-year period. The Council only has rights to terminate the contract if it compensates the contractor in full for costs incurred and future profits that would have been generated over the course of the remainder of the contract. The assets used to provide services are recognised on the Council's Balance Sheet. Movements in their value over the year are shown in the movement on the Property, Plant and Equipment balance in Note 9.

The Council makes an agreed payment each year which is increased by inflation and can be reduced if the contractor fails to meet availability and performance standards. Under the agreement the Council is committed to paying the following sums (assuming an average inflation rate of 2.5% per annum and excluding any performance/availability deductions). The discount rate used in this calculation is the interest rate implicit in the PFI agreement, which was fixed at the outset at 7.6%.

Future Repayment Periods - Schools	Service Charges £m	Liability Repayment £m	Interest Repayment £m	Contingent Rentals £m	Total £m
Payable within 1 year	6.632	3.038	4.467	4.614	18.751
Payable within 2-5 years	28.951	13.106	15.546	20.578	78.181
Payable within 6-10 years	34.897	23.873	12.780	33.735	105.285
Payable within 11-15 years	34.066	20.218	3.312	26.798	84.394
Payable within 16-20 years	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Payable within >20 years	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total	104.546	60.235	36.105	85.725	286.611

In 2019/20, the Council entered into a Service Concession Agreement for the use of a waste materials recovery facility at Bargeddie. Residual waste is then processed at a thermal treatment plant in Dunbar. North Lanarkshire Council is the lead authority and is contracted to Viridor.

Five councils, including Renfrewshire, have an inter-authority agreement with North Lanarkshire Council. Renfrewshire Council's share of the contract is 20%.

The discount rate used in this calculation is the interest rate implicit in the agreement, which was fixed at the outset at 5.68%.

Future Repayment Periods - Waste Facility	Service Charges £m	Liability Repayment £m	Interest Repayment £m	Total £m
Payable within 1 year	4.392	0.134	0.267	4.793
Payable within 2-5 years	18.632	0.706	0.985	20.323
Payable within 6-10 years	26.738	0.511	1.022	28.271
Payable within 11-15 years	29.787	1.362	0.804	31.953
Payable within 16-20 years	34.163	1.706	0.387	36.256
Payable within 21-25 years	4.930	0.282	0.016	5.228
Total	118.642	4.701	3.481	126.824

Outstanding Service Concession Arrangements	Schools £m	Waste Facility £m	Total £m
Balance at 1 April 2022	(66.296)	(5.016)	(71.312)
Additions during the year	0.000	0.000	0.000
Payments during the year	2.947	0.158	3.105
Balance at 31 March 2023	(63.349)	(4.858)	(68.207)
Adjustment for Service Concession Arrangements	0.000	0.000	0.000
Payments during the year	3.114	0.157	3.271
Balance at 31 March 2024	(60.235)	(4.701)	(64.936)

In accordance with Accounting Policy and in line with Finance Circular 10/2022, the Council applied the permitted PPP Service Concession Arrangement flexibility in financial year 2022/23 on a retrospective annuity basis with a useful life of 40 years. The flexibility being applied is consistent with the current Loans Fund arrangements and is considered prudent, sustainable and affordable over the life of the asset.

The current annuity charges based on the estimated useful life for the schools service concession arrangement have been compared against the liability repayment profile based on the estimated useful asset lives for the schools service

The most appropriate asset life was considered to be 40 years which replicated the useful life of other similar

type assets on the council's balance sheet i.e. schools. The calculation of the repayment charges for the service concession arrangement using asset life annuity is compared to the current charges which are made over the contract period.

In addition to the one-off retrospective element, an in-year saving occurred in the scheduled debt repayments in 2023/24 of 1.597m (£1.539m in 2022/23). This will be followed by a reduction in the annual charges for a further 14 years and then the continuation of statutory charges after the contract arrangements have been repaid. Over the full asset life of the service concession arrangement, the total debt liability remains the same.

PPP Service Concession Liability Repayment	Prior Repayment £m	Current Repayment £m	(Cost)/Reduction £m
Pre 2023/24	41.614	14.013	27.601
Paid in 2023/24	3.114	1.517	1.597
Payable within 1 year	3.038	1.632	1.406
Payable within 2-5 years	13.106	7.876	5.230
Payable within 6-10 years	23.873	13.745	10.128
Payable within 11-15 years	20.218	19.868	0.350
Payable within 16-20 years	0.000	28.722	(28.722)
Payable within 21-25 years	0.000	17.590	(17.590)
Total	104.963	104.963	0.000

Note 16: Leases

Renfrewshire Council as Lessee

Operating Leases

The Council has 26 properties classed as operating leases, with average lives of 13 years. The future minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable leases in future years are:

As at 31 March 2023 £m		As at 31 March 2024 £m
0.563	Not later than one year	0.934
0.966	Between one and five years	1.613
1.249	Later than five years	1.852
2.778		4.399

During 2023/24, there was £0.934m expenditure charged to the CIES in relation to these leases (£0.785m in 2022/23).

Finance Leases

Finance leases, which have substantially transferred to the Council the benefits and risks of ownership of a non-current asset, are treated as if the asset had been purchased outright.

Assets acquired under finance leases are included in non-current assets at the lower of the fair value or the present value of the minimum lease payments. The

capital element of the lease is included as obligations under creditors. The lease rentals comprise capital and

interest elements; the capital element is applied to reduce the outstanding obligation and the interest element is charged to revenue over the terms of the lease. The Council has 44 electric vehicles under a finance lease agreement over a period of 5 years beginning during 2019/20. As at 31 March 2024, outstanding obligations to make payments under finance leases are as follows:

As at 31 March 2023 £m		As at 31 March 2024 £m
0.118	Not later than one year	0.037
0.037	Between one and five years	0.000
0.000	Later than five years	0.000
0.155		0.037

Renfrewshire Council as Lessor

Operating Leases

The Council leases out property and equipment under operating leases for the following purposes:

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

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

As at 31 March 2023 £m		As at 31 March 2024 £m
0.169	Not later than one year	0.158
0.735	Between one and five years	0.511
6.215	Later than five years	6.112
7.119		6.781

The minimum lease payments receivable does not include rents that are contingent on events taking place after the lease was entered into, such as adjustments following rent reviews.

Note 17: Inventories

2022/23 £m	Inventories	2023/24 £m
1.032	Balance at 1 April	1.314
9.136	Additions during the year	9.163
(8.852)	Recognised as an expense during the year: inventories sold, exchanged or distributed	(9.188)
(0.002)	Recognised as an expense during the year: inventories written down	(0.002)
1.314	Balance at 31 March	1.287

Note 18: Cash and cash equivalents

The balance of cash and cash equivalents is made up of the following components. With the exception of imprest accounts held at Council establishments, the balances in all of the categories listed below are used together to manage the Council's overall cash balances on a day-to-day basis.

2022/23 £m		2023/24 £m
(3.216)	Current account balances with the council's banker	(6.885)
6.997	Euro account balances with the council's banker - sterling equivalent	3.707
1.714	Callable deposits with UK banks and building societies	13.263
6.086	Callable deposits in money market funds and ultra-short bond funds	20.101
0.051	Imprest accounts held at council establishments	0.043
11.632	Total cash and cash equivalents	30.229

Note 19: Debtors

Amounts due to be received by the Council at 31 March are set out below. This is analysed by type of debtor to provide greater transparency of the sums due.

31 March 2023			As at 31 March 2024	
Short-term £m	Long-term £m		Short-term £m	Long-term £m
21.141	0.000	Central government bodies (non-NHS)	23.421	0.000
7.793	1.080	Central government bodies (NHS)	5.075	0.990
3.316	0.000	Other local authorities	5.476	0.000
11.146	0.000	HM Revenue and Customs	5.170	0.000
0.005	0.030	Employees	0.084	0.029
19.819	0.000	Council Tax arrears	21.084	0.000
(11.911)	0.000	less impairment	(13.296)	0.000
4.681	0.000	Rent arrears	4.939	0.000
(2.829)	0.000	less impairment	(2.945)	0.000
31.645	6.005	Other entities and individuals	35.372	6.046
(17.384)	(4.533)	less impairment	(18.794)	(4.700)
67.422	2.582	Total Debtors	65.586	2.365

Note 20: Creditors

Amounts due to be paid by the Council as at 31 March are set out below. This is analysed by type of creditor to provide greater transparency of the sums due.

As at 31 March 2023			As at 31 March 2024	
Short-term £m	Long-term £m		Short-term £m	Long-term £m
(7.810)	(0.150)	Central government bodies (non-NHS)	(7.510)	(0.732)
(1.549)	0.000	Central government bodies (NHS)	(1.976)	0.000
(6.922)	0.000	Other local authorities	(3.635)	0.000
(9.154)	0.000	HM Revenue and Customs	(7.437)	0.000
(8.007)	0.000	Strathclyde Pension Fund and Scottish Public Pensions Agency	(6.946)	0.000
(12.900)	0.000	Employees	(10.440)	0.000
(3.114)	(60.235)	Service concession arrangements: schools	(3.038)	(57.197)
(0.157)	(4.701)	Service concession arrangements: waste	(0.134)	(4.567)
(0.118)	(0.037)	Finance lease liabilities	(0.037)	0.000
(4.863)	0.000	Council Tax refundable to taxpayers	(4.044)	0.000
(1.210)	0.000	Council Tax receipts in advance	(1.018)	0.000
0.000	(0.003)	Financial guarantees	0.000	0.000
(33.343)	(0.564)	Other entities and individuals	(37.088)	(0.856)
(89.147)	(65.690)	Total Creditors	(83.303)	(63.352)

Note 21: 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. Teacher's maternity pay is a short-term provision, made to reflect the changes in European legislation that allow teachers to accrue all holidays during parental leave.

The movement in these short-term provisions is detailed below:

Short Term Provisions	Teachers' maternity pay £m	Other £m	Total £m
	(0.122)	(0.130)	(0.252)
Additional provisions made during the year	(0.121)	(0.600)	(0.721)
Amounts used during the year	0.122	0.130	0.252
As at 31 March 2024	(0.121)	(0.600)	(0.721)

A summary of the movements in the long-term provisions made by the Council is detailed below, along with an explanation of the reason for the provision:

Long-term Provisions	Holiday pay compensation £m	Insurance claims £m	Total £m
Balance at 1 April 2023	(0.445)	(4.497)	(4.942)
Additional provisions made during the year	0.000	0.312	0.312
Amounts used during the year	0.000	0.000	0.000
As at 31 March 2024	(0.445)	(4.185)	(4.630)

Holiday pay compensation payments

The Council has received a number of claims arising from a European Court of Justice ruling in relation to holiday pay. A provision has been made to reflect the potential outcome of known claims. A contingent liability is recognised in Note 29 for potential claims that have not yet materialised.

Insurance claims

The provision for insurance claims represents the actuarial assessment of excess costs arising from insurance claims together with identified liabilities in respect of insurance claims outstanding against Renfrewshire Council and predecessor local authorities. The Council has increased its net assessment by £0.312m on the basis of information held by the Council and notified by Glasgow City Council, the coordinating authority for the former Strathclyde Regional Council.

Note 22: Financial Instruments

Categories of financial instruments

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

The term 'financial instrument' covers both financial assets and financial liabilities and includes trade payables, borrowings (for example Public Works Loan Board debt and market debt), financial guarantees, bank overdraft, trade receivables, loans receivable, cash deposits with financial institutions (some on a fixed term basis and some which are

immediately available) and longer-term investments. The following categories of financial instrument are carried in the balance sheet.

As at 31 March 2023		Financial Liabilities	As at 31 March 2024	
Long-term £m	Current £m		Long-term £m	Current £m
(223.600)	(0.828)	Principal sum borrowed	(238.592)	(5.000)
0.000	(2.770)	Accrued interest	0.000	(2.815)
0.000	0.000	EIR adjustments	0.000	0.000
(223.600)	(3.598)	Total Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) borrowing	(238.592)	(7.815)
0.000	(52.916)	Principal sum borrowed	(20.000)	(26.766)
0.000	(0.871)	Accrued interest	0.000	(0.864)
0.000	(0.845)	EIR adjustments	(0.339)	(0.262)
0.000	(54.632)	Total non-PWLB borrowing ("market debt")	(20.339)	(27.892)
0.000	(35.423)	Borrowing from group entities	0.000	(29.785)
(223.600)	(93.653)	Total Borrowing	(258.931)	(65.492)
0.000	(49.657)	At amortised cost trade payables	0.000	(49.988)
(64.973)	(3.388)	Service Concession and Finance Lease liabilities	(61.763)	(3.210)
(0.003)	0.000	Financial guarantees	0.000	0.000
(64.976)	(53.045)	Financial Liabilities included in Creditors	(61.763)	(53.198)

As at 31 March 2023		Financial Assets	As at 31 March 2024	
Long-term £m	Current £m		Long-term £m	Current £m
		At amortised cost:		
0.000	165.000	Principal	0.000	66.000
0.000	1.751	Accrued interest	0.000	1.755
0.000	0.000	Loss allowance	0.000	0.000
4.157	0.000	At fair value through other comprehensive income - designated equity instruments	4.321	0.000
4.157	166.751	Total Investments	4.321	67.755
		At amortised cost:		
0.000	(1.461)	Principal	0.000	5.617
0.000	0.012	Accrued interest	0.000	0.048
0.000	(0.002)	Loss allowance	0.000	(0.012)
0.000	13.083	At fair value through profit or loss	0.000	23.808
0.000	11.632	Total Cash and cash equivalents	0.000	29.461
		At amortised cost:		
1.093	78.842	Trade receivables	1.030	74.996
4.986	0.057	Loans made for service purposes	4.826	0.054
1.037	0.000	Accrued interest	1.208	0.000
(4.533)	(20.213)	Loss allowance	(4.700)	(21.739)
2.583	58.686	Financial Assets included in Debtors	2.364	53.311

Loans to other entities and individuals comprise a loan to Park Lane Developments (Renfrewshire) LLP of £0.275m (2022/23 £0.275m), a loan to Kilbarchan Amateur Athletic Club of £0.074m (2022/23 £0.075), home loans of £0.256m (2022/23 £0.335m), soft loans to employees of £0.021m (2022/23 £0.022m), social care charging order debtors of £0.736m (2022/23 £0.785m) and property charging order debtors of £0.025m (2022/23 £0.024m). Note that these balances are not principle amounts owed, rather valued at amortised cost based on a notional (effective) interest rate.

Equity instruments elected to fair value through other comprehensive income

The Council has elected to account for the Insurance Fund at fair value through other comprehensive income because it is a long-term strategic holding and changes in its fair value is not considered to be part of the Council's annual financial performance. The Insurance Fund is invested in the Phoenix Fund, managed on behalf of the Council by LGT Wealth Management.

The objective of the fund is to achieve long term growth with low volatility, through a widely diversified portfolio. The fair value of the investment is £4.321m at 31 March 2024 (£4.157m as at 31 March 2023). Income from the Fund is reinvested.

Fair value of financial instruments

Financial instruments, except those classified at amortised cost, are carried in the Balance Sheet at fair value. For most assets, including money market funds, the fair value is taken from the market price. The fair values of other instruments have been estimated by calculating the net present value of the remaining contractual cash flows at 31 March 2024.

The Council's 'Fair value through other comprehensive income' assets comprise its insurance fund investments. The fair value of the insurance fund investments equates to the market value of those investments, and this valuation has been provided by the Council's investment manager, LGT Wealth Management.

Financial instruments classified at amortised cost are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost. Their fair values have been estimated by calculating the net

present value of the remaining contractual cash flows at 31 March 2024, using the following methods and assumptions:

- Loans borrowed by the Council have been valued by discounting the contractual cash flows over the whole life of the instrument at the appropriate market rate for local authority loans.
- For 'lender option borrower option' (LOBO) loans, PWLB premature repayment rates have been applied to provide the fair value under PWLB debt redemption procedures. The PWLB redemption rates provide a reasonable proxy for rates and a number of market participants have used this basis when considering early redemption costs for market loans. It is likely that lenders will only exercise their options when market rates have risen above the contractual loan rate. The interest rate risk associated with the Council's LOBOs is not deemed to be significant and the potential penalties charged may make the redemption of the loans an uneconomic option.
- The fair values of other long-term loans and investments have been discounted at the market rates for similar instruments with similar remaining terms to maturity on 31 March.
- The fair values of financial guarantees have been estimated based on the likelihood of the guarantees being called and the likely payments to be made.
- The fair values of finance lease assets and liabilities and of service concession (PFI) scheme liabilities have been calculated by discounting the contractual cash flows (excluding service charge elements) at the appropriate AA-rated corporate bond yield.
- No early repayment or impairment is recognised for any financial instrument.
- The fair value of short-term instruments, including trade payables and receivables, is assumed to approximate to the carrying amount given the low and stable interest rate environment.

Fair values are shown in the table below, split by their level in the fair value hierarchy:

- Level 1 – fair value is only derived from quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities, e.g. bond prices
- Level 2 – fair value is calculated from inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability, e.g. interest rates or yields for similar instruments
- Level 3 – fair value is determined using unobservable inputs, e.g. non-market data such as cash flow forecasts or estimated creditworthiness.

The fair value for each category of financial instrument is shown below, with the balance sheet carrying amount shown for comparison.

As at 31 March 2023		Financial Liabilities	Fair value level	As at 31 March 2024	
Carrying Amount £m	Fair value £m			Carrying Amount £m	Fair value £m
(227.198)	(222.758)	Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost:			
(54.632)	(61.519)	Public Works Loan Board borrowing	2	(246.407)	(220.126)
		Non-PWLB borrowing (“market debt”)	2	(48.231)	(53.523)
		Other liabilities:			
(68.361)	(126.783)	Service Concession and Finance Lease liabilities	3	(64.973)	(119.570)
(0.003)	(0.003)	Financial guarantees	3	0.000	0.000
(350.194)	(411.063)	Total financial liabilities for which fair value is disclosed		(359.611)	(393.219)
		Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost:			
(35.423)	n/a	Borrowing from group entities		(29.785)	n/a
(49.657)	n/a	Trade payables: short-term		(49.988)	n/a
(85.080)		Total financial liabilities for which fair value is not disclosed		(79.773)	

As at 31 March 2023		Financial Assets	Fair value level	As at 31 March 2024	
Carrying Amount £m	Fair value £m			Carrying Amount £m	Fair value £m
6.086	6.086	Callable deposits in money market funds and ultra-short bond funds	1	20.101	20.101
6.997	6.997	Euro current account balances with the council’s banker	2	3.707	3.707
4.157	4.157	Investments in pooled funds (insurance fund)	1	4.321	4.321
17.240	17.240	Total Financial assets measured at fair value		28.129	28.129
166.751	166.751	Fixed term deposits with UK local authorities	2	67.755	67.751
(1.502)	(1.502)	Callable deposits with UK banks and building societies (including sterling current account balances with the Council’s banker)	2	5.610	5.610
0.051	0.051	Imprest accounts held at council establishments	2	0.043	0.043
1.546	1.681	Loans made for service purposes	3	1.387	1.543
166.846	166.981	Total Financial assets measured at amortised cost		74.795	74.947
184.086	184.221	Total financial assets for which fair value is disclosed		102.924	103.076
		Financial assets measured at amortised cost:			
1.092	n/a	Trade receivables and prepayments: long-term		1.029	n/a
58.631	n/a	Receivables and prepayments: short-term		53.259	n/a
59.723		Total financial assets for which fair value is not disclosed		54.288	

Items of income, expense, gain and loss relating to financial instruments

The following items of income, expense, gain and loss relating to financial instruments are included within the lines 'Financing and investment income and expenditure' and '(Surplus)/Deficit from investments in equity instruments designated as Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income' in the CIES.

2022/23 £m		Financial Assets			Financial liabilities at amortised cost £m	2023/24 £m
		Amortised cost £m	Elected to Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income £m	Fair Value through Profit or Loss £m		
16.583	Interest expense	0.000	0.000	0.000	16.323	16.323
0.000	Impairment losses	3.720	0.000	0.000	0.000	3.720
0.000	Fee expense	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.007	0.007
16.583	Total expense in the Surplus / Deficit on the Provision of Services	3.720	0.000	0.000	16.330	20.050
(4.306)	Interest income	(6.505)	0.000	(1.754)	0.000	(8.259)
(0.110)	Dividend income	0.000	(0.133)	0.000	0.000	(0.133)
(0.196)	Other income	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
(4.612)	Total income in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(6.505)	(0.133)	(1.754)	0.000	(8.392)
(0.017)	Net (gain) or loss on revaluation	0.000	(0.031)	0.039	0.000	0.008
(0.017)	(Surplus)/Deficit on the revaluation of financial assets	0.000	(0.031)	0.039	0.000	0.008
11.954	Net (Gain)/Loss for the year	(2.785)	(0.164)	(1.715)	16.330	11.666

Note 23: Nature and extent of risks arising from Financial Instruments

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. The Council complies with CIPFA's Code of Treasury Management Practices and has written principles for overall risk management as well as written policies and procedures covering specific areas such as credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk.

In line with the Treasury Management Code, the Council approves a Treasury Management Strategy before the commencement of each financial year. The Strategy sets out the parameters for the management of risks

associated with financial instruments. The Council also produces Treasury Management Practices specifying the practical arrangements to be followed to manage these risks.

The Treasury Management Strategy includes an Investment Strategy in compliance with Scottish Government guidance on Local Government Investments. This Guidance emphasises that priority is to be given to security and liquidity, rather than yield.

The Council's Treasury Management Strategy and its Treasury Management Practices seek to achieve a suitable balance between risk and return or cost.

Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from the short-term lending of surplus funds to financial institutions and local authorities, as well as credit exposures to the Council's customers. It is the policy of the Council to place deposits only with other local authorities and a limited number of high-quality banks, building societies and money market funds 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 entity.

The Treasury Management Strategy outlines the limits placed on investments with any counterparty.

The table below summarises the credit risk exposures of the Council's treasury investment portfolio (including accrued interest) by credit rating.

2022/23 £m	Total Investment Portfolio by Credit Rating	2023/24 £m
6.037	AAA (money market funds and ultra-short bond funds)	20.015
0.000	A+	6.736
0.500	A	0.000
1.204	A-	6.491
165.000	UK local authorities	66.000
172.741	Total	99.242

The Council does not generally allow credit for customers such that, at 31 March 2024, £9.903m of sundry income debt is past its due date for payment (£8.932m as at 31 March 2023). The past due amount can be analysed by age as follows:

2022/23 £m	Sundry Income Debt Past Due	2023/24 £m
1.684	Less than three months	2.258
1.515	Three to six months	0.635
0.965	Six months to one year	1.612
4.768	More than one year	5.398
8.932	Total	9.903

Loss allowances on trade receivables have been calculated by reference to the Council's historic experience of default, adjusted for current and forecast economic conditions. Receivables are determined to have suffered a significant increase in credit risk where they are 30 or more days past due and they are determined to be credit-impaired where they are 90 or more days past due. Receivables are written off to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services when there is no reasonable prospect of payment, or when they become prescribed; but steps are still taken to collect sums owing when information becomes available which suggests the debtor can make payment.

Collateral

Renfrewshire Council occasionally provides loans to residents who wish to buy their homes under Right to Buy legislation. In such cases the Council takes a standard security over the property. As at 31 March 2024 the outstanding value of home loans advanced by the Council was £0.256m (£0.335m as at 31 March 2023).

Liquidity risk

The Council's main source of borrowing is HM Treasury's Public Works Loan Board, but the Council also has loans classed as 'lender option borrower option' (LOBO). There is no significant risk that the Council will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments.

The Council has safeguards in place to ensure that 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 of unfavourable interest rates.

The Council's policy is to ensure that not more than 15% of loans are due to mature within any financial year and 50% within any rolling five-year period through a combination of prudent planning of new loans taken out and, where it is economic to do so, making early repayments.

The maturity analysis of the principal element of borrowing is as follows:

As at 31 March 2023		Principal Borrowing Maturity Analysis	As at 31 March 2024	
£m	%		£m	%
0.828	0.30%	Less than one year	5.000	1.72%
5.000	1.80%	Between one and two years	5.000	1.72%
5.016	1.81%	Between two and five years	0.011	0.00%
266.500	96.09%	More than five years	280.347	96.56%
277.344	100.00%	Total	290.358	100.00%

Market risk: interest rate risk

Changes in market interest rates influence the interest payable on borrowings and on interest receivable on surplus funds invested. For example, a rise in interest rates would mean an increase in the interest charged on borrowing at variable rates and an increased cost to the taxpayer. An increase in interest rates would also mean an increase in the income received on lending at variable rates and a reduction in cost for the taxpayer. Changes in market rates also affect the notional 'fair value' of lending and borrowing. For example, a rise in interest rates would reduce the fair value of both lending and borrowing at fixed rates. Changes in the fair value of lending and borrowing do not impact upon the taxpayer and are confined to prescribed presentational aspects in the Accounts.

The Council has a variety of strategies for managing the uncertainty of future interest rates and the financial impact on the Council's finances:

- it is the policy of the Council to limit its exposure to variable rate borrowing to a maximum of 25% of what it borrows;
- during periods of falling rates and where it is economically advantageous to do so, the Council will consider the repayment and restructuring of fixed interest rate debt;
- the Council takes daily advice from its specialist treasury advisers and actively monitors changes in interest rates to inform decisions on the lending of surplus funds, new borrowings and restructurings of existing borrowings.

To illustrate the notional impact of changes in interest rates upon the Council, the following table shows the financial effect if rates had been 1% higher during 2023/24, with all other variables held constant.

Interest rate risk	As at 31 March 2024 £m
Increase in interest payable on new fixed rate borrowings taken during the year	0.196
Increase in interest receivable on deposits placed during the year	(1.830)
Notional impact on the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(1.634)
Share of this impact which would be attributable to the Housing Revenue Account	(0.495)
<i>Other changes that would have no impact on the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services or Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure:</i>	
Decrease in the fair value of fixed rate loans and deposits	0.014
Decrease in the fair value of fixed rate borrowing	45.820

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

Market risk: price risk

The Council's Insurance Fund is invested in an externally managed fund under the powers of schedule 3 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1975 and section 3 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994. The investments are managed on behalf of the Council by LGT Wealth Management in the Phoenix Fund. The objective of the fund is to achieve long-term growth with low volatility, through a widely diversified portfolio. The benchmark return is SONIA+2% per annum. During 2023/24 the book cost of investments increased by £0.133m (£0.115m increase during 2022/23). The investment is classified as fair value through other comprehensive income, meaning that all movements in price will impact on the gains and losses recognised in other comprehensive income and expenditure. This is an accounting requirement that has no impact on the taxpayer. To illustrate the impact of changes in share price upon the Council, an increase or fall of 5% in the general price of shares at 31 March 2024 would have resulted in a £0.081m gain or loss being recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure for 2023/24.

Market risk: foreign exchange risk

As at 31 March 2024 the Council had a foreign currency deposit of €4.335m with the Council's banker (€7.959m as at 31 March 2023). This sum was being held in order to mitigate the foreign exchange risk associated with a contract being entered into as part of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal programme. The sterling valuation of this deposit as at 31 March 2024, based on the euro to sterling exchange rate at that time, was £3.707m. To illustrate the impact of changes in foreign exchange rates upon the Council, a relative increase or decrease of 1% in the euro to sterling exchange rate at 31 March 2024 would have resulted in a £0.037m gain or loss being recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure for 2023/24.

Note 24: External audit costs

2022/23 £m	Audit Fees	2023/24 £m
0.443	Fees payable with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year	0.441
0.443	Total	0.441

Note 25: Agency services

The Council bills and collects non-domestic rates on behalf of the Scottish Government from ratepayers situated within Renfrewshire Council and East Renfrewshire Council. The Council also bills and collects, along with its own Council Tax, domestic water and sewerage charges on behalf of Scottish Water.

2022/23 £m	Agency Services	2023/24 £m
108.076	Scottish Government - Contributions (to)/from the non-domestic rates pool	131.322
13.640	Non-domestic rates collected: East Renfrewshire	14.880
0.066	Service income from East Renfrewshire Council for collection of non-domestic rates	0.070
(13.706)	Cost of collection of Non-domestic rates from East Renfrewshire	(14.950)
34.350	Domestic water and sewerage charges collected	34.461
(34.350)	Domestic water and sewerage charges paid over to Scottish Water	(34.461)
0.637	Service income from Scottish Water for collection of domestic water and sewerage	0.706
0.133	COVID-19 PPE and Testing kits issued to external providers	0.000
(0.133)	COVID-19 PPE and Testing kits received from Scottish Government	0.000
9.540	Cost of Living Awards paid out	0.000
(9.540)	Cost of Living Awards funding from the Scottish Government	0.000
0.911	Scottish Child Bridging Payments paid out	0.000
(0.911)	Scottish Child Bridging Payments funding received from the Scottish Government	0.000

Note 26: Related parties

The Council's related parties are those bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or significantly influence the Council, or to be controlled or significantly influenced by the Council, or where those individuals or bodies and the Council are subject to common control. The Council is required to disclose material transactions that have occurred with related parties and the amount of any material sums due to or from related parties.

Related party relationships require to be disclosed where control exists, irrespective of whether there have been transactions between the related parties.

Disclosure of this information allows readers to assess the extent to which the Council might have been constrained in its ability to operate independently or might have secured the ability to limit another party's ability to bargain freely with the Council.

Senior Officers and Elected Members

Members of the council and senior officers have control over the Council's financial and operating policies. They

have the responsibility to adhere to a Code of Conduct, requiring them to declare an interest in matters that directly or indirectly influence, or appear to influence, their judgement or decisions taken during the course of their work. The total of councillors' and senior officers' remuneration allowances paid in 2022/23 are shown in the Remuneration Report on page 25.

Senior Officers

No senior officer holds a remunerated position outside of their Council employment. For details of Senior Officers' interests, please check the register of interests on the Council website at:

<https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk>Your Council >Information, performance and statistics >Council structure/article/2179/Council-structure>.

Senior Elected Members

Under the Council Code of Conduct, elected members and senior officials must declare any registered interests in any bodies where the Council itself does not have significant influence over their operations. Each member's Register of Interest is available at [Councillors - Renfrewshire Website](#).

In 2023/24, the Council made payments to the following bodies where senior councillors have declared a non-financial interest, either through non-remunerated positions held with the organisations, or through being a member of those bodies.

Senior Councillor	Non-financial Interest / Position	Organisation	Council Spend in 2023/24 £
Lorraine Cameron	Trustee	Kibble Trust	2,400,756
Iain McMillan	Volunteer Worker	St Vincent's Hospice	4,130
Iain Nicolson	Member	Inchinnan Development Trust	37,560
Jim Paterson	Renfrewshire Council representative	Renfrewshire Citizens' Advice Bureau	425,586

NB: This disclosure excludes group entities and trade union membership.

Some senior councillors also hold a remunerated position outwith the Council, i.e. they receive payment from other organisations for employment, or board positions. The following table details these remunerated positions and notes where the Council has made payments to any of the organisations listed.

Senior Councillor	Remunerated Position	Employer / Organisation	Council Spend in 2023/24 £
Stephen Burns	Direct Response Officer	Glasgow City Health & Social Care	0
Michelle Campbell	NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde	Crisis Practitioner/Bank Nurse	7,008,240
Andy Doig	RCA Trust	Housing Support Worker	213,810
Marie McGurk	Marie McGurk Podiatry	Owner	0
Jim Paterson	One Parent Families Scotland (From 29/02/24)	Support Worker	0
John Shaw	Chief of Staff	Gavin Newland MP	0
Emma Rodden	Constituency Assistant	Tom Arthur MSP	0

Key Related Parties: subsidiaries and associates

The organisations set out in the group accounts note are those which the Council is considered to have control or influence over. The following entities have a significant impact on the Council's operations and have been consolidated into the group accounts:

- OneRen (formerly Renfrewshire Leisure)
- Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board
- Paisley Museum Reimagined Ltd
- Park Lane Developments (Renfrewshire) LLP
- AMIDS (Renfrewshire) LLP
- Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee

- Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
- Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board
- Scotland Excel
- Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority
- Glasgow City Region – City Deal Cabinet
- Coats Observatory Trust
- Johnstone, Paisley and Renfrew Common Good Funds

For further details of the nature of group relationships, please refer to the Group Accounts and Notes from page 99.

Key Related Parties: Other Public Bodies

Scottish Government

The Scottish Government has effective control over the operations of the Council as it is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Council operates, provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties, such as Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates. Grants received from the Scottish Government are set out in the analysis in Note 3: Taxation and non-specific grant income, and other grants received from government departments are shown in Note 5: Grant income.

UK Government

The UK Department of Work and Pensions administers funding for the delivery of Housing Benefit and associated costs. The total received by the Council in 2023/24 was £40.6m (£41.4m in 2022/23).

Rental income

Income received from the Care Inspectorate (£0.074m) and Scotland Excel (£0.097m) relate to rental income for occupancy of part of Renfrewshire House. The property rentals were conducted under standard terms and conditions and no guarantees have been applied.

Strathclyde Pension Fund

Strathclyde Pension Fund is the principal administrators of the post-retirement funds held on behalf of the current and former employees of the Council. Information about transactions during the year and outstanding assets and liabilities in relation to the Council's share of the Strathclyde Pension Fund can be found in Note 28: Defined benefit pension schemes.

Note 27: Pension schemes accounted for as defined contribution schemes

Renfrewshire Council participates in the Scottish Teachers' Superannuation Scheme. The scheme is an unfunded statutory public service pension scheme with benefits underwritten by the UK Government. The scheme is financed by payments from employers and from those current employees who are members of the scheme and paying contributions at progressively higher marginal rates based on pensionable pay, as specified in the regulations. The rate of employer contributions is set with reference to a funding valuation undertaken by the scheme actuary. The last four-yearly valuation was undertaken as at 31 March 2020, which set the contribution rate payable from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023, extended until 31 March 2024

Renfrewshire Council has no liability for other employers' obligations to the multi-employer scheme. As the scheme is unfunded there can be no deficit or surplus to distribute on the wind-up of the scheme or withdrawal from the scheme.

The scheme is an unfunded multi-employer defined benefit scheme. It is accepted that the scheme can be treated for accounting purposes as a defined contribution scheme in circumstances where Renfrewshire Council is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme. While the employee rate applied is variable, it will provide an actuarial yield of 9.4% of pensionable pay. At the last valuation a shortfall of £1.3bn was identified in the notional fund, which will be repaid by the increased rate of employers' pension contribution, effective from 1 September 2019, of 23%.

Based on the proportion of employer contributions paid in 2023/24, Renfrewshire Council's level of participation in the scheme is 3.0%. The Council paid £21.041m (£19.719m in 2022/23) for employer's contributions to the Scottish Public Pensions Agency. £0.401m of expenditure (£0.444m in 2022/23) was charged to service revenue accounts in respect of "added years" pension enhancement termination benefits, representing 0.4% of teachers' pensionable pay (0.5% in

2022/23). The estimated contribution for 2024/25 is £19.390m.

Note 28: Defined benefit pension schemes

28a: Participation in pension schemes

The pension scheme for teachers (the Scottish Teachers' Superannuation Scheme) is explained in the previous note, whilst this note relates exclusively to the pension scheme for all other employees: the Local Government Pension Scheme.

The Local Government Pension Scheme in Scotland (LGPS) is a funded, defined benefit, statutory occupational pension scheme. It is regulated by the Scottish Public Pensions Agency but is administered locally by fund administering authorities through regional pension funds. For Renfrewshire Council, the fund administering authority is Glasgow City Council and the regional pension fund is the Strathclyde Pension Fund. As a funded scheme, the Council and employees pay contributions into the fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the scheme's pension liabilities with the scheme's investment assets. The statutory nature of the fund means that the post-employment benefits are defined and set out in law. The Strathclyde Pension Fund is a multi-employer fund, and it is possible for each employer to identify its own share of the assets and liabilities of the fund on a consistent and reasonable basis.

The principal risks to the scheme are assumptions relating to longevity, inflation, and investment

performance; in addition, statutory changes to the scheme. These risks are mitigated to an extent by statutory requirements limiting charges to the Council's general fund. The Council has additional liabilities for unfunded discretionary pension payments outside the main schemes such as arrangements for the award of discretionary post-employment benefits upon early retirement. This is an unfunded defined benefit arrangement, under which liabilities are recognised when awards are made.

However, there are no investment assets built up to meet these pensions liabilities, and cash has to be generated to meet actual pensions payments as they eventually fall due.

28b: Transactions relating to post-employment benefits

The Council accounts for post-employment benefits in the CIES as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and accounting for investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs. However, the charge according to statutory regulations that is required to be made against the General Fund Balance and the Housing Revenue Account Balance is based upon the employer contributions payable by the Council to the pension fund in the year. This requires an adjustment to be made in the movement in reserves statement to remove the cost (according to generally accepted accounting practices) of post-employment benefits and replace that cost with the value of employer contributions payable to the fund in the year.

The following transactions have been made in the CIES and the General Fund Balance via the movement in reserves statement during the year:

2022/23 £m		2023/24 £m
	Included within net cost of services:	
69.403	Current service cost	31.776
3.078	Past service cost/(gain)	7.805
	Included within Financing and Investment income and expenditure:	
47.114	Interest cost	57.468
0.000	Interest on the effect of the asset ceiling	19.538
(45.130)	Expected return on scheme assets	(78.092)
74.465	Total of Post-employment benefits charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	38.495
	Included within Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure:	
71.373	Return on Assets excluding amounts included in net interest	(84.242)
(13.264)	Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in Demographic Assumptions	(20.669)
(672.239)	Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in Financial Assumptions	(44.838)
86.064	Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in Other Assumptions	111.846
0.000	Changes in effect of Asset Ceiling	(277.743)
(453.601)	Total of LGPS post-employment benefits charged to the CIES	(277.151)
	Movement in reserves statement:	
(528.066)	Actuarial losses or (gains)	(315.646)
258.205	Restriction on pension asset to Asset Ceiling	567.320
74.465	Reversal of items relating to post-employment benefits debited or credited to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	38.494
(35.716)	Employer contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(39.797)
(231.112)	Movement in the year on the Pension Reserve	250.371

The cumulative amount of actuarial gains and losses recognised in the CIES as at 31 March 2024 is a gain of £1,121.675m (£652.915m gain as at 31 March 2023).

28c: Assets and liabilities relating to post-employment benefits

Renfrewshire Council's share of the defined benefit obligation (that is, the scheme liabilities) and of the scheme assets in the Strathclyde Pension Fund has been assessed by Hymans Robertson LLP, the Fund's independent actuaries. The assessment indicates that, as at 31 March 2024, scheme assets exceeded the defined benefit obligation by £494.840m (£434.096m excess of obligations over assets as at 31 March 2023). The defined benefit obligation is valued on an actuarial basis using the "projected unit credit" method, which

estimates the pensions that will be payable in future years (dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels and other factors) discounted to their present value. The discount rate used at 31 March 2024 was 4.8% based on the indicative rate of return on high quality corporate bonds. Scheme assets are valued at fair value which, in the case of marketable securities, is market value using the current bid price. Where no market price is available, the fair value of scheme assets is estimated. The valuations are based on the latest formal valuation of the Strathclyde Pension Fund which was carried out as at 31 March 2020.

The common position for employers participating in the Strathclyde Pension Fund is that, based on a snapshot valuation as at 31 March 2024, a net pension asset is disclosed as a result of prevailing market conditions at that date. The net pension position of £494.840m

represents an increase in asset of £58.744m between 31 March 2023 and 31 March 2024. The net pension liability has a substantial impact on the net worth of the Council as recorded in the balance sheet.

The net pension asset has a substantial impact on the net worth of the Council as recorded in the balance sheet). However, this surplus of scheme assets is restricted to the “asset ceiling” i.e. the net present value of future service costs less net present value of future contributions over the future working lifetime as at 31 March 2024. This has been calculated to be £0 for funded obligations. After adjusting for the asset ceiling, the balance sheet now reflects a pension liability of £74.480m, representing the unfunded obligations of the scheme.

Local government legislation provides that local authorities have an obligation to meet the expenditure of the joint boards of which they are constituent members. As a consequence, Renfrewshire Council has

additional liabilities arising from the pension scheme deficits of the Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board. In accordance with accounting regulations, the group accounts include a share of the post-employment benefits transactions, defined benefit obligations and scheme assets of this joint board. Further information can be found in the annual report and accounts of each joint board. The main fund (Fund 1) of Strathclyde Pension Fund does not have an asset and liability matching (ALM) strategy.

28d: Movement in defined benefit obligation (scheme liabilities)

The following is a reconciliation of the 2023/24 opening and closing balances of the present value of Renfrewshire Council’s share of the Strathclyde Pension Fund’s defined benefit obligation (that is, scheme liabilities).

2022/23 £m		2023/24 £m
1,725.861	Balance at 1 April	1,211.991
69.403	Current service cost	31.776
3.078	Past service cost (including curtailments)	7.805
47.114	Interest cost	57.468
9.240	Member contributions	9.277
(599.439)	Actuarial losses or (gains)	32.218
	<i>Losses or (gains) on curtailment</i>	
(4.685)	Estimated benefits paid: unfunded	(5.157)
(38.581)	Estimated benefits paid: other	(48.017)
1,211.991	Balance at 31 March	1,297.361

28e: Movement in scheme assets

The following is a reconciliation of the 2023/24 opening and closing balances of the fair value of Renfrewshire Council’s share of the Strathclyde Pension Fund’s scheme assets.

2022/23 £m		2023/24 £m
1,670.640	Balance at 1 April	1,646.087
45.130	Expected return on scheme assets	78.093
9.240	Member contributions	9.277
31.031	Employer contributions	34.640
4.685	Contributions in respect of unfunded benefits	5.157
0.000	Effect of other experience	(14.121)
(71.373)	Actuarial (losses) or gains	84.242
(4.685)	Estimated benefits paid: unfunded	(5.157)
(38.581)	Estimated benefits paid: other	(48.017)
1,646.087	Balance at 31 March	1,790.201

The expected return on scheme assets is determined by considering the expected returns available on the assets underlying the current investment policy as provided by the administering authority. Expected yields on fixed interest investments are based on gross redemption yields as at the balance sheet date. Expected returns on equity investments reflect long-term real rates of return experienced in the respective markets.

The actual return on scheme assets from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 was 9.9%.

The fair value of the assets held in the scheme may be analysed as follows:

As at 31 March 2023				As at 31 March 2024		
Quoted Prices in active markets £m	Prices not quoted in active markets £m	Total £m		Quoted Prices in active markets £m	Prices not quoted in active markets £m	Total £m
321.441	2.951	324.392	Equity instruments	361.564	0.392	361.956
0.000	404.589	404.589	Private Equity	0.000	427.395	427.395
0.000	135.719	135.719	Real Estate	0.000	140.763	140.763
7.090	743.114	750.204	Investment Funds	7.352	819.550	826.902
0.000	(0.001)	(0.001)	Derivatives	0.000	0.000	0.000
22.766	8.418	31.184	Cash and cash equivalents	2.789	30.397	33.186
351.297	1,294.790	1,646.087	Fair value of scheme assets	371.705	1,418.497	1,790.202

28f: Scheme history: analysis of defined benefit obligation and scheme assets

The Council's share of the accumulated deficit or surplus in the scheme is shown below. The analysis shows the nature of various elements of the Council's share of the scheme's defined benefit:

As at 31 March 2023 £m		As at 31 March 2024 £m
(568.195)	Current employee members	(537.973)
(57.322)	Pre-local government reorganisation (1996) liabilities	(53.892)
(111.002)	Deferred pensioners	(128.007)
(401.978)	Pensioners	(503.009)
(1,138.497)	Total Present Value of the Defined Benefit Obligation - Funded liabilities	(1,222.881)
1,646.087	Fair value of scheme assets	1,790.201
507.590	Net Asset / (Liability) arising from funded obligations	567.320
(258.205)	Restriction to asset ceiling	(567.320)
(73.494)	Total Present Value of the Defined Benefit Obligation - Unfunded liabilities	(74.480)
175.891	Net Pension Asset / (Liability)	(74.480)

The presentation of this table has been revised to better reflect the Unfunded Pension obligation.

Basis for estimating assets and liabilities

The following table shows the principal assumptions used by Hymans Robertson LLP, the Fund's independent actuaries, to estimate the Council's post-employment benefits transactions for 2023/24, and the Council's share of the Strathclyde Pension Fund's defined benefit obligation (scheme liabilities) and scheme assets as at 31 March 2024:

2022/23		2023/24
4.8%	Discount rate for defined benefit obligation	4.8%
2.7%	Long-term expected rate of return on scheme assets*	2.7%
3.7%	Rate of increase in salaries	3.5%
3.0%	Rate of increase in pensions	2.8%
3.0%	Rate of inflation	2.8%
	Mortality assumptions (years):	
	<i>Longevity at age 65 for current pensioners:</i>	
19.3	Men	19.6
22.2	Women	22.3
	<i>Longevity at age 65 for future pensioners:</i>	
20.5	Men	20.6
24.2	Women	24.2
	Take up of option to convert annual pension into retirement lump sum	
50%	For Pre-April 2009 service	75%
75%	For Post-April 2009 service	75%

*The expected rates of return are set equal to the discount rate as per IAS19 ,

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. The sensitivity analyses below have been determined based on reasonably possible changes of the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period and assumes for each change that the assumption analysed changes while all the other assumptions remain constant. The 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 did not change from those used in the previous period. The limitations of methods and assumptions used are associated with any changes in market conditions that affect the net discount rate. These can have a significant effect on the value of the obligations reported.

Impact on the Defined Benefit Obligation on the Scheme	%	£m
0.1% decrease in the Real Discount	2%	22.091
1 year increase in the member life expectancy	4%	48.480
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase	0%	2.675
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	2%	19.729

Impact on the Authority's cash flows

An objective of the Fund is to keep employers' contributions at as constant a rate as possible. The Fund has agreed a strategy to achieve a funding rate of 100% in the longer term. Employers' and employees' contributions have been determined so that rates are standard across all participating employers.

The rate for employer contributions has been set at 6.5% for 2024/25 to 2025/26, rising to 17.5% from 2026/27. The total contribution expected to be made by the Council to the Strathclyde Pension Fund in the forthcoming year to 31 March 2025 is £10.026m. The weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation is 17 years.

Note 29: Contingent liabilities

- i) The Council has been notified of a number of contractor claims for additional costs incurred on construction contracts. The Council disputes the claims, which may be referred for arbitration. The Council recognises a contingent liability for potential costs, which may be incurred to resolve this dispute. It is not considered practicable at this stage to estimate the financial effect.
- ii) Following two court cases, including Mrs Goodwin v Department for Education, it is expected that proposed changes to public service pension schemes will be required, to ensure that surviving same-sex spouses and civil partners receive benefits equivalent to those received by the surviving spouses of opposite-sex marriages. Strathclyde Pension Fund's actuary estimates that the potential impact may be in the range of 0.1%-0.2% of gross obligations, which equates to between £1.767m and £3.535m for the Council. This estimate is not reflected in the Primary Financial Statements because the trigger event that would require recognition has not yet occurred.

Note 30: Events after the balance sheet date

Events taking place after the authorised date for issue per the balance sheet are not reflected in the financial statements or notes. Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31 March 2024, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information.

Note 31: Accounting Standards Issued not Adopted

The Code requires the 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.

The following new or amended standards are adopted within the 2024/25 Code:

- IFRS 16 *Leases*
- Classification of liabilities as Current or Non-current (Amendments to IAS1)
- Lease liability in a Sale and Leaseback (Amendments to IFRS 16)
- Non-current Liabilities with Covenants (Amendments to IFRS 16)

There is no material impact anticipated in future years from the implementation of these standards, other than IFRS 16 *Leases*.

CIPFA LASAAC has issued a formal decision to defer the implementation of IFRS 16 until 1 April 2024 when the Council will apply IFRS 16 in the 2024/25 accounts.

The impact of the new requirement is that arrangements previously accounted for as operating leases, a right of use asset and a lease liability will be brought into the balance sheet at 1 April 2024.

IFRS 16 will be applied retrospectively but with the cumulative effect recognised at 1 April 2024. This means that right of use assets and lease liabilities will be calculated as if IFRS 16 had always applied but recognised in 2024/25 and not by adjusting prior year figures.

The Council will apply recognition exemptions to short term leases and elected not to recognise right of use assets and lease liabilities that have a term of 12 months or less and leases of low value assets.

It is anticipated that the application of the Code's adaptation of IFRS 16 will result in the following additions to the balance sheet:

- £3.502m Property, Plant and equipment (right of use assets)
- £-3.202m Non-current creditors (lease liabilities)
- £-0.300m Current creditors (lease liabilities)

Note 32: Accounting Policies – Renfrewshire Council

The Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 have been prepared in accordance with proper accounting practice as per section 12 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003. Proper accounting practice comprises the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Accounting Code) and the Service Reporting Code of Practice, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards and recommendations made by the Local Authority (Scotland) Accounts Advisory Committee (LASAAC). They are designed to give a true and fair view of the financial performance and position of the Council and comparative figures for the previous financial year are provided. There are no significant departures from these recommendations.

The accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention, other than changes resulting from the revaluation of certain categories of non-current assets and financial instruments, and on a going concern basis.

A Accruals of Expenditure and Income

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

- Revenue from the sale of goods or provision of services is recognised when the performance obligation relating to the transaction has been satisfied, and it is probable that the economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Council.
- 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. Works are charged as expenditure when they are completed, before which they are carried as assets under construction on the Balance Sheet.
- Interest payable on borrowings and receivable on investments is accounted for on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument. Interest receivable and dividend income

is recognised when it is probable that the economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Council.

- iv) Where income and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where there is evidence that debts are unlikely to be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.
- v) Supplier invoices paid in the two weeks following the year-end are accrued together with specific accruals in respect of further material items provided the goods or services were received by 31 March 2024 or relate to services associated with the prior financial year.

B Business Improvement District

Following the formation of the Paisley First BID company on 15 January 2015, the Council has entered into an agreement to act as the billing body for the purposes of the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 and the Regulations and is responsible for the administration, collection and recovery of the BID Levy. As the Council is acting as agent for the BID company, no transactions in relation to the BID levy or BID Revenue Account are included in the CIES with the exception of any contribution made by the Council to the BID project, the costs and income related to the collection of the BID levy or any income from the BID company in relation to services provided.

C Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash is defined as cash in hand and deposits repayable on demand less overdrafts repayable on demand. Cash equivalents are defined as call accounts, money market funds and instant deposits. Fixed term deposits are not classified as cash or cash equivalents as these are held for investment purposes rather than for meeting short-term cash commitments.

D Charges for the Use of Assets

Services are charged for the use of assets no matter how they are financed, and this charge includes a provision for depreciation where appropriate.

E Contingent Assets and Liabilities

Contingent assets and liabilities are not recognised in the financial statements but are disclosed as a note to the accounts where they are deemed material.

F Employee Benefits

Benefits payable during employment

All salaries and wages earned up to 31 March 2024 are included in the Accounts irrespective of when payment was made. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements earned by employees, but not taken before the year end and which employees may carry forward into the next financial year; along with any pay inflation agreed for the year and not yet paid.

Termination benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Council to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy. They are charged on an accruals basis to the relevant service line in the CIES 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 pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end.

Post-employment benefits

The Council participates in two formal pension schemes: the Local Government Pension Scheme which is administered by Strathclyde Pension Fund; and the Scottish Teachers' Superannuation Scheme. Liabilities for the Scottish Teachers' Superannuation Scheme cannot be identified specifically to the Council; therefore, the scheme is accounted for as a defined contributions scheme.

The Local Government Pension Scheme is accounted for as a defined benefit scheme in accordance with International Accounting Standard 19 (IAS19) (as revised in 2011). Renfrewshire Council's share of the net pension asset or liability in Strathclyde Pension Fund and a pension reserve are recognised in the Balance Sheet. The CIES recognises changes during the year in the pension asset or liability. Service expenditure includes pension costs based on employers' pension contributions payable and payments to pensioners in the year. Liabilities are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method. Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices using a discount rate based on the indicative rate of return on high quality corporate bonds. Assets are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value, principally the bid price for quoted securities, and estimated fair value for unquoted securities.

G Events after the Balance Sheet date

Events after the Balance Sheet date are those events that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the Statements are authorised for issue. There are two types of events:

- Adjusting events – those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period, and the Statements are adjusted to reflect such events

- Non-adjusting events – those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period, and the Statements are not adjusted.

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

H Prior Period Adjustments

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

Where there has been a change in accounting policy, that change will be applied retrospectively. Where there has been a change in accounting estimate, that change will be applied prospectively. Where a material misstatement or omission has been discovered relating to a prior period, that misstatement or omission will be restated unless it is impracticable to do so.

I Financial Instruments

Financial Assets

Financial assets are classified into three categories of valuation:

- At amortised cost;
- At fair value through other comprehensive income – designated equity instruments; and
- At fair value through profit or loss.

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 loans made 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 the derecognition of an asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES. The Council has assets such as investments and debtors which are classified as financial assets measured at amortised cost.

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 party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured and carried at fair value. Investment income is credited to Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure in the CIES when it becomes receivable by the Council. Where an equity instrument is designated as FVOCI, changes in fair value are posted to Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure and are balanced by an entry in the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve (an unusable reserve).

When the asset is derecognised, the cumulative gain or loss previously recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure is transferred from the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve and recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services. The Council has made an irrevocable election to designate these assets as FVOCI on the basis that they are held for non-contractual benefits, not for trading, but for strategic purposes.

Financial assets measured at fair value through profit and loss

Assets 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. Where there are no fixed or determinable payments, income (e.g. dividends) is credited to the CIES when it becomes receivable by the Council.

Assets values are based on the following principles:

- instruments with quoted market prices – the market price
- other instruments with fixed and determinable payments – discounted cash flow analysis
- equity shares with no quoted market prices – independent appraisal of company valuations.

Any gains and losses that arise on the derecognition of the asset are credited/debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES. Where fair value cannot be measured reliably, the instrument is carried at cost (less any impairment losses).

Expected Credit Loss Model

Where assets are identified as impaired as a result of an expected credit loss, 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).

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 initially measured at fair value and carried at their amortised cost. Annual charges to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES for interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments over the life of the instrument to the amount at which it was originally recognised. For most of the borrowings that the Council has, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding

principal repayable (plus accrued interest) and interest charged to the CIES is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement.

Gains and losses on the repurchase or early settlement of borrowing are credited and debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Income and Expenditure Account in the year of extinguishment. However, where repurchase has taken place as part of a restructuring of the loan portfolio that involves the modification or exchange of existing instruments, the premium or discount is respectively deducted from or added to the amortised cost of the new or modified loan and the write-down to the CIES is spread over the life of the loan by an adjustment to the effective interest rate.

Where premiums and discounts have been charged to the CIES, regulations allow the impact on the General Fund Balance to be spread over future years. The Council has a policy of spreading the gain/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 Guarantees

Financial guarantees are recognised at fair value assessed as the probability of the guarantees being called and the likely amount payable under the guarantees.

Loans Fund

The Council operates a Loans Fund and all loans raised are paid into the Fund. Advances are made to departments to finance capital expenditure during the year. Repayments to the Loans Fund are calculated using the annuity method.

The local Authority (Capital Financing and Accounting) (Scotland) Regulations 2016 - loans fund accounting came into force on 1 April 2016 and replaced the

statutory provisions for local authority borrowing, lending and loans funds as set out in Schedule 3 of the local Authority (Scotland) Act 1975. The regulations contain the following provisions in respect of the loans fund:

- Regulation 12 places a duty on a local authority to maintain a loans fund, which is to be administered in accordance with the proper accounting practices and prudent financial management,
- Regulation 13 requires a local authority to make loans fund advances each year for expenditure of or lending to third parties by, the local authority which it has determined should be met from borrowing, and
- Regulation 14 requires a local authority to determine for each loans fund advance the period over which it will be repaid and the amount of each repayment. Both the period and the annual amounts must be considered by the authority to be prudent.

Interest is calculated and allocated to the CIES in accordance with Local Authorities Scotland Accounts Advisory Committee's (LASAAC) Guidance Note 2: Statement on the Calculation and Allocation of Loans Fund Interest and Expenses.

Financial Instruments - Fair Value Measurement

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurement assumes that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability take place either in the principal market for that asset or liability or, in the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market for the asset or liability.

The fair value of an asset or liability is measured using the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability, assuming that market participants act in their economic best interest. Valuation techniques used are appropriate in the circumstances and have sufficient data 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 financial statements are categorised within the fair value hierarchy, as follows:

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

The fair value hierarchy gives priority to quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 inputs) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 inputs).

J Government Grants and other Contributions

Government grants and third-party contributions and donations are recognised as due to the Council when there is reasonable assurance that:

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

Amounts recognised as due to the Council are not credited to the CIES until conditions attaching to the grant or contribution have been satisfied. Monies advanced as grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried in the Balance Sheet as creditors. When conditions are satisfied, the grant or contribution is credited to the relevant service line or Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income in the CIES.

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

K Heritage Assets

The Council's heritage assets are held in the museums operated by OneRen (Paisley Museum and Art Gallery, Renfrew Town Hall and Museum, and The Secret Collection). The purpose of holding these assets according to the Museums' Statement of Purpose is "to enhance public understanding of the human and natural world, principally by the use of original objects". Heritage assets are recognised and measured (including the treatment of revaluation gains and losses) in accordance with the Council's accounting policies on property, plant and equipment. However, some of the measurement rules are relaxed in relation to heritage assets.

The accounting policies in relation to heritage assets that are deemed to include elements of intangible heritage assets are also presented below. Purchased acquisitions are recognised at cost and donated acquisitions are recognised at valuation with reference to appropriate commercial markets.

Acquisitions are made in line with the approved Acquisition and Disposal Policy. The collections of heritage assets are accounted for as follows:

Art Collection	The collection includes fine, contemporary and applied art works. The collection is included in the balance sheet at market value where this is available (from external valuations provided by suitably experienced and knowledgeable experts) or insurance valuations provided by the relevant collection curator. The assets within the collection are deemed to have indeterminate lives and a high residual value, and therefore no depreciation is charged.
Shawl and textile design	The museums hold a collection of approximately 1,000 Paisley-type shawls, and a considerable collection of original designs for shawl manufacture. The collection is included in the balance sheet at insurance valuation which is based on market values. The assets within the collection are deemed to have indeterminate lives and a high residual value, and therefore no depreciation is charged.
Natural History	The collection includes vertebrate and invertebrate zoology, botany, geology and microslide collections; in addition to a library of natural history books. The collection is included in the balance sheet at insurance valuation which is based on market values. The assets within the collection are deemed to have indeterminate lives and a high residual value, and therefore no depreciation is charged.
Human History	The museums hold collections relating to social history, transport, science (including an important collection of astronomical apparatus in Coats Observatory), archaeology, arms, local archives, numismatics, photography, textiles, ethnography and Egyptology. The collection is included in the balance sheet at insurance valuation which is based on market values. However, where an external valuation or cost information is available, or a valuation may be secured at a cost which is not prohibitive relative to the value of the item, then the Council will recognise the asset in the balance sheet at this value. The assets within the collection are deemed to have indeterminate lives and a high residual value, and therefore, no depreciation is charged.

In addition to the museum collections, there are a number of public space statues, monuments, memorials, fountains and outdoor artworks at various locations throughout Renfrewshire. These assets are not generally recognised in the balance sheet. The Council considers that obtaining valuations would involve disproportionate cost and that reliable cost or valuation information cannot be obtained for these items. This is because of the diverse nature of assets held, the number of assets and the lack of comparable data. However, where reliable cost information can be reasonably obtained, the asset will be included in the balance sheet.

The carrying amounts of heritage assets are reviewed where there is evidence of impairment for heritage assets, eg where an item has suffered physical deterioration or breakage or where doubts arise as to its authenticity. Any impairment is recognised and measured in accordance with the Council's general

policies on impairment. Heritage assets will occasionally be disposed of in accordance with the approved Acquisitions and Disposal Policy (a copy of which is available). Assets are only disposed of for curatorial reasons (eg the item has deteriorated to such an extent it is no longer suitable for public display) and not with the aim of generating funds. Any proceeds of such items are accounted for in accordance with the Council's general provisions relating to the disposal of property, plant and equipment. Disposal proceeds are disclosed separately in the notes to the financial statements and are accounted for in accordance with statutory accounting requirements relating to capital expenditure and capital receipts. Expenditure incurred in preserving individual items is recognised in the CIES.

L Intangible Assets

The Council accounts for purchased software licences as Intangible Assets. Expenditure on intangible assets is

capitalised when it is expected that future economic benefits or service potential will flow from the intangible asset to the Council. Items costing less than £9,000 are not treated as Intangible Assets.

Intangible assets are measured initially at cost. Amounts are not revalued, as the fair value of the assets held by the Council cannot be determined by reference to an active market. The depreciable amount of an intangible asset is amortised over its useful life. An asset is tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the asset might be impaired. Any gain or loss arising on the disposal or abandonment of an intangible asset is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the CIES.

Where expenditure on intangible assets qualifies as capital expenditure for statutory purposes, amortisation, impairment losses and disposal gains and losses are not permitted to have an impact on the General Fund Balance. The gains and losses are therefore reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement and posted to the Capital Adjustment Account and (for any sale proceeds greater than £10,000) the Capital Receipts Reserve.

M Interests in Companies and Other Entities

The Council has material interests in two charitable companies, two limited liability partnership and Joint Boards and Committees that have the nature of subsidiaries and associates under accounting conventions, requiring it to prepare group accounts. In the Council's own single-entity accounts, these interests are not recorded as the Council has no shares in, or ownership of, any of these organisations.

Reflected in the Council's single-entity balance sheet is a 50% share in an Integration Joint Board, which is recorded as an investment.

N Inventories

Inventories (generally consumable stock) are included in the Balance Sheet at weighted average cost. The Code requires inventories to be held at lower of cost or Net

Realisable Value. Weighted average cost is used as the measure of cost.

O Investment Property

Investment properties are those that are used solely to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation. Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value. Properties are not depreciated but are revalued annually according to market conditions at the year-end. Gains and losses on revaluation are posted to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES. The same treatment is applied to gains and losses on disposal. Rentals received in relation to investment properties are credited to the Financing and Investment Income line and result in a gain for the General Fund Balance.

However, revaluation and disposal gains and losses are not permitted by statutory arrangements to have an impact on the General Fund Balance. The gains and losses are therefore reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement and posted to the Capital Adjustment Account and (for any sale proceeds greater than £10,000) the Capital Receipts Reserve.

P Leases

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

The Council as Lessee

Finance Leases

Property, plant and equipment held under a finance lease is recognised on the Balance Sheet at the commencement of the lease at its fair value measured at the lease's inception (or the present value of the minimum lease payments, if lower).

The asset recognised is matched by a liability for the obligation to pay the lessor. Initial direct costs of the Council are added to the carrying amount of the asset. Premiums paid on entry into a lease are applied to writing down the lease liability.

Lease payments are apportioned between:

- a charge for the acquisition of the interest in the property – applied to write down the lease liability, and
- a finance charge (debited to the CIES).

Property, Plant and Equipment recognised under finance leases is accounted for using the policies applied generally to such assets, subject to depreciation being charged over the lease term if this is shorter than the assets estimated useful life.

Operating Leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the CIES. Title to the property, plant or equipment remains with the lessor.

The Council as Lessor

Finance Leases

Where the Council grants a finance lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the relevant asset is written out of the Balance Sheet as a disposal.

Lease rentals receivable are apportioned between:

- a capital receipt for the disposal of the asset – applied to write down the Debtor (together with any premiums received); and
- finance income (credited to the CIES).

Operating Leases

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

Q Overheads and Central Support Costs

Where internal costs are allocated to user departments, the basis of allocation varies by originating department, for example the cost of Payroll Services may be allocated on the number of payslips per service. In many instances the allocation is time-based. Internal transactions are no longer present in the income and expenditure figures reported in the CIES.

R Service Concession Arrangements – School Buildings and Other Facilities

The Council carries the assets used under PFI or Service Concession 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.

The accounting treatment of the contractual arrangements are in accordance with IFRIC12 *Service Concession Arrangements*.

S 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. Expenditure that maintains but does not add to an asset's potential to deliver future economic benefits or service potential 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.

The cost of assets acquired other than by purchase is deemed to be its fair value. The valuation of work-in-progress is based on cost plus an appropriate proportion of overheads, together with attributable profits and allowances for foreseeable losses.

Plant, furniture and computer equipment costing less than £9,000 are not treated as fixed assets. This de-minimis level does not apply where certain categories of these assets are grouped together and form part of the approved capital programme.

Donated assets are measured initially at fair value. The difference between fair value and any consideration paid is credited to the CIES. Where gains are credited to the CIES, they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account.

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

- infrastructure, community assets and assets under construction – depreciated historical cost;
- council dwellings – fair value, determined using the basis of existing use value for social housing (EUV-SH). Council dwellings are valued using a Beacon Principle (adjusted vacant possession) methodology in accordance with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) guidance;
- Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment – depreciated replacement cost;
- Other land and buildings – fair value, determined as the market value amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value – EUV). Operational assets are shown at the lower of net current replacement cost or net realisable value in existing use. Non-operational assets are shown at

the lower of net current replacement cost or net realisable value.

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

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at fair value are revalued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their fair value at the year-end, but as a minimum every five years. The effective date of any revaluation is 31 March. Valuations are undertaken by the Council Valuer who is MRICS qualified. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. 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.

Fair Value Measurement

The authority measures some of its non-financial assets such as surplus assets and investment properties 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 authority uses valuation techniques that are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data is available, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising the use of unobservable inputs.

Inputs to the valuation techniques in respect of assets for which fair value is measured are categorised within the fair value hierarchy as follows:

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

Impairment

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

Where impairment losses 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, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the CIES.

Where an impairment loss is reversed subsequently, the reversal is credited to the relevant service line(s) in the CIES, up to the amount of the original loss, adjusted for depreciation that would have been charged if the loss had not been recognised.

Disposals

When it becomes probable that the carrying amount of an asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through its continuing use, it is reclassified as an Asset Held for Sale. The asset is revalued immediately before reclassification and then carried at the lower of this amount and fair value less costs to sell. Where there is a subsequent decrease to fair value less costs to sell, the loss is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the CIES. Gains in fair value are recognised only up to the amount of any previously losses recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services. Depreciation is not charged on Assets Held for Sale. 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 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 and are credited to the Capital Receipts Reserve.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided for on all Property, Plant and Equipment assets by the allocation of their depreciable amounts over their useful lives. An exception is made for assets without a determinable finite useful life, investment properties 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 of between 10 and 50 years as estimated by the Council Valuer
- vehicles, plant and equipment – a percentage of the value of each class of assets in the Balance Sheet, as advised by a suitably qualified officer based on useful lives of between 3 and 30 years.
- infrastructure – straight-line allocation based on useful lives of between 10 and 60 years.

General Fund services are charged with depreciation where appropriate for the use of assets no matter how they are financed. Depreciation on the Council's non-operational assets is not charged to service revenue accounts. It is however reflected in the CIES through non-distributable costs.

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. Significance is determined by comparing a component's cost against the overall cost of an asset, and a component is deemed significant

if its cost is 20% or more of the total asset cost. The de-minimis threshold for componentisation is £1m.

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

T 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. Provisions are charged as an expense to the appropriate service line in the CIES. 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.

U Reserves

The Council has various reserve funds. The two capital reserves arising from the system of capital accounting are the Revaluation Reserve and the Capital Adjustment Account. The former of these represents the store of gains on revaluation of fixed assets not yet realised through sales and the latter relates to amounts set aside from capital resources to meet past expenditure.

The two accounting reserves arising from the restatement of financial instruments to "fair value" are the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account and the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve. The Financial Instruments Adjustment Account is a balancing account to allow for differences in statutory requirements and proper accounting practices for lending & borrowing by the Council. The Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve is a store of gains or losses on revaluation of the investments of the Insurance Fund not yet realised through sales.

The Pension Reserve arises from the IAS19 accounting disclosures for retirement benefits and recognises the

Council's share of actuarial gains and losses in the Strathclyde Pension Fund and the change in the Council's share of the Pension Fund net liability chargeable to the CIES.

V Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute

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

W Value Added Tax

Income and Expenditure excludes any amount relating to Value Added Tax (VAT), as all VAT is payable to HM Revenue & Customs and all VAT is recoverable from them.

Note 33: Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies, the Council has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. Where a judgement has been made, this is referred to in the relevant note to the core financial statements; however, a summary of those with the most significant effect is detailed below.

Item	Judgement
Public Sector Funding	The Council has assessed that anticipated levels of local government funding over the medium term do not provide sufficient indication that the assets of the Council might be impaired as a result of a need to close facilities and reduce levels of service provision. This is discussed further in the Management Commentary.
Service Concession Arrangements	The Council is deemed to control the services provided under the agreement for the provision of schools. The accounting policies for PFI schemes and similar arrangements have been applied and the assets under the contract are included within Property, Plant and Equipment on the Council's Balance Sheet. Bargeddie Waste Facility is shared by a number of Scottish councils with North Lanarkshire Council taking the lead. The apportionment of costs and liabilities over the life of the facility, which was funded by a service concession agreement, has been agreed between the councils involved and the local external audit team. Note 15 provides further details.
Impairment of financial assets	In line with IFRS9: Financial Instruments, the approach to impairment of financial assets depends on the type of asset being assessed, either using a 'historic loss rate' approach, or a 'probability of default' approach, whereby historical experience of default rates across a similar class of instrument and credit rating is used to estimate 12-month expected credit losses. Further detail can be found at Note 22: Financial Instruments.
Determination of Contingent Liabilities and Provisions	A Provision is defined by the Code as a liability of uncertain timing or amount. A Contingent Liability is a possible obligation whose timing or value cannot be reliably measured and the Council makes a judgement on which is appropriate based on information available at the Balance Sheet date.
Rolling Valuation Programme	The Council employs professional valuers who are registered with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. These valuers carry out regular reviews of the value of assets reported in the Balance Sheet and any significant changes in value are processed as asset revaluations or impairments. These values are based on their professional opinion using available market information at the time of assessment. Due to the high number of assets, a rolling programme of asset valuation has been established for many years, with the aim of revaluing one fifth of the portfolio each financial year. This carries inherent risk that assets not valued in-year have been subject to material changes in value. The highest risk in this respect relates to assets valued using the Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC) method, which for Renfrewshire Council, includes schools and leisure centres. To mitigate for this risk, a desktop exercise was undertaken for 2023/24 accounts to estimate the potential increase in value of all DRC assets not valued in-year and reflected any material adjustment required in these accounts.

Note 34: Assumptions made about the future

The Annual Accounts contains estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the Council about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates. The items in the Council's Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Item	Uncertainty	Effect if results differ from assumption
Pensions Liability	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied. The carrying value of the net pension asset was £492.9m, before the asset cap, as at 31 March 2024 (asset of £434m as at 31 March 2023). Further detail can be found in Note 28: Defined Benefit Pension Schemes.	The effects on the net pension asset of changes in individual assumptions can be measured. For instance, a 0.1% decrease in the discount rate assumption would result in a decrease in the pension asset of £22.0m. However, the assumptions interact in complex ways. At 31 March 2024, the Council's actuaries advised that (before the asset cap is applied) the net pensions asset had decreased by £44.8m as a result of estimates being corrected as a result of experience; decreased by £20.7m as a result of updating demographic assumptions; and increased by £111.8m as a result of updating financial assumptions.
Debt Impairment	At 31 March 2024, the Council had a balance for long and short term debtors (including council tax, rent arrears and trade debtors) of £68.7m. A review of significant balances suggested that an impairment of doubtful debts of £39.7m was appropriate. However, in the current economic climate it is not certain that such an allowance would be sufficient. Over 2023/24, the principal debt impairment increases related to Council Tax and Other Entities & Individuals, which increased by £3.1m.	Based on experience, the bad debt provision is considered adequate; however, if collection rates were to deteriorate, a 10% increase in the amount of potential impairment losses would require an additional £4m to be set aside as an allowance.

Common Good Funds

The Common Good Funds comprise land granted to a Burgh by the Crown; further grants of land and buildings, mainly in the late 19th and early 20th century by local industrialists and other landowners for the common good of the inhabitants of the Burgh; and rental income and sale proceeds from such land. The bulk of the Paisley Common Good was granted to the Burgh of Paisley by the King Charles II Charter, dated 27 and 28 July 1666, and has been administered by the Burgh and its successors since that date. The bulk of the Renfrew Common Good was granted to the Royal Burgh of Renfrew by the Queen Anne Charter, dated 7 August 1703, and again has been administered by the Burgh and its successors since that date.

Income and expenditure statement

Income and Expenditure Statement for the Year Ending 31 March 2024	Paisley £m	Johnstone £m	Renfrew £m	Total £m
Expenditure	0.260	0.000	0.786	1.046
Income	(0.534)	0.000	(3.261)	(3.795)
(Surplus)/Deficit for the year	(0.274)	0.000	(2.475)	(2.749)
(Surplus)/Deficit Brought Forward	(6.099)	(0.052)	(33.703)	(39.854)
Accumulated (Surplus)/Deficit at 31 March 2024	(6.373)	(0.052)	(36.178)	(42.603)

Income and Expenditure Statement for the Year Ending 31 March 2023	Paisley £m	Johnstone £m	Renfrew £m	Total £m
Expenditure	0.739	0.000	2.682	3.421
Income	(0.192)	0.000	(1.622)	(1.814)
(Surplus)/Deficit for the year	0.547	0.000	1.060	1.607
(Surplus)/Deficit Brought Forward	(6.646)	(0.052)	(34.763)	(41.461)
Accumulated (Surplus)/Deficit at 31 March 2023	(6.099)	(0.052)	(33.703)	(39.854)

Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024	Paisley £m	Johnstone £m	Renfrew £m	Total £m
Tangible Fixed Assets	0.846	0.000	13.571	14.417
Heritage Assets	0.063	0.046	0.109	0.218
Investments	5.098	0.000	19.502	24.600
Debtors	0.000	0.000	0.133	0.133
Short-term deposits	0.371	0.006	2.892	3.269
Total assets	6.378	0.052	36.207	42.637
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	(0.005)	0.000	(0.027)	(0.032)
Net Assets	6.373	0.052	36.180	42.605
Income Funds	(3.629)	(0.036)	(21.330)	(24.995)
Revaluation reserve: Investments	(1.309)	0.000	(4.570)	(5.879)
Revaluation reserve: Fixed Assets	(1.435)	(0.016)	(10.280)	(11.731)
Total Reserves	(6.373)	(0.052)	(36.180)	(42.605)

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023	Paisley £m	Johnstone £m	Renfrew £m	Total £m
Tangible Fixed Assets	0.928	0.000	13.024	13.952
Heritage Assets	0.063	0.046	0.109	0.218
Investments	4.737	0.000	18.114	22.851
Debtors	0.027	0.000	0.136	0.163
Short term deposits	0.350	0.006	2.347	2.703
Total assets	6.105	0.052	33.730	39.887
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	(0.006)	0.000	(0.027)	(0.033)
Net Assets	6.099	0.052	33.703	39.854
Income Funds	(3.747)	(0.036)	(21.391)	(25.174)
Revaluation reserve: Investments	(0.916)	0.000	(2.999)	(3.915)
Revaluation reserve: Other Fixed Assets	(1.436)	(0.016)	(9.313)	(10.765)
Total Reserves	(6.099)	(0.052)	(33.703)	(39.854)

Accounting Policies and Note

Accounting Policies adopted for the Common Good are the same as those adopted for Renfrewshire Council except for the application of IAS 16. IAS 16 requires that assets be depreciated and that the charge for depreciation be set against and surplus in the Income and Expenditure account. In addition, IAS 16 requires any decreases in the value of assets to be recognized in the Income and Expenditure account, unless there is a previous increase in the value of the asset held in the Revaluation Reserve. Conversely, any increases in the value of assets are to be recognized in the surplus or deficit in the Income and Expenditure account, to the extent that it reverses a decrease of the same asset previously recognized in the Income and Expenditure account.

The Council is required to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to ensure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. The Director of Finance and Resources has been designated as that officer in Renfrewshire Council. They manage the affairs of the Council to secure the economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets and those of any charitable trust it controls. Given that the Common Good is owned by the Council, these specific provisions are supplemented by the general provisions relating to the administration of local authority monies, i.e., the duty to obtain best value.

Income to the Common Good Funds is solely from investment returns (both financial investments and property rental income) and bank interest; no donations to the Funds are solicited. The only other source of income, which arises periodically, is from the sale of fixed assets.

The investment performance of the Common Good Funds is monitored regularly by Council officers and is reported bi-annually to the Investment Review Board, which is comprised of five cross-party elected members. The minutes of the Investment Review Board are submitted to the Finance, Resources and Customer Services Policy Board, whose meetings are held in public. In turn, the minutes of this Board are submitted to the full Council for ratification. Therefore, all elected members are kept informed of both the performance of the funds and any decision regarding the operation of the Funds, which would be made by the Finance, Resources and Customer Services Policy Board.

Revaluation adjustments related to investments are included in Income within the CIES and were £0.361m for Paisley Common Good and £1.387m for Renfrew Common Good.

Housing Revenue Account

Income and expenditure statement

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) reflects a statutory obligation to maintain a revenue account for local authority housing provision in accordance with the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987. The Housing Revenue Account 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. Councils charge rents to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The increase or decrease in the year, on the basis on which rents are raised, is shown in the movement on the Housing Revenue Account statement.

2022/23 £m		2023/24 £m
19.851	Repairs and maintenance	22.753
14.852	Supervision and management	13.560
27.883	Depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	31.442
0.839	Increase/(Decrease) in the allowance for bad debts	0.900
3.208	Other expenditure	2.709
66.633	Total Expenditure	71.364
(48.115)	Dwelling rents	(50.701)
(1.185)	Non-dwelling rents	(1.141)
(1.616)	Other income	(1.864)
(50.916)	Total Income	(53.706)
15.717	Net Cost of HRA services as included in the CIES	17.658
	HRA share of the operating income and expenditure included in the CIES:	
0.276	(Gain)/Loss on sale of HRA non-current assets	(0.157)
4.110	Interest payable and similar charges	3.406
(1.704)	Interest and investment income	(2.787)
0.089	Pensions interest cost and expected return on pensions assets	(0.050)
(0.402)	Taxation and non specific grant income	(2.066)
18.086	Deficit for the year on HRA services	16.004

Movement on the Housing Revenue Account statement

This statement shows the movement in the year on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Balance. The surplus or deficit for the year on the HRA income and expenditure statement represents the true economic cost of providing the Council's HRA services, more details of which are shown in the HRA income and expenditure statement itself.

The adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations detail the adjustments that are made to the HRA income and expenditure, as recognised by the Council in the year in accordance with proper accounting practice, to the statutory amounts required to be charged to the HRA Balance for dwellings rent setting purposes. An analysis of these adjustments can be found in

Note 6: Adjustment between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations on page 42.

2022/23 £m		2023/24 £m
(6.497)	Balance on the HRA at 1 April	(6.497)
18.086	Deficit for the year on the HRA income and expenditure statement	16.004
(6.302)	Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statute	(0.839)
(11.784)	Adjustments to Usable Reserves permitted by accounting standards	(14.832)
0.000	Net (Increase)/Decrease before transfers to or from reserves	0.333
(6.497)	Balance on the HRA at 31 March	(6.164)

Notes to the Housing Revenue Account income and expenditure statement

The number and types of dwelling in the Council's housing stock

The Council was responsible for managing 12,305 dwellings during 2023/24 (12,216 in 2022/23). The following shows an analysis of these dwellings by type. The figures below exclude void initiative properties.

As at 31 March 2023		Type of dwelling	As at 31 March 2024	
Number	Average weekly rent		Number	Average weekly rent
419	£65.43	One-apartment	418	£67.46
3665	£75.85	Two-apartment	3,692	£78.62
5853	£88.19	Three-apartment	5,905	£91.75
2065	£100.16	Four-apartment	2,074	£105.12
214	£108.38	Five-apartment	216	£113.82
12,216		Total	12,305	

Other information

	Dwellings £m	Non-Dwellings £m	Total as at 31 March 2024 £m	Total as at 31 March 2023 £m
Void Rent Loss	2.647	0.320	2.967	2.900
Rental Income Arrears	4.423	0.625	5.048	4.850
Provision for uncollectable rent arrears	3.448	0.370	3.818	3.676
Corporate and Democratic Core costs			0.038	0.033

Council Tax Income Account

The Council Tax income account shows the gross income raised from Council Taxes levied and deductions made under statute. Councils raise taxes from residents through Council Tax, which is a tax linked to property values. The Council Tax Reduction Scheme represents a discount introduced across Scotland following the abolition of Council Tax Benefits as part of the UK government's Welfare Reform programme. The resultant net income is transferred to the Council's CIES.

2022/23 £m		2023/24 £m
123.138	Gross council tax levied	131.897
(26.330)	Other discounts and reductions	(18.072)
(13.143)	Council tax reduction scheme	(13.865)
(2.707)	Write-off of uncollectable debts and allowance for impairment	(3.450)
(0.245)	Adjustment to previous years' community charge and council tax	(0.982)
80.713	Transfer to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	95.528

Calculation of the Council Tax

Dwellings are valued by the Assessor and placed within valuation bands ranging from the lowest "A" to the highest "H".

The band D Council Tax charge is calculated using the Council Tax base, and this in turn fixes the charge for each of the other bands, which are based on pre-determined proportions relative to the band D charge. The band D charge for 2023/24 was £1,436.17 (£1,354.88 in 2022/23).

2022/23 £	Council Tax Band	2023/24 £
903.26	A	957.45
1,053.79	B	1,117.02
1,204.34	C	1,276.60
1,354.88	D	1,436.17
1,780.17	E	1,886.97
2,201.69	F	2,333.78
2,653.31	G	2,812.50
3,319.46	H	3,518.62

If a property is occupied by only one person over 18, a discount of 25% is applied.

Since 15 July 2016, unoccupied and unfurnished properties have been exempted from Council Tax for the first six months. A discount of 10% is then available for the next six months and 100% additional Council Tax levy is then payable for as long as the property remains empty, although the 10% discount may be extended by a further 12 months if the property is being actively marketed for sale or let.

Certain persons are disregarded for Council Tax purposes, including students, people who are in detention and those who are severely mentally impaired. Reductions in Council Tax are available for people with disabilities.

Charges for water and sewerage services are the responsibility of Scottish Water. Renfrewshire Council collects total monies and makes a precept payment to Scottish Water on the basis of collection levels based on a pre-determined formula. The figures below exclude the water and sewerage charges.

Calculation of the Council Tax base

The Council Tax base is the number of chargeable dwellings across all valuation bands (adjusted for dwellings where discounts apply), after providing for non-payment, expressed as an equivalent number of band D dwellings.

Band	Number of dwellings	Number of exemptions	Disabled relief	Discounts	Council Tax Reduction	Total equivalent dwellings	Ratio to Band D	2023/24 Band D equivalent	2022/23 Band D equivalent	
A	13,385	2,218	8	1,921	3,327	5,981	0.67	3,987	3,904	
B	25,923	1,691	70	3,348	5,200	15,672	0.78	12,189	11,972	
C	15,406	606	58	1,641	1,927	11,216	0.89	9,970	9,848	
D	13,491	336	42	1,263	715	11,219	1.00	11,219	11,007	
E	11,637	184	84	747	401	10,267	1.31	13,490	13,432	
F	7,112	81	46	320	118	6,567	1.63	10,671	10,504	
G	4,361	91	20	149	50	4,051	1.96	7,933	7,704	
H	205	4	0	10	2	189	2.45	463	470	
	91,520		Band A dwellings subject to disabled relief						8	8
			Class 17 and 24 dwellings						73	73
							Sub-total	70,003	68,922	
							Less: Provision for non-payment and future award of discounts and reliefs		-3,780	-4,017
							Council Tax Base		66,224	64,905

Non-Domestic Rates Income Account

This account is an agent's statement that reflects the statutory obligation for those councils who issue bills to non-domestic rate payers to maintain a separate non-domestic rate account. The account shows the rates collected from non-domestic rate payers during the year. Any difference between the rates collected and the amount the Council is guaranteed to receive under the national pooling arrangements is adjusted via the Scottish Government's general revenue grant to the Council. Non-domestic rate income is redistributed from the national non-domestic rate pool in proportions based on the prior year mid-year income returns net of prior year adjustments. In 2012/13 the Scottish Government introduced the Business Rates Incentivisation Scheme (BRIS) which allows councils, where an agreed target income figure is exceeded, to retain 50% of the 'above target' income.

2022/23 £m		2023/24 £m
147.870	Gross rates levied	143.620
(21.774)	Reliefs and other deductions	(23.339)
(3.543)	Write-off of uncollectable debts and allowance for impairment	(2.015)
122.553	Net Non-Domestic Rates income	118.266
(1.692)	Adjustment to previous years' non-domestic rates	(9.550)
(12.785)	Contribution (to)/from the National Non-Domestic Rate pool	22.606
0.000	Non-domestic rate income retained by authority (BRIS)	0.000
108.076	Transfer to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	131.322

The nature and amount of each rate fixed

The non-domestic rates charge for each subject is determined by the rateable value placed upon it by the Assessor, multiplied by the rate per pound (the "rate poundage") set each year by the Scottish Government. For 2023/24 the charge was 49.8 pence in the pound, with a 1.3 pence supplement for properties with a rateable value over £51,000 and a 2.6 pence supplement for properties with a rateable value above £100,000.

Under the Small Business Bonus Scheme (SBBS), reformed for 2023/24, relief is available to businesses where the combined rateable value of all business premises is £35,000 or less and the rateable value of individual premises is £20,000 or less. Properties with a total rateable value up to and including £12,000 are entitled to a 100% reduction in their business rates. For those properties with a rateable value between £12,001 and £20,000 relief will be tapered. Relief will taper from 100% to 25% for those properties with rateable values between £12,001 and £15,000 and from 25% to 0% for those properties with rateable values between £15,001 to £20,000.

Analysis of Renfrewshire Council's rateable values

Analysis of Rateable Values	2023/24 £m
Commercial	104.357
Industrial and freight transport	47.472
Education and public service	31.476
Communications	1.593
Others	102.347
Rateable Value at 1 April	287.245
Adjustments (Full Year Rateable Value)	(8.678)
Rateable Value at 31 March	278.567
Less: Wholly Exempt Subjects	(1.580)
Net Rateable Value at 31 March	276.987

Group Accounts

Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

This statement shows the accounting cost of providing services and managing operations during the year. It includes, on an accruals basis, all day-to-day expenses and related income. The statement shows the accounting cost in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the cost according to the statutory regulations that specify the net expenditure that councils need to take into account when setting the annual Council Tax charge. The required adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations are shown in the group movement in reserves statement.

2022/23 (restated)			Note	2023/24		
Gross expenditure £m	Gross income £m	Net expenditure £m		Gross expenditure £m	Gross income £m	Net expenditure £m
294.465	(38.357)	256.108	Children's Services	298.114	(37.488)	260.626
174.401	(63.762)	110.639	Environment, Housing and Infrastructure	248.250	(138.827)	109.423
109.077	(48.963)	60.114	Finance and Resources	105.684	(58.953)	46.731
45.817	(14.132)	31.685	Chief Executive's Service	54.551	(18.923)	35.628
18.509	(14.725)	3.784	Miscellaneous Services	19.667	(15.528)	4.139
260.152	(161.744)	98.408	Adult Services	142.665	(44.721)	97.944
902.421	(341.683)	560.738	Cost of Services	868.931	(314.440)	554.491
0.103	0.000	0.103	(Gain)/Loss on the disposal of non-current assets	0.000	(0.302)	(0.302)
24.322	(8.244)	16.078	Financing and investment income and expenditure	20.230	(9.417)	10.813
0.000	(505.934)	(505.934)	Taxation and non-specific grant income	0.000	(513.914)	(513.914)
926.846	(855.861)	70.985	Deficit/(Surplus) on the Provision of Services	889.161	(838.073)	51.088
		8.553	Share of the (surplus) / deficit on the provision of services by associates and joint ventures		G3	0.830
		79.538	Group Deficit/(Surplus)			51.918
		(105.285)	(Surplus)/Deficit on the revaluation of non-current assets			(34.150)
		3.514	(Surplus)/Deficit from investments in equity instruments designated as Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income		G15	(1.993)
		(302.833)	Actuarial (gain)/loss on pension assets and liabilities			249.286
		0.917	Share of other comprehensive (income) and expenditure of associates and joint ventures		G3	0.303
		(403.687)	Other comprehensive (income) and expenditure			213.446
		(324.149)	Total comprehensive (income) and expenditure			265.364

Figures shown in brackets represent income or gains and figures without brackets represent expenditure or losses.

Group Movement in Reserves Statement

The group movement in reserves statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council's group, analysed into the Council's usable reserves, the Council's unusable reserves and the Council's share of the reserves of the subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures within the group.

2023/24		Council's Usable Reserves £m	Council's Unusable Reserves £m	Council's Total Reserves £m	Council's share of Reserves of Subsidiaries, Associates and Joint Ventures £m	Total Reserves £m
	Note					
Balance at 1 April 2023		236.051	1,562.167	1,798.218	123.555	1,921.773
Movement in reserves during the year						
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		(54.101)	(218.459)	(272.560)	(9.250)	(281.810)
Adjustments between Group accounts and Council accounts	G5	0.000	0.000	0.000	16.446	16.446
Adjustments to Usable Reserves permitted by accounting standards	7	36.188	(36.188)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Adjustment for Service Concession Arrangements		1.597	(1.597)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	6	2.513	(2.513)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Increase / (Decrease) in year		(13.803)	(258.757)	(272.560)	7.196	(265.364)
Balance at 31 March 2024		222.248	1,303.410	1,525.658	130.751	1,656.409
Comparative movements in 2022/23 (restated)						
	Note	Council's Usable Reserves £m	Council's Unusable Reserves £m	Council's Total Reserves £m	Council's share of Reserves of Subsidiaries, Associates and Joint Ventures £m	Total Reserves £m
Balance at 1 April 2022		214.457	1,278.820	1,493.277	104.347	1,597.624
Movement in reserves during the year						
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		(54.026)	373.892	319.866	4.283	324.149
Adjustments between Group accounts and Council accounts	G5	(14.925)	0.000	(14.925)	14.925	0.000
Adjustments to Usable Reserves permitted by accounting standards		37.178	(37.178)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Transfers to / (from) other statutory reserves	7	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Adjustment for Service Concession Arrangements		27.601	(27.601)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	6	25.766	(25.766)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Increase / (Decrease) in year		21.594	283.347	304.941	19.208	324.149
Balance at 31 March 2023		236.051	1,562.167	1,798.218	123.555	1,921.773

Group Balance Sheet

The group balance sheet shows the value as at 31 March 2024 of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council. The net assets of the Council's group are matched by the reserves held by the group. Reserves are reported in two categories: usable reserves, which are those reserves that the group may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations; and unusable reserves, comprising those that the group is not able to use to provide services. This category includes reserves that hold unrealised gains/losses in the value of assets where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold, and reserves that hold timing differences shown as 'adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations' in the group movement in reserves statement.

As at 31 March 2023 (restated) £m		Note	As at 31 March 2024 £m
1,811.898	Property, plant and equipment	G10	1,872.331
44.404	Heritage assets	G11	44.404
2.014	Investment property	G9	2.008
2.524	Intangible assets	13	1.724
27.008	Long-term investments	G15	28.921
55.320	Investments in associates and joint ventures	G3	54.187
2.307	Long-term debtors	G15	2.090
203.476	Other long-term assets		31.574
2,148.951	Long-term assets		2,037.239
0.100	Assets held for sale	12	0.100
166.751	Short-term investments	G15	67.755
1.383	Inventories		1.352
67.366	Short-term debtors	G12	66.638
13.511	Cash and cash equivalents	G15	32.190
249.111	Current assets		168.035
(94.161)	Short-term borrowing	G15	(64.348)
(87.644)	Short-term creditors	G13	(82.403)
(0.252)	Short-term provisions	21	(0.721)
(182.057)	Current liabilities		(147.472)
(65.690)	Long-term creditors	20	(63.352)
(4.942)	Long-term provisions	21	(4.630)
(223.600)	Long-term borrowing	G15	(258.931)
0.000	Other long-term liabilities		(74.480)
(294.232)	Long-term liabilities		(401.393)
1,921.773	Net assets		1,656.409
(264.755)	Usable reserves	G7	(252.425)
(1,657.018)	Unusable reserves	G8	(1,403.984)
(1,921.773)	Total reserves		(1,656.409)

Alastair MacArthur
Director of Finance and
Resources

The unaudited accounts were issued on 27 June 2024.

Group Cashflow Statement

The group cash flow statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Council's group during the year. It shows how the Council generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities. The amount of net cash flows arising from operating activities is a key indicator of the extent to which the operations of the Council are funded by way of taxation and grant income or from the recipients of services provided by the Council. Investing activities represent the extent to which cash outflows have been made for resources that 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 (that is, borrowing) to the Council. The Council's share of the cash flows of its associates and joint ventures is disregarded for the purpose of this statement because the Council's share of the associates' and joint ventures' reserves is unusable and cannot be used to fund services.

2022/23 (restated) £m		2023/24 £m
(79.538)	Group surplus/(deficit)	(51.918)
135.906	Adjustment for non-cash movements	96.780
(44.807)	Adjustments for items included in the group surplus/deficit that are investing and financing activities	(30.658)
11.561	Net cash flows from operating activities	14.204
(20.087)	Net cash flows from investing activities	0.576
2.218	Net cash flows from financing activities	3.899
(6.308)	Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	18.679
19.819	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	13.511
13.511	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	32.190

Notes to the Group Accounts

The Council's share of Group entities is reviewed on an annual basis and some prior year figures are adjusted as a result, when compared to the prior year audited accounts.

Note G1: Details of the group's combining entities

Renfrewshire Council is represented on the board of a number of organisations. The extent of the Council's controlling interest has been reviewed in determining those entities that should be consolidated and incorporated within the group accounts. Those organisations, which have a significant impact on the Council's operations, are listed below. The accounting period for all of these bodies is the year to 31 March 2023. In addition to the information included in the group accounts on the preceding pages the accounting regulations require specific disclosures about the combining entities and the nature of their business.

OneRen, the Paisley, Renfrew and Johnstone Common Good Funds, Paisley Museum Reimagined Limited, Park Lane Developments (Renfrewshire) LLP and the Coats Observatory Trust administered by Renfrewshire Council (as sole trustee) are treated as subsidiaries in the Council's group accounts, with assets, liabilities, reserves, income and expenses being consolidated line-by-line. AMIDS (Renfrewshire) LLP is a joint venture arrangement.

Renfrewshire Leisure Limited, trading as **OneRen**, is a company limited by guarantee formed in 2014 and registered as a charity in Scotland. Its principal place of business is the Lagoon Leisure Centre, 11 Christie Street, Paisley PA1 1NB. The charity provides leisure and culture facilities within Renfrewshire Council's area to the general public and operates ten leisure centres within Renfrewshire plus a range of cultural service buildings, libraries and community halls. The objectives of the charity are to provide facilities for recreation, sport, cultural and other leisure activities for the benefit of the community in Renfrewshire. Any surplus generated by the charity is applied solely to its continuation and development. During 2023/24 Renfrewshire Council provided additional funding of £0.500m to OneRen, as a pass-through of Scottish Government funding in support of the local government pay settlement. The accounts of the charity are published separately and may be obtained from the Chief Executive, Lagoon Leisure Centre, 11 Christie Street, Paisley PA1 1NB.

Paisley Museum Reimagined Limited was formed in 2019 by Renfrewshire Council, with the objective of managing the development and delivery of the fundraising strategy for Paisley Museum and to drive the capital appeal for the redevelopment of Paisley Museum and furthering Paisley's cultural regeneration. The company is treated as a subsidiary within the Group Accounts. Copies of the financial statements may be obtained from its registered office at Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, Scotland, PA1 1WB.

Park Lane Developments (Renfrewshire) LLP was formed in 2010 by Renfrewshire Council and Park Lane Real Estate LLP in order to facilitate the regeneration of Paisley town centre through the transformation of the town's former Arnotts store into a mixed-use retail, office and residential development. The Partnership is treated as a subsidiary within the Group Accounts. Copies of the financial statements for the partnership may be obtained from its registered office at 25 Newton Place, Glasgow G3 7PY.

The **group comprehensive income and expenditure statement (CIES)** includes total net comprehensive income for the year of £4.163m (2022/23 £30.105m restated) for OneRen, total net comprehensive income for the year of £2.751m (2022/23 net comprehensive expenditure of £1.607m) for the Paisley, Renfrew and Johnstone Common Good Funds, total net comprehensive expenditure for the year of £0.063m (2022/23 £0.033m) for Park Lane Developments (Renfrewshire) LLP, total net comprehensive income for the year of £1.501m (2022/23 £0.236m restated) for Paisley Museum Reimagined Limited and total net comprehensive expenditure for the year of £0.023m (2022/23 £0.023m) for the Coats Observatory Trust.

The **group balance sheet** includes net assets of £32.128m (2022/23 £27.965m restated) for OneRen, net assets of £42.605m (2022/23 £39.854m) for the Common Good Funds, net assets of £0.013m (2022/23 £0.076m) for Park Lane Developments (Renfrewshire) LLP, net assets of £1.164m (2022/23 £0.337m net liabilities of restated) for Paisley Museum Reimagined Limited and net assets of £0.654m (2022/23 £0.677m) for the Coats Observatory Trust.

Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee comprises the twelve councils in the west of Scotland and oversees the operation of the concessionary fares scheme for public transport within its area. The costs of the scheme are met by a combination of funding from the twelve constituent councils and by direct grant funding from the Scottish Government. Strathclyde Partnership for Transport administers the scheme on behalf of the committee. In 2023/24, Renfrewshire Council contributed £0.332m or 8.02% of the committee's estimated running costs (2022/23 £0.325m or 8.00%) and its share of the year-end net asset was £0.410m (2022/23 £0.402m) and is included in the group balance sheet. Copies of its accounts may be obtained from the Treasurer to Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, 131 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5JF.

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport was formed on 1 April 2006 as the successor to the Strathclyde Passenger Transport Authority. It is a joint committee of the twelve councils in the west of Scotland. In association with the related

strategic development committees, the partnership's remit includes the promotion of joint working to set out the policy framework for achieving the most effective management, development and integration of the transport network across boundaries in the medium to longer term through the Regional Transport Strategy. Renfrewshire Council contributed £2.914m or 8.02% to the committee's estimated running costs in 2023/24 (2022/23 £2.853m or 8.01%) and its share of the year-end net asset was £40.174m (2022/23 £37.564m restated) and is included in the group balance sheet. Copies of its accounts may be obtained from the Treasurer to Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, 131 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5JF.

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport £m	Renfrewshire Council's Share £m		Strathclyde Partnership for Transport £m	Renfrewshire Council's Share £m
As at 31 March 2023 (restated)		Balance Sheet Summary	As at 31 March 2024	
317.094	25.387	Long-term assets	337.570	27.076
177.466	14.208	Current assets	194.589	15.607
(25.374)	(2.031)	Current liabilities	(28.684)	(2.301)
0.000	0.000	Long-term liabilities	(2.597)	(0.208)
469.186	37.564	Net assets	500.878	40.174
2022/23 (restated)		Income and Expenditure Summary	2023/24	
82.322	6.591	Income	120.503	9.665
79.755	6.385	Expenditure	84.622	6.787
2.567	0.206	Surplus for the year	35.881	2.878

Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board was formed in 1996 at local government re-organisation by Act of Parliament. Its principal place of business is The Robertson Centre, 16 Glasgow Road, Paisley PA1 3QF. The board maintains the electoral, council tax and non-domestic rates registers for the three councils of East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire. The board's running costs are met by the three member councils. Surpluses or deficits on the board's operations are shared between the councils. In 2023/24, Renfrewshire Council contributed £1.637m or 57.7% of the board's estimated running costs (2022/23 £1.635m or 57.7%) and its share of the year-end net asset was £0.565m (2022/23 £0.537m restated) and is included in the group balance sheet. Copies of its accounts may be obtained from the Treasurer to the Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board, Renfrewshire Council, Renfrewshire House, Paisley PA1 1JB. The following additional disclosures are required under accounting regulations for Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board because it is a related party to the Council.

Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board £m	Renfrewshire Council's Share £m		Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board £m	Renfrewshire Council's Share £m
As at 31 March 2023 (restated)		Balance Sheet Summary	As at 31 March 2024	
0.126	0.073	Long-term assets	0.099	0.057
0.886	0.511	Current assets	0.994	0.574
(0.082)	(0.047)	Current liabilities	(0.115)	(0.066)
0.930	0.537	Net assets	0.978	0.565
2022/23		Income and Expenditure Summary	2023/24	
2.884	1.664	Income	2.917	1.685
3.031	1.749	Expenditure	2.807	1.621
(0.147)	(0.085)	Deficit for the year	0.110	0.064

The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 established the framework for the integration of health and adult social care in Scotland. On 27 June 2015, Scottish Ministers legally established the **Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board (IJB)** as a formal legal partnership between Renfrewshire Council and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

The IJB is responsible for the strategic planning of the functions delegated to it and for ensuring the delivery of its functions through the locally agreed operational arrangements. Copies of the financial statements for the IJB may be obtained from Chief Officer, Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1WB.

Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board £m	Renfrewshire Council's Share £m		Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board £m	Renfrewshire Council's Share £m	
As at 31 March 2023		Balance Sheet Summary		As at 31 March 2024	
33.633	16.817	Current assets	26.077	13.038	
33.633	16.817	Net assets	26.077	13.038	
2022/23		Income and Expenditure Summary		2023/24	
359.320	179.660	Income	395.015	197.507	
376.736	188.368	Expenditure	402.571	201.286	
(17.416)	(8.708)	(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	(7.556)	(3.779)	

Note G2: Non-material interest in other entities

In addition to the combining entities detailed in note G1, the Council has a "significant interest" in a number of joint committees. The Council's share of the net assets or liabilities of these joint committees is not material to the fair understanding of the financial position and transactions of the Council. Accordingly, the group accounts do not include these organisations. In the interest of transparency, the following disclosures are made concerning the business nature of each organisation.

Scotland Excel is formed by agreement among local authorities throughout Scotland and is maintained through a joint committee comprising representatives from all of the member councils. Launched on 1 April 2008 as a centre of procurement expertise for the local government sector, it is the largest non-profit making purchasing agency in Scotland. Its aim is to help improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public sector procurement. Renfrewshire Council contributed £0.130m (3.3%) to the committee's estimated running costs in 2023/24 (£0.126m in 2022/23).

Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority. The committee covers the eight councils within its area. Under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, each member council not only has responsibilities for local planning matters in its area but also the strategic issues that cover the wider area of the Glasgow and Clyde valley. Accordingly, the committee prepares, monitors and reviews the Strategic Development Plan on behalf of member councils and liaises with central government, Scottish Enterprise and other bodies. Renfrewshire Council contributed £0.053m (12.5%) to the committee's estimated running costs in 2023/24 (£0.068m in 2022/23).

Glasgow City Region – City Deal Cabinet is a Joint Committee, the purpose of which is to determine the Strategic Development priorities for the Clyde Valley Region and to monitor and ensure the delivery of the City Deal programme as

agreed between member authorities and the UK and Scottish Governments. The City Deal programme aims to deliver a £1.13 billion investment programme through 20 infrastructure projects and will drive innovation and growth through the support of the key sectors, including delivery of labour market and innovation programmes. The committee operates in an administrative / project management capacity and does not hold any assets or liabilities developed from the City Deal programme.

Note G3: Associates and joint ventures

The aggregate value of the assets, liabilities, income and expenditure of the Council's associates and joint ventures are shown in the two tables which follow. The net asset figure from these two tables combined (£13.038m + £41.149m = £54.187m) equates to the figure disclosed in the group balance sheet as 'Investments in associates and joint ventures'.

AMIDS (Renfrewshire) LLP is an arrangement set up as a 50:50 Joint Venture Development Partnership between Tarras Park Properties Limited (the Development Partner) and Renfrewshire Council, operating under the direction of an LLP Board, consisting of two Council officers and two representatives from Tarras Park Properties Limited. The LLP will be responsible for development progression, marketing, and general management of the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District Scotland (AMIDS), as directed by the Board. Renfrewshire Council has not made any financial contribution during 2023/24.

Aggregate of Joint Venture results £m	Renfrewshire Council's Share £m	Joint ventures	Aggregate of Joint Venture results £m	Renfrewshire Council's Share £m
As at 31 March 2023		Balance Sheet Summary	As at 31 March 2024	
33.633	16.817	Current assets	26.077	13.038
33.633	16.817	Net assets	26.077	13.038
2022/23		Income and Expenditure Summary	2023/24	
359.320	179.660	Income	395.015	197.507
376.736	188.368	Expenditure	402.571	201.286
(17.416)	(8.708)	(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	(7.556)	(3.779)

Aggregate of Associate results £m	Renfrewshire Council's Share £m	Associates	Aggregate of Associate results £m	Renfrewshire Council's Share £m
As at 31 March 2023 (restated)		Balance Sheet Summary	As at 31 March 2024	
317.219	25.460	Long-term assets	337.669	27.133
183.723	15.149	Current assets	201.399	16.648
(25.801)	(2.106)	Current liabilities	(29.505)	(2.424)
0.000	0.000	Pension asset / (liability)	(2.597)	(0.208)
475.141	38.503	Net assets	506.966	41.149
2022/23		Income and Expenditure Summary	2023/24	
89.369	8.588	Income	127.838	11.705
86.520	8.433	Expenditure	91.762	8.756
2.849	0.155	Surplus for the year	36.076	2.949

Note on contingent assets, contingent liabilities and capital commitments

The Council is unaware of any material contingent asset or contingent liability as at 31 March 2024 in relation to any of its associates or joint ventures. The Council is unaware that any commitments have been entered into by any of its associates or joint ventures as at 31 March 2024, either with the Council itself or with other parties.

Note G4: Material items of group income and expenditure

In order to assist the reader in a better understanding of the impact of the inclusion of the results of the associates and joint ventures, the following tables provide an analysis of the Council's share of the material amounts of income and expenditure disclosed in the group CIES.

2022/23 (restated) £m	Material items of group income and expenditure	2023/24 £m
	Share of (surplus) or deficit:	
2.034	Subsidiaries:	(3.013)
(0.650)	Paisley, Renfrew and Johnstone Common Good Funds	0.180
0.020	Coats Observatory Trust	0.020
2.867	OneRen	(1.775)
0.033	Park Lane Developments (Renfrewshire) LLP	0.063
(0.236)	Paisley Museum Reimagined Limited	(1.501)
(0.155)	Associates:	(2.949)
(0.206)	Strathclyde Partnership for Transport	(2.878)
(0.034)	Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee	(0.007)
0.085	Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board	(0.064)
	Joint Venture:	
8.708	Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board	3.779
10.587	Aggregate share of (surplus) or deficit	(2.183)
	Share of other comprehensive (income) and expenditure:	
(30.712)	Subsidiaries:	(5.316)
2.257	Paisley, Renfrew and Johnstone Common Good Funds	(2.931)
0.003	Coats Observatory Trust	0.003
(32.972)	OneRen	(2.388)
0.917	Associates:	0.303
1.285	Strathclyde Partnership for Transport	0.268
(0.001)	Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee	(0.001)
(0.367)	Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board	0.036
(29.795)	Aggregate share of other comprehensive (income) and expenditure	(5.013)
(19.208)	Aggregate share of total comprehensive (income) and expenditure	(7.196)

Note G5: Adjustments between group accounts and council accounts

In the group movement in reserves statement, adjustments between group accounts and council accounts are required to bring the Council's reserve balances back to the amount presented in the Council-only figures (before adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations). This is because intra-group transactions are eliminated when total comprehensive income and expenditure is calculated for the group. The adjustments between group accounts and council accounts can be analysed as follows:

2022/23 £m	Adjustments between Group accounts and Council accounts	2023/24 £m
0.123	Grants made by the Paisley, Renfrew and Johnstone Common Good Funds to Renfrewshire Council in contribution towards the funding of community events and projects	0.101
0.059	Governance costs charged to the Paisley, Renfrew and Johnstone Common Good Funds by Renfrewshire Council	0.059
(0.040)	Interest income received from Renfrewshire Council by the Paisley, Renfrew and Johnstone Common Good Funds	(0.137)
(15.629)	Service charge and other expenditure payable by Renfrewshire Council to OneRen	(16.319)
0.442	Expenditure payable by OneRen to Renfrewshire Council	0.512
0.120	Expenditure/(income) payable by/(to) Paisley Museum Reimagined Limited to/(by) Renfrewshire Council	(0.662)
(14.925)	Total adjustments between Group accounts and Council accounts	(16.446)

Note G6: Group financing and investment income and expenditure

2022/23 (restated) £m	Group financing and investment income and expenditure	2023/24 £m
22.298	Interest payable and similar charges	21.179
1.984	Net interest on the net defined benefit liability	(1.086)
(6.656)	Interest receivable and similar income	(8.551)
(0.313)	Income and expenditure in relation to investment properties and changes in their fair values	(0.315)
(1.235)	Other investment income	(0.414)
16.078	Total financing and investment income and expenditure	10.813

Note G7: Group Usable reserves

2022/23 (restated) £m	Group Usable Reserves	2023/24 £m
(236.051)	Council Usable Reserves - Note 7	(222.248)
	Group Usable Reserves:	
(25.174)	Paisley, Renfrew and Johnstone Common Good Funds: unrestricted funds	(24.995)
(0.218)	Coats Observatory Trust: usable balances	(0.195)
(0.380)	OneRen	(0.554)
0.337	Paisley Museum Reimagined Limited	(1.164)
(3.269)	Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board	(3.269)
(264.755)	Total Group Usable Reserves	(252.425)

Note G8: Group Unusable reserves

Unusable reserves are those reserves that the Council is not able to utilise to provide services. Included within the total Group Unusable Reserves are the unusable reserves of the Council's subsidiaries; also included is the Council's share of the reserves of the associates and joint ventures within the group.

2022/23 (restated) £m	Group Unusable Reserves	2023/24 £m
(1,562.167)	Council Unusable Reserves - Note 8	(1,303.410)
	Group Unusable Reserves:	
(3.915)	Paisley, Renfrew and Johnstone Common Good Funds: financial instruments revaluation reserve	(5.879)
(10.765)	Paisley, Renfrew and Johnstone Common Good Funds: revaluation reserve	(11.731)
(0.459)	Coats Observatory Trust: revaluation reserve	(0.459)
(27.585)	OneRen: pension reserve	(31.574)
(0.076)	Park Lane Developments (Renfrewshire) LLP	(0.013)
	Council share of the Reserves of associates and joint ventures:	
(37.564)	Strathclyde Partnership for Transport	(40.174)
(0.402)	Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee	(0.410)
(0.537)	Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board	(0.565)
(13.548)	Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board	(9.769)
(1,657.018)	Total Group Unusable Reserves	(1,403.984)

Note G9: Group investment properties

The following items of income and expense have been accounted for in the 'Financing and investment income and expenditure' line in the group CIES:

2022/23 (restated) £m	Group Investment Properties	2023/24 £m
(0.472)	Rental income from investment property	(0.437)
(0.472)	Net (gain) or loss	(0.437)

There are no restrictions on the Council's ability to realise the value inherent in investment property, nor on the right to the remittance of income and the proceeds of disposal. With regards Common Good properties, the Council is obliged to observe the provisions of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 in terms of public consultation on disposal proposals; however, the right to the remittance of income and proceeds of disposal remains with the Common Good Funds. The following table summarises the movement in the fair value of investment properties during the year:

2022/23 £m	Group Investment Properties	2023/24 £m
1.906	Balance at 1 April	2.014
0.178	Net losses from fair value adjustments	0.000
(0.064)	Transfers from inventories and property, plant and equipment	0.000
(0.006)	Other changes	(0.006)
2.014	Balance at 31 March	2.008

Note G10: Group Property, plant and equipment

Movements in 2023/24	Council PPE (Note 9) £m	Council share of Group PPE £m	Total Group PPE £m
Balance sheet net carrying amount at 31 March 2023	1,797.350	14.548	1,811.898
Assets reclassified (to) or from the "held for sale" category	0.000	0.000	0.000
Other asset reclassifications	0.000	0.000	0.000
Additions	125.418	0.000	125.418
Disposals	(1.531)	0.000	(1.531)
Depreciation	(90.812)	0.067	(90.745)
Revaluation adjustments taken to the Revaluation Reserve	33.185	0.295	33.480
Revaluation adjustments recognised in the CIES	(6.189)	0.000	(6.189)
Balance sheet net carrying amount at 31 March 2024	1,857.421	14.910	1,872.331
Gross carrying amount at 31 March 2024	1,935.832	(4.211)	1,931.621
Accumulated depreciation at 31 March 2024	(306.447)	19.121	(287.326)
Infrastructure assets	228.036	0.000	228.036
Balance sheet net carrying amount at 31 March 2024	1,857.421	14.910	1,872.331

Movements in 2022/23	Council PPE (Note 9) £m	Council share of Group PPE £m	Total Group PPE £m
Balance sheet net carrying amount at 31 March 2022	1,663.152	14.406	1,677.558
Assets reclassified (to) or from the "held for sale" category	0.297	0.000	0.297
Other asset reclassifications	0.064	0.000	0.064
Additions	119.023	0.000	119.023
Disposals	(1.275)	0.000	(1.275)
Depreciation	(91.551)	0.108	(91.443)
Revaluation adjustments taken to the Revaluation Reserve	104.500	0.034	104.534
Revaluation adjustments recognised in the CIES	3.140	0.000	3.140
Balance sheet net carrying amount at 31 March 2023	1,797.350	14.548	1,811.898
Gross carrying amount at 31 March 2023	1,844.283	19.058	1,863.341
Accumulated depreciation at 31 March 2023	(269.665)	(4.510)	(274.175)
Infrastructure assets	222.732	0.000	222.732
Balance sheet net carrying amount at 31 March 2023	1,797.350	14.548	1,811.898

Note G11: Group heritage assets

A valuation of the fair value of the Council's Heritage Assets was carried out by an external valuer between October 2021 and March 2022, resulting in an increase of £4.883m. The value at 31 March 2024 was £44.404m (£44.404m in 2022/23). Included in this value are the civic regalia and equipment of the Paisley, Renfrew and Johnstone Common Good Funds, which have been externally valued on a present value insurance basis at £0.219m as at 31 March 2024 (£0.219 at 31 March 2023).

Note G12: Group short-term debtors

The balances detailed below are composed mostly of the debtors of the Council, to which the debtors of OneRen, Park Lane Developments (Renfrewshire) LLP and the Paisley, Renfrew and Johnstone Common Good Funds have been added.

As at 31 March 2023 (restated) £m	Group Short-term Debtors	As at 31 March 2024 £m
6.136	Trade receivables	5.871
4.311	Prepayments	6.008
56.919	Other receivables	54.759
67.366	Total	66.638

As at 31 March 2023 £m		As at 31 March 2024 £m
	Amounts owing to Renfrewshire Council:	
0.789	Other balances	1.703
0.789	Total	1.703
	Amounts owed by Renfrewshire Council:	
(33.660)	Liability for Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board's retained underspend	(26.103)
(1.119)	Other balances	(0.962)
(34.779)	Total	(27.065)

Note G13: Group short-term creditors

The balances detailed below are composed mostly of the creditors of the Council, to which the creditors of OneRen, Park Lane Developments (Renfrewshire) LLP and the Paisley, Renfrew and Johnstone Common Good Funds have been added.

As at 31 March 2023 (restated) £m	Group Short-term Creditors	As at 31 March 2024 £m
(24.968)	Trade payables	(29.093)
(62.676)	Other payables	(53.310)
(87.644)	Total	(82.403)

Note G14: Amounts due between Renfrewshire Council and its associates and joint ventures

An analysis of the amounts owing and owed between the Council and its associates and joint ventures, analysed into amounts relating to loans and amounts relating to other balances, is shown in the table below.

Note G15: Group financial instruments

Balance sheet carrying amounts of group financial instruments

The following categories of financial instrument are carried in the group balance sheet. Additional qualitative information on the various categories of financial instruments can be found in Note 22: Financial Instruments.

As at 31 March 2023 (restated)		Financial Assets	As at 31 March 2024	
Long-term £m	Current £m		Long-term £m	Current £m
0.000	165.000	At amortised cost: Principal	0.000	66.000
0.000	1.751	At amortised cost: Accrued interest	0.000	1.755
27.008	0.000	At fair value through other comprehensive income - designated equity instruments	28.921	0.000
27.008	166.751	Total Investments	28.921	67.755
0.000	0.418	At amortised cost: Principal	0.000	7.578
0.000	0.012	At amortised cost: Accrued interest	0.000	0.048
0.000	(0.002)	At amortised cost: Loss allowance	0.000	(0.012)
0.000	13.083	At fair value through profit or loss	0.000	23.808
0.000	13.511	Total Cash and cash equivalents	0.000	31.422
0.818	78.786	At amortised cost: Trade receivables	0.756	76.039
4.986	0.057	At amortised cost: Loans made for service purposes	4.826	0.054
1.037	0.000	At amortised cost: Accrued interest	1.208	0.000
(4.533)	(20.213)	At amortised cost: Loss allowance	(4.700)	(21.739)
2.308	58.630	Financial Assets included in Debtors	2.090	54.354

As at 31 March 2023 (restated)		Financial Liabilities	As at 31 March 2024	
Long-term £m	Current £m		Long-term £m	Current £m
(223.600)	(0.828)	Principal sum borrowed	(238.592)	(5.000)
0.000	(2.770)	Accrued interest	0.000	(2.815)
(223.600)	(3.598)	Total Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) borrowing	(238.592)	(7.815)
0.000	(52.916)	Principal sum borrowed	(20.000)	(26.766)
0.000	(0.871)	Accrued interest	0.000	(0.864)
0.000	(0.845)	EIR adjustments	(0.339)	(0.262)
0.000	(54.632)	Total non-PWLB borrowing ("market debt")	(20.339)	(27.892)
0.000	(35.931)	Borrowing from group entities	0.000	(28.641)
(223.600)	(94.161)	Total Borrowing	(258.931)	(64.348)
0.000	(48.022)	At amortised cost: Trade payables	0.000	(49.088)
(64.973)	(3.388)	Service concession and finance lease liabilities	(61.763)	(3.210)
(0.003)	0.000	Financial guarantees	0.000	0.000
(64.976)	(51.410)	Financial Liabilities included in Creditors	(61.763)	(52.298)

Note: the figures in this table include accrued interest where this is applicable

Fair value of group financial instruments

The fair value through other comprehensive income financial assets carried on the group balance sheet comprise the Council's insurance fund investments and the investments of the Paisley and Renfrew Common Good Funds. The fair value of these investments equates to the market value of the investments as provided by the Council's investment manager, LGT Wealth Management. In terms of the fair value measurement hierarchy the financial instruments measured at fair value are considered to be Level 1 being quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the authority can access at the measurement date, Level 2 being inputs other than quoted prices that can be accessed at the measurement date, or Level 3 being unobservable inputs e.g. cashflow forecasts or estimated creditworthiness (see table below).

As at 31 March 2023 (restated)		Financial Liabilities	Fair value level	As at 31 March 2024	
Carrying Amount £m	Fair value £m			Carrying Amount £m	Fair value £m
(227.198)	(222.759)	Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost:			
(54.632)	(61.519)	Public Works Loan Board borrowing	2	(246.407)	(220.126)
		Non-PWLB borrowing ("market debt")	2	(48.231)	(53.523)
		Other liabilities:			
(68.362)	(126.783)	Service concession and finance lease liabilities	3	(64.973)	(119.570)
(0.003)	(0.003)	Financial guarantees	3	0.000	0.000
(350.195)	(411.064)	Total financial liabilities for which fair value is disclosed		(359.611)	(393.219)
		Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost:			
(35.931)	n/a	Borrowing from group entities		(28.641)	n/a
(48.022)	n/a	Trade payables: short-term		(49.088)	n/a
(83.953)		Total financial liabilities for which fair value is not disclosed		(77.729)	

As at 31 March 2023 (restated)		Financial Assets	Fair value level	As at 31 March 2024	
Carrying Amount £m	Fair value £m			Carrying Amount £m	Fair value £m
6.086	6.086	Callable deposits in money market funds	1	20.101	20.101
6.997	6.997	Euro account balances with the Council's banker	2	3.707	3.707
27.008	27.008	Investments in pooled funds	1	28.921	28.921
40.091	40.091	Total Financial assets measured at fair value		52.729	52.729
166.751	166.751	Fixed term deposits with UK local authorities	2	67.755	67.751
0.377	0.377	Callable deposits with UK banks & building societies*	2	7.571	7.571
0.051	0.051	Imprest accounts held at council establishments	2	0.043	0.043
1.546	1.681	Loans made for service purposes	3	1.387	1.543
168.725	168.860	Total Financial assets measured at amortised cost		76.756	76.908
208.816	208.951	Total financial assets for which fair value is disclosed		129.485	129.637
		Financial assets measured at amortised cost:			
0.817	n/a	Trade receivables and prepayments: long-term		0.754	n/a
58.575	n/a	Receivables and prepayments: short-term		54.302	n/a
59.392		Total financial assets for which fair value is not disclosed		55.056	

*includes current account balances with the Council's banker.

The short-term nature of cash and cash equivalents means that their fair value equates to their balance sheet carrying amount. Further qualitative information on the fair value of financial instruments can be found in Note 22.

Items of income, expense, gain and loss relating to group financial instruments

The following items of income, expense, gain and loss relating to group financial instruments are included within the lines 'Financing and Investment income and expenditure' and '(Surplus) or deficit from investments in equity instruments designated as 'Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income (OCI*)' in the group CIES.

2022/23 (restated) £m		Financial Assets			Financial liabilities at amortised cost £m	2023/24 £m
		Amortised cost £m	Elected to Fair Value through OCI* £m	Fair Value through Profit or Loss £m		
16.543	Interest expense	0.000	0.000	0.000	16.186	16.186
0.000	Impairment losses	3.549	0.000	0.000	0.000	3.549
0.000	Fee expense	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.007	0.007
16.543	Total expense in the Surplus / Deficit on the Provision of Services	3.549	0.000	0.000	16.193	19.742
(4.193)	Interest income	(6.376)	0.000	(1.754)	0.000	(8.130)
(0.794)	Dividend income	0.000	(0.787)	0.000	0.000	(0.787)
(0.870)	Other income	0.000	0.209	0.000	0.000	0.209
(5.857)	Total income in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(6.376)	(0.578)	(1.754)	0.000	(8.708)
3.027	Net (gain) or loss on revaluation	0.000	(1.994)	0.039	0.000	(1.955)
3.027	(Surplus)/Deficit on the revaluation of financial assets	0.000	(1.994)	0.039	0.000	(1.955)
13.713	Net (Gain)/Loss for the year	(2.827)	(2.572)	(1.715)	16.193	9.079

Group Accounting Policies

Introduction

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 ("the Code") requires local authorities to consider their interests in all types of entity.

This includes other local authorities or similar bodies defined in section 106 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, for example statutory bodies such as 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.

Combining entities

Renfrewshire Council's group accounts consolidate the results of the Council with the results of the Paisley, Renfrew and Johnstone Common Good Funds; the Coats Observatory Trust administered by Renfrewshire Council; and seven other entities:

1. Renfrewshire Leisure Limited, trading as OneRen;
2. Paisley Museum Reimagined Limited;
3. Park Lane Developments (Renfrewshire) LLP;
4. Strathclyde Partnership for Transport;
5. Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee;
6. Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board;

7. Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board.

The Council has effective control over OneRen, Paisley Museum Reimagined Limited, the Paisley, Renfrew and Johnstone Common Good Funds and the Coats Observatory Trust administered by Renfrewshire Council (as sole trustee) and, as such, these are treated as subsidiaries in the Council's group accounts, with assets, liabilities, reserves, income and expenses being consolidated line-by-line.

The Council also holds 50% (£50) of the share capital of Park Lane Developments (Renfrewshire) LLP. Under the terms of the Partnership Agreement, the Council has enhanced voting rights and Park Lane Developments (Renfrewshire) LLP has no claim on the remaining assets should the partnership be wound up; therefore, the entity is treated as a subsidiary.

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport and Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee are included within the group accounts under the definition of associate, even though the Council holds less than 20% or more of the voting (or potential voting) power (which is the criterion normally used to confer significant influence). However, the view has been taken that the nature of the funding arrangements between the constituent Councils and these entities is sufficient to confer significant influence.

Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board is included within the group accounts as an associate because the Council does not have a controlling interest in the body in terms of the voting rights.

Renfrewshire Council's share of each associate's net assets or liabilities is calculated based on the Council's proportionate contribution to each associate's annual revenue costs. The Council has no shares in, or ownership of, any of these three organisations, which are entirely independent of the Council under law and for taxation.

The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 established the framework for the integration of health and adult social care in Scotland.

Scottish Ministers legally established the Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board on 27 June 2015 as a formal legal partnership between Renfrewshire Council and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. This entity is included as a joint venture in the Council's group accounts. Renfrewshire Council's share of the joint venture's net liabilities is calculated based on the Council's proportionate ordinary shareholding in the joint venture.

Basis of preparation of group statements and going concern

For the associates and joint ventures detailed above, the combination has been accounted for under the accounting conventions of the acquisition basis using the equity method, with the Council's share of the net assets or liabilities of each entity incorporated and adjusted each year by the Council's share of that entity's results and the Council's share of other gains and losses (recognised in the group CIES).

For four of the combining entities the Council has a share in a net liability. The net liability position of both the Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board and OneRen arises from the inclusion of liabilities related to the defined benefit pension schemes as required by IAS19 (which requires that pension liabilities reflect the long-term cost of paying post-employment benefits). For Park Lane Developments (Renfrewshire) LLP the net liability arises from long-term borrowing to fund regeneration work within and around the site of the former Arnott's store in Paisley. For Paisley Museum Reimagined Limited sums due to date by the company to Renfrewshire Council for the provision of ongoing administrative support have been written off in 2023/24 (£0.768m).

All of the organisations noted above prepare their annual accounts on a going concern basis. Arrangements with the Council and other funders for the longer-term funding of Park Lane Developments (Renfrewshire) LLP are considered sufficient to meet future funding requirements. The Council will continue to support Paisley Museum Reimagined Limited until their anticipated revenue generation materialises.

Consideration for acquisition of associates' net assets or liabilities

The Council has acquired its share of the net assets of its associates for a nil consideration. There is no deferred or contingent purchase consideration. A fair value for its share of the net assets or liabilities of the three joint boards and committees at the point of acquisition and the post-acquisition results are unable to be accurately determined in view of the length of time since the transfer of these responsibilities at local government re-organisation in 1996 and the change in accounting for pensions under FRS17 in 2003/04.

It is not possible to provide the fair value of the investment in the other combining entities of the Council as there are no published price quotations for these entities. No goodwill has been included in the group balance sheet in view of the length of time since acquisition, that no consideration was involved and that a fair value at the date of acquisition cannot now be properly assessed.

Group boundary: non-material interests in other entities

The Council has a significant interest in three joint committees that have not been included in the group accounts. The Council's share of their net assets or liabilities is not material to the fair understanding of the financial position and transactions of the Council. In the interest of transparency, details of the business nature of each organisation are shown in notes G1 and G2.

Inventories

Inventories (generally consumable stock) are included in the group balance sheet at weighted average cost and the lower of cost or net realisable value: weighted average cost – Council's stock; lower of cost or net realisable value – OneRen's stock. The difference in valuation methods does not have a material effect on the results of the group given the levels of stockholdings in these entities.

Post-employment benefits

In common with Renfrewshire Council, all combining entities, except Park Lane Developments (Renfrewshire) LLP, participate in the Local Government Pension Scheme, which is administered locally by Glasgow City Council through the Strathclyde Pension Fund. The associates have accounting policies for pensions accounting that are consistent with those of the Council.

Property, plant and equipment

The basis of valuation across the combining entities is in accordance with the Code. Operational property, plant and equipment assets are shown at the lower of net replacement cost or net realisable value in existing use with the following exceptions:

- i) The Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee has no fixed assets.
- ii) Strathclyde Partnership for Transport holds exceptional types of fixed assets in its balance sheet. Within intangible assets, there are subsidised bus contracts that are recorded at amortised cost. There are also "third-party" assets that are rolling stock and other public assets used by other transport operators but which the partnership has the power to direct to the benefit of the travelling public within the partnership's operating area – these are held at historic cost.
- iii) OneRen uses the historic cost convention for its recent leasehold improvements, but this is considered a suitable proxy for market value in existing use on a replacement cost basis. OneRen also uses depreciated historic cost for its computers, plant, furniture and fittings rather than the Council's depreciated replacement cost basis, however this is not considered to be material given the small values involved.

Restrictions on the transfer of funds

The Council's share of the reserves of its associates is unusable in that it cannot be used to fund the Council's

services nor to reduce taxation. All associates are entirely independent of the Council under law and for taxation. The Council is unable to access their reserves, whether classified as usable or otherwise in the associate's own financial statements.

Value Added Tax

Value Added Tax paid by OneRen is accounted for within income and expenditure to the extent that it is irrecoverable from HM Revenue and Customs.

RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

COATS OBSERVATORY TRUST FUND
SC019454

TRUSTEES' REPORT
AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
1 APRIL 2023 to 31 MARCH 2024



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Trustees' Report

1. Introduction

Renfrewshire Council acts as sole trustee for the Coats Observatory Trust Fund which has charitable status and is registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR):

The financial statements of the Trust are included in this report:

The principal address of the Trust Fund is:

Renfrewshire Council
Finance and Resources
Renfrewshire House
Cotton Street
Paisley
PA1 1JB

Renfrewshire Council administers the Trust Fund and separately accounts for it. Renfrewshire Council was established by the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994 and came into being on 1 April 1996. The Council provides a wide range of public services such as education, children's social services, environmental services, council housing and economic regeneration.

The Trust Accounts do not form part of Renfrewshire Council's single entity balance sheet, although under s222 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the property of the Trust "vest[s] in" the relevant local authority. However, the Trust Fund accounts are included within the group accounts of the Council. A copy of the group accounts can be obtained from the address above, or on the Council's website at www.renfrewshire.gov.uk.

Independent Auditors: Azets
 Titanium 1
 King's Inch Place
 Renfrew
 Glasgow
 PA4 8WF

Trustees

Guidance provided by OSCR indicates that those who have "general control and management" of the charity are the charity trustees. Decisions regarding the general control and management of the Trust Fund are made by the Finance, Resources and Customer Services Policy Board (FRCSPB), which has delegated authority from the Council in this regard; but ultimately control rests with the full Council of elected members. We have therefore interpreted the above guidance as meaning that all elected members of Renfrewshire Council are charity trustees.

The following individuals were the Trustees of the Trust Fund in their capacity as elected members of Renfrewshire Council during the 2023/24 financial year:

Jennifer Adam	Neill Graham	Jamie McGuire
Fiona Airlie-Nicolson	John Gray	Marie McGurk
Stephen Burns	Anne Hannigan	Iain McMillan
Jacqueline Cameron	John Hood	John McNaughtan
Lorraine Cameron	Lisa-Marie Hughes	Kevin Montgomery
Michelle Campbell	Robert Innes	Sam Mullin
Graeme Clark	Alec Leishman	Will Mylet
Carolann Davidson	Bruce MacFarlane	Iain Nicolson
Eddie Devine	James MacLaren	Jim Paterson
Andy Doig	Kenny MacLaren	Emma Rodden
Audrey Doig	Mags MacLaren	John Shaw
Alison Ann-Dowling	Colin McCulloch	Ben Smith
Chris Gilmour	Janis McDonald	Andy Steel
Edward Grady	Cathy McEwan	
Gillian Graham	David McGonigle	

Day to day management of the Trust Fund is delegated to the Director of Finance and Resources of Renfrewshire Council. All of these trustees are normally elected or re-elected at local government elections. By-elections are held to elect new members in the event of existing members vacating their position. New members automatically become trustees of this fund.

2. Structure, Governance and Management

The Coats Observatory Fund was inherited by the local authority in early 1963 from the Paisley Philosophical Society. The Council, as trustees, owns the buildings comprising the Coats Observatory. These buildings are leased to OneRen at nil consideration.

History

The original purpose of the Trust when it was set up was: "for the upkeep of Coats Observatory equipment". This purpose was relevant while there were cash funds available; however these funds have been exhausted, and only the property assets remain.

Governance and Management

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. The Director of Finance and Resources has been designated as that officer in Renfrewshire Council. They manage the affairs of the Council to secure the economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets and those of any charitable trust it controls. Given the Trust Fund is controlled by the Council, these specific provisions are supplemented by general provisions relating to the administration of local authority monies, i.e. the duty to obtain best value.

The Director of Finance and Resources has responsibility for ensuring an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated. This system of internal financial control can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions are recorded and properly authorised, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected within a timely period. The system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular

management information, financial regulations, administrative procedures and a system of delegation and accountability.

The Director of Finance and Resources is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which are up to date and which ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006(as amended) and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities published on 16th July 2014.

Decisions regarding the operation, assets, processes or policies of the Trust Fund are delegated by the Council to the Finance, Resources and Customer Services Policy Board (FRCSPB).

Risk

The Trustees have overall responsibility for the Trust Funds' system of internal control. This system is designed by senior management to ensure effective and efficient operation, including financial reporting and compliance with laws and regulations. The Trustees acknowledge that such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives and can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

3. Financial Review

The Trust Fund has no explicit reserves policy. The Trust Fund is not in deficit and no donations to the Fund are solicited.

4. Future Plans

Given there are no cash funds remaining, nor are any anticipated, the Council will explore with OSCR the future of the charity, always considering the ongoing sustainability of the Observatory and ensuring appropriate governance arrangements remain in place. The £45m capital project at Paisley Museum will create a new, world-class museum space, shaped by and for the people of Paisley. As part of this project, expected to complete in 2025, the Observatory will open to the public with improved accessibility. A full revaluation of the Observatory will be carried out when it is reopened.

The Trustees wish to thank the Renfrewshire Council officers involved in producing the Report and Financial Statements.

Signed:

On behalf of the Trustees:

Alastair MacArthur
Director of Finance and Resources

Councillor John Shaw
Convener – Finance, Resources and Customer
Services Policy Board

Renfrewshire Council

Renfrewshire Council

Date:

Date:

Trust Accounts Financial Statements Overview

1. Introduction

The following pages detail the Statement of Receipts and Payments, the Statement of Balances and relevant Notes to the Accounts, as required by the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. A Cash Flow Statement is not required as the charity is classified as a small charity as defined in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) and therefore is exempt from producing a Cashflow Statement.

2. Statement of Receipts and Payments

The Statement of Receipts and Payments provides an analysis of the incoming and outgoing cash and bank transactions for the period. If applicable, the Statement would also show any cash movements in relation to fixed assets. In the case of the Trust Fund, there have been no purchases or sales of fixed assets.

3. Statement of Balances

The Statement of Balances reconciles the cash and bank balances at the beginning and end of the financial year with the surpluses or deposits shown in the Statement of Receipts and Payments. The Statement of Balances also summarises final closing balances at the end of the period.

4. Notes to the accounts

Notes to the accounts expand on or explain the information contained in the Statement of Receipts and Payments and the Statement of Balances.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31 March 2024

2022/23 Total £		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023/24 Total £
0	Total receipts	0	0	0
0	Total payments	0	0	0
0	Surplus / (deficit) for period	0	0	0

Statement of Balances as at 31 March 2024

As at 31 March 2023 Total £		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	As at 31 March 2024 Total £
Cash balances held with Renfrewshire Council				
0	Opening balance	0	0	0
0	Surplus / (deficit) for period	0	0	0
0		0	0	0
Other assets (at current valuation)				
677,143	Land and buildings: Coats Observatory, Paisley	0	654,075	654,075
677,143		0	654,075	654,075

Signed
Alastair MacArthur
Director of Finance and Resources

Renfrewshire Council
Date:

Signed
Councillor John Shaw
Convenor – Finance, Resources and Customer
Services Policy Board
Renfrewshire Council
Date:

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Accounting Policies

Introduction

The Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities : Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). They are designed to give a true and fair view of the financial performance and position of the Trust Fund and comparative figures for the previous financial year are provided. There are no significant departures from accounting standards other than that outlined specifically below.

The accounting concepts of “materiality” and “going concern” have been considered in the application of accounting policies. In this regard the materiality concept means that information is included where the information is of such significance as to justify its inclusion. The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis. The going concern concept assumes that the Trustees will not significantly curtail the scale of the charities’ operations, however it is anticipated that the Observatory Fund will not continue indefinitely. This has no impact on the financial statements as the assets of the Fund comprise solely of the Observatory buildings which are independently valued.

The accounting concept of "accruals" is not relevant to these statements, which have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

The accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention, other than changes resulting from the revaluation of certain categories of assets. The following accounting policies used in its preparation have been reviewed following the introduction of Financial Reporting Standard 18 “Accounting Policies” (FRS18).

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees. Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanations of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Incoming/Outgoing Resources

Recognition of incoming resources

All income is recognised and included in the Statement of Receipts and Payments (SoRP) when the money is actually received.

Recognition of expenditure

Expenditure is recognised and included in the Statement of Receipts and Payments (SoRP) when it is paid for.

Charitable Activities

Decisions regarding the way the Trust Funds' income is spent are taken by the Finance, Resources and Customer Services Policy Board, whose membership comprises 15 of the trustees of the Trust Fund.

Costs of Generating Funds

The cost of administering the Trust Fund is borne entirely by Renfrewshire Council.

Governance Costs

Governance costs, where applicable, include the:

- costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts;
- cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters; and
- cost of administering grants.

Assets

The Fund includes the land and buildings of Coats Observatory, Paisley. The latest valuation was carried out this year and is based on fair value, determined as the market value that would be paid for the asset in its current use. Valuations are provided by the Council Valuer who is MRICS qualified, and are updated as a minimum every five years. The Observatory building is being depreciated on a straight-line basis over 30 years.

2. Analysis of receipts/payments

No income was received in the year.

3. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

Neither the trustees of the Trust Fund nor any associated person connected with them have received any remuneration for their services. Further, no directly incurred expenses were reimbursed to the trustees during the period (nil in 2022/23).

4. Related parties

During the period, the Council also acted as the banker for the Trust Fund and all transactions, incoming and outgoing, are made via the Council's bank accounts. There are no outstanding balances due to or from Renfrewshire Council nor were there any cash transactions during 2023/24.



To: Council

On: 27 June 2024

Report by: Director of Finance and Resources

Heading: Treasury Management Annual Report for 2023/24

1. Summary

- 1.1 It is a requirement of the Local Government Investments (Scotland) Regulations 2010 that a report outlining the treasury management activity undertaken during the year is presented to Council at the end of each financial year.
 - 1.2 This report meets the requirements of these regulations, as well as the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).
 - 1.3 All aspects of the Treasury Policy Statement were complied with in 2023/24.
-

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council approves the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2023/24.
-

3. Review of 2023/24 Treasury Activities

3.1 Treasury Portfolio Position at 31 March 2024

The Council's external borrowing position at the beginning and end of the last financial year was as follows:

	Borrowing Position as at 31 March 2023		Borrowing Position as at 31 March 2024		Change (a) - (b)
	£ m (a)	Average Interest Rate	£ m (b)	Average Interest Rate	
Long-term Borrowings					
Public Work Loans Board (PWLB) Fixed Interest	224.43	3.80%	243.59	3.84%	19.16
Market Loans	52.92	4.70%	46.77	4.70%	(6.15)
Total Long-term	277.35	3.97%	290.36	3.98%	13.01
Short-term Borrowings					
Common Good Funds	2.70	1.53%	3.27	4.30%	0.57
Other Partner Bodies	32.72	1.53%	26.51	4.30%	(6.21)
Total Short-term	35.42	1.53%	29.78	4.30%	(5.64)
Total Borrowings	312.77	3.81%	320.14	3.99%	7.37
Temporary Investments	178.38	3.05%	97.22	5.51%	(81.16)

4. Review of Borrowing and Investment Outturn for 2023/24

- 4.1 Overall, the Council's total external borrowings increased by £13.01m. There was an increase in borrowing through the PWLB by £20m although this was partially offset by the repayment of a £6m Market loan.
- 4.2 Temporary investments held by the Council decreased by £81.16 million. The decrease in investments is attributable to several factors, including spending through the capital programme, backdated pay awards, and Non-Domestic Rates refunds following the retrospective revaluation of some accounts.

5. Review of Borrowing Strategy during 2023/24

- 5.1 The strategy for 2023/24 was approved by Council on 2 March 2023. Based on the Council's planned programme of investments and interest rate forecasts for the year, the Council's borrowing strategy was to firstly use internal cash balances to finance the Capital Investment Programme.
- 5.2 This strategy was prudent, as borrowing rates continued to rise and remain high for the remainder of the financial year. The Council was also able to reinvest longer-term PWLB borrowing of £20m (undertaken towards the end of the financial year) utilising a higher interest rate on the investment account when compared to the interest rate on the loan itself. These gains have been reinvested back into the Council's revenue budgets as interest income.

5.3 Given the changing climate and the risks inherent in economic forecasts, a cautious approach was taken during the year regarding treasury operations. The Director of Finance and Resources monitored interest rates and adopted a pragmatic strategy based upon the following principles to manage interest rate risks:

- if there was considered to be a significant risk of a sharp FALL in long and short-term rates, (e.g. due to a marked increase of risks around relapse into recession or of risks of deflation), then long-term borrowings would have been postponed, and potential rescheduling from fixed rate funding into short-term borrowing would have been considered.
- if there was considered to be a significant risk of a much sharper RISE in long and short-term rates than initially expected, perhaps arising from an acceleration in the start date and in the rate of increase in central bank rates, an increase in world economic activity or a sudden increase in inflation risks, then the portfolio position would have been re-appraised. Fixed rate funding would have been considered whilst interest rates were lower than they were projected to be in the next few years.

6. Review of Investment Strategy and Investment Outturn for 2023/24

6.1 In carrying out investment activities, the Council will have regard to the Local Government Investment (Scotland) Regulations 2010, the accompanying Scottish Government Finance Circular 5/2010 and the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes (“the Treasury Management Code”). The Council’s investment priorities are:

- the security of capital; and
- liquidity of its investments.

The Council’s investment policy was outlined in the Council’s Annual Investment Strategy Report 2023/24 which was approved by Council on 2 March 2023. This policy set out the Council’s approach for choosing investment categories and counterparties and is based on credit ratings provided by the three main credit rating agencies, supplemented by additional market data (such as rating outlooks, credit default swaps, bank share prices etc.).

6.2 The expectation for interest rates within the Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/24 was that the Bank Rate would peak at between 4.25% and 4.5% in the first half of 2023 before beginning to drop on the assumption inflationary pressures reduced. However, as the year progressed inflation remained stubbornly high with the Bank Rate peaking at 5.25% in August 2023. Since

then, inflation has gradually decreased and the latest forecast from the Council's treasury advisors expects the Bank Rate to start to drop from September 2024 and gradually reduce to 3% by September 2026.

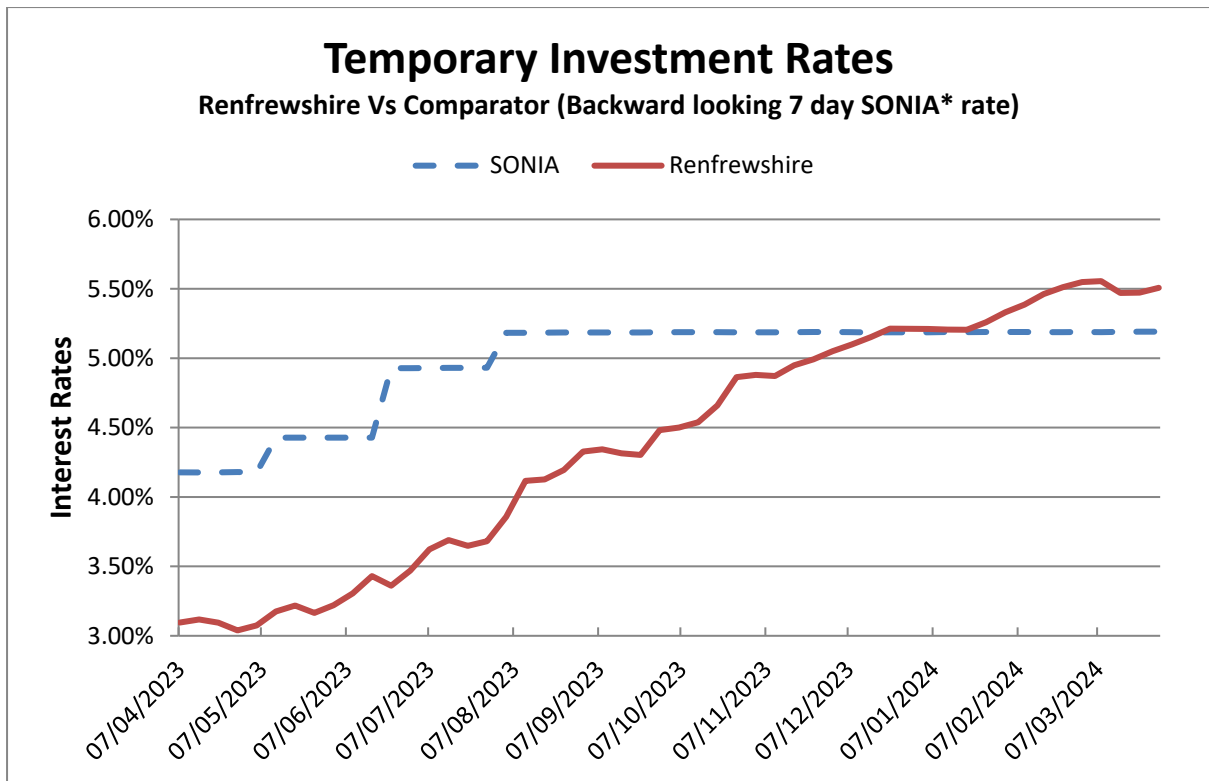
6.3 During 2023/24, the Council only invested with institutions listed in the Council's approved Counterparty list and in the permitted investment categories. The investment activity during the year conformed to the approved strategy and the Council had no liquidity issues.

6.4 The table below shows interest rates achieved by the Council on its temporary investments during the year and, for comparison, the benchmark rate.

Temporary investments - internally managed	2022/23	2023/24
Average Investment	£254.90m	£182.99m
Actual rate of return	1.53%	4.30%
Benchmark return	2.26%	4.97%

6.5 The benchmark figure was higher than the actual rate of return because the Council had previously agreed to several fixed-term deposits based on the Bank Rate forecast available at the time. It is expected that during 2024/25 these two values will become more aligned given that the fixed term deposits with lower interest rates have now come to an end.

6.6 The current Treasury Strategy remains appropriate to the Council's ongoing financial, investment and treasury requirements, and supports the Council's overall financial position, investment priorities and medium-term financial forecasts. While the refreshed strategy was recently approved in March 2024, it is continually being reviewed to ensure, as the economic and political landscape changes and, as the Council's financial strategy develops, that borrowing and investments are managed to accommodate both short to medium-term treasury requirements, and also to ensure that best value is secured from longer term investment in instruments appropriate for this purpose and consistent with the Council's risk profile.



*SONIA (Sterling Overnight Index Average) is based on actual transactions and reflects the average of the interest rates that banks pay to borrow sterling overnight from other financial institutions and other institutional investors.

7. Debt Rescheduling

7.1 Whilst it was considered, no debt rescheduling was undertaken during the year, as the differential between PWLB new borrowing rates and premature repayment rates meant that this would not have been economical.

8. Compliance with Treasury Limits

8.1 The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, which came into force on 1 April 2004, allows greater local flexibility for investment decisions that are informed and supported by a suite of performance indicators. The 2023/24 indicators were approved by Council on 2 March 2023 and an update reported to the Council on 14 December 2023.

8.2 The Council's overall performance on these indicators provides a firm basis for the monitoring and control of capital investment and borrowing and for determining that it is affordable. Certain headline indicators are sub-divided per recommended best practice into two programmes: housing and non-housing.

8.3 The key performance indicators for Treasury are:

- An **Operational Boundary** for the Council's external borrowing (the upper limit for the aggregate external borrowing needed), and an **Authorised Limit** for the Council's external borrowing, being the upper limit of aggregate external borrowing that is affordable and prudent;
- A **ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream** (an affordability measure for debt repayments); and
- An **upper limit for fixed rate borrowing** maturing within the short, medium and long-term, to ensure that the Council is not exposed to a significant re-financing requirement in the short to medium term.

In addition, it is a requirement of the Council's Treasury Policy Statement that the maximum amount of long-term borrowing maturing in any one year will be no more than 15%, and the maximum amount of long-term borrowing maturing in any five-year period will be no more than 45%. The objective of these limits is to ensure that the Council is not exposed to a significant re-financing requirement over a short period when interest rates could be relatively high.

8.4 The main source of the Council's borrowing is from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB). The borrowing rates are based on, and are determined by, the yield on UK Government bonds (gilts). The main influences on gilt yields are Bank Rate, inflation expectations, and movements in US treasury yields.

8.5 Gilt yields continued to be volatile during 2023/24. At 31 March 2024, all gilt yields (1-5 years) ranged between 5.56% and 4.88%, while the 10-year and 25-year yields were 4.97% and 5.42% respectively.

8.6 For PWLB rates, the various margins for borrowing are as follows: -

- **Standard Rate** is gilt plus 100 basis points (G+100bps)
- **Certainty Rate** is gilt plus 80 basis points (G+80bps)
- **Local Infrastructure Rate** is gilt plus 60bps (G+60bps)
- **HRA Rate** is gilt plus 40bps (G+40bps)

8.7 There is likely to be a gradual fall in short-dated gilt yields and PWLB rates over the next three years as the Bank Rate is forecast to gradually fall from 5.25% in September 2024 to around 3.00% in September 2026.

8.8 External Borrowing at the Year-end

The Council's aggregate external debt was contained within both the Operational Boundary and the Authorised Limit. The final outturn position compared to the prudential limits forecast at 14 December 2023 is as follows:

2022/23 Outturn £m		2023/24 Borrowing Limits £m	2023/24 Outturn £m
347.52	Aggregate external debt of the Council at 31 March 2023		357.99
462	Operational Boundary	553	
480	Authorised Limit	571	

8.9 Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream

This indicator is expressed as a proportion. Both the Housing and Non-housing programme were within the forecasts at 14 December 2023.

2022/23 Outturn %		2023/24 Estimated Ratio %	2023/24 Outturn %
32.53	Housing	28.97	27.68
3.02	Non-Housing	3.64	3.13

8.10 Fixed Rate Borrowing Maturing within the Short, Medium and Long-term

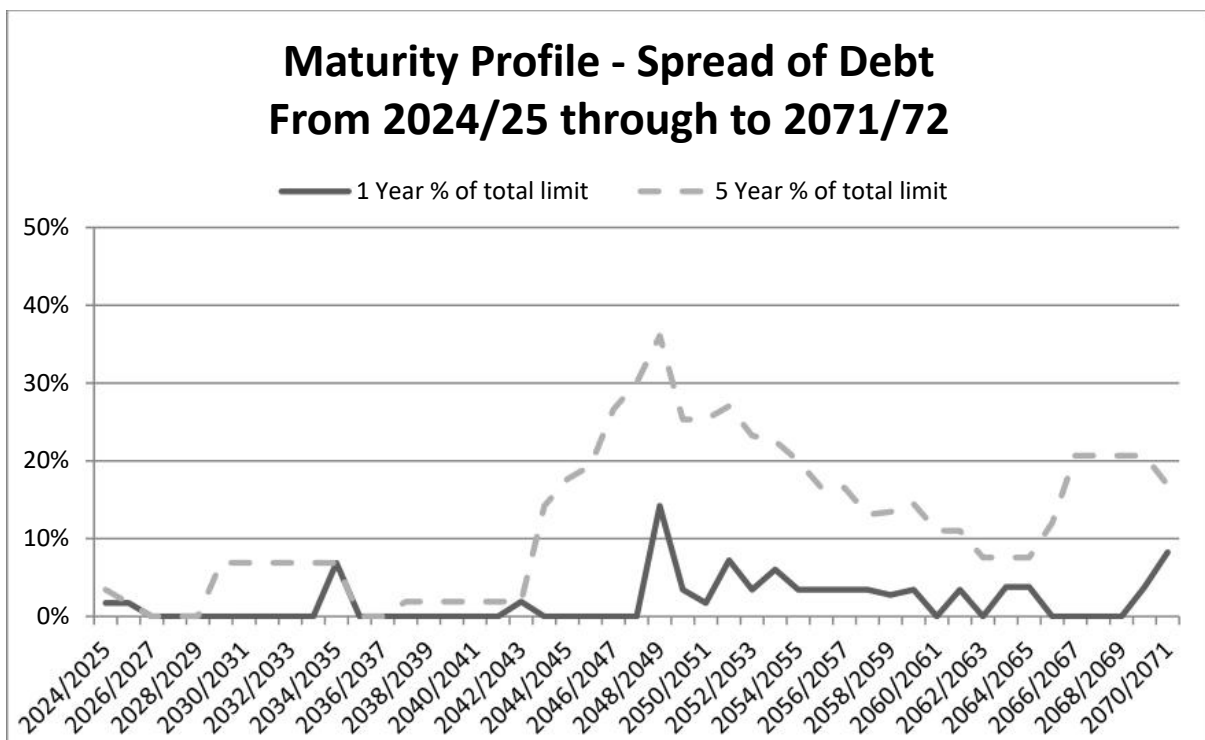
This indicator is expressed as a proportion of the total debt of the Council. The maturity profile of the Council's external debt is well within the approved limits. The outturn compared to the mid-year estimate is as follows:

2022/23 Outturn %		2023/24 Approved Upper Limits %	2023/24 Outturn %
	Short-term		
0.30	Under 12 months	15	1.72
	Medium term		
1.80	12 months and within 24 months	15	1.72
1.81	24 months and within 5 years	45	0.00
0.02	5 years and within 10 years	50	0.01
	Long-term		
96.07	10 years and above	100	96.55

8.11 Long-Term Borrowing Maturity Profile

During the financial year, the Council operated within the treasury limits set out in the Council's Treasury Policy Statement and Treasury Management Strategy Statement. The Council's debt maturity profile at 31 March 2024 was within these limits.

The table below shows the maturity profile of the Council's long-term borrowing. The solid black line shows the debt maturing, and therefore requiring to be replaced, during each year up to 2072. The lighter broken line shows the debt maturing in the prospective five-year period for each year up to 2072. All years are below 40% and well within our policy limits.



Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – As outlined in the report.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None arising from this report.
3. **Community Planning** – None arising from this report.
4. **Legal** – None arising from this report.
5. **Property/Assets** – None arising from this report.
6. **Information Technology** – None arising from this report.
7. **Equality & Human Rights** – None arising from this report.
8. **Health & Safety** – None arising from this report.
9. **Procurement** – None arising from this report.
10. **Risk** – The report outlines a range of measures taken during the course of 2023/24 to manage treasury risks and the risks associated with investment regulations in respect of the borrowing and investment activity of the Council, along with measures to manage these risks.
11. **Privacy Impact** – None arising from this report.
12. **COSLA implications** – None arising from this report.
13. **Climate risk** – None arising from this report.

List of Background Papers: Non-Housing Capital Investment Programme, Prudential Framework and Treasury Management Strategy, and Capital Strategy 2023/24 – 2027/28, Council, 2 March 2023.

Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators Mid-Year Review 2023/24, Council 14 December 2023

Author: Christine McCourt, Head of Finance and Procurement



To: Council

On: 27 June 2024

Report by: Director of Finance & Resources

Heading: AUDIT, RISK & SCRUTINY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

1 Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an overview of Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board's activity during the financial year 2023/24. It sets out how the Board has fulfilled its remit and provides assurance to those charged with governance that it has fulfilled its purpose and demonstrated its impact.
- 1.2 It is important that the Board fully complies with best practice guidance on Audit Committees to ensure it can demonstrate its effectiveness as a scrutiny body as a foundation for sound corporate governance for the Council. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) issued an updated guidance note entitled Audit Committees Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police 2022 Edition, which incorporated CIPFA's Position Statement: Audit Committees in Local Authorities and Police. This set out CIPFA's view of the role and functions of an Audit Committee and included guidance on the production of an annual report of an Audit Committee against its remit for submission to the Council.
- 1.3 The annual report should be timed to support the annual review of governance and preparation of the Annual Governance Statement. This enables the Board to take stock of the assurances it has received and the extent to which its own performance has contributed to governance arrangements.
- 1.4 Taking the CIPFA guidance into account, and arising from the self-evaluation development sessions, the reporting dates for this Annual Report has changed. This annual report would normally cover the period 1 July to 31 June, however, the reporting period will now be 1 April to 31 March. Because of the change-over, this particular annual report has a reduced reporting period and will only cover seven months of activity from 1 August 2023 to 31 March 2024. Going forward, the report will be on a yearly basis using the dates specified above.

- 1.5 This annual report highlights the issues considered by the Board during the period 1 August 2023 to 31 March 2024 when the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board met five times. The report was submitted to the Board in terms of the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.
- 1.6 At each meeting, the Board considered significant findings from Internal Audit reports together with monitoring the progress made by management in completing agreed actions to improve the Council's control environment. It also considered the status of external audit action plans arising from external audit reports received and the external audit annual plan for 2023/24 from the external auditors in March 2024.
- 1.7 At the Council's Meeting on 22 June 2023 the Council noted the content of the Independent External Review Report ("the Bowles Report") and further noted the Chief Executive's response to the findings and recommendations of the Report. This report will give a brief summary of events and details the actions arising from the report relative to the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board.
- 1.8 In response to the Independent Review and recommendations made by the Council's external auditors, the Council agreed to undertake a self- assessment of the Audit Risk and Scrutiny Board against CIPFA's published good practice guide for audit committees. At the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board meeting on 6 November 2023, the Board agreed the format of the self-assessment and members participated in two development sessions on 19 January and 26 February 2024.
- 1.9 The self-assessment identified that some amendments to the governance of the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board was required in order to improve clarity and address some specific requirements from the CIPFA guidance. As a result, revisions have been made to the Terms of Reference, the Guidelines for the Operation of the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board and the Role Descriptions for Councillors, Senior Councillors and Leader of the Council.
- 1.10 Council further agreed, in response to the Dargavel Primary School Review that a Cross-Party Working Group would be set up to discuss and review existing governance arrangements and that authority would be delegated to the Head of Corporate Governance to make the arrangements for the cross-party body. The Group set its own agenda and reviewed and examined all areas of interest to it. The Group also invited officers to address them on key areas. The findings and outcomes of their review in relation to the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board are set out within the body of this report.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board Annual Report 2023/24 be noted;
-

3 **Background and Context**

3.1 Remit and Role of the Board

The Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board is a key component of the Council's governance framework. Its purpose is to provide an independent and high-level focus on the adequacy of governance, risk and control arrangements. The Board's role in ensuring that there is sufficient assurance over governance risk and control gives greater confidence to all those charged with governance that those arrangements are effective.

The Board has oversight of both internal and external audit together with financial and governance reports, helping to ensure that there are adequate arrangements in place for both internal challenge and public accountability.

3.2 Scrutiny enables members to review decisions, policies and performance that affect the Council and helps to ensure that the services and policies meet the Council's aims and standards. The scrutiny process not only provides a means of reviewing the Council's own services but enables examination of services provided by other organisations on issues causing public concern.

3.3 In order to fulfil the remit, the Board sought assurance on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's systems of governance, risk management and internal control to ensure efficient operations and the highest standards of probity and accountability. This was achieved through reports received from Internal Audit, other Council functions and External Audit with focus in particular on internal control and governance.

4 **Core Functions of the Audit Committee**

4.1 The core functions of the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board reflects both standard practice for audit committees across all sectors and the specific legislative and professional standards requirements for local authorities. The CIPFA Position Statement sets out the core functions of the audit committee as follows.

- Supporting the establishment and maintenance of good governance, risk management and control arrangements.
- Supporting accountability and public reporting, in particular the financial statements and the annual governance statement, and other statements that accompany the financial statements.
- Supporting the establishment and maintenance of good arrangements for internal audit and external audit.

4.2 The Audit Committee met 5 times during 2023/24 comprising meetings on 21 August, 26 September, 6 November 2023, 22 January and 18 March 2024 respectively, to consider reports relevant to the Audit cycle and other matters as deemed appropriate. Pre-Agenda meetings were also held ahead of the Board meeting involving the Convenor, Depute-Convenor and appropriate officers.

4.3 All meetings were held using the Microsoft Teams platform to allow remote participation. All Board meetings were hybrid, webcast live and made available publicly on the Council’s live-streaming website.

5 Membership of the Board and Political Balance

5.1 In accordance with Renfrewshire Council’s Standing Orders membership of the Audit Committee comprises nine Elected Members drawn from all the political parties represented on the Council, having regard to the party balance on the Council (3 Administration/6 opposition groups/parties). The quorum of the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board is 3 Elected Members.

5.2 The Convener is an independent member and the Depute Convener is from an opposition party. In terms of the Council’s procedural standing orders, members have been drawn from the political parties represented on the Council on a proportionate basis, having regard to party balance on the Council. It should be noted that Members of the Leadership Board and Members who are Conveners of another Board may not be members of the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board.

5.3 The Members of the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board are as follows:-

NAME	PARTY	POSITION	APPOINTED TO BOARD
Councillor Andy Doig	IND	Convener	June 2022
Councillor Janis McDonald	LAB	Depute-Convener (appointed Feb 2024)	June 2022
Councillor Jennifer Adam	SNP	Member	June 2022
Councillor Chris Gilmour	LAB	Member	June 2022
Councillor John Gray	CONS	Member	June 2022
Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes	SPN	Member	June 2022
Councillor Robert Innes	SNP	Member	June 2022
Councillor James MacLaren	CONS	Member	June 2022
Councillor Ben Smith	LAB	Member	February 2024

5.4 CIPFA advises that “Elected Members of local authorities are part of the body charged with governance and bring knowledge of the organisation, its objectives and policies to the Audit committee”. Members with experience in scrutiny or standards offer additional knowledge of activity, risks and challenges affecting those areas. Ideally, the selection of elected members to the audit board will take account of aptitude and experience.

5.5 The Cross-Party Working Group report submitted to Council on 29 February 2024, suggested that additional support to the Board, perhaps through external independent membership, particularly from a finance/accounts background, may be appropriate.

5.6 Attendance by Officers at the Board Meetings

All Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board meetings were attended by the Chief Auditor (except 26 September 2023), Head of Corporate Governance and the Director of Finance & Resources. Other senior officers also attended meetings as appropriate for items on the agenda for which their presence was relevant. Representatives from the Council's external auditors - Azets Scotland, the appointed external auditors, were also present at all the meeting.

6 **Governance Arrangements**

- 6.1 The Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board is different from the Policy Boards. It is politically neutral with the Convener and Depute Convener being selected from different parties. The role of the Convener is undertaken from outwith the Administration and Party Whips do not apply. The Committee reports to the full Council.
- 6.2 There are a wide-ranging set of arrangements to support the running of the Council in place and these are reassessed each year by Internal Audit and reported through the Board. It should be noted that the Council's external audit arrangements have never flagged any material issues with governance arrangements in the Council, however, there are always opportunities to improve and strengthen governance arrangements.
- 6.3 The Terms of Reference for the Board differ as there is no general delegation on specific service performance monitoring. The Board has specific delegations:-
- Audit: Including acting as the Council's Audit Committee
 - Corporate Governance: The Council's code of corporate governance
 - Risk Management: Including approval of the risk management strategy
 - Monitoring and Reviewing Service Delivery Performance, Policies and Practices
 - Community Leadership through Monitoring of Other Public Bodies
 - Standards and Ethics: in relation to Elected Members
 - Written Intimations: Specific requests from Members of the Board
- 6.4 The Board, at the meeting held on 18 March 2024 considered a report which highlighted the outcome from the two development sessions and identified the revisions to be made to the Terms of Reference, the Role Descriptions for Councillors, Senior Councillors and Leader of the Council and changes to the Guidelines for the Operation of the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board, which took in the suggestion by the Cross Party Working Group, to include the option for the Board to appoint up to 2 individuals as non-voting lay members. Details of all the governance changes are outlined within the report [CIPFA Audit Committee Guidance – Self Assessment and Action Plan](#), submitted to the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board on 18 March 2024.

6.5 Two aspects of the current Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board Terms of Reference were identified that would be better considered by another Board or by Council.

- It was felt that the consideration of the quarterly absence statistics and the annual report in relation to absence would be better considered by the Finance, Resources and Customer Services Policy Board. This change could be achieved without any amendment to the Policy Board Terms of Reference, as these reports could be considered under clause 13. “To provide oversight and review of the Council’s workforce planning, organisational development and human resource strategies and plans” and clause 27. “To approve and oversee policies in relation to health, safety and welfare of Council employees and service users for whom they are responsible”.
- Members also expressed a view that the annual report from the Standards Commission would be better considered by the full Council. Again, no change would be required to the Scheme of Delegated Functions other than the amendment already set out within the revised document.

7 Dargavel Primary School Independent Review and Accounts Commission Section 102 Report for School Accommodation for Dargavel Village

7.1 The findings of the independent review into the circumstances of the errors in planning and delivery of primary school provision in the Dargavel area were reported to Council in June 2023. At the same meeting, a further report was presented outlining the initial high level Council response to the recommendations of the independent review.

7.2 Subsequent to the initial high-level response provided at the June Council meeting immediately after the report publication, a more detailed range of specific actions were developed over the summer period by officers which were actively progressed at pace.

7.3 As part of the Council’s wider governance arrangements, the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board considered a report on 6 November 2023 in relation to the actions identified by the Council and the headway achieved to progress them. It was noted that many of the actions had already been approved through an appropriate policy board and that the Council’s response to the independent review recommendations had been considered in detail by the Council’s external auditors and reported on as part of the annual audit report. It was further noted that the actions outlined within the report had been incorporated into the regular risk reporting arrangements in place for the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board and that regular reports on progress would also be provided to future Board meetings.

- 7.4 At the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny meeting held on 22 January 2024, a report was considered advising Members that the Council had been informed that the Controller of Audit had decided to use the reporting powers available to her under s102 (1) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to bring the Dargavel issue, and the action the Council was now taking in response to the Bowles report, to the attention of the Accounts Commission. The report also provided an update and further detail on the actions the Council had taken, and plans to take, in addressing the recommendations within the Independent Review.
- 7.5 At the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny meeting held on 18 March 2024, a report was submitted in relation to Dargavel advising Members of several developments:
- (i) that a SMART action plan had been developed detailing the Council's response with a commitment that updates on the plan would be provided to the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board going forward.
 - (ii) That the Council's Meeting of 29 February 2024 had considered the Account Commission's report and agreed a number of actions and that those actions would be incorporated into the independent review response monitoring arrangements reported to this Board.
 - (iii) The Cross-Party Working Group had concluded their findings and had set out a detailed action plan.
- 7.6 A copy of the report which went to the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board on 18 March 2024 is available with here - [Actions Monitoring Report - Dargavel Primary School Independent Review and Accounts Commission Section 102 Report for School Accommodation for Dargavel Village](#).

8 **Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board Activity and Issues considered by the Board during 2023/24**

- 8.1 Audit of Accounts - The Board at the meeting held on 6 November 2023 considered a report relative to the audit of the Council's 2022/23 accounts. The report intimated that the 2022/23 unaudited Annual Accounts were approved at the meeting of the Council held on 22 June 2023. Each year the Council's appointed external auditors carry out an audit of the Council's financial statements and provide an opinion as to whether the statements provide a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council and its income and expenditure for the year; and whether they had been prepared in accordance with the relevant regulations.

The report advised that there were two changes made to the annual accounts over the course of the audit in relation to the pension fund disclosures and the revaluation of properties. Other minor and presentational changes were also agreed.

8.2 Annual Internal Audit Plan 2024/25 – The Board at the meeting held on 18 March 2024 agreed a risk-based internal audit plan for 2024/25. The plan considered the outcomes of the internal corporate and service risk identification and evaluation processes, and the current business environment. In addition to undertaking work which would provide assurance on the robustness of key internal controls, the plan sought to reflect the key priorities and challenges for the Council.

The report set out the methods that had been employed to facilitate production of the Plan and the influencing factors that had been considered in the assessment of the current business environment and the priority areas of audit.

Progress on the 2023/24 annual audit plan and summaries on the findings and conclusions of each audit assignment were reported to the Board on a quarterly basis.

8.3 External Audit and External Audit Plan 2023/24 – The Board at the meeting held on 18 March 2024 considered a report which outlined Azets' approach to the audit of the 2023/24 annual accounts and the Coats Observatory to assess whether they provided a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council, and whether they had been prepared in accordance with proper accounting practice. The plan outlined the responsibilities of Azets and the Council, their assessment of key challenges and risks and the approach and timetable for completion of the 2022/23 audit.

At the meeting of the Board on 6 November 2023, Azets, the External Auditor, submitted a Best Value Thematic report as part of the annual audit process. The report noted that the last formal report on best value activities in Renfrewshire had been published in 2017 and was undertaken by previous external auditors Audit Scotland. Regular reports on follow-up best value audit activities were reported to the Audit Risk and Scrutiny Board as part of the annual audit reporting process. In March 2023, the Accounts Commission announced a new approach to auditing best value in local authorities. This ensured compliance against the statutory duty but was now fully integrated within the annual audit undertaken each year. Detailed best value work was also carried out each year around a particular theme selected nationally, with findings collated into a national report. The report noted that this was the first year that this process had been undertaken in relation to Renfrewshire Council.

8.4 Internal Audit Findings – The Board considered quarterly reports on the findings of internal audit in terms of national guidance produced by CIPFA on the implementation of audit committee principles in Scottish local authorities, in line with which internal audit submitted regular reports on the findings of audit work to the Board based on the work of internal audit and detailing the key issues arising.

- 8.5 Internal Audit and Counter Fraud Progress and Performance – The Board considered regular reports which detailed progress and performance in terms of delivery of the audit plans for the internal audit and counter fraud teams. The Director of Finance & Resources had set annual targets to demonstrate continuous improvement. In terms of counter fraud, due to the diverse nature of fraud referrals, no formal performance targets had been established and the outcomes from investigations were monitored and reported on a regular basis by the Council's management.
- 8.6 Audit Scotland Reports – during the period covered by this report, there were three reports submitted from Audit Scotland: Local Government in Scotland – Financial Bulletin 2022/23; National Fraud Initiative 2020/21; Renfrewshire Council Housing Benefit Performance Audit; and Local Government in Scotland Overview 2023. Each report highlighted key points and the Council's position where available.
- 8.7 Strategic, Corporate and Service Risks – The Board, at meetings held on 26 September and 6 November 2023, considered the latest position in managing the council's risks entering the respective quarters of the financial year.
- 8.8 Annual Complaints Handling 2022/23 – The Board at the meeting held on 21 August 2023 considered a report which detailed complaints received by the Council from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 and how this information had been used to ensure that the Council delivered high quality, efficient and responsive services. A summary was included of the numbers and types of complaints received; responded to within timescales; customer satisfaction monitoring; and key complaint areas including what was being done to address the issues raised.

The report advised that 9,155 complaints had been received in 2022/23 compared with 9,193 in 2021/22 and 6,179 in 2020/21. The report noted that the pandemic had resulted in a reduced volume of complaints in 2021/22.

The report detailed the performance on key indicators, and highlighted improvements made to the complaints handling process over the past year to ensure that complaints were handled well.

- 8.9 Corporate Governance – The Board, at its meeting held on 18 March 2024 considered a report by the Chief Auditor which reviewed the adequacy and effectiveness of the revised Local Code of Corporate Governance. Internal Audit carried out a sample check of the evidence used to demonstrate compliance and confirmed that the Council complied with the requirements of the Local Code of Corporate Governance. In addition, it was evident that the Local Code had been subject to review and updates in line with developments in best practice and any revised Council Policies.

At the same meeting on 18 March 2024 the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board considered a report by the Chief Executive which reviewed the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance for the year 2022/23 and provided evidence of how the Council complied with the Code. The evidence presented within the report demonstrated that strong governance arrangements had remained and were in place within the Council, and that Councillors and Officers were working together to lead and manage the Council in order to provide vital public services.

- 8.10 Absence Statistics - The Board considered reports on absence returns with the statistics broken down by service and category of staff, including information relative to absence targets and how services had performed against them. An analysis for absence had also been compiled and details were included within each report.

Annual Reports by other Bodies

- 8.11 Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) – Annual Report 2022/23 – The Board at the meeting held on 22 January 2024 considered a report which highlighted that the health sector was the sector which the SPSO received most complaints, with local authority cases receiving the second highest number. Nearly two-thirds of cases received were about health and local authorities.

The report advised that information received separately from the SPSO indicated that the number of complaints received relative to Renfrewshire was 35 compared to 43 in 2021/22. Of the 35 complaints determined by the SPSO during 2022/23, were completed at the early resolution stage and 13 reached the advice stage.

- 8.12 Commission for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland: Annual Report 2022/23 - The Board at the meeting held on 22 January 2024 considered a report which detailed the work of the Commissioner during the year, provided details of the investigation of complaints about the conduct of councillors, members of devolved public bodies, MSPs and scrutiny of Scotland’s ministerial public appointments process.

The report advised of revised governance arrangements, reinstated transparency reporting and a new rolling biennial business covering all office functions.

- 8.13 Scottish Information Commissioner Annual Report 2022/23 – The Board at its meeting held on 22 January 2024 considered a report which intimated that the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) created a general right to obtain information from any designated Scottish public authority subject to limited exemptions. The annual report explored the performance of the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner across the year and how FOISA could 'add demonstrable value to public services' within Scotland.

- 8.14 Annual Programme of Reviews - The Board undertakes reviews by examining a subject through consideration of evidence from Council officers, other organisations and service users. Once all the evidence has been collected, the lead officer prepares a report on the Board’s behalf outlining the findings and recommendations and following approval by the Board, the report is submitted to the Council for consideration.

The External Auditors advised that “In relation to the scrutiny of service delivery and performance, it is suggested that the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board would select particular areas for investigation as part of its annual programme.”

It was agreed that officers would assist members to develop the Boards annual programme of reviews to ensure that due consideration is given to the corporate risks and priorities.

Members will still have the ability to submit written intimations to the Board to consider matters they would like reviewed. A session will be held annually with officers and members to consider strategic and corporate risks and Council priorities to inform the development of the annual programme of reviews. The Guidance for the operation of the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board has been updated to reflect this.

A full update on the Annual Programme of Reviews 2022/2023 and 2023/24 was the subject of a separate report on the agenda for the meeting of the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board held on 20 May 2024.

9 Delivering Effectiveness and Strengthening the Audit Board

9.1 In response to the Dargavel Primary School Independent Review and recommendations made by the Council's external auditors, the Council agreed to undertake an assessment of the Audit Risk and Scrutiny Board against CIPFA's published good practice guide for audit committees.

9.2 An initial assessment of the current arrangements was undertaken by officers against the self-assessment of good practice checklist and the evaluating the impact and effectiveness of the audit committee checklist, provided in the guidance.

9.3 At the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board meeting on 6 November 2023, the Board agreed the format of a self-assessment and members participated in two development sessions, on 19 January and 26 February 2024.

9.4 The development session on 19 January 2024 looked in depth at:

- whether the Board was operating in accordance with the practices recommended and complied with legislation (where appropriate).
- How the Board had fulfilled its terms of reference, including the core functions of the committee.
- The operation of the Board, including the support and training provided and how members would develop their knowledge and experience.
- The Board's effectiveness in terms of impact on the quality of governance, risk management and internal control, together with satisfactory audit arrangements.

9.5 The development session on 26 February 2024 discussed:

- Review of discussion at development day session, and agreement of proposed actions
- Consideration of other benchmarking information
- Review the suggested changes to the ARSB ToR (and whether any other policy board ToRs also need reviewed)
- Consider any revisions required to the ARSB guidelines document, and potentially definition of a specific senior councillor role for the ARSB Convener

- Feedback on member skills/experience self-evaluation; future training requirements and external independent membership
 - Consider the audit planning approach (and whether any specific items may require to be included in the 24/25 audit plan)
 - Consider issues for inclusion in the formal ARSB evaluation report for consideration at 18 March meeting, including specific recommendations for Council to consider on 9 May.
- 9.6 The output from the two development days identified a number of areas of good practice and a draft action plan was developed which are outlined within the report [CIPFA Audit Committee Guidance – Self Assessment and Action Plan](#), submitted to the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board on 18 March 2024.
- 9.7 Members also requested that the current arrangements were benchmarked with other Local Authorities. The benchmarking information was discussed, at the second development session on 26 February 2024 and members agreed that the current arrangement was broadly consistent with other Local Authorities across the areas of good practice covered in the guidance. A summary of the key points arising from the benchmarking exercise, which focused on the membership and functions of Scottish Local Authorities Audit Committee is outlined at Appendix 2a and 2b within the [CIPFA Audit Committee Guidance – Self Assessment and Action Plan](#) report submitted to the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board on 18 March 2024.
- 9.8 In line with national guidance by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) on the implementation of audit committee principles in Scottish local authorities Audit boards should have access to support to guide them in their roles, help them to understand the key agenda items, and to keep them informed of new developments.
- 9.9 As a result, Section 1.13 of the Guidelines for Operation of the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board - Role of Members, has been amended to recommend that all members of the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board undertake an annual assessment of knowledge and skills which will be used to develop an annual training and development programme, as recommended in the CIPFA guidance. The Terms of Reference and the Guidelines for the Operation of the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board have been updated to formalise this change. The revised documents are attached as appendices to the [CIPFA Audit Committee Guidance – Self Assessment and Action Plan](#) report which was submitted to the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board on 18 March 2024.
- 9.10 A programme of training and development for members has now been prepared and further development will be considered following the completion of the Knowledge and Skills Framework from the CIPFA guidance. The proposed topics are detailed below:
- Governance arrangements and the value of good governance
 - Financial management arrangements
 - Overview of financial reporting
 - Role of External Audit

Where individual members indicated specific development requirements, it has been agreed that the Chief Auditor will arrange for one-to-one meetings to determine how best to support each members development.

- 9.11 It should be noted that a wide range of briefings and other training was offered to elected members during 2023/24. A training record is kept by Committee Services.
- 9.12 During the week of 14 August 2023 Members undertook a focussed week of briefings, clinics and skills workshops. Some of the workshops were topics around feedback from members following evaluation of the induction programme. The development programme included examining the latest guidance in the Local Code of Conduct for Councillors.

Implications of the Report

Financial – none

HR & Organisational Development – none

Community Planning – none

Legal – none

Property/Assets – none

Information Technology – none

Equality & Human Rights - The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

Health & Safety – none

Procurement – none

Risk – none

Privacy Impact – none

Cosla Policy Position – not applicable

Climate Risk – none

List Of Background Papers

CIPFA Guidance on Audit Committees for Local Authorities – October 2022.

Dargavel Primary – Independent External Review – Council 2 June 2023

Cross Party Working Group Review of Governance Arrangements – Council 29 February 2024

Author: Carol MacDonald, Senior Committee Services Officer,
Finance & Resources.
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To: Council

On: 27 June 2024

Report by: Director of Finance and Resources

Heading: Governance Arrangements

1. Summary

1.1 The SNP group has intimated that they wish to make two changes to their board appointments, firstly that Councillor McGurk to replace Councillor Mylet on the Education and Children's Services Policy Board and secondly that Councillor Shaw to replace Councillor Mylet on the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Councillor McGurk to replace Councillor Mylet on the Education and Children's Services Policy Board.

2.2 That Councillor Shaw to replace Councillor Mylet on the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** - none
2. **HR & Organisational Development** - none
3. **Community/Council Planning** – none
4. **Legal** – none
5. **Property/Assets** – none

6. **Information Technology** – none
7. **Equality & Human Rights** - The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report as it deals with Member appointments to Boards. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website. (Report author to arrange this).
8. **Health & Safety** – none
9. **Procurement** – none
10. **Risk** – none
11. **Privacy Impact** – none
12. **CoSLA Policy Position** – none
13. **Climate change** - none

List of Background Papers

None

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To: Council

On: 27 June 2024

Report by: Chief Executive

**Heading: United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child
(Incorporation) Scotland Act 2024**

1. Summary

- 1.1. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill was initially passed with unanimous approval of the Scottish Parliament on 16 March 2021. The UK Government issued a challenge to the Bill under Section 33 of the Scotland Act 1998. The challenge focused on the potential the Bill was seeking to legislate on areas outwith the competency of the Scottish Parliament.
- 1.2. The Supreme Court considered the challenge and found three provisions of the Bill were outwith the competency of the Scottish Parliament. The judgement of the Supreme Court meant the Bill was returned to the Scottish Parliament for reconsideration. The Bill was reconsidered by the Scottish Parliament on 7 December 2023 and was approved unanimously. The Bill received Royal Assent on 16 January 2024 and is now the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 (referred to as the 2024 Act in this report).
- 1.3. The Scottish Government arranged for the early commencement of the provisions in the 2024 Act in relation to allowing it to consult and publish statutory guidance for public authorities and to produce court rules for dealing with incompatibility cases. All other provisions will commence on 16 July 2024.
- 1.4. In effect the 2024 Act embeds the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in Scots law. The 2024 Act states that designated public authorities (which includes local authorities) must not act in a manner which is incompatible with the UNCRC. It provides children, young people or their representatives an option to pursue court action to ensure their rights are recognised. The 2024 Act extends the powers of the Children and Young People's Commissioner. The 2024 Act required public authorities to actively promote children's rights, consider how child friendly budgeting can progress, develop children's rights wellbeing impact assessments and report on how

they are ensuring compliance with their duties (including a child friendly version of the report).

- 1.5. Some young people from Renfrewshire, supported by community learning and development staff contributed to an [animation](#) commissioned by the Scottish Government on UNCRC and how public authorities can promote and protect children's rights. The Scottish Government has produced guidance on the 2024 Act. The Improvement Service has developed [resources](#) for elected members to understand their responsibilities under the 2024 Act.
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2. Recommendations

2.1. Members are asked to:

- [a] note the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 will commence on 16 July 2024,
 - [b] note the new duty on Renfrewshire as a public authority to actively promote children's rights, listen to the views of children and young people in policy development and publish a report every three years on how the council is ensuring compliance with the 2024 Act,
 - [c] note the contribution of some of Renfrewshire's young people to the Scottish Government animation,
 - [d] note the resources developed by the Improvement Service to assist elected members to understand their responsibilities in relation to the protection and promotion of the rights of children, and
 - [e] agree to the addition of a new section in the implications section of reports for Council and policy boards on Children's Rights.
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3. Background

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

- 3.1. The UNCRC details specific human rights for children and young people. The UNCRC considers anyone under the age of 18 to be a child and offers a vision for how their needs should be met as an individual, a member of a family and part of a wider community.
- 3.2. The UNCRC consists of 54 [articles](#). Part I (articles 1 to 42) is known as the provisions, Part 2 (articles 42 to 45) is about implementation and monitoring and Part 3 (articles 43 to 54) is the final clauses.
- 3.3. Examples of the articles are:
 - The right to life, survive and develop their full potential (Article 6)
 - The right of the child to express their views and have that view considered (Article 12)

- The right to information in an accessible way (Article 17)
- The right to be protection from violence, abuse and neglect (Article 19)
- The right to special protection, assistance and care if the child can't live with their immediate family (Article 20)
- The right to government help and support (Article 26)
- The right to a proper house, food and clothing (Article 27)
- The right to education (Article 28)
- The right to culture, language and religion (Article 30)
- The right to play and to rest (Article 31).

3.4. The following principles apply to children's rights:

- Universal – they apply to all children
- Inalienable – cannot be taken away
- Indivisible – all equally important
- Interdependent – breach of one impacts on all
- Interrelated – all connected to each other.

United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child (Incorporation) Scotland) Act 2024

3.5. The United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child (Incorporation) Scotland) Act 2024 becomes fully operational from 16 July 2024. The 2024 Act aims to ensure children's rights are respected and protection in law in Scotland. The 2024 Act applies to legislation passed by the Scottish Parliament in respect of devolved functions.

3.6. The 2024 Act places specific duties on a range of public bodies which includes local authorities. These duties include the requirement to respect and protect children's rights in their work, proactively promote the rights of children and not to act in any way which is incompatible with the UNCRC.

3.7. Public bodies are required to ensure the voice and experience of children and young people inform the planning and delivery of services, develop a child friendly complaints process and publish a children's rights report (including a child friendly version).

3.8. The 2024 Act gives children, young people and their representatives access to courts if they feel their rights have been breached.

Embedding children's rights

3.9. By adopting some processes Renfrewshire can ensure it meets the duties under the 2024 Act. The Council should consider how it:

- Embeds children’s rights at the core of planning and delivery of services which affect them,
 - Ensures equity and non- discrimination by offering all children and equal opportunity to make the most of their lives and talents,
 - Empowers children by giving them knowledge and confidences to use their rights and to hold organisations to account, and
 - Ensures children can participate by listening to their views and taking their views seriously.
- 3.10. The Council can utilise a children’s rights impact assessment (CRIA) to assist it in achieving compliance with the 2024 Act. The CRIA can record how children’s views were gathered, considered and influenced policy development, that impact on children was informed by research and evidence, that gaps are identified and addressed, the impact on children’s rights and wellbeing have been considered and that any negative impact can be mitigated, or the policy improved.
- 3.11. Publication of a CRIA on any policy development can increase transparency and allows scrutiny of decision making.
- 3.12. The Improvement Service has developed a range of tools and information to assist elected members develop further knowledge on children’s rights and how to ensure that local authorities are compliant with the duties of the 2024 Act and promote a children’s rights approach.

Implications of this report

1. Financial

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 introduces a new child friendly budgeting approach. When making budget decisions in future the council should consider a Children’s Rights Impact Assessment.

2. HR and Organisational Development

The new duties under the 2024 Act will impact on all members of staff employed by Renfrewshire. Initially staff in children’s services have been trained on the new responsibilities under the Act and the Renfrewshire Children’s Services Partnership is developing a briefing for all other staff.

3. Community/Council Planning

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| Our Renfrewshire is thriving | - <i>Being compliant with the 2024 Act will ensure that Renfrewshire meets children’s rights and improve the opportunity for them to thrive.</i> |
| Our Renfrewshire is well | - <i>Being compliant with the 2024 Act will ensure that Renfrewshire meets children’s rights and improve the opportunity for them to experience positive health or achieve the best</i> |

health they are able to.

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|---|---|---|
| Our Renfrewshire is fair | - | <i>Being compliant with the 2024 Act will ensure that Renfrewshire meets children's rights, thus promoting a fair and equitable approach across the council and within communities.</i> |
| Our Renfrewshire is safe | - | <i>Being compliant with the 2024 Act will ensure that Renfrewshire meets children's rights and improve the safety of children in our community.</i> |
| Tackling inequality, ensuring opportunities for all | - | <i>Being compliant with the 2024 Act will ensure that Renfrewshire meets children's rights promotes a culture of tackling inequality and promoting life chances for all children.</i> |

4. Legal

The 2024 Act places significant new duties on the local authority. The new duties have been outlined in the body of the report at paragraphs 3.6 and 3.7.

5. Property/Assets

None.

6. Information Technology

None.

7. Equality and Human Rights

The recommendation in this report will enhance the rights of children and young people. It will also ensure the Council is discharging its duties in relation to the promotion of children's rights.

8. Health and Safety

None.

9. Procurement

None.

10. Risk

Failure to discharge the duties in the 2024 Act could result in legal challenge to the local authority.

11. Privacy Impact

None.

12. Cosla Policy Position

This report is in line with the COSLA Policy Position on the rights of children and young people.

13. Climate Risk

None.

List of Background Papers

(a) None

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