Gwynedd Council

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2016/17

Finance Department
www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru

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NARRATIVE REPORT

Introduction

Gwynedd Council's accounts for the year 2016/17 are presented here on pages 8 to 106.

The Accounts consist of:-

- **Expenditure and Funding Analysis** – Whilst this is not a statutory statement, it shows how annual expenditure is used and funded from resources (government grants, council tax and business rates) by local authorities in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by authorities in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices.

- **Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement** - This is the Council's main revenue account. This statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. Authorities raise taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

- **Movement in Reserves Statement** - This statement shows the movement in year on the different reserves held by the Authority, analysed into 'usable reserves' and 'unusable reserves'. The taxation position is reflected in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

- **The Balance Sheet** - Sets out the financial position of the Council on 31 March 2017.

- **The Cash Flow Statement** - This statement summarises the flow of cash to and from the Council during 2016/17 for revenue and capital purposes.

- **The Gwynedd Pension Fund Accounts and Balance Sheet.**

- **The Welsh Church Fund and FMG Morgan Trust Fund Accounts.**

These accounts are supported by this Narrative Report, the Accounting Policies and various notes to the accounts.

Revenue Expenditure

Financial Strategy

The annual budget is established within the context of the medium-term financial strategy, in order to ensure that the budget is prepared for the future position, rather than addressing the requirements of one year only. This medium-term planning has proven to be very beneficial to the Council, enabling it to plan necessary savings rationally, without having to take rushed/inappropriate decisions in terms of the benefits to our citizens, and establishing a regime to identify budgetary savings and cuts.

Financial Performance 2016/17

- The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on page 9 shows that the Council's gross revenue expenditure on 'Cost of Services' level was £348m during 2016/17, with the net position as £227m.

- Despite the sustained need to achieve challenging savings, the final financial position of the Council's departments for 2016/17 confirms that there was effective financial management. The financial out-turn position for 2016/17 was reported to the Cabinet at its meeting on 6 June 2017. The members of the Cabinet approved the carry-forward of the net services underspend of £469k for the year.

- The favourable financial performance in 2016/17 enabled the Council to earmark £700k towards the essential financing package for the 2017/18 financial strategy, whilst also increasing the unearmarked general fund balance by £1.4m.

- The 2016/17 financial position was taken into consideration in the process of establishing the 2017/18 budget.

TABLE 1 – Budget and Actual Comparison Summary (Net)

Table 1 provides a budgetary performance comparison at a summary level, and which is detailed further in Table 2.

	Budget	Actual	Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Net Expenditure on Operations	241,043	239,728	(1,315)
Departmental Carry-forward at year-end	0	469	469
	241,043	240,197	(846)
Financed by -			
Council Tax Income	(74,093)	(74,640)	(547)
Share of National Non-Domestic Rate	(37,158)	(37,158)	0
General Government Grants	(129,792)	(129,792)	0
Contribution to the General Fund Balance	0	1,393	1,393
	0	0	0

- The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the Movement in Reserves Statement on pages 9 and 10 detail the analysis in movements for the year.

TABLE 2 – Transposition movement between 'Budget and Actual Comparison Summary (Net)' (Table 1) to the Income and Expenditure format reflecting Departmental Management Structure.

Department	Performance Report (Outturn)	Transposition Adjustment	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis	Income & Expenditure Statement
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Education	81,620	533	**82,153**	0	**82,153**
Corporate Support	7,838	77	**7,915**	0	**7,915**
Finance	5,660	85	**5,745**	0	**5,745**
Economy and Community	6,641	(87)	**6,554**	0	**6,554**
Adults, Health and Wellbeing	44,560	(8)	**44,552**	0	**44,552**
Children and Family Support	13,187	(15)	**13,172**	0	**13,172**
Highways and Municipal (including Trunk Roads)	20,709	(1,427)	**19,282**	1,681	**20,963**
Environment	5,960	(55)	**5,905**	0	**5,905**
Corporate Management Team and Legal	1,991	(76)	**1,915**	0	**1,915**
Gwynedd Consultancy	222	2	**224**	0	**224**
Corporate	35,334	(19,628)	**15,706**	21,865	**37,571**
Cost of Services	223,722	(20,599)	**203,123**	23,546	**226,669**
Other (Contains Centralised and Corporate Adjustment)	16,475	20,599	**37,074**	(23,546)	**13,528**
Total	240,197	0	**240,197**	0	**240,197**

Transposition Adjustment - Adjustments in the transposition column relate to the net contribution to and from reserves.

- **Material Items of Income and Expenditure**

  Related items include:-
  - £51m on pensions, being the remeasurements of the net defined benefit assets relating to pensions, in line with Gwynedd Pension Fund's Actuary's assessment (Note 23).
  - Following a revaluation of part of the Council's land and buildings portfolio (which is now carried out on a rolling programme basis), a net surplus of £7m on the revaluation of property, plant and equipment assets (Note 15 & 23).

- **Other Issues**

  - There have been unprecedented problems in the worldwide financial situation in recent years. Because of this general situation, it has been necessary for the Authority to take the circumstances into consideration in its financial plans, whilst maintaining a prudent level of reserves.
  - Since the referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union, there has been a degree of economic uncertainty. This is expected to last for some time and may affect some factors and financial decisions made by the Authority in 2016/17 and into the medium term.

Capital Expenditure in 2016/17

Capital expenditure for 2016/17 amounted to £29.3m. The following table gives an analysis of this expenditure and the way it was financed.

SUMMARY OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND FINANCING		
2015/16 £'000		**2016/17 £'000**
12,354	Education	15,033
8,495	Environment	5,053
348	Corporate Support	70
494	Finance	609
5,147	Economy and Community	1,951
3,894	Adults, Health and Wellbeing	2,802
103	Children and Family Support	58
4,508	Highways and Municipal	2,558
191	Gwynedd Consultancy	1,175
35,534		**29,309**
	FINANCED BY -	
6,029	Borrowing	11,106
17,635	Grants and Contributions	11,460
1,622	Capital Receipts	770
10,248	Revenue and Other Funds	5,973
35,534		**29,309**

- Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute of £5.0m is included in the above table. This has been charged to the Income and Expenditure Statement in the year. Total expenditure on Non-current Assets and Assets Held for Sale was £24.3m as shown in Note 15 and 20 on pages 38 to 40 and page 50.

- The Council's Loan Debt on 31 March 2017 was £111.5m – a decrease of £1.9m (from £113.4m) during the year. Repayments of £2.06m were made in accordance with the terms of individual loans.

Provisions and Reserves

In addition to the unmarked element of General Balances of £6.9m, the Council had other provisions of £8.1m, earmarked reserves of £43.6m and school balances of £2.9m. In total, these amounted to £61.5m. These are detailed in the Balance Sheet, Movement in Reserves Statement and in Note 10 and 22.

Pension Fund

The Council (as an employer) has a net liability from its share of the assets and liabilities of the Gwynedd Pension Fund, which has been calculated in accordance with International Accounting Standard 19. The Balance Sheet contains an assessment by the Fund's Actuary, Hymans, of the Council's share of the Pension Fund liability. This net liability has increased by £57m to £235m in 2016/17. Refer to Note 38 for further information.

The net pension liability is a position at one point in time. Market prices can move substantially up or down in the short term and it is therefore not possible to quantify the long-term effect such movements in market prices will have on the Pension Fund.

Gwynedd Pension Fund

The Gwynedd Pension Fund Accounts (pages 77 to 106) show an increase during the year of £339m in the market value of the net assets of the Fund, to £1,864m. The book value of the net assets at 31 March 2017 was £1,170m (2016: £1,127.6m).

Accounting Policies

The accounting policies adopted by the Council comply with all relevant recommended accounting practices and are fully explained in the Accounting Policies set out in Note 1 to the Accounts on page 13.

Changes in Accounting Policies and to the Statement of Accounts

There were no changes to accounting policies during the 2016/17 financial year.

Impact of changes to Accounting Standards

Following the "Telling the Story" review of the presentation of local authority financial statements and in line with the accounting standards IAS 1, the 2016/17 code changed the segmental reporting arrangements for the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and introduced the Expenditure and Funding Analysis with relevant notes. The presentation of the Movement in Reserves Statement has also been amended. Both the CIES and EFA reflect the Council's reporting and monitoring structure. The 2015/16 statements have been reanalysed for comparison with the 2016/17 figures, but there is no impact on the Balance Sheet information.

Impact of changes to Accounting Standards in the future

There is a change to the treatment of Pensions that will affect the accounts from 2017/18 onwards. Refer to Note 4 for further information.

Further Information

The Statement of Accounts is available on Gwynedd Council's website www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru.

Further information relating to the accounts is available from:

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Senior Finance Manager
01286 679133

or

Caren Rees Jones
Principal Accountant
01286 679134

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This is part of the Council's policy of providing full information relating to the Council's affairs. In addition, interested members of the public have a statutory right to inspect the accounts before the audit is completed. The availability of the accounts for inspection is advertised in the local press at the appropriate time.

GWYNEDD COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

THE AUTHORITY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Gwynedd Council is required to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In Gwynedd Council, that "Section 151 Officer" is the Head of Finance. It is also the Authority's responsibility to manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of its resources, to safeguard its assets, and to approve the Statement of Accounts.

Chair Audit and Governance Committee

28 September 2017

THE HEAD OF FINANCE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Head of Finance is responsible for the preparation of the Authority's Statement of Accounts and of its Pension Fund Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom* ("the Code").

In preparing the statement of accounts, the Head of Finance has selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently; has made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent and complied with the Code.

The Head of Finance has also kept proper accounting records which were up to date, and has taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER'S CERTIFICATE

I certify that the Statement of Accounts has been prepared in accordance with the arrangements set out above, and presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Gwynedd Council and the Pension Fund at 31 March 2017 and the Council's income and expenditure for the year then ended.

Dafydd L. Edwards B.A., C.P.F.A., I.R.R.V.
Head of Finance, Gwynedd Council

20 September 2017

EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS

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

2015/16				2016/17		
Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund	**Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis** (see Note 8)	**Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement**		**Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund**	**Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis** (see Note 8)	**Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement**
£'000	**£'000**	**£'000**		**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
82,394	0	82,394	Education	82,153	0	82,153
7,236	0	7,236	Corporate Support	7,915	0	7,915
5,782	0	5,782	Finance	5,745	0	5,745
7,459	0	7,459	Economy and Community	6,554	0	6,554
44,553	0	44,553	Adults, Health and Wellbeing	44,552	0	44,552
13,183	0	13,183	Children and Family Support	13,172	0	13,172
19,036	1,754	20,790	Highways and Municipal (including Trunk Roads*)	19,282	1,681	20,963
5,789	0	5,789	Environment	5,905	0	5,905
2,026	0	2,026	Corporate Management Team and Legal	1,915	0	1,915
(121)	0	(121)	Gwynedd Consultancy	224	0	224
13,798	18,456	32,254	Corporate	15,706	21,865	37,571
201,135	**20,210**	**221,345**	**Cost of Services**	**203,123**	**23,546**	**226,669**
20,098	8,944	29,042	Other Operating Expenditure	20,466	694	21,160
23,732	(9,689)	14,043	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	19,563	(7,253)	12,310
(241,476)	(13,970)	(255,446)	Taxation and non-specific grant income	(241,598)	(9,288)	(250,886)
3,489	**5,495**	**8,984**	**(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services**	**1,554**	**7,699**	**9,253**
(58,422)			Opening General Fund Balance	(54,933)		
3,489			(Surplus)/Deficit on General Fund in Year	1,554		
(54,933)			Closing General Fund Balance	**(53,379)**		

* Trunk Roads - Adjustments relating to the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

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

2015/16					2016/17		
Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure		Note	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
£'000	£'000	£'000			£'000	£'000	£'000
101,435	(19,041)	82,394	Education		100,797	(18,644)	82,153
9,833	(2,597)	7,236	Corporate Support		10,587	(2,672)	7,915
8,068	(2,286)	5,782	Finance		8,026	(2,281)	5,745
17,514	(10,055)	7,459	Economy and Community		15,158	(8,604)	6,554
68,038	(23,485)	44,553	Adults, Health and Wellbeing		69,566	(25,014)	44,552
16,577	(3,394)	13,183	Children and Family Support		16,679	(3,507)	13,172
35,357	(14,567)	20,790	Highways and Municipal (including Trunk Roads*)		36,453	(15,490)	20,963
14,778	(8,989)	5,789	Environment		15,260	(9,355)	5,905
2,501	(475)	2,026	Corporate Management Team and Legal		2,657	(742)	1,915
2,122	(2,243)	(121)	Gwynedd Consultancy		2,520	(2,296)	224
65,029	(32,775)	32,254	Corporate		70,482	(32,911)	37,571
341,252	**(119,907)**	**221,345**	**Cost of Services**		**348,185**	**(121,516)**	**226,669**
29,286	(244)	29,042	Other Operating Expenditure	*11*	21,200	(40)	21,160
14,551	(508)	14,043	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	*12*	12,623	(313)	12,310
0	(255,446)	(255,446)	Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income	*13*	0	(250,886)	(250,886)
385,089	**(376,105)**	**8,984**	**(Surplus) / Deficit on Provision of Services**		**382,008**	**(372,755)**	**9,253**
		(6,095)	(Surplus) / Deficit on revaluation of Fixed Assets	*23.1*			(7,282)
		(57)	(Surplus) / Deficit on revaluation of available-for-sale financial assets	*23.2*			159
		(80,568)	Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability/(asset)	*23.6*			51,322
		(86,720)	**Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure**				**44,199**
		(77,736)	**Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure**				**53,452**

* Trunk Roads - Adjustments relating to the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

The Movement in Reserves Statement shows the movement from the start of the year to the end on the different reserves held by the Authority, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other 'unusable reserves'. The Statement shows how the movements in year of the Authority's reserves are broken down between gains and losses incurred in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices and the statutory adjustments required to return to the amounts chargeable to council tax for the year. The Net Increase/Decrease line shows the statutory General Fund Balance movements in the year following those adjustments.

		Additional Information			**Statement of Movement in Reserves**					
	Nodyn	*Unearmarked General Fund Balance*	*Earmarked General Fund Reserves*	*Total Reserves held by Schools*	General Fund Balance	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	**Total Usable Reserves**	**Unusable Reserves**	**Total Authority Reserves**
		£'000	*£'000*	*£'000*	£'000	£'000	£'000	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
Balance 31 March 2015 carried forward		*(6,350)*	*(48,576)*	*(3,496)*	(58,422)	(2,728)	(2,577)	**(63,727)**	**11,734**	**(51,993)**
Movement in reserves during 2015/16										
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		*8,984*	*0*	*0*	8,984	0	0	**8,984**	**(86,720)**	**(77,736)**
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	*9*	*(5,495)*	*0*	*0*	(5,495)	693	1,484	**(3,318)**	**3,318**	**0**
(Increase)/Decrease in 2015/16		*3,489*	*0*	*0*	3,489	693	1,484	**5,666**	**(83,402)**	**(77,736)**
Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves	*10*	*(2,656)*	*2,497*	*159*	0	0	0	**0**	**0**	**0**
(Increase)/Decrease in 2015/16 (showing transfers to Earmarked Reserves)		*833*	*2,497*	*159*	3,489	693	1,484	**5,666**	**(83,402)**	**(77,736)**
Balance 31 March 2016 carried forward		*(5,517)*	*(46,079)*	*(3,337)*	(54,933)	(2,035)	(1,093)	**(58,061)**	**(71,668)**	**(129,729)**
Movement in reserves during 2016/17										
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		*9,253*	*0*	*0*	9,253	0	0	**9,253**	**44,199**	**53,452**
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	*9*	*(7,699)*	*0*	*0*	(7,699)	(862)	61	**(8,500)**	**8,500**	**0**
(Increase)/Decrease in 2016/17		*1,554*	*0*	*0*	1,554	(862)	61	**753**	**52,699**	**53,452**
Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves	*10*	*(2,947)*	*2,489*	*458*	0	0	0	**0**	**0**	**0**
(Increase)/Decrease in 2016/17 (showing transfers to Earmarked Reserves)		*(1,393)*	*2,489*	*458*	1,554	(862)	61	753	52,699	53,452
Balance 31 March 2017 carried forward		*(6,910)*	*(43,590)*	*(2,879)*	(53,379)	(2,897)	(1,032)	**(57,308)**	**(18,969)**	**(76,277)**

BALANCE SHEET

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

31 March 2016		***Note***	**31 March 2017**
£'000			**£'000**
424,305	Property, Plant and Equipment	*15*	433,687
60	Heritage Assets		60
247	Investment Property	*16*	197
2,517	Surplus Assets	*15*	2,039
2,341	Long-Term Investments	*17*	2,171
4,301	Long-Term Debtors	*17*	4,094
433,771	**Long-Term Assets**		**442,248**
50,055	Short-Term Investments	*17*	26,044
459	Assets Held for Sale	*20*	148
1,321	Inventories		1,286
32,539	Short-Term Debtors	*18*	54,889
14,191	Cash and Cash Equivalents	*19*	1,384
98,565	**Current Assets**		**83,751**
(39,430)	Bank Overdraft	*19*	(30,035)
(2,757)	Short-Term Borrowing	*17*	(3,335)
(54,687)	Short-Term Creditors	*21*	(56,972)
(465)	Short-Term Provisions	*22*	(357)
(2,364)	Capital and Revenue Grants Receipts in Advance	*32*	(2,196)
(99,703)	**Current Liabilities**		**(92,895)**
0	Long-Term Creditors	*17*	0
(8,221)	Long-Term Provisions	*22*	(7,776)
(110,676)	Long-Term Borrowing	*17*	(108,143)
(178,332)	Net Pension Liability	*38*	(235,413)
(2,127)	Finance Leases Liability	*35*	(1,993)
(3,548)	Capital and Revenue Grants Receipts in Advance	*32*	(3,502)
(302,904)	**Long-Term Liabilities**		**(356,827)**
129,729	**Net Assets**		**76,277**
(58,061)	Usable Reserves		(57,308)
(71,668)	Unusable Reserves	*23*	(18,969)
(129,729)	**Total Reserves**		**(76,277)**

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

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

2015/16		***Note***	**2016/17**
£'000			**£'000**
8,984	Net (Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services		9,253
(32,570)	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	*24a*	(13,099)
942	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	*24b*	1,603
(22,644)	Net cash flows from Operating Activities		(2,243)
46,268	Investing Activities	*25*	3,574
(1,302)	Financing Activities	*26*	2,081
22,322	Net (increase)/decrease in cash and cash equivalents		3,412
2,917	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	*19*	25,239
25,239	**Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period**	*19*	**28,651**

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

NOTE 1 – ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Authority's transactions for the 2016/17 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2017. The Authority is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014, in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17* and the Service Reporting Code of Practice 2016/17, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and statutory guidance issued in the 2014 Act.

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

In relation to a policy regarding capitalisation of expenditure, our practice is to operate on the basis of the nature of expenditure rather than a prescribed level of expenditure.

1.2 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.

- Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the Authority transfers the significant risks and rewards of ownership to the purchaser and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Authority.
- Revenue from the provision of services is recognised when the Authority can measure reliably the percentage of completion of the transaction and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Authority.
- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed – where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption, they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.
- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.
- Interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.
- Where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.

1.3 Cash and Cash Equivalents

Where the Authority has short-term investments readily convertible into known amounts of cash and subject to insignificant risk of changes in value, these are classified as cash equivalents and included in Cash and Cash Equivalents on the Balance Sheet. The investments included in this definition are short-term deposits with financial institutions which are immediately available at the Balance Sheet date.

1.4 Contingent Liabilities

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

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

1.5 Corporate

The Corporate heading includes items relating to the Democratic Representation and Management and Corporate Management. The Democratic Representation and Management include corporate policy-making and member

activities while the Corporate Management includes costs that relate to the general running of the Authority.

1.6 Employee Benefits

1.6.1 Benefits Payable During Employment

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

1.6.2 Termination Benefits

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

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

1.6.3 Post-Employment Benefits

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

- The Teachers' Pension Scheme, administered by the Capita Teachers' Pensions on behalf of the Westminster Government's Department for Education
- The Local Government Pension Scheme, administered by the Gwynedd Pension Fund at Gwynedd Council.

Both schemes provide defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees when they worked for the Authority.

However, the arrangements for the teachers' scheme mean that liabilities for these benefits cannot be identified to the Authority. The scheme is therefore accounted for as if it were a defined contributions scheme and no liability for future payment of benefits is recognised in the Balance Sheet. The Children's and Education Services line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is charged with the employer's contributions payable to The Teachers' Pension Scheme in the year.

1.6.4 The Local Government Pension Scheme

All other staff, subject to certain qualifying criteria, are entitled to become members of the Local Government Pension Scheme. The pension costs charged to the Authority's accounts in respect of this group of employees are determined by the fund administrators and represents a fixed proportion of employees' contributions to this funded pension scheme.

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

The liabilities of the Gwynedd Pension Fund attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method - i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions such as mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc., and projections of earnings for current employees.

Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate of 2.6% calculated as a weighted average of 'spot yields' on AA rated corporate bonds.

NOTE 1 – ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

The assets of the Gwynedd Pension Fund attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value as determined by the Fund's actuary.

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

Service cost comprising:

- Current service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year – allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the services for which the employees worked.

- Past service cost – the increase in liabilities arising from current year decisions whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years – debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Corporate costs.

- Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/(asset), i.e. the net interest expense for the Authority – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability/(asset) that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – this is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability/(asset) at the beginning of the period – taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability/(asset) during the period as a result of contributions and benefit payments.

Remeasurements comprising:

- The return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability/ (asset) – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

- Actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

- Contributions paid to the Gwynedd Pension Fund – cash paid as employer's contributions to the Pension Fund in settlement of liabilities not accounted for as an expense.

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

International Accounting Standard (IAS) 19 governs how the long-term liabilities which exist in relation to pension costs should be reported. Local councils in England and Wales are required to produce their financial statements in accordance with IAS19.

1.6.5 Discretionary Benefits

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

1.7 Events After the Reporting Period

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

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

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

1.8 Prior Period Adjustments, Changes in Accounting Policies, Estimates and Errors

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

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

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

1.9 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. Thus the term financial instrument covers both financial assets and financial liabilities.

In accordance with the requirements the Council's financial assets and liabilities have been reviewed in order to categorise them and determine their treatment. The financial instruments identified as a result of this review were:

Financial liabilities

- Trade payables and other payables (creditors).
- Long-term borrowings including deferred premiums and discounts on early settlement of such loans.

The Council values its financial liabilities at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. The interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is calculated using the effective interest rate. As the Council's long-term borrowing is all at fixed rates the interest charged is the amount accrued in the year.

Gains or losses arising on the repurchase or early settlement of borrowing are treated as extinguishment of the financial liability unless strict conditions are met when the transaction may be treated as a modification of the existing loan terms and any gain or loss adjusts the carrying amount of the loan debt received.

Financial assets

- cash
- bank accounts
- fixed term deposits with banks and building societies
- loans to other local authorities
- trade receivables for goods and services delivered

Financial assets are classified into two categories:

- Loans and receivables – assets that have fixed or determinable payments but are not quoted in an active market

- Available-for-sale assets – assets that have a quoted market price and/or do not have fixed or determinable payments including Covered Bonds

The majority of the Council's financial assets are classified as loans and receivables and as such are valued at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

The amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal receivable (plus accrued interest) and interest credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement.

The Council's investments in Covered Bonds are valued using the discounted cash flow analysis method to provide the fair value for the Balance Sheet.

Where the Authority has short-term investments readily convertible into known amounts of cash and subject to insignificant risk of changes in value, these are classified as cash equivalents and included in Cash and Cash Equivalents on the Balance Sheet. The investments included in this definition are short-term deposits with financial institutions which are immediately available at the Balance Sheet date.

Short duration Payables and Receivables with no stated interest rate are measured at original invoice amount. This includes all trade payables and trade receivables.

The Local Authorities (Capital Financing and Accounting) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 allow the effect of the restatement of financial instruments to be adjusted through the Movement in Reserves Statement and the resulting adjustments are shown in the Financial Instrument Adjustment Account and the Available-for-sale Financial Instruments Reserve on the Balance Sheet. The adjustment allowed by statute means that the net effect on the Council's balances is equivalent to the transfer under this policy.

1.10 Government Grants and Other Contributions

Grants and contributions relating to capital and revenue expenditure are accounted for on an accruals basis, and recognised immediately in the relevant service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as income, except to the extent that the grant or contribution has a condition that the Authority has not satisfied.

Grants and contributions funding capital expenditure that has been credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are not proper income charges due to the capital control regime requirements to finance capital expenditure as part of the Capital Financing Requirement. Therefore, the Authority accounts for these amounts as follows:

- Where a capital grant or contribution has been received, and conditions remain outstanding at the Balance Sheet date, the grant is recognised as a Capital Grant Receipt in Advance on the Balance Sheet. Once the condition has been met, the grant or contribution is transferred to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
- Where a capital grant or contribution has been recognised as income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, and the expenditure to be financed from that grant or contribution has been incurred at the Balance Sheet date, the grant or contribution is transferred from the General Fund to the Capital Adjustment Account, reflecting the application of capital resources to finance expenditure. This transfer is reported in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

1.11 Heritage Assets

Heritage assets are tangible assets with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that are held by the Authority principally for their contribution to knowledge or culture. The Council has identified the following categories of heritage assets:

- Pictures and Paintings
- Civic Regalia
- Library Collections/Archives
- Museums and Art Gallery Collections
- Historic Buildings and Scheduled Monuments
- Parks and Local Nature Reserves

The Council used an external valuer (Bonhams) to provide estimated valuations of its civic regalia and paintings and pictures. For consistency, the Council has applied the same de-minimis levels for valuation purposes to Heritage Assets as its other long-term assets – see policy 1.17.

The Council considers that heritage assets held by the Council will have indeterminate life and high residual value; hence, the Council does not consider it appropriate to charge depreciation for the assets. Heritage assets recognised in the accounts will be assessed annually for any impairment – see policy 1.17.

1.12 Inventories and Long-Term Contracts

Stocks and work in progress should be shown in the Balance Sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value, in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Practice. Due to the practicalities of the Council's main stock systems, the majority of stock is shown in the accounts at average cost. The difference from the basis of valuation is not material.

1.13 Investment Property

Investment properties are those that are used solely to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation. The definition is not met if the property is used in any way to facilitate the delivery of services or production of goods or is held for sale. These properties are valued on a fair value basis. Values are based on specific techniques, and the inputs to these measurement techniques are categorised in accordance with three levels. All the Authority's inputs are level 3 (unobservable inputs for the asset). This is due to the level of adjustment required to all evidence due to the uniqueness of the assets, and the dearth of relevant market transactions.

1.14 Leases

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

The Authority as Lessee:

Amounts held under finance leases are initially recognised, at the commencement of the lease, at fair value (or, if lower, the present value of the minimum lease payments), with a matching liability for the lease obligation to the lessor. Lease payments are apportioned between a finance charge (charged directly to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement) and a charge applied to write down the lease liability. The related asset is treated in accordance with the policies applied generally to such assets and is subject to depreciation charges as appropriate.

Operating lease payments are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as an expense of the relevant service on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

The Authority as Lessor:

Where the Authority grants a finance lease over a property, the relevant asset is written out of the Balance Sheet as a disposal, to be included in the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The written-off value of disposals is not a charge against council tax, as the cost of non-current assets is fully provided for under separate arrangements for capital financing. Amounts are therefore appropriated to the Capital Adjustment Account from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Rental income from property granted under an operating lease is recognised on a straight-line basis in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, and the asset is retained in the Balance Sheet.

1.15 Surplus Assets

The Authority classifies Surplus Assets separately on the Balance Sheet. These assets are shown at their fair value based on market value. Values are based on specific techniques, and the inputs to these measurement techniques are categorised in accordance with three levels. All the Authority's inputs are level 3 (unobservable inputs for the asset). This is due to the level of adjustment required to all evidence due to the uniqueness of the assets, and the dearth of relevant market transactions.

1.16 Overheads and Support Services

Some overheads and support services costs are apportioned to the appropriate services in accordance with the Council's arrangements, with budget monitoring under corporate control. But some costs are not apportioned at all,

and are reported under the corporate heading. The information is required for total costing purposes but it is not reflected in the Statements as this is not the Management Structure.

1.17 Long-Term Assets

The Council's assets as recorded on the Property Services database are revalued at least every five years. Since the 2015/16 financial year, the Authority has established a rolling programme for re-valuing different categories of these assets annually. This is in accordance with the Code and the Statements of Asset Valuation Principles and Guidance Notes issued by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

Land and Buildings are shown at fair value or Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC) for specialised properties.

Investment Properties are shown at fair value.

Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment are shown at depreciated historical cost.

Infrastructure and community assets are shown at depreciated historical cost.

Assets in the course of construction are included at historical cost until such time as they are completed, when they are valued in accordance with the accounting policies and transferred to the appropriate category of asset.

A de-minimis limit for valuation purposes of £20,000 is used for the Council's operational Land and Buildings and £5,000 for single items of Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment.

Expenditure in year on new and existing assets is added annually, and then consideration is given as to whether this expenditure has increased the value of the asset. If there has been an increase, this is reflected through the Revaluation Reserve; if there is no increase it follows that there has been an impairment to the value of the asset (see below for the method for accounting for impairment). Specifically for assets categorised as Land and Buildings, and Community Assets where expenditure in year of over £100,000 has been incurred on a single asset, the Council's Corporate Property Manager (M.R.I.C.S.) reviews the assets and re-values any one as appropriate.

Impairment and Depreciation

Impairment

An impairment is the consumption of economic benefit that is specific to an asset. In line with International Accounting Standard 36 the Council reviews its assets each year in order to recognise any impairment or reduction in value due to the consumption of economic benefits. In addition, the residual values and useful lives of assets are reviewed annually and adjusted where appropriate.

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 or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Depreciation

The main element of IAS 16 is that buildings must be depreciated if they are not valued each year. In addition, each part of an item of property, plant and equipment with a cost that is significant in relation to the total cost of the item shall be depreciated separately. A de-minimis threshold, below which assets are disregarded for componentisation purposes, needs to be established, which is based on potential material impacts on the financial statements. (For the 2016/17 financial year this has been set at £2.04m which is 1% of the total value of the buildings). The apportionment to be considered for the non-land element of assets above the de-minimis threshold is:

a) plant and equipment and engineering services, and

b) structure

NOTE 1 – ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

The majority of the Council's buildings (over 75%) are valued using the DRC (Depreciated Replacement Cost) method, which is developed on a component approach, and the identification of the components is reflected in the details of the calculations. However, identified within the above are buildings which include material items of plant and equipment which are deemed to have shorter useful lives e.g. boilers and heating equipment within swimming-pools and leisure centres. These components are recognised by adjusting the useful life of the building to take account of the shorter life components.

For the remaining buildings, based on a review of the nature and type of buildings which the Council owns, these are deemed to have no significant items of plant and equipment or engineering services that need to be componentised separately.

Depreciation is generally charged on the Balance Sheet value of assets to write them off as follows:

(i) Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment are depreciated over their estimated useful life (3–15 years)
(ii) Infrastructure is depreciated over 40 years
(iii) Revenue Expenditure funded from Capital under Statute is written down in the period in which it arises
(iv) Land is not depreciated
(v) Buildings are depreciated over their estimated remaining useful life (5–80 years)
(vi) Investment Properties, Assets under Construction and Assets Held for Sale are not depreciated

Depreciation is not charged in the year of acquisition.

Minimum Revenue Provision

The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/588 (W.59)) place a duty on local authorities to make a prudent provision for debt redemption. Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision has been issued by the Welsh Ministers and local authorities are required to "have regard" to such Guidance under section 21(1B) of the Local Government Act 2003.

The four MRP options available are:

- Option 1: Regulatory Method
- Option 2: CFR Method
- Option 3: Asset Life Method
- Option 4: Depreciation Method

NB This does not preclude other prudent methods.

MRP in 2016/17: Options 1 and 2 may be used only for supported (i.e. financing costs deemed to be supported through Revenue Support Grant from Central Government) Non-HRA capital expenditure funded from borrowing. Methods of making prudent provision for unsupported Non-HRA capital expenditure include Options 3 and 4 (which may also be used for supported Non-HRA capital expenditure if the Council chooses).

The MRP Statement was submitted to Council before the start of the 2016/17 financial year. If it is ever proposed to vary the terms of the original MRP Statement during the year, a revised statement should be put to Council at that time.

The Council applied Option 1 in respect of supported capital expenditure funded from borrowing, and Option 3 in respect of unsupported capital expenditure funded from borrowing.

MRP in respect of leases and Private Finance Initiative schemes brought on Balance Sheet under the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) based Accounting Code of Practice matches the annual principal repayment for the associated deferred liability.

The Authority will be reviewing this policy annually in light of the Asset Management Plan.

In accordance with the Code of Practice, revenue financing of capital expenditure on Council Fund Services is appropriated to the Capital Adjustment Account.

NOTE 1 – ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.18 Non-Distributed Costs

The items that are excluded from the service items' total costing are defined as Non-Distributed Costs and include the cost of discretionary benefits awarded to employees retiring early and impairment losses chargeable on assets held for sale. They are shown in the Corporate row of the CIES.

1.19 Provisions

The Council sets aside provisions for specific obligations which are likely or certain to be incurred but the amount of which cannot yet be determined accurately. Provisions are also made for doubtful debts. Known uncollectable debts are written off against the relevant service. The Council classifies these provisions as long-term or short-term liabilities as appropriate according to the nature of each provision.

1.20 Reserves (and Balances)

In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1992, the Council maintains a –

- General Fund which represents the general reserves ("balances") of the Authority, namely a working balance to help cushion the impact of uneven cash flows and as a contingency to cushion the impact of unexpected events or emergencies.

- Number of capital and revenue Specific Reserves earmarked for specific purposes, namely, money accumulated to meet anticipated commitments. The Council undertakes a continuous review of the adequacy and use of specific reserves.

The Council takes a risk-based approach to maintaining an adequate level of balances and reserves to meet future spending needs. When considering the annual budget and medium-term financial strategy, the Council will set out its intention regarding the level of general balances and reserves, in the context of all relevant risks. Refer to the approval of the full policy in respect of reserves by the Council Cabinet on 23 June 2015.

- Certain reserves, namely "unusable reserves", are kept for the technical purpose of managing the accounting processes for non-current assets, financial instruments and employee benefits. These do not represent the usable resources of the Authority.

1.21 Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute

Legislation allows some expenditure to be classified as capital for funding purposes when it does not result in the expenditure being carried on the Balance Sheet as an asset. The purpose of this is to enable it to be funded from capital resources rather than be charged to the General Fund and impact on that year's Council Tax. This type of expenditure is valued at historical cost and written down over a year.

1.22 Value Added Tax

Only in a situation when VAT is irrecoverable will VAT be included or charged as 'irrecoverable VAT' in capital and revenue expenditure.

1.23 Debtors and Creditors

The Council's Accounts are maintained on an accruals basis in accordance with the Code of Accounting Practice. The accounts reflect actual expenditure and income relating to the year in question irrespective of whether the payments or receipts have actually been paid or received in the year.

An exception to this principle relates to electricity and similar quarterly payments which are charged at the date of meter reading rather than being apportioned between financial years, and certain annual payments such as insurance. This policy is consistently applied each year and therefore does not have a material effect on the year's accounts.

1.24 Allocation of Interest Received

The Authority invests surplus funds for periods varying from overnight to 13 months (with the exception of Covered Bonds) and the interest is credited to the General Fund, Gwynedd Pension Fund, Welsh Church Fund and other trust funds based on the level of their daily balances and the rate of interest earned.

NOTE 1 – ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.25 Borrowing Costs
The Authority does not capitalise borrowing costs attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of a qualifying asset as permitted by the Code.

Interest payable on external loans is included in the accounts in the period to which it relates on a basis which reflects the overall economic effect of the borrowings.

1.26 Interest in Companies and Other Entities
In the Authority's accounts, the interests in companies and other entities are recorded as financial assets at cost, less any provision for losses.

1.27 Current Assets Held for Sale
In order for an asset to be recognised as Held for Sale, the asset must be available for immediate sale in its present condition, the sale must be highly probable, the asset must be actively marketed and the sale completed within one year from the date of classification. The asset is recognised at fair value (market value) less costs to sell on reclassification. Values are based on specific techniques, and the inputs to these measurement techniques are categorised in accordance with three levels. All the Authority's inputs are level 3 (unobservable inputs for the asset). This is due to the level of adjustment required to all evidence due to the uniqueness of the assets, and the dearth of relevant market transactions.

1.28 Disposal of Assets
When an asset is disposed of, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals (if any) are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement 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.

1.29 Capital Receipts
When the Authority sells an asset, legislation prescribes the use of the proceeds received.

All capital receipts that belong to the Council's Fund are 100% usable and it is no longer necessary to set aside a percentage of the receipt. The receipts are held in the Usable Capital Receipts Reserve until such time as they are used to finance capital expenditure.

1.30 Accounting for the Costs of the Carbon Reduction Commitment Scheme
The Authority is subject to the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme. Authorities participating in the scheme are required to purchase and surrender allowances, currently retrospectively, on the basis of emissions i.e. carbon dioxide produced as energy is used.

1.31 Cost Relating to Equal Pay Claims
A reserve is contained within the Authority's Accounts in respect of the cost of Equal Pay Claims and reflects the best estimate of potential cost as at 31 March 2017.

1.32 Landfill Allowances Scheme
The Landfill Allowances Scheme operates under the Landfill Allowances Scheme (Wales) Regulations 2004. Local Authorities are allocated annual allowances for the maximum amount of biodegradable municipal waste that can be sent to landfill. For each ton of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill in excess of the allowance a Local Authority may be liable to a penalty of £200 per ton. It is not a "cap and trade" scheme since landfill allowances are not tradable in Wales. For this reason, landfill allowances are not recognised as assets on the Balance Sheet. Gwynedd Council was within its landfill allowance in 2016/17.

1.33 Service Concession Arrangements
Service Concession Arrangements, otherwise known as Private Finance Initiative (PFI) schemes, are agreements to receive services, where the responsibility for making available the property, plant and equipment needed to provide the services passes to the PFI contractor for the duration of the contract but where the assets transfer to the Authority at the end of the period without any additional cost. The Authority controls the service that is provided

and is able to control who else is able to use the facility. The cost of using the facility is agreed with the Company before setting the agreement through a Competitive Dialogue process.

1.34 Joint Operations

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

1.35 Schools

The *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom* confirms that the balance of control for local authority maintained schools (i.e. those categories of school identified in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, as amended) lies with the local authority. The Code also stipulates that those schools' assets, liabilities, reserves and cash flows are recognised in the local authority financial statements (and not the Group Accounts). Therefore schools' transactions, cash flows and balances are recognised in each of the financial statements of the Authority as if they were the transactions, cash flows and balances of the Authority.

1.36 Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates

Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates income for the year is treated as accrued income, and is included within the Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Gwynedd Council is a Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates billing authority. It collects Council Tax on behalf of itself and other authorities, and collects Non-Domestic Rates as an agent on behalf of Welsh Government.

1.37 Fair Value

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

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

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

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

The Authority uses valuation techniques that are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data is available, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising the use of unobservable inputs.

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

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

NOTE 1 – ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.38 Other Policies

Gwynedd Council has policies in respect of the following, but they are not considered material for the 2016/17 financial year:

- Intangible Assets
- Contingent Assets
- Foreign Currency Conversion.

NOTE 2 – CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING POLICY

There were no changes to accounting policies during the 2016/17 financial year.

NOTE 3 – PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENTS

There are no prior period adjustments during 2016/17.

NOTE 4 – ACCOUNTING STANDARDS THAT HAVE BEEN ISSUED BUT HAVE NOT YET BEEN ADOPTED

The CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom requires the expected impact of any accounting standards that have been issued but not yet adopted to be disclosed.

The related accounting standards in the 2017/18 Code of Practice affect statements within the Pension accounts.

The Code requires implementation from 1 April 2017 and there is therefore no impact on the 2016/17 Statement of Accounts, and none of the new or amended standards within the 2017/18 Code are expected to have a material impact on the information provided in the financial statements. However, CIPFA has determined that there will be a change in the presentation of the Narrative Report so that the content adheres to specific principles.

NOTE 5 – CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 1, the Authority has had to make judgements, estimates and assumptions relating to complex transactions, those involving uncertainty about future events and also the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources.

The judgements, estimates and associated assumptions applied are based on current proper practices, historical experience, and other factors that include historical and current assumptions and projections, and actual future projections, professional assessments, current trends, and local factors that are considered to be relevant.

In recent years there has been some uncertainty about future levels of funding from Welsh Government relating to revenue and capital grants. This issue forms an important part of the Council's continually revised financial strategy, and where all known and forecasted factors are given due consideration.

All available and related information is sourced and applied in assessing and determining the position, which is particularly critical when considering such matters as the revaluation, depreciation and impairment of assets, actuarial valuation of pension fund assets and liabilities, earmarked reserves, provisions and contingent liability. However, because these issues cannot be determined with certainty, actual results may subsequently differ from those estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are continually reviewed.

NOTE 6 – ASSUMPTIONS MADE ABOUT FUTURE AND OTHER MAJOR SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

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

The following items in the Authority's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2017 may be considered to be a significant risk (in terms of certainty in estimation of value), with the possibility of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year:

- **Property, Plant and Equipment** – Assets are depreciated over their useful life in accordance with standard accounting and associated practices. Any difference between the depreciation applied and actual deterioration to assets will be naturally reflected in future spending patterns. The current economic climate brings with it uncertainties for councils in their ability to sustain the necessary spending on repair and maintenance. This obviously would have implications on asset life. Land and buildings are revalued at least every five years, and since 2015/16 a rolling programme of revaluation has been introduced. A number of judgements are required to be made as part of the revaluation and impairment assessment process. This brings with it uncertainties, and assumptions have to be made and responded to accordingly. Where necessary, any resultant long-term implications would be incorporated into our financial strategy. Information relating to Property, Plant and Equipment is contained in Note 15.

- **Provisions** – Various separate provisions, the basis of which have been individually assessed from the latest information available, are contained within these accounts as detailed in Note 22, and include provisions for items such as Waste Sites and certain insurance liability aspects. We are unable to confirm the accuracy of the provisions until such matters are concluded.

- **Pension Liability** – The Pension Liability position as contained within the accounts is based on a number of complex assessments and judgements and varying profiles such as discount rate used, projected salary levels, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets, as provided by Actuaries engaged by the Pension Fund. Further details are contained in Note 37 and 38.

- **Doubtful Debts Impairment** – A specific impairment level policy in respect of doubtful debts is contained within the accounts. The impairment level is reviewed regularly in order to respond to any changes in the economic climate, and necessary action taken as appropriate within the accounts to respond accordingly. Doubtful Debts impairments are contained within the figures for Short-Term Debtors contained in Note 18.

NOTE 7 – MATERIAL ITEMS OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

Material items of income and expense include the following:-

- £51m on pensions, being the remeasurements of the net defined benefit assets relating to pensions, in line with Gwynedd Pension Fund's Actuary's assessment (Note 23).
- Following a revaluation of part of the Council's land and buildings portfolio (which is now carried out on a rolling programme basis), a net surplus of £7m on the revaluation of property, plant and equipment assets (Note 15 and 23).

NOTE 8 – NOTE TO THE EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS

2016/17	ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN FUNDING AND ACCOUNTING BASIS			
Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (i)	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments (ii)	Other Differences (iii)	Total Adjustments
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Education	0	0	0	0
Corporate Support	0	0	0	0
Finance	0	0	0	0
Economy and Community	0	0	0	0
Adults, Health and Wellbeing	0	0	0	0
Children and Family Support	0	0	0	0
Highways and Municipal (including Trunk Roads*)	1,681	0	0	1,681
Environment	0	0	0	0
Corporate Management Team and Legal	0	0	0	0
Gwynedd Consultancy	0	0	0	0
Corporate	21,842	(484)	507	21,865
Cost of Services	**23,523**	**(484)**	**507**	**23,546**
Other Operating Expenditure	694	0	0	694
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	(13,428)	6,243	(68)	(7,253)
Taxation and non-specific grant income	(9,288)	0	0	(9,288)
(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services	**1,501**	**5,759**	**439**	**7,699**

* Trunk Roads - Adjustments relating to the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency

NOTE 8 – NOTE TO THE EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS (continued)

2015/16	ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN FUNDING AND ACCOUNTING BASIS			
Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (i) £'000	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments (ii) £'000	Other Differences (iii) £'000	Total Adjustments £'000
Education	0	0	0	0
Corporate Support	0	0	0	0
Finance	0	0	0	0
Economy and Community	0	0	0	0
Adults, Health and Wellbeing	0	0	0	0
Children and Family Support	0	0	0	0
Highways and Municipal (including Trunk Roads*)	1,754	0	0	1,754
Environment	0	0	0	0
Corporate Management Team and Legal	0	0	0	0
Gwynedd Consultancy	0	0	0	0
Corporate	16,688	2,163	(395)	18,456
Cost of Services	**18,442**	**2,163**	**(395)**	**20,210**
Other Operating Expenditure	8,944	0	0	8,944
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	(17,622)	8,016	(83)	(9,689)
Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income	(13,970)	0	0	(13,970)
(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services	**(4,206)**	**10,179**	**(478)**	**5,495**

* Trunk Roads - Adjustments relating to the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency

(i) Adjustments for Capital Purposes

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

NOTE 8 – NOTE TO THE EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS (continued)

(ii) Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments

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

- For **Services,** this represents the removal of the employer pension contributions made by the authority as allowed by statute and the replacement with current service costs and past service costs.
- For **Financing and investment income and expenditure –-** the net interest on the defined benefit liability is charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

(iii) Other Differences

Other differences between amounts debited/credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and amounts payable/receivable to be recognised under statute:

- For **Services**, this represents an adjustment for accumulated absences earned but not taken during the year.
- For **Financing and investment income and expenditure,** the other differences column recognises adjustments to the General Fund for the timing differences for premiums and discounts.

NOTE 9 – ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATIONS

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

2016-17 ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATIONS	Usable Reserves			
	General Fund Balance	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adjustments to the Revenue Resources				
Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements				
Pensions costs (transferred to (or from) the Pensions Reserve)	(5,759)	0	0	5,759
Financial instruments (transferred to the Financial Instruments Adjustments Account)	75	0	0	(75)
Holiday pay (transferred to (or from) the Accumulated Absences Reserve)	(543)	0	0	543
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure (these items are charged to the Capital Adjustment Account)	(14,929)	0	0	14,929
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	**(21,156)**	**0**	**0**	**21,156**
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources				
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	29	(1,632)	0	1,603
Revenue provision for the financing of supported capital investment	5,593	0	0	(5,593)
Revenue provision for the financing of unsupported capital investment	1,863	0	0	(1,863)
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)	5,972	0	0	(5,972)
Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources	**13,457**	**(1,632)**	**0**	**(11,825)**
Adjustments to Capital Resources				
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure	0	770	0	(770)
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	0	0	61	(61)
Cash payments in relation to deferred capital receipts	0	0	0	0
Total Adjustments to Capital Resources	**0**	**770**	**61**	**(831)**
TOTAL ADJUSTMENTS	**(7,699)**	**(862)**	**61**	**8,500**

2015-16

ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATIONS

	Usable Reserves			
	General Fund Balance	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adjustments to the Revenue Resources				
Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements				
Pensions costs (transferred to (or from) the Pensions Reserve)	(10,179)	0	0	10,179
Financial instruments (transferred to (or from) the Financial Instruments Adjustments Account)	49	0	0	(49)
Holiday pay (transferred to the Accumulated Absences Reserve)	428	0	0	(428)
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure (these items are charged to the Capital Adjustment Account)	(13,402)	0	0	13,402
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	**(23,104)**	**0**	**0**	**23,104**
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources				
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(14)	(927)	0	941
Revenue provision for the financing of supported capital investment	5,641	0	0	(5,641)
Revenue provision for the financing of unsupported capital investment	1,734	0	0	(1,734)
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)	10,248	0	0	(10,248)
Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources	**17,609**	**(927)**	**0**	**(16,682)**
Adjustments to Capital Resources				
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure	0	1,622	0	(1,622)
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	0	0	1,484	(1,484)
Cash payments in relation to deferred capital receipts	0	(2)	0	2
Total Adjustments to Capital Resources	**0**	**1,620**	**1,484**	**(3,104)**
TOTAL ADJUSTMENTS	**(5,495)**	**693**	**1,484**	**3,318**

NOTE 10 – TRANSFERS TO/FROM EARMARKED RESERVES

School Balances

This sum is represented by the element of balances released under the delegation of budgets directly to schools which remained unspent at the end of the financial year, and is a net reduction of £458k as compared to the balance on 31 March 2016:

2016/17	Balance	Transfers			Balance
	31 March 2016	between reserves	in	out	31 March 2017
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
School Balances	3,337	0	735	(1,193)	2,879
Total	**3,337**	**0**	**735**	**(1,193)**	**2,879**

NOTE 10 – TRANSFERS TO/FROM EARMARKED RESERVES (continued)

Earmarked Reserves

The note below sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund in earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans, and the amounts posted back from earmarked reserves to meet General Fund expenditure in 2016/17, with a net reduction of £2.5m since the 31 March 2016 position.

Note	2016-17	Balance 31 March 2016	Transfers between reserves	Transfers in	Transfers out	Balance 31 March 2017
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
10.1	Renewals Reserves	2,477	0	2,395	(2,079)	2,793
10.2	Capital Reserve	9,458	0	1,120	(757)	9,821
10.3	Insurance Reserve	2,035	0	800	(1,026)	1,809
10.4	Services Fund	4,750	(572)	762	(563)	4,377
10.5	Convergence Programme Fund	211	0	0	(78)	133
10.6	Redundancy Costs to Realise Savings Reserve	3,870	0	300	(369)	3,801
10.7	Central Training	255	10	35	0	300
10.8	Education Service Reserves	994	0	255	(324)	925
10.9	Economy and Community Reserves	67	134	246	(29)	418
10.10	Highways and Municipal Reserves	1,275	0	22	(295)	1,002
10.11	Waste Developments Reserves	278	0	0	(84)	194
10.12	Gwynedd Consultancy Reserves	361	(176)	0	0	185
10.13	Environment Reserves	810	35	11	(336)	520
10.14	Major Maintenance Work on County Roads Fund	420	0	0	(420)	0
10.15	Care Reserves	167	(18)	1,355	(43)	1,461
10.16	Ffordd Gwynedd Fund	334	0	42	0	376
10.17	Invest to Save Fund - Carbon Reduction Plan	484	(28)	62	(209)	309
10.18	Transformation / Invest to Save Fund	9,768	14	749	(1,988)	8,543
10.19	Committed Revenue Grants Fund	303	41	187	(45)	486
10.20	Contracts Tendering Fund	367	(150)	0	0	217
10.21	Housing Water and Sewerage Services Fund	606	0	0	(114)	492
10.22	Housing Environmental Warranty	480	0	0	0	480
10.23	Information Technology Reserve	365	0	173	(162)	376
10.24	Preparatory Work for European Grant Funding Schemes	150	0	0	(75)	75
10.25	Supporting the Financial Strategy Reserve	2,780	998	760	(2,778)	1,760
10.26	Welfare Fund	742	(200)	0	(320)	222
10.27	Electronic Document and Records Management System Fund	76	0	0	(75)	1
10.28	Partnering Arrangements	338	0	230	(46)	522
10.29	Liabilities Related to the Pension Fund	240	0	394	0	634
10.30	Council Tax Property Transfer Reserve	490	0	0	0	490
10.31	Bridges Inspection and Assessment Reserve	150	(35)	0	(115)	0
10.32	Various Other Reserves	978	(53)	218	(275)	868
	Total	**46,079**	**0**	**10,116**	**(12,605)**	**43,590**

Earmarked reserves closing balance as at 31 March 2017 does not reflect the level of commitments against them. Details are given below of the Council's main specific reserves.

NOTE 10 – TRANSFERS TO/FROM EARMARKED RESERVES (continued)

10.1 The Renewals Reserves are used by the various departments of the Council to replace vehicles and equipment.

10.2 The Capital Reserve represents resources already committed to finance part of the Council's Capital Programme.

10.3 Gwynedd Council does not insure all risks with external insurers but instead it has established an internal reserve to meet those uninsured risks. The balance on the Insurance Reserve also includes an element relating to the relevant insurance requirements of the former Gwynedd County Council (pre 1996) and which is administered by Gwynedd Council.

10.4 The Services Fund represents the element of slippages and underspend that service departments have the right to carry forward for use in the subsequent financial year, other relevant specific budgets and one-off budgets that extend over more than one year.

10.5 Convergence Programme Fund - fund was created for additional capital or revenue costs which arise from the requirements to develop plans under the convergence programme.

10.6 Redundancy Costs to Realise Savings Reserve – provision for financing redundancy costs to realise budgetary savings.

10.7 Central Training – relates to the Council's staff training programme.

10.8 Education Service Reserves – includes sums set aside to respond to related financial problems with 'Integration' requirements, changeable demands in 'Out of County – Special Educational Needs', 'Supporting Schools' and the 'Schools Loans Scheme'.

10.9 The Economy and Community Reserves include a number of balances relating to schemes operating on a partnership basis, mainly where the scheme balances must be accounted for separately.

10.10 The Highways and Municipal Reserves include mostly sums set aside to protect situations of uneven income and expenditure (equalisation accounts) and likely requirements from contracts.

10.11 The Waste Development Reserve is for relevant commitments and developments in the waste field including our commitment to the North Wales Residual Waste Partnership.

10.12 Gwynedd Consultancy Reserves – includes amounts set aside to protect against situations of uneven expenditure on some works field and possible additional employment requirements resulting from changes in the Consultancy Service's work programme.

10.13 Environment Reserves – include a number of balances relating to schemes operating mainly on a partnership basis, and where the scheme balances must be accounted for separately, together with specific requirements relating to the Local Development Plan, and amounts for uneven expenditure situation.

10.14 Major Maintenance Work on County Roads Fund – to support the cost of large maintenance work on county roads.

10.15 Care Reserves – includes amounts set aside to protect against possible situations of uneven expenditure due to contract requirements.

10.16 Ffordd Gwynedd Fund – to aid the business transformation process, realise savings and assist the Council to achieve "Ffordd Gwynedd" aims and objectives.

NOTE 10 – TRANSFERS TO/FROM EARMARKED RESERVES (continued)

10.17 Invest to Save Fund – Carbon Reduction Plan – partly funding the Carbon Reduction Plan programme of works to reduce carbon emissions whilst generating monetary revenue savings for the Council.

10.18 Transformation / Invest to Save Fund – in order to transform the Council's internal procedures to be more effective and efficient, and to invest in various schemes to realise permanent financial savings.

10.19 Committed Revenue Grants Fund – includes revenue grants received and committed for future use.

10.20 Contracts Tendering Fund – in response to uneven spending situations as a result of the tendering process for transport.

10.21 Housing Water and Sewerage Services Fund – amounts reserved for requirements relating to sewerage procedures, water piping and sewage treatment work on old council housing estates, which were not adopted by Welsh Water.

10.22 Housing Environmental Warranty – reserved for possible implications as a result of giving environmental warranties to Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd, in connection with specific and special circumstances that relate to environmental plans on the land of old council housing estates.

10.23 Information Technology Reserve – for responding to the demands in the information technology field, including a renewals fund, and to respond to uneven patterns of expenditure.

10.24 Preparatory Work for European Grant Funding Schemes – provision towards the cost of preparing business cases to attract European funding sources and grants.

10.25 Supporting the Financial Strategy Reserve – a fund established to assist and support the Council's financial strategy.

10.26 Welfare Fund - provision to respond to uneven patterns in the related requirements.

10.27 Electronic Document and Records Management System (EDRMS) - provision for the work programme related to the documents and records management system.

10.28 Partnership Arrangements – includes amounts allocated in relation to various requirements of partnerships and joint working.

10.29 Liabilities Related to the Pension Fund – for various future requirements and commitments.

10.30 Council Tax Property Transfer Reserve – provision relating to the implications of properties transferring from Council Tax to National Domestic Rates.

10.31 Bridges Inspection and Assessment Reserve – develop an arrangement for the inspection and assessment of the condition of our bridges, culverts and some retaining walls.

10.32 Various Other Reserves – includes amounts set aside to meet a variety of other commitments.

NOTE 11 – OTHER OPERATING EXPENDITURE

2015/16		2016/17
£'000		£'000
1,677	**Community Council's Precepts**	1,829
	Levies	
11,733	North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner	11,990
5,603	North Wales Fire Authority	5,598
1,016	Snowdonia National Park Authority	962
68	Local Drainage Boards	87
18,420		18,637
8,945	(Gains)/losses on the disposal and de-recognition of non-current assets	694
29,042	**Total**	**21,160**

NOTE 12 – FINANCING AND INVESTMENT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

2015/16		2016/17
£'000		£'000
6,400	Interest payable and similar charges	6,380
8,013	Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/(asset)	6,243
(370)	Interest receivable and similar income	(313)
14,043	**Total**	**12,310**

NOTE 13 – TAXATION AND NON-SPECIFIC GRANT INCOME

2015/16		*Note*	2016/17
£'000			£'000
(71,880)	Council Tax Income	*13a*	(74,640)
(35,646)	Non-Domestic Rates	*13b*	(37,158)
(133,950)	Non-ring-fenced Government Grants	*32*	(129,800)
(13,970)	Capital Grants and Contributions	*32*	(9,288)
(255,446)	**Total**		**(250,886)**

NOTE 13a - COUNCIL TAX

The Council determines its expenditure requirement for the year and converts it to a Band D Council Tax by dividing this sum by a calculation of the number of properties in each Council Tax band converted into the equivalent number of properties in Band D (The Council Tax Base). The North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner's requirement is then added to this amount to establish the County's Council Tax.

The Council Tax Base for 2016/17 was calculated as follows:-

CALCULATION OF THE COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR 2016/17

Valuation Bands	Number of Properties following discounts	Statutory Multiplier	Equivalent Band D Properties
A*	8	5/9	4.17
A	7,347	6/9	4,898.05
B	13,287	7/9	10,334.08
C	10,587	8/9	9,410.92
D	9,188	1	9,187.82
E	7,340	11/9	8,970.63
F	3,622	13/9	5,231.06
G	1,163	15/9	1,938.33
H	164	18/9	328.00
I	56	21/9	130.08
		Total	50,433.14
Council Tax base after allowing for losses on collection			49,928.81

An analysis of the net income accruing to the Council is given below:-

2015/16 £'000		2016/17 £'000
(72,323)	Council Tax raised	(74,750)
443	**Less** Increase in the provision for bad debts	110
(71,880)		(74,640)

NOTE 13b - NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES

National Non-Domestic Rates ("Business Rates") are managed by the Government but local authorities are responsible for their collection and for paying them to a central pool run by the Welsh Government. They subsequently allocate amounts from the pool to Local Authorities, on a population basis.

NOTE 13b - NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES (continued)

The Government sets the National Non-Domestic rate for the year (48.6p in 2016/17) which is then multiplied by the rateable value of the property. Subject to the effects of transitional arrangements and some other reductions, this is the amount payable by the ratepayer.

At the end of the 2016/17 financial year there were 7,593 properties on the local valuation list in Gwynedd, representing a rateable value of £101,816,158.

An analysis of the net income accruing to the Council from National Non-Domestic Rates is as follows:-

2015/16 £'000		2016/17 £'000
(37,136)	National Non-Domestic Rate raised	(37,789)
375	Cost of Collection allowance	381
289	Provision for Bad Debts	331
36,472	Sum paid to the National Pool	37,077
0		0
(35,646)	Receipts from the National Pool	(37,158)
(35,646)	**Net Income from Non-Domestic Rates**	(37,158)

NOTE 14 – BUILDING CONTROL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

This account shows the expenditure and income which relate to the building regulations checking and supervision function, including consideration of any enforcement action but not the service of notices under the provisions of the Building Act 1984.

The account is expected to break-even over a three-year rolling period, and this requirement is reviewed annually. There was a surplus in 2016/17 and it can be seen that there is an accumulated surplus over the three-year period.

2016/17	£'000
Total charges income received (excluding VAT)	(450)
Total expenditure incurred	430
(Surplus)/Deficit for 2016/17	(20)
(Surplus)/Deficit for 2015/16	(2)
(Surplus)/Deficit for 2014/15	(2)
(Surplus)/Deficit for the last three years	**(24)**

NOTE 15 – PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Movements on Property, Plant and Equipment Balances

Movements in 2016/17:

	Land and Buildings	Infrastructure	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	Community Assets	Surplus Assets	Assets under construction	Total Property, Plant and Equipment
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Value							
Balance at 01.04.16	272,021	193,750	38,395	1,073	2,581	10,351	518,171
Additions	5,487	4,422	3,006	17	3	11,414	24,349
Sales	(1,798)	0	(800)	0	(407)	0	(3,005)
Transfers	16,336	0	0	0	(69)	(16,258)	9
Revaluation - to Revaluation Reserve	1,855	0	0	0	0	0	1,855
Revaluation - to Services	(2,461)	0	0	0	0	0	(2,461)
Balance at 31.03.17	**291,440**	**198,172**	**40,601**	**1,090**	**2,108**	**5,507**	**538,918**
Depreciation							
Balance at 01.04.16	4,055	33,992	20,736	9	1	0	58,793
Depreciation in year	4,685	5,223	3,555	1	2	0	13,466
Sales	(102)	0	(780)	0	0	0	(882)
Transfers	0	0	0	0	(1)	0	(1)
Revaluation	(3,848)	0	0	0	0	0	(3,848)
Balance at 31.03.17	**4,790**	**39,215**	**23,511**	**10**	**2**	**0**	**67,528**
Impairment							
Balance at 01.04.16	32,132	63	68	230	63	0	32,556
Impairment in year - to Revaluation Reserve	2,374	0	0	0	0	0	2,374
Impairment in year - to Services	4,859	0	0	0	5	0	4,864
Sales	(175)	0	0	0	0	0	(175)
Transfers	0	0	0	0	(1)	0	(1)
Revaluation	(3,954)	0	0	0	0	0	(3,954)
Balance at 31.03.17	**35,236**	**63**	**68**	**230**	**67**	**0**	**35,664**
Net Book Value 31 March 2017	**251,414**	**158,894**	**17,022**	**850**	**2,039**	**5,507**	**435,726**
Net Book Value 31 March 2016	**235,834**	**159,695**	**17,591**	**834**	**2,517**	**10,351**	**426,822**

NOTE 15 – PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (continued)

Comparative Movements in 2015/16:

	Land and Buildings	Infrastructure	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	Community Assets	Surplus Assets	Assets under construction	Total Property, Plant and Equipment
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Value							
Balance at 01.04.15	265,717	182,294	34,926	1,036	2,731	17,161	503,865
Additions	9,844	2,830	4,658	37	17	13,408	30,794
Sales	(9,636)	0	(1,189)	0	(48)	0	(10,873)
Transfers	11,244	8,626	0	0	0	(20,218)	(348)
Revaluation - to Revaluation Reserve	(5,344)	0	0	0	(89)	0	(5,433)
Revaluation - to Services	196	0	0	0	(30)	0	166
Balance at 31.03.16	**272,021**	**193,750**	**38,395**	**1,073**	**2,581**	**10,351**	**518,171**
Depreciation							
Balance at 01.04.15	5,409	29,456	18,565	8	21	0	53,459
Depreciation in year	4,340	4,536	3,331	1	0	0	12,208
Sales	(51)	0	(1,160)	0	0	0	(1,211)
Transfers	(13)	0	0	0	0	0	(13)
Revaluation	(5,630)	0	0	0	(20)	0	(5,650)
Balance at 31.03.16	**4,055**	**33,992**	**20,736**	**9**	**1**	**0**	**58,793**
Impairment							
Balance at 01.04.15	34,862	63	68	230	66	20	35,309
Impairment in year - to Revaluation Reserve	3,274	0	0	0	9	0	3,283
Impairment in year - to Services	3,442	0	0	0	8	0	3,450
Sales	(257)	0	0	0	(18)	0	(275)
Transfers	19	0	0	0	0	(20)	(1)
Revaluation	(9,208)	0	0	0	(2)	0	(9,210)
Balance at 31.03.16	**32,132**	**63**	**68**	**230**	**63**	**0**	**32,556**
Net Book Value 31 March 2016	**235,834**	**159,695**	**17,591**	**834**	**2,517**	**10,351**	**426,822**
Net Book Value 31 March 2015	**225,446**	**152,775**	**16,293**	**798**	**2,644**	**17,141**	**415,097**

NOTE 15 – PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (continued)

The Council's operational Land and Buildings were fully revalued by the Council's Corporate Property Manager (M.R.I.C.S) in accordance with the policies noted in section 1.17 of Note 1 of the Accounting Policies. It was noted that the Authority has established a rolling programme for revaluing different categories of these assets annually. Refer to this note also for the basis of depreciation on various categories of assets.

14 Church Schools are used in the education service and are not shown in the table above as they are not owned by the Council. The Council is responsible for their repair and maintenance but the amounts are not significant. For information purposes, the Cae Top School in Bangor is currently regarded as a Council-owned asset in our accounts, and not a church school. The legal status of this asset is subject to a legal review which may affect its treatment in future accounts.

The sources of finance for the assets acquired during the year are shown with the information on capital expenditure in the narrative report.

Capital Commitments

Significant commitments under capital contracts at 31 March 2017 were as follows:

	Sum	Payments to date	Balance
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Ysgol Y Berwyn - extension and refurbishment	8,897	2,857	6,040
New Glan Cegin School	4,439	2,333	2,106
Dolgellau Primary School - extension and adaptations	2,194	936	1,258

NOTE 16 – INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

The following items of income and expense have been accounted for in the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:

	2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000
Rental income from investment property	26	3
Net gain/(loss)	**26**	**3**

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

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

	2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000
Balance 1 April	**247**	**247**
Net gains/(losses) from fair value adjustments	0	0
Transfers:		
to/(from) Property, Plant and Equipment	0	(50)
Balance 31 March	**247**	**197**

NOTE 17 – FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

(a) Financial Instruments - Classifications

A financial instrument is a contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. Non-exchange transactions, such as those relating to taxes and government grants, do not give rise to financial instruments.

Financial Liabilities

A financial liability is an obligation to transfer economic benefits controlled by the Council and can be represented by a contractual obligation to deliver cash or financial assets or an obligation to exchange financial assets and liabilities with another entity that are potentially unfavourable to the Council.

The Council's non-derivative financial liabilities held during the year are measured at amortised cost and comprised:

- long-term loans from the Public Works Loan Board and commercial lenders
- Service Concession Arrangements (Private Finance Initiative (PFI)) contracts detailed in Note 41
- overdraft with Barclays Bank plc
- trade payables for goods and services received

Financial Assets

A financial asset is a right to future economic benefits controlled by the Council that is represented by cash or other instruments or a contractual right to receive cash or another financial asset. The financial assets held by the Council during the year are held under the following three classifications:

Loans and receivables (financial assets that have fixed or determinable payments and are not quoted in an active market) comprising:

- cash
- bank accounts
- fixed term deposits with banks and building societies
- loans to other local authorities
- trade receivables for goods and services delivered

Available-for-sale financial assets (those that are quoted in an active market) comprising:

- money market funds and other collective investment schemes
- certificates of deposit issued by banks and building societies
- bonds issued by multilateral development banks and UK companies

Assets held at fair value through profit and loss comprising:

- equity investment in a local waste company

(b) Financial Instruments - Balances

The financial liabilities disclosed in the Balance Sheet are analysed across the following categories:

Financial Liabilities	**Long-Term**		**Short-Term**	
	31 March 2016 £'000	**31 March 2017 £'000**	**31 March 2016 £'000**	**31 March 2017 £'000**
Loans at amortised cost:				
Principal sum borrowed	110,676	108,143	2,060	2,702
Accrued interest	0	0	697	633
Total Borrowing	**110,676**	**108,143**	**2,757**	**3,335**
Loans at amortised cost:				
Bank overdraft	0	0	39,430	30,035
Total Cash Overdrawn	**0**	**0**	**39,430**	**30,035**
Liabilities at amortised cost:				
Trade Payables	0	0	0	0
Finance Leases	2,127	1,993	0	0
Total other Long-Term Liabilities	**2,127**	**1,993**	**0**	**0**
Liabilities at amortised cost:				
Trade Payables	0	0	53,722	54,912
Finance Leases	0	0	126	134
Included within Creditors*	**0**	**0**	**53,848**	**55,046**
Total Financial Liabilities	**112,803**	**110,136**	**96,035**	**88,416**

* The short-term creditors line on the Balance Sheet includes £1,927,000 (£838,000 at 31 March 2016) creditors (Note 21) that do not meet the definition of a financial liability.

NOTE 17 – FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

The financial assets disclosed in the Balance Sheet are analysed across the following categories:

Financial Assets	Long-Term		Short-Term	
	31 March 2016 £'000	31 March 2017 £'000	31 March 2016 £'000	31 March 2017 £'000
Loans and Receivables:				
Principal at amortised cost	17	17	50,000	26,000
Accrued interest	0	0	55	44
Available-for-sale investments:				
Principal at amortised cost	2,324	2,154	0	0
Total Investments	**2,341**	**2,171**	**50,055**	**26,044**
Loans and Receivables:				
Cash	0	0	59	59
Cash equivalents at amortised cost	0	0	14,132	1,325
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	**0**	**0**	**14,191**	**1,384**
Loans and Receivables:				
Trade Receivables	4,301	4,094	17,960	32,341
Included in Debtors*	**4,301**	**4,094**	**17,960**	**32,341**
Total Financial Assets	**6,642**	**6,265**	**82,206**	**59,769**

* The short-term debtors line on the Balance Sheet includes £22,547,000 (£14,565,000 at 31 March 2016) debtors (Note 18) that do not meet the definition of a financial asset.

Material Soft Loans

Local Authorities are allowed to make loans for policy reasons rather than as financial instruments and these loans may be interest-free or at rates below prevailing market rates. Where loans are advanced at below market rates, they are classed as "Soft Loans".

The fair values of such a soft loan are less than the amount of the cash lent. The fair value of a loan at nil interest rate or below the prevailing market rate is estimated as the present value of all future cash receipts discounted using the prevailing market rate of interest for a similar instrument. The sum by which the amount lent exceeds the fair value of the loan is charged to the Income and Expenditure Statement. The 2016/17 Code of Practice sets out specific accounting and disclosure requirements for soft loans. During 2016/17 Gwynedd Council identified the following "soft loans":

- Deferred Payments on charges due from people under care (amount outstanding at 31.03.17 £2,027,329)
- Car and Bike Loans to employees (amount outstanding at 31.03.17 £951,760)

It has been determined that the few "soft loans" that the Council has require no separate disclosure, as they are de-minimis.

NOTE 17 – FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

Offsetting Financial Assets and Liabilities

Financial assets and liabilities are set off against each other where the Council has a legally enforceable right to set off and it intends to settle on a net basis, or to realise the assets and settle the liability simultaneously. The table below shows those instruments that have been offset on the Balance Sheet. The Council had no other financial assets or liabilities subject to an enforceable master netting arrangement or similar agreement.

	2015/16			2016/17		
	Gross assets (liabilities)	(Liabilities) assets set off	Net position on Balance Sheet	Gross assets (liabilities)	(Liabilities) assets set off	Net position on Balance Sheet
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Bank accounts in credit	0	0	0	13,065	(13,065)	0
Total Financial Assets	**0**	**0**	**0**	**13,065**	**(13,065)**	**0**
Bank overdraft	(39,430)	0	(39,430)	(43,100)	13,065	(30,035)
Total Financial Liabilities	**(39,430)**	**0**	**(39,430)**	**(43,100)**	**13,065**	**(30,035)**

(c) Financial Instruments - Gains and Losses

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

	Financial Liabilities	Financial Assets	
	Liabilities measured at amortised cost	Loans and Receivables	Total 2016/17
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Interest expense	6,380	0	6,380
Interest payable and similar charges	**6,380**	**0**	**6,380**
Interest income	0	(311)	(311)
Interest and investment income	**0**	**(311)**	**(311)**
Net (gain)/loss for the year	**6,380**	**(311)**	**6,069**

(d) Financial Instruments - Fair Values

Financial assets classified as loans and receivables and all non-derivative financial liabilities 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 2017, using the following assumptions:

- PWLB loans have been discounted at the published interest rates for new PWLB certainty rate loans with an identical remaining term to maturity arranged on 31 March.
- 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.
- No early repayment or impairment is recognised.

NOTE 17 – FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

- The fair value of short-term instruments, including trade payables and receivables, is assumed to approximate to the carrying amount.
- In the case of deferred liabilities (such as finance leases) the Authority deems the carrying amount to be a reasonable approximation of the fair value.

	Carrying Amount 31 March 2016 £'000	Fair Value 31 March 2016 £'000	Carrying Amount 31 March 2017 £'000	Fair Value 31 March 2017 £'000
Financial Liabilities:				
Loans borrowed	(113,434)	(170,173)	(111,478)	(181,814)
Finance leases	(2,127)	(2,127)	(2,127)	(2,127)
Trade Payables	(53,722)	(53,722)	(54,912)	(54,912)
Total Financial Liabilities	**(169,283)**	**(226,022)**	**(168,517)**	**(238,853)**
Financial Assets:				
Long-term investments	2,341	2,341	2,171	2,171
Short-term investments	50,000	50,055	26,000	26,044
Trade Receivables	17,960	17,960	32,341	32,341
Total Financial Assets	**70,301**	**70,356**	**60,512**	**60,556**

The fair value of long-term liabilities is higher than the carrying amount because the Authority's portfolio of loans includes a number of loans where the interest rate payable is higher than the current rates available for similar loans as at the Balance Sheet date.

The Council's investment portfolio at the Balance Sheet date consisted almost entirely of term deposits with Banks and Building Societies, and call/notice account deposits. The maturity dates of these investments were all within 12 months of the Balance Sheet date. The Council has two longer dated covered bonds maturing in 2018.

(e) Financial Instruments - Risks

The Council has adopted CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management (and subsequent amendments) and complies with The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (both revised in November 2011).

As part of the adoption of the Treasury Management Code, the Council approves a Treasury Management Strategy before the commencement of each financial year. The Strategy sets out the parameters for the management of risks associated with Financial Instruments. The Council also produces Treasury Management Practices specifying the practical arrangements to be followed to manage these risks.

The Treasury Management Strategy includes an Annual Investment Strategy in compliance with the Welsh Government's Investment Guidance for local authorities. This Guidance emphasises that priority is to be given to security and liquidity, rather than yield. The Council's Treasury Strategy, together with its Treasury Management Practices, is based on seeking the highest rate of return consistent with the proper levels of security and liquidity.

The main risks covered are:

- *Credit Risk:* The possibility that one party to a financial instrument will fail to meet its contractual obligations, causing a loss to the Council.
- *Liquidity Risk:* The possibility that the Council might not have the cash available to make contracted payments on time.
- *Market Risk:* The possibility that an unplanned financial loss will materialise because of changes in market variables such as interest rates or equity prices.

NOTE 17 – FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

Credit Risk: Investments

The Council manages credit risk by ensuring that investments are only placed with organisations of high credit quality as set out in the Treasury Management Strategy. During 2016/17 these include commercial entities with a minimum long-term credit rating of A-, the UK government, and other local authorities without credit ratings upon which the Council has received independent investment advice. Recognising that credit ratings are imperfect predictors of default, the Council has regard to other measures including credit default swap and equity prices when selecting commercial organisations for investment.

During 2016/17 a limit of 5% of the total portfolio was placed on the amount that can be invested with a single counterparty (reduced to £1m for some building societies and 2.5% for the RBS Group). The Council also set a total group investment limit of 5% for institutions that are part of the same banking group (reduced to 2.5% for the RBS Group). No more than £40m in total could be invested for a period longer than one year.

The Council's maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to its investments in banks and building societies of £26m cannot be assessed generally, as the risk of any institution failing to make interest payments or repay the principal sum will be specific to each individual institution. Recent experience has shown that it is rare for such entities to be unable to meet their commitments. A risk of irrecoverability applies to all of the Council's deposits, but there was no evidence at 31 March 2017 that this was likely to crystallise.

During 2008/09 the Council made a deposit of £4m with Heritable Bank which was a UK registered bank under Scottish Law. The company was placed in administration on 7 October 2008. The Council has received a return of £3,938,407 equating to 98% from the administrators up to 31 March 2017. The administration is ongoing, but it is likely that the full amount should eventually be recovered.

The Council does not hold collateral against any investments.

The credit quality of £2.103m of the Council's investments is enhanced as they are covered bonds which have a pool of assets that secures the bond if the issuer fails. This collateral significantly reduces the likelihood of the Council suffering a credit loss on these investments.

The tables below summarise the credit risk exposures of the Council's investment portfolio by credit rating:

Credit Rating	**Short-Term**	
	31 March 2016	**31 March 2017**
	£'000	**£'000**
AAA	0	0
AA+	0	0
AA	0	0
AA-	11,000	10,000
A+	4,000	0
A	18,000	8,000
A-	1,000	1,000
Unrated	16,000	7,000
Total Investments	**50,000**	**26,000**

NOTE 17 – FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

Credit Rating	Long-Term	
	31 March 2016 £'000	31 March 2017 £'000
AAA	2,272	2,103
AA+	0	0
AA	0	0
AA-	0	0
A+	0	0
A	0	0
A-	0	0
Unrated	0	0
Total Investments	**2,272**	**2,103**

Trade Receivables

The Council also has a number of longer-term debtors including car loans to employees and mortgages to members of the public. The car loans are considered to be low risk due to the ability to deduct repayments of car loans from employees' salaries, reciprocal arrangements with other local authorities for any staff transferring with outstanding car loans, specific arrangements for unpaid loans and normal debt recovery procedures for any employees who leave local government employment. The mortgages are low risk due to the first charge held by the Council on mortgaged properties.

The Council has launched a Business Loan Fund for small and medium-sized businesses within Gwynedd. The interest rates charged on such loans are commensurate with the higher credit risk involved in these types of loans.

Liquidity Risk

The Council has ready access to borrowing at favourable rates from the Public Works Loan Board and other local authorities, and at higher rates from banks and building societies. There is no perceived risk that the Council will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments. It is, however, exposed to the risk that it will need to refinance a significant proportion of its borrowing at a time of unfavourable interest rates. This risk is managed by maintaining a spread of fixed rate loans and ensuring that no more than 25% of the Council's borrowing matures in any one financial year.

The maturity analysis of the principal sums borrowed is as follows:

Time to maturity (years)	31 March 2016 £'000	31 March 2017 £'000
Less than 1 year	2,018	2,702
Over 1 but not over 2	2,550	333
Over 2 but not over 5	3,600	5,322
Over 5 but not over 10	13,829	17,613
Over 10 but not over 20	30,313	27,626
Over 20 but not over 30	15,464	13,697
Over 30 but not over 40	1,768	17,986
Over 40	25,585	9,367
Uncertain date*	16,200	16,200
Total	**111,327**	**110,846**

* The Council has £16.2m of "Lender's option, borrower's option" (LOBO) loans where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the rate payable; the Council will then have the option to accept the new rate or repay the loan without penalty. Due to current low interest rates, in the unlikely event that the lender exercises its option, the Council is likely to repay these loans. The maturity date is therefore uncertain.

NOTE 17 – FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

Market Risk: Interest Rate Risk

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

- Borrowings at variable rates – the interest expense will rise.
- Borrowings at fixed rates – the fair value of the liabilities borrowings will fall.
- Investments at variable rates – the interest income credited will rise.
- Investments at fixed rates – the fair value of the assets will fall.

Investments classed as "loans and receivables" and loans borrowed are not carried at fair value, so changes in their fair value will have no impact on Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. However, changes in interest payable and receivable on variable rate borrowings and investments will be posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services. Movements in the fair value of fixed rate investments classed as "available for sale" will be reflected in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

The Treasury Management Strategy aims to mitigate these risks by setting upper limits on its net exposures to fixed and variable interest rates. At 31 March 2017, 100% of net principal borrowed (*i.e.* debt net of investments) was exposed to fixed rates and 0% to variable rates.

If all interest rates had been 1% higher or lower (with all other variables held constant) the financial effect would be:

	1% higher £'000	**1% lower £'000**
Change in interest payable on variable rate borrowings	0	0
Change in interest receivable on variable rate investments	76	16
Impact on Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	**76**	**16**
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate investment assets	0	0
Impact on Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	**0**	**0**
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate borrowings / liabilities*	(26,046)	26,046

*No impact on the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, or Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure

Market Risk: Price Risk

The market prices of the Council's fixed rate bond investments and its units in collective investment schemes are governed by prevailing interest rates, and the market risk associated with these instruments is managed alongside interest rate risk.

The Council does not invest in equity shares and therefore is not subject to any price risk. The Council has shares in a Local Authority Waste Disposal Company (LAWDC). The relevant activities have been internalised and the company is being wound up and has, therefore, been classified as an "available for sale asset" and is shown at fair value in the Balance Sheet. A partial settlement payment for the fair value of the shares was received in 2008/09 and 2009/10 and the balance remains. This process cannot be fully completed until specific and related tax invoices are resolved with Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs.

Market Risk: Foreign Exchange Risk

The Council has no financial assets or liabilities denominated in a foreign currency. It therefore has no exposure to loss arising as a result of adverse movements in exchange rates.

NOTE 18 – SHORT-TERM DEBTORS

	Debtors NET of impairment	
	31 March 2016	**31 March 2017**
	£'000	**£'000**
Welsh Government	6,491	28,921
Other Central Government Bodies	4,258	7,187
Other Local Authorities	2,065	2,608
National Health Service	486	2,594
Public Corporations and Trading Funds	262	18
Council Tax	1,902	1,846
Other Entities and Individuals	17,075	11,715
Total	**32,539**	**54,889**

NOTE 19 – CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	31 March 2016	**31 March 2017**
	£'000	**£'000**
Cash in hand	13	13
Bank current accounts	46	46
Call Accounts	14,132	1,325
Cash and Cash Equivalents	**14,191**	**1,384**
Bank overdraft	(39,430)	(30,035)
Total	**(25,239)**	**(28,651)**

In order to maximise the returns from Short-Term Investments and Cash Deposits, the Council invests any surplus funds in its bank accounts along with any surplus funds in the Gwynedd Pension Fund bank accounts. An appropriate share of the interest earned is paid to the Pension Fund and any losses on investment are shared with the Pension Fund in the same proportion. Due to the nature of the banking arrangements any surplus cash in the Pension Fund bank accounts is not transferred to the Council's bank accounts and therefore a proportion of the above Short-Term Investments (Note 17) and the Call Accounts and Money Market Funds above represent money invested on behalf of the Pension Fund at the Balance Sheet date. As the Short-Term Investments are made in the name of Gwynedd Council, they are shown in full on the Balance Sheet. The Pension Fund element of the Short-Term Investments and Cash Deposits was £15.7m (£25m at 31 March 2016).

NOTE 20 – ASSETS HELD FOR SALE

	2015/16	2016/17
	£'000	£'000
Balance 1 April	**1,040**	**459**
Assets newly classified as held for sale:		
Property, Plant and Equipment	334	74
Expenditure in year	2	2
Revaluation Losses	(416)	0
Impairment Losses	(2)	(2)
Assets declassified as held for sale:		
Property, Plant and Equipment	0	(35)
Assets sold	(499)	(350)
Balance 31 March	**459**	**148**

NOTE 21 – SHORT-TERM CREDITORS

	31 March 2016	31 March 2017
	£'000	£'000
Welsh Government	2,285	2,774
Other Central Government Bodies	4,708	3,622
Other Local Authorities	14,376	7,333
National Health Service	499	358
Public Corporations and Trading Funds	290	250
Council Tax	1,203	1,310
Other Entities and Individuals	31,326	41,325
Total	**54,687**	**56,972**

NOTE 22 – PROVISIONS

The Council sets aside provisions for specific obligations, the amount or timing of which cannot be determined accurately. It is not permitted, under accounting conventions, to make provisions for uneven patterns of expenditure. However, earmarked reserves may be established and these are disclosed in Note 10.

The details below are analysed into short-term provisions (within 12 months) and long-term provisions (over 12 months). However, the provision level on all related items is reviewed periodically.

	Balance at 31 March 2016 £'000	(Addition) / Reduction / Transfer £'000	Used during the year £'000	Balance at 31 March 2017 £'000
Short-Term Provisions				
Waste Sites Provision	(294)	(254)	291	(257)
Other	(1)	1	0	0
Equal Pay	(170)	170	0	0
Third Party Claims Provision	0	(100)	0	(100)
	(465)	**(183)**	**291**	**(357)**
Long-Term Provisions				
Waste Sites Provision	(7,817)	225	0	(7,592)
Third Party Claims Provision	(93)	0	0	(93)
MMI Insurance Provision	(198)	0	107	(91)
Other	(113)	113	0	0
	(8,221)	**338**	**107**	**(7,776)**
Total	**(8,686)**	**155**	**398**	**(8,133)**

Waste Sites Provision – relates to the capping and aftercare requirements of all of the Council's waste disposal sites.

Equal Pay Provision – provision relating to the equal pay claims against the Council.

Third Party Claims Provision – relating to cases of third party claims against the Council in the Adults and Consultancy areas.

Municipal Mutual Insurance (M.M.I) Provision – a provision in respect of the insurance liability this Authority inherited and is exposed to in relation to the insurance arrangements of its predecessor Authorities and Municipal Mutual Insurance.

Other Provisions – All the other provisions relate to other minor issues.

NOTE 23 – UNUSABLE RESERVES

31 March 2016		31 March 2017
£'000		£'000
67,131	Revaluation Reserve	71,974
142	Available-For-Sale Financial Instruments Reserve	(17)
186,954	Capital Adjustment Account	187,120
(835)	Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	(760)
(178,332)	Pensions Reserve	(235,413)
(3,392)	Accumulated Absences Account	(3,935)
71,668	**Total Unusable Reserves**	**18,969**

23.1 Revaluation Reserve

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

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

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

2015/16		2016/17
£'000		£'000
62,580	**Balance 1 April**	**67,131**
17,470	Upward revaluation of assets	9,916
(11,375)	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses	(2,634)
6,095	**Surplus/(deficit) on revaluation of assets**	**7,282**
(971)	Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	(1,219)
(573)	Accumulated gains on assets sold	(1,220)
(1,544)	**Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account**	**(2,439)**
67,131	**Balance 31 March**	**71,974**

23.2 Available-for-Sale Financial Instruments Reserve

The Available-for-Sale Financial Instruments Reserve contains the gains made by the Authority arising from increases in the value of its investments that have quoted market prices or otherwise do not have fixed or determinable payments. The balance is reduced when investments with accumulated gains are:

- Revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost.
- Disposed of and the gains are realised.

NOTE 23 – UNUSABLE RESERVES (continued)

2015/16 £000		2016/17 £'000
85	**Balance 1 April**	**142**
57	Upward revaluation of investments	0
0	Downward revaluation of investments not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(159)
0	Accumulated gains on assets sold and maturing assets written out to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Other Investment Income	0
142	**Balance 31 March**	**(17)**

23.3 Capital Adjustment Account

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

The Account contains accumulated gains and losses on Investment Properties and gains recognised on donated assets that have yet to be consumed by the Authority.

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

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

2015/16 £'000		2016/17 £'000
179,024	**Balance 1 April**	**186,954**
	Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:	
(15,910)	Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(20,793)
(4,844)	Revenue Expenditure funded from Capital under Statute	(4,987)
(9,313)	Adjustment to non-current balance on the sale of assets	(1,077)
971	Transfer from Capital Revaluation Reserve	1,219
	Capital financing applied in the year:	
1,622	Capital Receipts	770
17,781	Grants and contributions credited to Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital financing	11,606
5,641	Revenue provision for the financing of supported capital investment	5,593
10,248	Capital expenditure charged in year against the General Fund	5,972
1,734	Capital receipts set aside / Revenue provision for the financing of unsupported capital investment	1,863
186,954	**Balance 31 March**	**187,120**

NOTE 23 – UNUSABLE RESERVES (continued)

23.4 Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

The Financial Instruments Adjustment Account at the end of the financial year represents the amount that should have been charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in accordance with proper accounting practices under the Code of Practice, but which Statutory Provisions allow or require to be deferred over future years.

There is a requirement for all premiums and discounts arising from loan extinguishments to be charged to Income and Expenditure in full. Where transactions meet the definition of a modification any premiums or discounts are added to the carrying value of the loan and are then amortised to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement over the life of the new loan. A modification exists where the terms of the new debt are not "substantially different" from those of the old debt.

Premiums amortised under statutory provisions can be charged to the General Fund over either the remaining life of the original loan or the life of the replacement loan, whichever is the greater period. Discounts must be credited to the General Fund over 10 years or the life of the original loan, whichever is the shorter period.

The transactions reflected in the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account are as follows:

2015/16 £'000		2016/17 £'000
(885)	**Balance 1 April**	**(835)**
46	Proportion of premiums incurred in previous years charged to General Fund in accordance with statute	46
4	Deferred credit for receipt of charges due from people under care	29
(835)	**Balance 31 March**	**(760)**

23.5 Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve

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

2015/16 £'000		2016/17 £'000
2	**Balance 1 April**	**0**
(2)	Principal repayment of Right To Buy Mortgages	0
0	**Balance 31 March**	**0**

NOTE 23 – UNUSABLE RESERVES (continued)

23.6 Pensions Reserve

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

2015/16 £000		2016/17 £000
(248,721)	**Balance 1 April**	**(178,332)**
80,568	Remeasurements of the net defined benefit (liabilities) / assets	(51,322)
(30,226)	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(26,259)
20,047	Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	20,500
(178,332)	**Balance 31 March**	**(235,413)**

23.7 Accumulated Absences Account

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

2015/16 £'000		2016/17 £'000
(3,819)	**Balance 1 April**	**(3,392)**
427	Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(543)
(3,392)	**Balance 31 March**	**(3,935)**

NOTE 24a – CASH FLOW STATEMENT: ADJUSTMENTS TO NET SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON THE PROVISION OF SERVICES FOR NON-CASH MOVEMENTS

2015/16 £'000		2016/17 £'000
(12,208)	Depreciation	(13,466)
(3,702)	Impairment and downward valuations	(7,327)
14,228	(Increase)/Decrease in Creditors	(1,636)
(9,997)	Increase/(Decrease) in Debtors	22,340
(146)	Increase/(Decrease) in Stock	(35)
(10,179)	Pension Liability	(5,759)
(9,887)	Carrying amount of non-current assets sold or de-recognised	(2,297)
(679)	Other non-cash items charged to net surplus/deficit on the provision of services	(4,919)
(32,570)		**(13,099)**

NOTE 24b – CASH FLOW STATEMENT – ADJUST FOR ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE NET SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON THE PROVISION OF SERVICES THAT ARE INVESTING AND FINANCING ACTIVITIES

2015/16 £'000		2016/17 £'000
942	Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	1,603
942		**1,603**

NOTE 24c – CASH FLOW STATEMENT – OPERATING ACTIVITIES

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:

2015/16 £'000		2016/17 £'000
(552)	Interest received	(323)
5,698	Interest paid	5,616

NOTE 25 – CASH FLOW STATEMENT – INVESTING ACTIVITIES

2015/16 £'000		2016/17 £'000
28,821	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	24,438
362,420	Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	332,978
4,284	Other payments for investing activities	4,780
(929)	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(1,633)
(348,328)	Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments	(356,989)
46,268	**Net cash flows from investing activities**	**3,574**

NOTE 26 – CASH FLOW STATEMENT – FINANCING ACTIVITIES

2015/16 £'000		2016/17 £'000
119	Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liability relating to Finance Leases	126
(1,421)	Repayments of short-term and long-term borrowing	1,955
(1,302)	**Net cash flows from financing activities**	**2,081**

NOTE 27 – EXPENDITURE AND INCOME ANALYSED BY NATURE

The Authority's expenditure and income is analysed as follows:

2015/16 £'000	Expenditure / Income	2016/17 £'000
	Expenditure	
163,870	Employee benefits expenses	167,044
135,477	Other Services expenses	135,913
23,178	Support Services recharges	21,725
18,727	Depreciation, amortisation, impairment	23,503
14,551	Interest Payments	12,623
20,097	Precepts and Levies	20,466
9,189	Loss on the disposal of assets	734
385,089	**Total Expenditure**	**382,008**
	Income	
(47,153)	Fees, charges and other service income	(55,838)
(508)	Interest and investment income	(313)
(107,526)	Income from council tax and non-domestic rates	(111,806)
(220,674)	Government grants and contributions	(204,758)
(244)	(Gain) on the disposal of assets	(40)
(376,105)	**Total Income**	**(372,755)**
8,984	**(Surplus) / Deficit on the Provision of Services**	**9,253**

NOTE 28 – AGENCY SERVICES

The Council operates on an agency basis to prepare some services, and also administers the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency on behalf of the Welsh Government.

In terms of the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency, the principal area of work is managing and maintaining the trunk road network in the North and Mid Wales Council's Partnership region that extends to 1,174 kilometres. The income transactions recovered during 2016/17 were £62.9m (£47.1m in 2015/16).

Gwynedd Council acts as an agent to the original Welsh Government's 'Houses into Homes' scheme, by providing interest-free loans to owners of empty properties in order to bring the premises back into use, for sale or rent. During 2016/17, loans amounting to £139k were allocated and £368k was repaid, a net movement of (£229k) (£166k in 2015/16).

During 2015/16, the Welsh Government established four new schemes with Gwynedd Council acting as agent on their behalf:

- Houses into Homes 2 – closing balance £396k (£431k in 2015/16)
- Home Improvement Loans – closing balance £315k (£300k in 2015/16)
- Shared Library Management System Implementation – closing balance £0 (£75k in 2015/16)
- Supporting Town Centre Regeneration in Caernarfon – closing balance £431k (£700k in 2015/16).

During 2016/17, the Welsh Government established a further scheme:

- Caernarfon and Bangor Town Centre Scheme – closing balance of £850k, which is yet to be allocated.

NOTE 29 – MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

The Authority paid the following allowances and expenses to members of the Council during the year:

2015/16 £'000		2016/17 £'000
1,256	Allowances	1,259
71	Expenses	61
1,327		**1,320**

NOTE 30 – OFFICERS' REMUNERATION

30a. The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 require the Council to disclose the following information relating to employees appointed as Senior Officers, and whose salary is between £60,000 and £150,000. In compliance with the defined requirements, the pensionable pay, employer's pension contributions and other employer costs are included below (including termination benefits), but the employer's national insurance contributions are excluded.

2015/16			Chief Officers	2016/17		
Salary	Employer's Pension Contributions	Total		Salary	Employer's Pension Contributions	Total
£	£	£		£	£	£
103,805	23,252	127,057	Chief Executive [1]	106,787	23,920	130,707
90,222	20,210	110,432	Corporate Director	91,125	20,412	111,537
87,967	19,705	107,672	Corporate Director	91,125	20,412	111,537
87,419	19,582	107,001	Head of Education [2]	91,589	20,516	112,105
76,582	17,154	93,736	Head of Finance	77,349	17,326	94,675
76,581	17,151	93,732	Head of Adults, Health and Wellbeing [3]	77,009	17,350	94,359
22,465	16,054	38,519	Head of Adults, Health and Wellbeing (previous holder) [4]	37,301	3,616	40,917
73,832	16,990	90,822	Head of Highways and Municipal	75,395	16,888	92,283
71,259	15,962	87,221	Head of Economy & Community	71,972	16,122	88,094
67,697	15,164	82,861	Head of Children and Families	70,174	15,719	85,893
64,134	14,360	78,494	Head of Environment [5]	65,338	14,836	80,174
64,134	14,366	78,500	Head of Corporate Support	66,575	14,913	81,488
60,195	13,484	73,679	Head of Gwynedd Consultancy	60,798	13,619	74,417
42,756	9,577	52,333	Specialised Programmes Leader [6]	42,979	9,627	52,606
42,756	9,577	52,333	Specialised Programmes Leader [6]	42,979	9,627	52,606

1) The figures do not include any remuneration for the Chief Executive in his role as Returning Officer. The amount paid in 2016/17 was £7,085, which is based on rates defined by the respective election bodies.

2) Since 1 November 2016, the Head of Education acts as a temporary part-time Corporate Manager for GwE. He is formally employed by Gwynedd Council and GwE is recharged 80% of his salary and other remuneration.

3) Holder permanently confirmed in post from 19 September 2016

4) Holder in post to 8 July 2016

5) Holder in post permanently from 6 December 2016

6) Part time post

30b. The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 require the Authority to include a ratio of remuneration. The ratio of the Chief Executive's remuneration to the median remuneration of all the Authority's employees for 2016/17 is 5.39 : 1 (5.29 : 1 in 2015/16).

NOTE 30 – OFFICERS' REMUNERATION (continued)

30c. Other Authority employees receiving more than £60,000 remuneration for the year (excluding employer's pension and national insurance contributions), were paid the following amounts. The figures include termination benefits paid in 8 cases in 2016/17 and 10 cases in 2015/16. These posts would not appear below except for the termination benefits paid in the individual year.

Number of other employees who received more than £60,000 and includes remuneration and termination benefits:

Number in 2015/16				Number in 2016/17		
Schools	**Other**	**Total**		**Schools**	**Other**	**Total**
3	3	6	£60,000 - 64,999	6	6	12
6	2	8	£65,000 - 69,999	4	1	5
3	0	3	£70,000 - 74,999	6	1	7
2	0	2	£75,000 - 79,999	2	0	2
1	0	1	£80,000 - 84,999	1	0	1
0	1	1	£85,000 - 89,999	0	1	1
0	0	0	£90,000 - 94,999	0	1	1
2	0	2	£95,000 - 99,999	1	0	1
0	0	0	£100,000 - 104,999	0	0	0
1	1	2	£105,000 - 109,999	0	0	0
0	0	0	£110,000 - 114,999	0	0	0
0	0	0	£115,000 - 119,999	0	0	0
0	0	0	£120,000 - 124,999	0	0	0
0	0	0	£125,000 - 129,999	0	0	0
0	0	0	£130,000 - 134,999	0	1	1

NOTE 31 – EXTERNAL AUDIT COSTS

The Authority has incurred the following costs relating to external audit:

2015/16		**2016/17**
£'000		**£'000**
183	Fees payable to auditors appointed by the Auditor General for Wales with regard to external audit services	183
99	Fees payable to auditors appointed by the Auditor General for Wales in respect of statutory inspections	99
96	Fees payable to auditors appointed by the Auditor General for Wales for the certification of grant claims and returns for the year	126
378		**408**
(2)	**Less:** Fees payable to auditors appointed by the Auditor General for Wales in respect of Joint Committees and Harbour Accounts	(2)
376	**Gwynedd Council Net Fees**	**406**

In 2015/16, Deloitte were appointed by the Auditor General for Wales as Gwynedd Council's external auditors.

NOTE 32 – GRANT INCOME

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

	Note	2015/16 £'000		2016/17 £'000	
Credited to Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income					
Outcome Agreement Grant (Non-ring-fenced Government Grants)	*13*		1,284		0
Revenue Support Grant (Non-ring-fenced Government Grants)	*13*		132,666		129,792
Government Revenue Grants and Contributions - Other			1,428		8
Government Capital Grants and Contributions -					
21st Century Schools		5,197		3,199	
General Capital Grant		2,511		2,516	
Other		5,047		3,449	
	13		12,755		9,164
Other Capital Grants and Contributions	*13*		1,215		124
Total			**149,348**		**139,088**
Grants and Contributions Credited to Services					
Welsh Government -					
Supporting People Grant (SPG & SPRG)		5,056		5,044	
Improvement and Deprivation Grants (Education)		7,350		7,477	
Sustainable Waste Management Grant		3,606		3,516	
Post-16 Grant (Education)		3,148		3,257	
Other		15,037		13,420	
			34,197		32,714
Other Government Grants and Contributions -					
Department for Work and Pensions		30,059		30,237	
Other		9,714		12,015	
			39,773		42,252
Other Grants and Contributions			3,586		3,736
Total			**77,556**		**78,702**

NOTE 32 – GRANT INCOME (continued)

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

Grants Received in Advance	31 March 2016 £'000	31 March 2017 £'000
Long-Term		
Revenue Grants and Contributions		
Environment (Planning, Transport and Public Protection) Grants	662	752
Adults, Health and Wellbeing Grants	4	0
	666	752
Capital Grants and Contributions		
Highways and Municipal Capital Contributions	1,665	1,519
Environment (Planning, Transport and Public Protection) Grants	1,217	1,231
	2,882	2,750
Total Long-Term	**3,548**	**3,502**
Short-Term		
Revenue Grants and Contributions		
Economy and Community Grants	343	376
Environment (Planning, Transport and Public Protection) Grants	630	420
Adults, Health and Wellbeing Grants	897	1,036
Other Grants	220	109
	2,090	1,941
Capital Grants and Contributions	274	255
Total Short-Term	**2,364**	**2,196**
Total	**5,912**	**5,698**

NOTE 33 – RELATED PARTIES

The Authority is required to disclose material transactions with related parties – bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence the Council or to be controlled or influenced by the Council. Disclosure of these transactions allows readers to assess the extent to which the Council might have been constrained in its ability to operate independently or might have secured the ability to limit another party's ability to bargain freely with the Authority. To conform to the requirements, this is done by completing a personal declaration by the Members and Senior Officers, as defined in the CIPFA Code of Practice.

Welsh and Central Government
Welsh Government has effective control over the general operations of the Authority. It is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Authority operates, provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Authority has within other parties (e.g. council tax bills, housing benefits). Grants received from the Welsh Government and other Government departments are set out in the subjective analysis in Note 27 which analyses expenditure and income by nature. The position as at 31 March is detailed in Note 32.

Members
Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. One member of the Council did not return a personal declaration. The total of members' allowances paid in 2016/17 is shown in Note 29.

The Authority appoints members to some external charitable or voluntary bodies or the members have disclosed a link to organisations, public bodies and authorities. A breakdown of the payments made to these bodies under this heading during 2016/17 and balances at 31 March 2017 is as follows:

Payments made	Amounts owed by the Council	Amounts owed to the Council
£'000	£'000	£'000
14,142	1,749	(4,041)

Members have declared an interest or relationship (as defined) in companies or businesses which may have dealings with the Council. A breakdown of the payments made to these companies under this heading during 2016/17 and balances at 31 March 2017 is as follows:

Payments made	Amounts owed by the Council	Amounts owed to the Council
£'000	£'000	£'000
1,873	94	(6)

Officers
Senior Officers (as defined) have declared as required and where appropriate an interest or relationship (as defined) in companies, voluntary, charitable, or public bodies which receive payments from the Council. A breakdown of the payments made to these bodies under this heading during 2016/17 and balances at 31 March 2017 is as follows:

Payments made	Amounts owed by the Council	Amounts owed to the Council
£'000	£'000	£'000
1,499	148	(115)

Other Public Bodies
The Authority is the administering authority for the Pension Fund. Details of transactions with the Pension Fund are shown in Note 38 on pages 69 to 73 and the Pension Fund Accounts on pages 77 to 106.

NOTE 33 – RELATED PARTIES (continued)

Welsh Joint Education Committee (WJEC)

Payments made	Amounts owed by the Council	Amounts owed to the Council
£'000	£'000	£'000
973	0	0

Entities Controlled or Significantly Influenced by the Authority

Cwmni Cynnal Cyf. was established in 1996 to provide education support services under contract to maintained schools and the local education authorities as well as school inspection services to Estyn. The company is limited by guarantee and the Council's liability is limited to £1. The income of the company can only be applied towards promotion of its objectives. Copies of the financial statements are available from Cwmni Cynnal, Penrallt, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 1BN. Payments to Cwmni Cynnal during 2016/17 for services to schools and balances at 31 March 2017 are as follows:

Payments made	Amounts owed by the Council	Amounts owed to the Council
£'000	£'000	£'000
1,194	12	(1)

Cwmni Gwastraff Môn-Arfon Cyf. was established as a Local Authority Waste Disposal Company in 1994. The two Councils decided to terminate the arrangement in 2007/08 and to undertake the work in-house. The relevant operational assets and liabilities and the staff were transferred to the Council in January 2008. The remaining assets and liabilities will be divided between the two Councils and the final accounts will be completed when the company is wound up. £52k is the current balance that is owed to the Council.

NOTE 34 – CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND CAPITAL FINANCING

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

31 March 2016		31 March 2017
£'000		£'000
427,588	Non-current Assets and Assets held for sale	436,131
(67,131)	Revaluation Reserve	(71,974)
(186,954)	Capital Adjustment Account	(187,120)
173,503	**Capital Financing Requirement**	**177,037**

NOTE 34 – CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND CAPITAL FINANCING (continued)

The movement in the year is explained as follows:

2015/16		2016/17
£'000		£'000
174,889	**Capital Financing Requirement 1 April**	**173,503**
9,844	Land and Buildings	5,487
2,830	Infrastructure	4,422
4,658	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	3,006
37	Community Assets	17
17	Surplus Assets	3
13,408	Assets under construction	11,414
2	Assets held for sale	2
4,844	Funded from capital under statute	4,987
(1,622)	Capital Receipts used	(770)
(17,781)	Government Grants and other contributions	(11,606)
(10,248)	Capital expenditure charged to revenue	(5,972)
(5,641)	Revenue provision for the financing of supported capital investment	(5,593)
	Additional voluntary set aside:	
(1,734)	Revenue provision for the financing of unsupported capital investment	(1,863)
173,503	**Capital Financing Requirement 31 March**	**177,037**

NOTE 35 – LEASES

Authority as Lessee

Finance Leases

The Council has property under finance leases which are carried as Property, Plant and Equipment in the Balance Sheet. Included here is the GwyriAD Service Concession Arrangements (Note 41) at the following net amount:

31 March 2016		31 March 2017
£'000		£'000
4,236	Property, Plant and Equipment	3,987
4,236		**3,987**

The Authority is committed to making minimum payments under these leases comprising settlement of the long-term liability for the interest in the property acquired by the Authority and finance costs that will be payable by the Authority in future years while the liability remains outstanding. The minimum lease payments are made up of the following amounts:

NOTE 35 – LEASES (continued)

31 March 2016 £'000		31 March 2017 £'000
	Finance Lease Liabilities (net present value of minimum lease payments):	
126	current	134
2,127	non-current	1,993
2,253	Minimum lease payments	**2,127**

The remaining asset shown above has been funded by a deferred credit (refer to Note 41).

The minimum lease payments will be payable over the following periods:

	Minimum Lease Payments		Finance Lease Liabilities	
	31 March 2016 £'000	31 March 2017 £'000	31 March 2016 £'000	31 March 2017 £'000
No later than one year	126	134	126	134
Later than one year and not later than five years	587	623	587	623
More than five years	1,540	1,370	1,540	1,370
	2,253	**2,127**	**2,253**	**2,127**

In 2016/17, minimum lease payments were made by the Authority of £126,168 (£118,840 in 2015/16) in respect of those assets held as a finance lease.

Operating Leases

	31 March 2016 £'000	31 March 2017 £'000
No later than one year	485	457
Later than one year and not later than five years	817	587
Later than five years	208	142
	1,510	**1,186**

The expenditure charged to the services within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the year in relation to these leases was:

	2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000
Minimum lease payments	552	564
	552	**564**

NOTE 35 – LEASES (continued)

Authority as Lessor

Finance Leases

The Council has leased out property on a finance lease, including:

- The Sailing Academy in Pwllheli,
- Rhyd Ddu Centre

These leases are on a peppercorn rent basis and for a term that equates to the economic life of the assets. No premium has been received for these leases.

Operating Leases

The Authority leases out property 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:

	31 March 2016 £'000	31 March 2017 £'000
No later than one year	439	394
Later than one year and not later than five years	599	629
Later than five years	2,243	2,732
	3,281	**3,755**

The minimum lease payments receivable do not include rents that are contingent on events taking place after the lease was entered into, such as adjustments following rent reviews. In 2016/17 £908,227 minimum lease payments were receivable by the Authority (£828,936 in 2015/16).

NOTE 36 – EXIT PACKAGES

The number of exit packages with total cost per band, and total cost of the compulsory and other redundancies are set out in the table below. The cost in the table below reflects the related package cost to the employer, rather than the actual value of the payments to the individuals. In accordance with the requirements the related commitments as known to the Council as at 31 March 2017 are included. Included below are the related gross costs but not the financial savings to the Council, where appropriate.

Exit package cost band (including special payments)	Number of compulsory redundancies		Number of other departures agreed		Total number of exit packages by cost band		Total cost of exit packages in each band	
£	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000
0 - 20,000	77	32	11	35	**88**	**67**	397	485
20,001 - 40,000	31	2	5	17	**36**	**19**	1,018	517
40,001 - 60,000	3	3	1	0	**4**	**3**	207	136
60,001 - 80,000	2	0	1	2	**3**	**2**	193	123
80,001 - 100,000	0	0	0	1	**0**	**1**	0	81
Reflects adjustment to previous year estimates							11	23
Total	**113**	**37**	**18**	**55**	**131**	**92**	**1,826**	**1,365**

NOTE 37 – PENSIONS SCHEMES ACCOUNTED FOR AS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION SCHEMES

Teachers employed by the Authority are members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme, administered by the Government's Department for Education. The scheme provides teachers with specified benefits upon their retirement, and the Authority contributes towards the costs by making contributions based on a percentage of members' pensionable salaries.

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

In 2016/17 the Council paid £6.63m (£6.42m in 2015/16) in respect of teachers' pension costs, which represented 15.74% (15.15% in 2015/16) of teachers' pensionable pay. In addition the Council is responsible for the costs of any additional benefits awarded upon early retirement outside of the terms for the teachers' scheme. In 2016/17 these amounted to £1.17m (£1.18m in 2015/16) representing 2.79% (2.75% in 2015/16) of teachers' pensionable pay. These costs are accounted for on a defined benefits basis and are included in Note 38.

NOTE 38 – PENSION COSTS

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its officers and other employees, the Authority makes contributions towards the cost of post-employment benefits. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the Authority has a commitment to make the payments. These need to be disclosed at the time that employees earn their future entitlement.

Gwynedd Council participates in two post-employment schemes:

a) **The Local Government Pension Scheme** administered locally by Gwynedd Council. This is a funded defined benefit scheme based on final salary for service up to 31 March 2014, and based on a career average salary from 1 April 2014. The Authority and the employees pay contributions into the fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension liabilities with investment assets.

b) **Arrangements for the award of discretionary post-retirement benefits upon early retirement.** This is an unfunded defined benefit arrangement, under which liabilities are recognised when awards are made. However, there are no investment assets built up to meet these pension liabilities, and cash has to be generated to meet actual pensions payments as they eventually fall due.

The Gwynedd Pension Fund is operated under the regulatory framework for the Local Government Pension Scheme and the governance of the scheme is the responsibility of the Pensions Committee of Gwynedd Council. Policy is determined in accordance with the Local Government Pensions Scheme Regulations. The investment managers of the fund are appointed by the committee.

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

Transactions Relating to Post-employment Benefits

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

NOTE 38 – PENSION COSTS (continued)

Change in the Fair Value of Plan Assets, Defined Benefit Obligation and Net Liability	Period ended 31 March 2016			Period ended 31 March 2017		
	Assets	Liabilities	Net (liability) /asset	Assets	Liabilities	Net (liability) /asset
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fair Value of Employer Assets	530,343	0	530,343	547,025	0	547,025
Present Value of Funded Liabilities	0	(750,818)	(750,818)	0	(699,750)	(699,750)
Present Value of Unfunded Liabilities	0	(28,246)	(28,246)	0	(25,607)	(25,607)
Opening Position at 1 April	**530,343**	**(779,064)**	**(248,721)**	**547,025**	**(725,357)**	**(178,332)**
Service Cost						
Current Service Cost*	0	(21,913)	(21,913)	0	(19,784)	(19,784)
Past Service Costs (including curtailments)	0	(297)	(297)	0	(232)	(232)
Total Service Cost	**0**	**(22,210)**	**(22,210)**	**0**	**(20,016)**	**(20,016)**
Net interest						
Interest Income on Plan Assets	17,023	0	17,023	19,183	0	19,183
Interest Cost on Defined Benefit Obligation	0	(25,039)	(25,039)	0	(25,426)	(25,426)
Total Net Interest	**17,023**	**(25,039)**	**(8,016)**	**19,183**	**(25,426)**	**(6,243)**
Total Defined Benefit Cost Recognised in Profit/(Loss)	**17,023**	**(47,249)**	**(30,226)**	**19,183**	**(45,442)**	**(26,259)**
Cash flows						
Plan participants' contributions	4,683	(4,683)	0	4,992	(4,992)	0
Employer contributions	16,894	0	16,894	17,962	0	17,962
Contributions in respect of unfunded benefits	1,709	0	1,709	1,706	0	1,706
Benefits Paid	(18,303)	18,303	0	(20,072)	20,072	0
Unfunded Benefits Paid	(1,709)	1,709	0	(1,706)	1,706	0
Expected Closing Position	**550,640**	**(810,984)**	**(260,344)**	**569,090**	**(754,013)**	**(184,923)**
Remeasurements						
Change in demographic assumptions	0	0	0	0	3,839	3,839
Change in financial assumptions	0	77,463	77,463	0	(109,365)	(109,365)
Other experience	0	8,164	8,164	0	(25,588)	(25,588)
Return on Assets excluding amounts included in net interest	(3,615)	0	(3,615)	80,624	0	80,624
Total remeasurements recognised in Other Comprehensive Income (OCI)	**(3,615)**	**85,627**	**82,012**	**80,624**	**(131,114)**	**(50,490)**
Fair Value of Employer Assets	547,025	0	547,025	649,714	0	649,714
Present Value of Funded Liabilities	0	(699,750)	(699,750)	0	(856,715)	(856,715)
Present Value of Unfunded Liabilities**	0	(25,607)	(25,607)	0	(28,412)	(28,412)
Closing Position at 31 March	**547,025**	**(725,357)**	**(178,332)**	**649,714**	**(885,127)**	**(235,413)**

* The current service cost includes an allowance for administration expenses of 0.5% of payroll

** This liability comprises approximately £10,925,000 in respect of LGPS unfunded pensions and £17,487,000 in respect of Teachers' unfunded pensions. For unfunded liabilities as at 31 March 2017, it is assumed that all unfunded pensions are payable for the remainder of the member's life. It is further assumed that 90% of pensioners are married (or cohabiting) at death and that their spouse (cohabitee) will receive a pension of 50% of the member's pension as at the date of the member's death.

The Major Categories of Plan Assets as a Percentage of Total Plan Assets

The actuary has provided a detailed breakdown of Fund assets in accordance with the requirements of IAS19. This analysis distinguishes between the nature and risk of those assets, and to further break them down between those with a quoted price in an active market and those that do not. The asset split for Gwynedd Council is assumed to be in the same proportion to the Fund's asset allocation as at 31 December 2016. The split is shown in the table below. The actuary estimates the bid value of the Fund's assets as at 31 March 2017 to be £1,843m based on information provided by the Administering Authority and allowing for index returns where necessary.

NOTE 38 – PENSION COSTS (continued)

Fair Value of Employer Assets

The asset values below are at bid value as required under IAS19.

Asset Category	At 31 March 2016				At 31 March 2017			
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets	Prices not quoted in Active Markets	Total		Quoted Prices in Active Markets	Prices not quoted in Active Markets	Total	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
Equity Securities								
Consumer	17,398	0	17,398	3	22,276	0	22,276	3
Manufacturing	0	0	0	0	20,119	0	20,119	3
Energy and Utilities	2,997	0	2,997	1	3,618	0	3,618	1
Financial Institutions	8,917	0	8,917	2	12,461	0	12,461	2
Health and Care	31,539	0	31,539	6	32,068	0	32,068	5
Information Technology	18,103	0	18,103	3	26,123	0	26,123	4
Other	21,793	0	21,793	4	1,780	0	1,780	0
Private Equity								
All	0	22,227	22,227	4	0	29,349	29,349	5
Debt Securities								
Other	0	73,108	73,108	13	0	81,166	81,166	12
Real Estate								
UK Property	10,439	46,057	56,496	10	14,275	35,476	49,751	8
Overseas Property	0	1,033	1,033	0	0	1,319	1,319	0
Investment Funds and Unit Trusts								
Equities	111,036	160,978	272,014	50	138,871	197,659	336,530	52
Bonds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Infrastructure	0	4,552	4,552	1	0	8,711	8,711	1
Cash and Cash Equivalents								
All	16,848	0	16,848	3	24,443	0	24,443	4
Total	**239,070**	**307,955**	**547,025**	**100**	**296,034**	**353,680**	**649,714**	**100**

Basis for estimating assets and liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, life expectancy and salary levels. Life expectancy is based on fund-specific projections called VitaCurves with long-term improvement assumed to have already peaked and converging to 1.25% per annum.

Both the Gwynedd Pension Scheme and Discretionary Benefits liabilities have been estimated by Hymans Robertson, an independent firm of actuaries. Estimates for the Gwynedd Pension Fund were based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2016. The significant assumptions used by the actuary in the following table have had a significant impact on the values of the assets and liabilities as follows:-

NOTE 38 – PENSION COSTS (continued)

	31 March 2016	31 March 2017
Financial Assumptions	**% p.a.**	**% p.a.**
Pensions Increase Rate	2.2	2.4
Salary Increase Rate*	4.2	2.4
Inflation Rate	2.2	2.4
Discount Rate	3.5	2.6
Long-term expected rate of return on all categories of assets	3.5	2.6
Take-up option to convert annual pension into retirement lump sum		
for pre-April 2008 service	50	50
for post-April 2008 service	75	75
Mortality assumptions	**Years**	**Years**
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners		
Men	22	22
Women	24	24
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners		
Men	24.4	24.0
Women	26.6	26.4

*For unfunded liabilities as at 31 March 2017, it is assumed that all unfunded pensions are payable for the remainder of the member's life. It is further assumed that 90% of pensioners are married (or cohabiting) at death and that their spouse (cohabitee) will receive a pension of 50% of the member's pension at the date of the member's death.

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. In order to quantify the impact of a change in the financial assumptions used, the actuary has calculated and compared the value of the scheme liabilities as at 31 March 2017 on varying bases. The approach taken is consistent with that adopted to derive the IAS19 figures provided in this note.

To quantify the uncertainty around life expectancy, the actuary has calculated the difference in cost to the Council of a one-year increase in life expectancy. For sensitivity purposes this is assumed to be an increase in the cost of benefits of broadly 3%. In practice the actual cost of a one-year increase in life expectancy will depend on the structure of the revised assumption (i.e. if improvements to survival rates predominantly apply at younger or older ages). The figures in the table below have been derived based on the membership profile of the Council as at 31 March 2016, the date of the most recent actuarial valuation. The approach taken in preparing the sensitivity analysis shown is consistent with that adopted in the previous year.

Impact on the Defined Benefit Obligation in the Scheme		
Change in assumption	**Approximate increase to Employer 31 March 2017 %**	**Approximate monetary amount 31 March 2017 £'000**
0.5% decrease in real discount rate	11	93,116
0.5% increase in the salary increase rate	2	18,421
0.5% increase in the pension increase rate	8	73,112

NOTE 38 – PENSION COSTS (continued)

The principal demographic assumption is the longevity assumption (i.e. member life expectancy). For sensitivity purposes, we estimate that a one-year increase in life expectancy would approximately increase the Employer's Defined Benefit Obligation by around 3-5%. In practice the actual cost of a one-year increase in life expectancy will depend on the structure of the revised assumption (i.e. if improvements to survival rates predominantly apply at younger or older ages).

Impact on the Council's Cash Flows

One of the objectives of the scheme is that employer contributions should be kept at as constant a rate as possible. Gwynedd Council has agreed a strategy with the fund's actuary to achieve a funding level of 100% over the next 20 years. Funding levels are monitored on an annual basis.

The contributions paid by the Council are set by the Fund Actuary at each triennial valuation (the most recent being as at 31 March 2016), or at any other time as instructed to do so by the Administering Authority. The contributions payable over the period to 31 March 2020 are set out in the Rates and Adjustments certificate. For further details on the approach adopted to set contribution rates for the Council, please refer to the 2016 actuarial report dated 31 March 2017.

Information about the Defined Benefit Obligation

	Liability Split		Weighted Average Duration
	£'000	%	
Active Members	445,625	52.0	24.7
Deferred Members	135,913	15.9	25.3
Pensioner Members	275,177	32.1	12.0
Total	**856,715**	**100.0**	**19.6**

The above figures are for funded obligations only and do not include unfunded pensioner liabilities. The durations are effective at the previous formal valuation as at 31 March 2016.

Impact in Future Years

The total contributions expected to be made to the Local Government Pensions Scheme by the Council in the year to 31 March 2018 are £23.2m

As the Actuary's report is based on estimates and due to timing issues, there is a variance of £831,890 in 2016/17 (£1,443,736 in 2015/16) between the deficit in the Scheme based on the Actuarial figures in comparison with the liability related to the defined benefit pension schemes in the Balance Sheet. This variance has been treated as Actuarial Gains and Losses on Pension Assets and Liabilities and therefore has been included in the Liability related to the defined benefit pension schemes in the Balance Sheet.

NOTE 39 – CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

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

The position below relates to circumstances involving two specific contingent liabilities:

- The capping and aftercare requirements for the Authority's landfill sites – the provision contained in the accounts is based on existing and known circumstances, in addition to relevant forecasts. However, the actual final cost may differ from the current estimated future cost.

NOTE 39 – CONTINGENT LIABILITIES (continued)

- This Authority is exposed to a potential insurance liability relating to the insurance arrangements of its predecessor authorities, being Gwynedd County Council, Arfon Borough Council, Dwyfor District Council, and Meirionnydd District Council, and the closure of the Municipal Mutual Insurance (M.M.I.) Fund on 30 September 1992.

  M.M.I. made a scheme of arrangement with its creditors, by which, if M.M.I. had insufficient funds to meet future claims, a claw-back clause would be triggered (i.e. Scheme of Arrangements) which could affect claims paid since 1992-93. On 13 November 2012, the directors of the Company concluded that the terms of the Scheme of Arrangement should be triggered and served notice on the Scheme Administrator and the Company to that effect. The decision is irrevocable. An initial levy of 15% of the payments made since 30 September 1992 was paid during 2013/14, and a further 10% was paid in 2016/17.

  However, in accordance with the scheme, a further levy may be raised should the original levy be insufficient to meet M.M.I.'s liabilities in the longer term. Gwynedd Council is of the opinion that it would be prudent to continue with the provision in the expectation that the original levy will be inadequate. The current related estimated maximum potential liability to this authority is in the order of up to almost £850,000.

NOTE 40 – TRUSTS

The Council acts as sole trustee for 172 bequests such as school prize funds, and comforts and improvements funds for numerous Council Establishments. The largest fund, the Welsh Church Fund, has a completely separate accounting ledger, whereas, the Council holds the property for 171 of these bequests but makes no decision on the funds use. In every case, the funds do not represent the assets of the Council and therefore they have not been included in the Balance Sheet.

The total balance of the 171 bequests derecognised from the Council's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2017 was £679,691 (£646,045 on 31 March 2016). The funds are fully invested to generate income.

The largest bequests, The Welsh Church Fund and FMG Morgan Trust Fund, are detailed in Appendices A and B of these accounts.

NOTE 41 – SERVICE CONCESSION ARRANGEMENTS

Prosiect GwyriAD is a Service Concession Arrangement, otherwise known as a 'Private Finance Initiative' (PFI) scheme. The construction commenced in 2012/13 and the plant became operational in September 2013. It is a treatment plant for source segregated food waste from Gwynedd residents and businesses (mainly) using Anaerobic Digestion (AD) technology. The enterprise is assisting the Authority to meet its recycling targets, and to work within its allowances for landfilling of Biodegradable Municipal Waste for a period of 15 years.

The assets used to provide the service are recognised on the Authority's Balance Sheet. The value of the related assets was £4.0m as at 31 March 2017 (£4.2m as at 31 March 2016). The Authority makes an agreed payment (gate fee) each year based on a minimum amount of tonnage which is increased each year by inflation and can be reduced if the contractor fails to meet availability and performance standards in any year. The Authority has the right to increase the amount of tonnages over the agreed 7,500 tons to a maximum of 11,000 tons, and will pay a reduced gate fee for anything over 7,500 tons.

	Payment for Services	Reimbursement of Capital Expenditure	Interest	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Paid in 2016/17	498	126	139	763
Payable in 2017/18	498	134	131	763
Payable within 2 to 5 years	1,991	623	437	3,051
Payable within 6 to 10 years	2,489	1,022	304	3,815
Payable within 11 to 15 years	704	348	28	1,080
Total	**6,180**	**2,253**	**1,039**	**9,472**

Although the payments made to the contractor are described as unitary payments, they have been calculated to compensate the contractor for the fair value of the services they provide, the capital expenditure incurred and interest payable.

The contractor receives income from energy that is generated from the waste which has enabled them to keep the unitary payment low for the Authority. If the income is higher than what is in the contract, there is an arrangement for it to be shared between the contractor and Gwynedd Council.

The liability outstanding to be paid to the contractor for capital expenditure incurred is as follows:

	2016/17	
	Lease Liability	Deferred Income
	£'000	£'000
Balance outstanding at 1 April 2016	(2,253)	(1,810)
Repayment of principal during the year	126	0
Release of deferred income	0	146
Balance outstanding at 31 March 2017	(2,127)	(1,664)

Either party can terminate the agreement at any time should there be deficiencies, subject to giving notice in accordance with the terms of the agreement. Equally, the Authority can unilaterally terminate the agreement in accordance with the terms therein. There would be compensation payments linked to any termination arrangement. At the expiry of the agreement, the Authority has the right to re-tender for a contractor to provide the service.

NOTE 42 – JOINT OPERATIONS AND JOINT COMMITTEES

The Council currently participates in a number of joint operations with neighbouring North Wales authorities.

During 2016/17, Gwynedd Council participated in four joint committees, collaborating in particular areas between Local Authorities. Separate accounts are required for joint committees. The four joint committees relating to Gwynedd in 2016/17 are:

- Special Educational Needs Joint Committee (SEN)
- Joint Planning Policy Committee
- GwE
- North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project (NWRWTP)

The Joint Committee accounts follow the same timetable in terms of the statutory dates for the completion of the accounts. In the circumstances, Gwynedd Council's accounts reflects the related actual net liability, although the subjective analysis position varies subject to the circumstances, and the reporting arrangements of the various joint committees. The figures and the share relating to Gwynedd have been included in the table below:

Joint Committee	**Leading Council (for Finance)**	**Councils participating in the Joint Committees**	**Gwynedd Council's Share** **%**	**Value of Gwynedd's Share (Income and Expenditure Account) £'000**
Special Educational Needs Joint Committee	Gwynedd Council	Gwynedd Council Isle of Anglesey County Council	61.4%	779
Joint Planning Policy Committee	Gwynedd Council	Gwynedd Council Isle of Anglesey County Council	50%	483
GwE	Gwynedd Council	Conwy County Borough Council Denbighshire County Council Flintshire County Council Gwynedd Council Isle of Anglesey County Council Wrexham County Borough Council	17.77%	728
North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project	Flintshire County Council	Conwy County Borough Council Denbighshire County Council Flintshire County Council Gwynedd Council Isle of Anglesey County Council	20%	83

The individual joint committees' accounts are available on the website of the leading council in respect of the finance and accountancy service.

NOTE 43 – EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

There are no known events after the balance sheet date to report.

GWYNEDD PENSION FUND ACCOUNTS

31 March 2016 £'000		Notes	31 March 2017 £'000
	Dealings with members, employers and others directly involved in the Fund		
67,317	Contributions receivable	7	67,695
8	Interest on deferred contributions		7
3	Income from divorce calculations		2
5,075	Transfers in from other pension schemes	8	5,893
72,403	**Total contributions received**		**73,597**
(55,186)	Benefits payable	9	(53,982)
(2,852)	Payments to and on account of leavers	10	(3,970)
(58,038)	**Total benefits paid**		**(57,952)**
14,365			**15,645**
(10,060)	Management Expenses	11	**(11,641)**
	Returns on Investments		
11,874	Investment income	14	12,886
(530)	Taxes on income	15	(378)
12,383	Profit and (loss) on disposal of investments and changes in the market value of investments	16	322,316
23,727	**Returns on investments net of tax**		**334,824**
28,032	**Increase in the net assets available for benefits during the year**		**338,828**
	Net assets of the Fund		
1,497,373	At 1 April		1,525,405
28,032	Increase in net assets		338,828
1,525,405			**1,864,233**

NET ASSETS STATEMENT

31 March 2016 £'000		Notes	31 March 2017 £'000
1,455,230	Investment assets	16	1,798,325
42,631	Cash deposits	16	49,248
1,497,861			**1,847,573**
(64)	Investment liabilities	16	(235)
31,887	Current assets	21	20,984
(4,279)	Current liabilities	22	(4,089)
1,525,405			**1,864,233**

The Financial Statements do not take into account the Fund's liability to pay pensions and other benefits to all the present contributors to the Fund after the scheme year-end, but rather summarises the transactions and net assets of the scheme. The liabilities of the Fund are taken into account in the periodic actuarial valuations of the Fund (most recently as at 31 March 2016) and are reflected in the levels of employers' contributions determined at the valuation, so that the Fund will again be able to meet 100% of future liabilities. The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits is shown in Note 20.

NOTES TO THE GWYNEDD PENSION FUND ACCOUNTS

NOTE 1 – DESCRIPTION OF FUND

The Gwynedd Pension Fund ("the Fund") is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme and is administered by Gwynedd Council. The council is the reporting entity for this pension fund. The following description of the Fund is a summary only. For more detail, reference should be made to the Gwynedd Pension Fund Annual Report 2016/17 and the underlying statutory powers underpinning the scheme, namely the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Regulations.

a) General

The Fund is governed by the Public Service Pensions Act 2013. The Fund is administered in accordance with the following secondary legislation:

- the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (as amended);
- the Local Government Pension Scheme (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014 (as amended);
- the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009 (as amended).

It is a contributory defined pension scheme administered by Gwynedd Council to provide pensions and other benefits for pensionable employees of Gwynedd Council, two other local authorities and other schedule, resolution and admission bodies within the former Gwynedd County Council area. Teachers, police officers and firefighters are not included as they are in other national pension schemes. The Fund is overseen by the Pensions Committee, which is a committee of Gwynedd Council.

b) Membership

Membership of the LGPS is voluntary and employees are free to choose whether to join the scheme, remain in the scheme or make their own personal arrangements outside the scheme. Organisations participating in the Gwynedd Pension Fund include:

- Scheduled bodies, which are local authorities and similar bodies whose staff are automatically entitled to be members of the Fund.
- Resolution bodies, which are city, town and community councils. They have the power to decide if their employees can join the LGPS and pass a resolution accordingly.
- Admission bodies, which are other organisations that participate in the Fund under an admission agreement between the Fund and the relevant organisation. Admitted bodies include voluntary, charitable and similar bodies or private contractors undertaking a local authority function following outsourcing to the private sector.

NOTE 1 – DESCRIPTION OF FUND (continued)

The following bodies are active employers within the Pension Fund:

Scheduled Bodies	
Gwynedd Council	Snowdonia National Park
Conwy County Borough Council	Bryn Eilian School
Isle of Anglesey County Council	Emrys ap Iwan School
Police and Crime Commissioner for North Wales	Pen y Bryn School
Llandrillo – Menai Group	Eirias High School
GWE	NWTRA
Resolution Bodies	
Llanllyfni Community Council	Ffestiniog Town Council
Bangor City Council	Llandudno Town Council
Abergele Town Council	Llangefni Town Council
Colwyn Bay Town Council	Menai Bridge Town Council
Beaumaris Town Council	Towyn and Kinmel Bay Town Council
Holyhead Town Council	Tywyn Town Council
Caernarfon Town Council	Conwy Town Council
Admission Bodies	
Coleg Harlech WEA	North Wales Society for the Blind
CAIS	Conwy Voluntary Services
Conwy Citizens Advice Bureau	Careers Wales North West
Ynys Môn Citizens Advice Bureau	Mantell Gwynedd
Cwmni Cynnal	Medrwn Môn
Cwmni'r Fran Wen	Menter Môn
Holyhead Joint Burial Committee	
Community Admission Bodies	
Cartrefi Conwy	Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd
Transferee Admission Bodies	
Caterlink	Jewsons
Superclean 1	Antur Teifi
ABM Catering	

c) Funding

Benefits are funded by contributions and investment earnings. Contributions are made by active members of the Fund in accordance with the LGPS (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2007 and range from 2.75% to 12.5% of pensionable pay for the financial year ending 31 March 2017. Employers also make contributions which are set based on triennial actuarial funding valuations. New employer contribution rates were applied for the three years from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2017 following the actuarial valuation carried out as at 31 March 2013.

d) Benefits

Prior to 1 April 2014 pension benefits under the LGPS were based on final pensionable pay and length of pensionable service, summarised below:

	Service pre-1 April 2008	**Service post-31 March 2008**
Pension	Each year worked is worth 1/80 x final pensionable salary.	Each year worked is worth 1/60 x final pensionable salary.
Lump sum	Automatic lump sum of 3/80 x salary. In addition, part of the annual pension can be exchanged for a one-off tax-free cash payment. A lump sum of £12 is paid for each £1 of pension given up.	No automatic lump sum. Part of the annual pension can be exchanged for a one-off tax-free cash payment. A lump sum of £12 is paid for each £1 of pension given up.

NOTE 1 – DESCRIPTION OF FUND (continued)

From 1 April 2014, the scheme became a career average scheme as summarised below:

	Service post-31 March 2014
Pension	Each year worked is worth 1/49 x career average revalued earnings (CARE)
Lump Sum	No automatic lump sum. Part of the annual pension can be exchanged for a one-off tax-free cash payment. A lump sum of £12 is paid for each £1 of pension given up.

Accrued pension is increased annually in line with the Consumer Prices Index.

There are a number of other benefits provided under the scheme including early retirement, disability pensions and death benefits. For more details, please refer to the Gwynedd Pension Fund scheme handbook available from Gwynedd Council's Pensions Section.

Benefits are index-linked in order to keep pace with inflation.

NOTE 2 – BASIS OF PREPARATION

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Fund's transactions for the 2016/17 financial year and its position at year-end as at 31 March 2017. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17 which is based upon International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as amended for the UK public sector.

The accounts summarise the transactions of the Fund and report on the net assets available to pay pension benefits. The accounts do not take account of obligations to pay pensions and benefits which fall due after the end of the financial year or the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits. The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits, valued on an International Accounting Standard (IAS) 19 basis, is disclosed at Note 20 of these accounts.

NOTE 3 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Fund account – revenue recognition

a) Contribution Income

Normal contributions, both from the members and from the employer, are accounted for on an accruals basis at the percentage rate recommended by the Fund actuary in the payroll period to which they relate.

Employers deficit funding contributions are accounted for on the due dates on which they are payable under the schedule of contributions set by the scheme actuary or on receipt if earlier than the due date.

Employers' augmentation contributions and pensions strain contributions are accounted for in the period in which the liability arises. Any amount due in year but unpaid will be classed as a current financial asset. Amounts not due until future years are classed as long-term financial assets.

b) Transfers to and from other schemes

Transfer values represent the amounts received and paid during the year for members who have either joined or left the Fund during the financial year and are calculated in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations (see Notes 8 and 10).

Individual transfers in and out are accounted for on a receipts and payments basis, which is normally when the member liability is accepted or discharged.

NOTE 3 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Transfers in from members wishing to use the proceeds of their additional voluntary contributions (see below) to purchase scheme benefits are accounted for on a receipts basis and are included in Transfers In (see Note 8).

Bulk (group) transfers are accounted for on an accruals basis in accordance with the terms of the transfer agreement.

c) Investment income

i) Interest income
Interest income is recognised in the Fund account as it accrues, using the effective interest rate of the financial instrument as at the date of acquisition or origination. Income includes the amortisation of any discount or premium, transaction costs or other differences between the initial carrying amount of the instrument and its amount at maturity calculated on an effective interest rate basis.

ii) Dividend income
Dividend income is recognised on the date the shares are quoted ex-dividend. Any amount not received by the end of the reporting period is disclosed in the net assets statement as a current financial asset.

iii) Distributions from pooled funds including property
Distributions from pooled funds are recognised at the date of issue. Any amount not received by the end of the reporting period is disclosed in the net assets statement as a current financial asset.

iv) Movement in the net market value of investments
Changes in the net market value of investments are recognised as income and comprise all realised and unrealised profits/losses during the year.

Fund account – expense items

d) Benefits payable

Pensions and lump-sum benefits payable include all amounts known to be due as at the end of the financial year. Any amounts due but unpaid are disclosed in the net assets statement as current liabilities.

e) Taxation

The Fund is a registered public service scheme under section 1(1) of Schedule 36 of the Finance Act 2004 and as such is exempt from UK income tax on interest received and from capital gains tax on the proceeds of investments sold. Income from overseas investments suffers withholding tax in the country of origin, unless exemption is permitted. Irrecoverable tax is accounted for as a fund expense as it arises.

f) Management expenses

The Code does not require any breakdown of pension Fund administrative expenses. However, in the interests of greater transparency, the Council discloses its pension Fund management expenses in accordance with the CIPFA guidance Accounting for Local Government Pension Scheme Management Costs.

Administrative expenses

All administrative expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis. All staff costs of the pensions administration team are charged direct to the Fund. Associated management, accommodation and other overheads are apportioned to the Fund in accordance with Council policy.

Oversight and governance costs

All oversight and governance expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis. All staff costs, management and other overheads associated with oversight and governance are apportioned to the Fund in accordance with Council policy.

Investment management expenses

All investment management expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis.

NOTE 3 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Fees of the external investment managers and custodian are agreed in the respective mandates governing their appointments. Broadly, these are based on the market value of the investments under their management and therefore increase or reduce as the value of these investments change.

In addition the Fund has negotiated with Fidelity International that an element of their fee be performance-related. The cost of obtaining investment advice from external consultants is included in investment management charges.

A proportion of the Council's costs representing management time spent by officers on investment management is also charged to the Fund.

Net assets statement

g) Financial assets

Financial assets are included in the net assets statement on a fair value basis as at the reporting date. A financial asset is recognised in the net assets statement on the date the Fund becomes party to the contractual acquisition of the asset. From this date any gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of asset are recognised by the Fund.

The values of investments as shown in the net assets statement have been determined as follows:

i) Market-quoted investments
The value of an investment for which there is a readily available market price is determined by the bid market price ruling on the final day of the accounting period.

ii) Fixed interest securities
Fixed interest securities are recorded at net market value based on their current yields.

iii) Unquoted investments
The fair value of investments for which market quotations are not readily available is determined as follows:

- Unquoted securities typically include pooled investments in property, infrastructure, debt securities and private equity. The valuation of these pools or directly held securities is undertaken by the investment manager or responsible entity and advised as a unit or security price. The valuation standards followed in these valuations adhere to industry guidelines or to standards set by the constituent documents of the pool or the management agreement.
- Investments in unquoted property are valued at the net asset value or a single price advised by the Fund manager.
- Investments in private equity funds and unquoted listed partnerships are valued based on the fund's share of the net assets in the private equity fund or limited partnership using the latest financial statements published by the respective fund managers in accordance with IFRS guidelines. It is important to recognise the highly subjective nature of determining the fair value of private equity investments. They are inherently based on forward-looking estimates and judgements involving many factors.

iv) Pooled investment vehicles
Pooled investments vehicles are valued at closing bid price if both bid and offer prices are published; or if single priced, at the closing single price. In the case of pooled investment vehicles that are accumulation funds, change in market value also includes income which is reinvested in the fund, net of applicable withholding tax.

h) Foreign currency transactions

Dividends, interest and purchases and sales of investments in foreign currencies have been accounted for at the spot market rates at the date of transaction. End-of-year spot market exchange rates are used to value cash balances held in foreign currency bank accounts, market values of overseas investments and purchases and sales outstanding at the end of the reporting period.

i) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash comprises cash in hand and demand deposits. Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and that are subject to minimal risk of changes in value.

NOTE 3 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

j) Financial liabilities
The Fund recognises financial liabilities at fair value as at the reporting date. A financial liability is recognised in the net assets statement on the date the Fund becomes party to the liability. From this date any gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of the liability are recognised by the Fund.

k) Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits
The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits is assessed on a triennial basis by the scheme actuary in accordance with the requirements of IAS19 and relevant actuarial standards.

As permitted under IAS26, the Fund has opted to disclose the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits by way of a note to the net assets statement (Note 20).

l) Additional voluntary contributions
Gwynedd Pension Fund provides an additional voluntary contributions (AVC) scheme for its members, the assets of which are invested separately from those of the pension Fund. There are three AVC funds. They are held with Clerical Medical, The Equitable Life Assurance Society and Standard Life. The AVC providers secure additional benefits on a money purchase basis for those members electing to pay additional voluntary contributions. Members participating in these arrangements each receive an annual statement made up to 31 March confirming the amounts held in their account and the movements in year.

AVCs are not included in the accounts in accordance with section 4(2)(b) of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/3093) but are disclosed as a note only (Note 23).

NOTE 4 – CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Unquoted private equity and infrastructure investments
It is important to recognise the highly subjective nature of determining the fair value of private equity investments. They are inherently based on forward-looking estimates and judgements involving many factors. Unquoted private equities and infrastructure are valued by the investment managers using guidelines set out by IFRS accounting standards. The value of unquoted securities at 31 March 2017 was £110 million (£82 million at 31 March 2016).

Pension fund liability
The pension fund liability is calculated every three years by the appointed actuary, with annual updates in the intervening years. The methodology used is in line with accepted guidelines and in accordance with IAS19. Assumptions underpinning the valuations are agreed with the actuary and are summarised in Note 19. This estimate is subject to significant variances based on changes to the underlying assumptions.

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

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the accounts. Estimates and assumptions 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 net assets statement at 31 March 2017 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

NOTE 5 – ASSUMPTIONS MADE ABOUT THE FUTURE AND OTHER MAJOR SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY (continued)

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
Debtors	At 31 March 2017, the Fund had a balance of sundry debtors of £5.6m. A review of significant balances suggested that it was not appropriate to make any impairment of the debts.	If collection rates were to deteriorate, it would be necessary to reconsider this decision.
Private equity and infrastructure	Private equity and infrastructure investments are valued at fair value in accordance with British Venture Capital Association guidelines. These investments are not publicly listed and as such there is a degree of estimation involved in the valuation.	The total private equity and infrastructure investments in the financial statements are £110 million. There is a risk that this investment may be under or overstated in the accounts.

NOTE 6 – EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

There are no significant events after the balance sheet date to report.

NOTE 7 – CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVABLE

By category

2015/16		2016/17
£'000		£'000
52,149	Employers	52,439
15,168	Employees/Members	15,256
67,317		**67,695**

By authority

2015/16		2016/17
£'000		£'000
22,722	Gwynedd Council	23,210
40,256	Other scheduled bodies	40,231
1,660	Admission bodies	1,514
2,227	Community admission bodies	2,215
203	Transferee admission bodies	252
195	Resolution bodies	219
54	Closed fund*	54
67,317		**67,695**

* Closed fund – These are contributions received from North Wales Magistrates Court Committee which was an admitted body but is now a closed fund.

By contribution

2015/16		2016/17
£'000		£'000
15,168	Employees' normal contributions	15,256
45,106	Employers' normal contributions	46,570
7,043	Employers' deficit recovery contributions	5,869
67,317		**67,695**

NOTE 8 – TRANSFERS IN FROM OTHER PENSION FUNDS

2015/16		2016/17
£'000		£'000
3,889	Group transfers	1,315
1,186	Individual transfers	4,578
5,075		**5,893**

NOTE 9 - BENEFITS PAYABLE

By category

2015/16		2016/17
£'000		£'000
39,477	Pensions	41,081
14,070	Commutation and lump sum retirement benefits	11,093
1,639	Lump sum death benefits	1,808
55,186		**53,982**

By authority

2015/16		2016/17
£'000		£'000
15,094	Gwynedd Council	15,233
27,319	Other scheduled bodies	25,701
1,275	Admission bodies	1,561
709	Community admission body	1,095
35	Transferee admission body	173
86	Resolution body	58
10,668	Closed fund	10,161
55,186		**53,982**

NOTE 10 – PAYMENTS TO AND ON ACCOUNT OF LEAVERS

2015/16		2016/17
£'000		£'000
96	Refunds to members leaving service net of tax repayments	103
77	Payments for members joining state scheme	11
2,679	Individual transfers	3,856
2,852		**3,970**

NOTE 11 – MANAGEMENT EXPENSES

2015/16		2016/17
£'000		£'000
1,186	Administrative costs	1,242
8,815	Investment management expenses (Note 13)	10,343
59	Oversight and governance costs	56
10,060		**11,641**

This analysis of the costs of managing the Gwynedd Pension Fund during the period has been prepared in accordance with CIPFA guidance.

NOTE 12 – ADMINISTRATIVE, OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNANCE COSTS

2015/16 £'000		2016/17 £'000
	Administrative costs	
447	Direct employee costs	486
368	Other direct costs	293
257	Support services, including IT	303
29	External audit fees	33
85	Actuarial fees	128
1,186		**1,243**
	Oversight and governance costs	
59	Pensions Committee	55
1,245		**1,298**

Administrative expenses include amounts charged to the Pension Fund by Gwynedd Council for staff costs, support services and accommodation. Further details are given in Note 24.

NOTE 13 – INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT EXPENSES

2015/16 £'000		2016/17 £'000
8,685	Management fees	10,258
54	Custody fees	45
19	Performance monitoring service	3
57	Investment consultancy fees	37
8,815		**10,343**

The management fees disclosed above include all investment management fees directly incurred by the Fund including those charged on pooled investment funds.

The investment management expenses above include £322,972 (2015/16 £748,579) in respect of performance-related fees paid to one of the Fund's investment managers. In addition to these costs, indirect costs are incurred through the bid-offer spread on investment sales and purchases. They are reflected in the cost of investment purchases and in the proceeds of sales of investments (see Note 16a).

NOTE 14 – INVESTMENT INCOME

2015/16 £'000		2016/17 £'000
788	UK equities	427
6,019	Overseas equities	6,405
853	Private equity	1,239
302	Infrastructure	207
3,764	Pooled property investments	4,475
148	Interest on cash deposits	133
11,874		**12,886**

The Gwynedd Pension Fund has three bank accounts which are held as part of Gwynedd Council's Group of Bank Accounts. The overall surplus cash held in the Group of Bank Accounts is invested on a daily basis. At the end of the financial year, Gwynedd Council pays interest over to the Pension Fund, based on the Fund's daily balances over the year.

The Council had a deposit of £4m with Heritable Bank, which went into administration in October 2008. There were no distributions during 2016/17. During 2015/16 a distribution of £22,615.66 was received by the Pension Fund. This amount has been included in the interest on cash deposits figure for 2015/16 in the above table. Further information is included in Note 27.

The Pension Fund also has a Euro account to deal with receipts and payments in Euros and minimise the number and costs of exchange transactions.

NOTE 15 – TAXES ON INCOME

2015/16 £'000		2016/17 £'000
530	Withholding tax – equities	378
530		**378**

NOTE 16 – INVESTMENTS

2015/16 £'000		2016/17 £'000
	Investment assets	
198,845	Fixed interest absolute return	236,625
269,784	Equities	345,284
746,944	Pooled equity investments	963,262
157,734	Pooled property investments	142,448
66,278	Private equity	82,023
15,262	Infrastructure	28,053
1,454,847		**1,797,695**
42,631	Cash deposits	49,248
383	Debtors	630
1,497,861	**Total investment assets**	**1,847,573**
	Investment liabilities	
(64)	Amounts payable for purchases	(235)
(64)	**Total investment liabilities**	**(235)**
1,497,797	**Net investment assets**	**1,847,338**

Note 16a – Reconciliation of movements in investments and derivatives

2016/17	Market value at 1 April 2016	Purchases during the year	Sales during the year	Change in market value during the year	Market value at 31 March 2017
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fixed interest absolute return securities	198,845	30,000	0	7,780	236,625
Equities	269,784	73,681	(76,100)	77,919	345,284
Pooled investments	746,944	15,347	(13,492)	214,463	963,262
Pooled property investments	157,734	18,373	(31,465)	(2,194)	142,448
Private equity / infrastructure	81,540	29,118	(18,212)	17,630	110,076
	1,454,847	166,519	(139,269)	315,598	1,797,695
Cash deposits	42,631			(387)	49,248
Amount receivable for sales of investments	383			(4)	630
Amounts payable for purchases of investments	(64)			(1)	(235)
Fees within pooled vehicles				7,110	
Net investment assets	**1,497,797**	**166,519**	**(139,269)**	**322,316**	**1,847,338**

2015/16	Market value at 1 April 2015	Purchases during the year	Sales during the year	Change in market value during the year	Market value at 31 March 2016
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fixed interest absolute return securities	197,323	0	0	1,522	198,845
Equities	272,050	66,295	(82,842)	14,281	269,784
Pooled investments	773,481	7,279	(5,532)	(28,284)	746,944
Pooled property investments	143,288	2,266	0	12,180	157,734
Private equity / infrastructure	71,463	13,516	(12,066)	8,627	81,540
	1,457,605	89,356	(100,440)	8,326	1,454,847
Cash deposits	22,082			(47)	42,631
Amount receivable for sales of investments	420				383
Amounts payable for purchases of investments	(229)				(64)
Fees within pooled vehicles				4,104	
Net investment assets	**1,479,878**	**89,356**	**(100,440)**	**12,383**	**1,497,797**

Transaction costs, such as commissions, stamp duty and other transaction fees, are included in the cost of purchases and in sale proceeds. Transaction costs incurred during the year total £171,393 (2015/16 £193,820). In addition to these costs indirect costs are incurred through the bid-offer spread on investment purchases and sales.

Note 16b – Analysis of investments

31 March 2016 £'000		31 March 2017 £'000
	Equities	
	UK	
32,396	Quoted	37,453
	Overseas	
237,388	Quoted	307,831
	Pooled funds	
	UK	
234,401	Unit trusts	301,034
	Global (including UK)	
198,845	Fixed income	236,625
274,408	Unit trusts	355,661
	Overseas	
238,135	Unit trusts	306,567
157,734	**Property unit trusts**	142,448
66,278	**Private equity**	82,023
15,262	**Infrastructure**	28,053
1,454,847		**1,797,695**

Investments analysed by fund manager

Market Value at 31 March 2016			Market Value at 31 March 2017	
£'000	**%**		**£'000**	**%**
470,435	31.4	BlackRock	601,837	32.6
305,122	20.4	Fidelity	399,686	21.6
198,852	13.3	Insight	236,632	12.8
29,845	2.0	Lothbury	39,599	2.1
81,540	5.4	Partners Group	110,076	6.0
15,931	1.0	Threadneedle	16,476	0.9
83,346	5.6	UBS	48,112	2.6
312,726	20.9	Veritas	394,920	21.4
1,497,797	**100.0**		**1,847,338**	**100.0**

The following investments represent more than 5% of the net assets of the scheme:

Market value 31 March 2016	% of total Fund	Security	Market value 31 March 2017	% of total Fund
£'000			£'000	
274,408	17.99	Fidelity Institutional Select Global Equity	355,661	19.08
234,400	15.37	BlackRock Asset Management Aquila Life UK Equity Index Fund	301,033	16.15
198,845	13.04	Insight Umbrella Holdings	236,625	12.69
95,490	6.26	BlackRock Asset Management Aquila Life Global Dev Fundamental Fund	129,078	6.92

Note 16c – Stock lending

The Statement of Investment Principles (SIP) states that stock lending will be permitted subject to specific approval. Currently the Fund does not undertake any stock lending.

NOTE 17 – FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Note 17a – Classification of financial instruments

Accounting policies describe how different asset classes of financial instruments are measured, and how income and expenses, including fair value gains and losses, are recognised. The following table analyses the carrying amounts of financial assets and liabilities by category and net assets statement heading. No financial assets were reclassified during the accounting period.

As at 31 March 2016				As at 31 March 2017		
Designated as fair value through profit and loss	**Loans and receivables**	**Financial liabilities at cost**		**Designated as fair value through profit and loss**	**Loans and receivables**	**Financial liabilities at cost**
£'000	**£'000**	**£'000**		**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
			Financial assets			
198,845			Fixed interest securities	236,625		
269,784			Equities	345,284		
746,944			Pooled investments	963,262		
157,734			Pooled property investments	142,448		
66,278			Private equity	82,023		
15,262			Infrastructure	28,053		
	63,065		Cash		64,622	
	11,836		Debtors		6,189	
1,454,847	**74,901**	**0**		**1,797,695**	**70,811**	**0**
			Financial liabilities			
(64)		(4,279)	Creditors			(4,273)
(64)		**(4,279)**				**(4,273)**
1,454,783	**74,901**	**(4,279)**		**1,797,695**	**70,811**	**(4,273)**

Note 17b – Net gains and losses on financial instruments

31 March 2016		31 March 2017
Fair value		**Fair value**
£'000		£'000
	Financial assets	
8,325	Fair value through profit and loss	315,598
(36)	Loans and receivables	(392)
8,289	**Total financial assets**	**315,206**
	Financial liabilities	
0	Fair value through profit and loss	0
0	Financial liabilities at cost	0
0	**Total financial liabilities**	**0**
8,289	**Net financial assets**	**315,206**

Note 17c – Fair value of financial instruments and liabilities

The following table summarises the carrying values of the financial assets and financial liabilities by class of instrument compared with their fair values.

31 March 2016 Carrying value £'000	31 March 2016 Fair value £'000		31 March 2017 Carrying value £'000	31 March 2017 Fair value £'000
		Financial assets		
1,057,007	1,454,847	Fair value through profit and loss	1,120,845	1,797,695
74,901	74,901	Loans and receivables	70,815	70,811
1,131,908	**1,529,748**	**Total financial assets**	**1,191,660**	**1,868,506**
		Financial liabilities		
(64)	(64)	Fair value through profit and loss	(235)	(235)
(4,279)	(4,279)	Financial liabilities at cost	(4,038)	(4,038)
(4,343)	**(4,343)**	**Total financial liabilities**	**(4,273)**	**(4,273)**
1,127,565	**1,525,405**	**Net financial assets**	**1,187,387**	**1,864,233**

The Fund has not entered into any financial guarantees that are required to be accounted for as financial instruments.

Note 17d – Valuation of financial instruments carried at fair value

The valuation of financial instruments has been classified into three levels, according to the quality and reliability of information used to determine fair values.

Level 1

Financial instruments at Level 1 are those where the fair values are derived from unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. Products classified as Level 1 comprise quoted equities, quoted fixed securities, quoted index linked securities and unit trusts. Listed investments are shown at bid prices. The bid value of the investment is based on the bid market quotation of the relevant stock exchange.

Level 2

Financial instruments at Level 2 are those where quoted market prices are not available; for example, where an instrument is traded in a market that is not considered to be active, or where valuation techniques are used to determine fair value and where these techniques use inputs that are based significantly on observable market data.

Level 3

Financial instruments at Level 3 are those where at least one input that could have a significant effect on the instrument's valuation is not based on observable market data. Such instruments could include unquoted equity investments and hedge fund of funds, which are valued using various valuation techniques that require significant judgement in determining appropriate assumptions.

The values of the investment in private equity are based on valuations provided by the general partners to the private equity funds in which Gwynedd Pension Fund has invested. These valuations are prepared in accordance with the International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation Guidelines, which follow the valuation principles of IFRS and US GAAP.

The following table provides an analysis of the financial assets and liabilities of the pension fund grouped into Levels 1 to 3, based on the level at which the fair value is observable.

Note 17d – Valuation of financial instruments carried at fair value (continued)

Values at 31 March 2017	Quoted market price Level 1 £'000	Using observable inputs Level 2 £'000	With significant unobservable inputs Level 3 £'000	Total £'000
Financial assets				
Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	822,831	864,788	110,076	1,797,695
Loans and receivables	70,811	0	0	70,811
Total financial assets	**893,642**	**864,788**	**110,076**	**1,868,506**
Financial liabilities				
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit and loss	0	(235)	0	(235)
Financial liabilities at cost	(4,038)	0	0	(4,038)
Total financial liabilities	**(4,038)**	**(235)**	**0**	**(4,273)**
Net financial assets	**889,604**	**864,553**	**110,076**	**1,864,233**

Values at 31 March 2016	Quoted market price Level 1 £'000	Using observable inputs Level 2 £'000	With significant unobservable inputs Level 3 £'000	Total £'000
Financial assets				
Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	633,363	739,944	81,540	1,454,847
Loans and receivables	74,901	0	0	74,901
Total financial assets	**708,264**	**739,944**	**81,540**	**1,529,748**
Financial liabilities				
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit and loss	0	(64)	0	(64)
Financial liabilities at cost	(4,279)	0	0	(4,279)
Total financial liabilities	**(4,279)**	**(64)**	**0**	**(4,343)**
Net financial assets	**703,985**	**739,880**	**81,540**	**1,525,405**

NOTE 18 – NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Risk and risk management
The Fund's primary long-term risk is that the Fund's assets will fall short of its liabilities (i.e. promised benefits payable to members). Therefore the aim of investment risk management is to minimise the risk of an overall reduction in the value of the Fund and to maximise the opportunity for gains across the whole Fund portfolio. The Fund achieves this through asset diversification to reduce exposure to market risk to an acceptable level. In addition, the Fund manages its liquidity risk to ensure there is sufficient liquidity to meet the Fund's forecast cash flows. The Council manages these investment risks as part of its overall Pension Fund risk management programme.

Responsibility for the Fund's risk management strategy rests with the Pensions Committee. The Pension Fund's overall risk management programme focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the resources available to pay pensions. The Funding Strategy Statement produced by the Administering Authority in conjunction with the Fund's Actuaries states how solvency and risk will be managed in relation to liabilities. The Administering Authority has produced this Funding Strategy Statement having taken an overall view of the level of risk inherent in the investment policy set out in the Statement of Investment Principles published under Regulation 12 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009 (the Investment Regulations) and the funding policy set out in this Statement. The Administering Authority will continue to review both documents to ensure that the overall risk profile remains appropriate.

a) Market risk
Market risk is the risk of loss from fluctuations in equity and commodity prices, interest and foreign exchange rates and credit spreads. The Fund is exposed to market risk for its investment activities, particularly through its equity holdings. The level of risk exposure depends on market conditions, expectations of future price and yield movements and the asset mix.

The objective of the Fund's risk management strategy is to identify, manage and control market risk exposure within acceptable parameters, whilst optimising the return on risk.

In general, excessive volatility in market risk is managed through the diversification of the portfolio in terms of geographical and industry sectors and individual securities. To mitigate market risk, the Council and its investment advisors undertake appropriate monitoring of market conditions and benchmark analysis.

The Fund manages these risks in two ways:

- the exposure of the Fund to market risk is monitored through a risk factor analysis to ensure that risk remains within tolerable levels,
- specific risk exposure is limited by applying risk-weighted maximum exposures to individual investments

Other price risk
Other price risk represents the risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or foreign exchange risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual instrument or its issuer or factors affecting all such instruments in the market.

The Fund is exposed to share price risk. This arises from investments held by the Fund for which the future price is uncertain. All securities investments present a risk of loss of capital. Except for shares sold short, the maximum risk resulting from financial instruments is determined by the fair value of the financial instruments. Possible losses from shares sold short are unlimited.

The Fund's investment managers mitigate this price risk through diversification and the selection of securities and other financial instruments is monitored by the Council to ensure it is within the limits set in the Fund investment strategy.

Other price risk – sensitivity analysis
Following analysis of historical data and expected investment return movement during the financial year, in consultation with the Fund's investment advisors, the Council has determined that the following movements in market price risk are reasonably possible for the 2016/17 reporting period.

NOTE 18 – NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

Following analysis of the observed historical volatility of asset class returns in consultation with the Fund's investment advisors potential price changes have been determined for the various classes of assets held by the Fund. The rates to be applied to the Fund's asset categories are as follows:

Asset type	Potential market movement (+/-)	
	31 March 2016	31 March 2017
	%	%
UK Equities	9.3	15.8
Global Equities	9.3	18.4
Private Equity	9.3	28.5
Absolute Return Bonds	1.5	2.9
Alternatives (Infrastructure)	6.5	11.3
Property	2.3	14.2
Cash	0.0	0.0
Whole Fund		12.8

The potential volatilities disclosed above are consistent with a one-standard deviation movement in the change of value of the assets over the latest three years. This analysis assumes that all other variables, in particular foreign currency exchange rates and interest rates, remain the same.

Had the market price of the Fund investments increased/decreased in line with the above, the change in the market price of the net assets available to pay benefits would have been as follows:

Asset type	Value as at 31 March 2017	Percentage change	Value on increase	Value on decrease
	£'000	%	£'000	£'000
UK Equities	338,486	15.8	391,966	285,005
Global Equities	970,060	18.4	1,148,552	791,569
Private Equity	82,023	28.5	105,399	58,646
Absolute Return Bonds	236,625	2.9	243,487	229,763
Alternatives (Infrastructure)	28,053	11.3	28,867	27,240
Property	142,448	14.2	158,545	126,351
Cash	49,248	0.0	56,241	42,255
Total assets available to pay benefits	**1,846,943**	**12.8**	**2,083,352**	**1,610,534**

* The whole fund values in the table above are based on 12.8% rather than the total of the individual asset types.

Asset type	Value as at 31 March 2016	Percentage change	Value on increase	Value on decrease
	£'000	%	£'000	£'000
UK Equities	266,797	9.3	291,475	242,118
Global Equities	749,931	9.3	819,300	680,563
Private Equity	66,278	9.3	70,613	61,943
Absolute Return Bonds	198,845	1.5	201,788	195,902
Alternatives (Infrastructure)	15,262	6.5	16,260	14,264
Property	157,734	2.3	161,409	154,059
Cash	42,950	0.0	42,954	42,946
Total assets available to pay benefits	**1,497,797**		**1,603,799**	**1,391,795**

Interest rate risk

The Fund invests in financial assets for the primary purpose of obtaining a return on investments. These investments are subject to interest rate risks, which represent the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates.

The Fund's interest rate risk is routinely monitored in accordance with the Fund's risk management strategy, including monitoring the exposure to interest rates and assessment of actual interest rates against the relevant benchmarks.

NOTE 18 – NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

The Fund's direct exposure to interest rate movements as at 31 March 2017 and 31 March 2016 is set out below. These disclosures present interest rate risk based on the underlying financial assets at fair value:

Asset type	As at 31 March 2016 £'000	As at 31 March 2017 £'000
Cash and cash equivalents	20,434	15,375
Cash balances	42,631	49,248
Fixed interest securities	198,845	236,625
Total	**261,910**	**301,248**

Interest rate risk sensitivity analysis

The Council recognises that interest rates can vary and can affect both income to the Fund and the value of net assets available to pay benefits. A 1% movement in interest rates is consistent with the level of sensitivity applied as part of the Fund's risk management strategy. The analysis that follows assumes that all other variables, in particular exchange rates, remain constant, and shows the effect in the year on the net assets available to pay benefits of a +/- 1% change in interest rates:

Asset type	Carrying amount as at 31 March 2017	Change in year in the net assets available to pay benefits	
		+1%	-1%
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash and cash equivalents	15,375	154	(154)
Cash balances	49,248	492	(492)
Fixed interest securities*	236,625	(1,538)	1,538
Total change in assets available	**301,248**	**(892)**	**892**

* A change of 1% in interest rate does not have a direct impact on fixed interest securities but does have a partial impact as calculated in the tables above

Asset type	Carrying amount as at 31 March 2016	Change in year in the net assets available to pay benefits	
		+1%	-1%
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash and cash equivalents	20,434	204	(204)
Cash balances	42,631	426	(426)
Fixed interest securities*	198,845	1,869	(1,869)
Total change in assets available	**261,910**	**2,499**	**(2,499)**

* A change of 1% in interest rate does not have a direct impact on fixed interest securities but does have a partial impact as calculated in the tables above.

The impact that a 1% change in interest rates would have on interest received is minimal as the average interest rate received on cash during the year was 0.53%, amounting to interest of £132,567 for the year.

A 1% increase in interest rates will not affect the interest received on fixed income assets but will reduce their fair value, as shown in the tables above. Changes in interest rates do not impact on the value of cash / cash equivalents but they will affect the interest income received on those balances. Changes to both the fair value of assets and income received from investments impact on the net assets to pay benefits but as noted above this does not have a significant effect on the Fund.

Currency risk

Currency risk represents the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates. The Fund is exposed to currency risk on financial instruments that are denominated in any currency other than the functional currency of the Fund (£UK). The Fund holds assets denominated in currencies other than £UK.

NOTE 18 – NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

The Fund has made commitments to private equity and infrastructure in foreign currency, (€214 million and $88.6 million). These commitments are being drawn down on request from the investment manager over a number of years. The current commitments still outstanding are shown in Note 25. The risk is that the pound is weak relative to the dollar and euro at the time of the drawdown and then strengthens when the Fund is fully funded. The Fund has been funding the commitments since 2005 and therefore the liability is balanced out over a long period.

The Fund's currency rate risk has been calculated based on the volatility of the currencies which would affect the value of the investments and any cash held in those currencies.

The following table summarises the Fund's currency exposure as at 31 March 2017 and as at the previous year end:

Currency exposure - asset type	As at 31 March 2016 £'000	As at 31 March 2017 £'000
Overseas and Global Equities	749,931	970,060
Global Fixed Income	198,845	236,625
Overseas Alternatives (Private Equity and infrastructure)	81,540	110,076
Overseas Property	3,116	3,636
Overseas Currency	0	0
Total overseas assets	**1,033,432**	**1,320,397**

Currency risk – sensitivity analysis

Following analysis of historical data in consultation with the Fund investment advisors, the likely volatility associated with foreign exchange rate movements has been calculated with reference to the historic volatility of the currencies and their relative amounts in the Fund's investments.

A 10% fluctuation in the currency is considered reasonable based on the Fund investment advisors' analysis of long-term historical movements in the month-end exchange rates over a rolling 36-month period to 31 March 2017. The equivalent rate for the year ended 31 March 2016 was 6 %. This analysis assumes that all other variables, in particular interest rates, remain constant.

The tables below show a breakdown of the Fund's exposure to individual currencies as at March 31, 2017 and at the end of the previous financial year:

Currency exposure - by asset type	Carrying amount as at 31 March 2017	Change in year in the net assets available to pay benefits	
		Value on increase	Value on decrease
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Overseas and Global Equities	970,060	1,067,066	873,054
Global Fixed Income	236,625	260,288	212,963
Overseas Alternatives (Private Equity and infrastructure)	110,076	121,084	99,068
Overseas Property	3,636	4,000	3,273
Total change in assets available	**1,320,397**	**1,452,438**	**1,188,358**

NOTE 18 – NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

Currency exposure - by asset type	Carrying amount as at 31 March 2016	Change in year in the net assets available to pay benefits	
		Value on increase	Value on decrease
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Overseas and Global Equities	749,931	794,521	705,341
Global Fixed Income	198,845	210,668	187,022
Overseas Alternatives (Private Equity and infrastructure)	81,540	86,388	76,692
Overseas Property	3,116	3,301	2,931
Total change in assets available	**1,033,432**	**1,094,878**	**971,986**

b) Credit risk

Credit risk represents the risk that the counterparty to a transaction or a financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation and cause the Fund to incur a financial loss. The market values of investments generally reflect an assessment of credit in their pricing and consequently the risk of loss is implicitly provided for in the carrying value of the Fund's financial assets and liabilities.

In essence the Fund's entire investment portfolio is exposed to some form of credit risk. However, the selection of high quality counterparties, brokers and financial institutions minimises credit risk that may occur through the failure to settle a transaction in a timely manner.

The benchmark for the concentration of the funds held with investment managers is as follows.

Investment Manager	Percentage of Portfolio
BlackRock	29.5%
Fidelity	19.0%
Veritas	19.0%
Insight	15.0%
Property (UBS, Threadneedle, Lothbury, BlackRock)	10.0%
Partners Group	7.5%

All investments held by investment managers are held in the name of the Pension Fund so, if the investment manager fails, the Fund's investments are not classed amongst their assets.

Contractual credit risk is represented by the net payment or receipt that remains outstanding. The residual risk is minimal due to the various insurance policies held by the exchanges to cover defaulting counterparties.

In order to maximise the returns from Short-Term Investments and Cash Deposits, the Council invests any temporarily surplus funds in its bank accounts along with any surplus funds in the Gwynedd Pension Fund bank accounts. An appropriate share of the interest earned is paid to the Pension Fund and any losses on investment are shared with the Pension Fund in the same proportion. Due to the nature of the banking arrangements any surplus cash in the Pension Fund bank accounts is not transferred to the Council's bank accounts. As the Short-Term Investments are made in the name of Gwynedd Council they are shown in full on the Council's Balance Sheet. The Pension Fund element of the Short-Term Investments and Cash Deposits at 31 March 2017 was £15.7m (£25.0m at 31 March 2016).

Deposits are not made with banks and financial institutions unless they are rated independently and meet the Council's credit criteria. The Council has also set limits as to the maximum percentage of deposits placed with any one class of financial institution. In addition, the Council invests an agreed percentage of funds in the money markets to provide diversification. Money market funds chosen all have AAA rating from a leading ratings agency. The Council believes it has managed its exposure to credit risk, and has had only one experience of default or uncollectable deposits when Heritable Bank went into administration in 2008. Full details can be seen in Note 27.

NOTE 18 – NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

Employers in the Fund are not currently assessed for their creditworthiness or individual credit limits set. There is risk of being unable to collect contributions from employers with no contributing members (e.g. risk associated with employers with a small number of declining contributing members) so the Administering Authority monitors membership movements on an annual basis.

New employers to the Fund will need to agree to the provision of a bond or obtain a guarantee to reduce the risk of future financial loss to the Fund in the event of not being able to meet its pension liability on cessation. As shown in Note 26 three employers have provided bonds. Any future liabilities falling on the Fund as a result of cessation are borne by the whole Fund and spread across all employers. This is done to ensure that actuarial recovery periods and amounts are kept at a manageable level for smaller employers.

This risk has increased by a legal judgement, which potentially indicates that employers with no contributing members cannot be charged contributions under the LGPS Administration Regulations. This ruling, however, does not affect the ability to collect contributions following a cessation valuation under Regulation 38(2). The Actuary may be instructed to consider revising the rates and Adjustments certificate to increase an employer's contributions under Regulation 38 of the LGPS (Administration) Regulations 2008 between triennial valuations.

c) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk represents the risk that the Fund will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The council therefore takes steps to ensure that the Pension Fund has adequate cash resources to meet its commitments to pay pensions and other costs and to meet investment commitments.

The Administering Authority has a cash flow system that seeks to ensure that cash is available if needed. In addition, current contributions received from contributing employers and members far exceed the benefits being paid. Surplus cash is invested and cannot be paid back to employers. The Fund's Actuaries establish the contributions that should be paid in order that all future liabilities can be met.

There is no limit on the amount that the Pension Fund bank account can hold. The amounts held in this account should meet the normal liquidity needs of the Fund. Any temporary surplus is invested by the Administering Authority in accordance with the Treasury Management Strategy Statement to provide additional income to the Pension Fund. Surplus cash is invested in accordance with the Statement of Investment Principles.

The Fund also has access to an overdraft facility through the Administering Authority's group bank account arrangements. This facility would only be used to meet short-term timing differences on pension payments. As these borrowings would be of a limited short-term nature, the Fund's exposure to credit risk is considered negligible.

The Fund defines liquid assets as assets that can be converted to cash within three months. Illiquid assets are those assets which will take longer than three months to convert into cash. As at 31 March 2017 the value of illiquid assets was £158m, which represented 8.5% of the total Fund assets (31 March 2016: £143m, which represented 9.4% of the total Fund assets).

Management prepares periodic cash flow forecasts to understand and manage the timing of the Fund's cash flows. The appropriate strategic level of cash balances to be held forms part of the Fund investment strategy.

All financial liabilities at 31 March 2017 are due within one year as was the case at 31 March 2016.

Refinancing risk

The key risk is that the Council will be bound to replenish a significant proportion of its Pension Fund financial instruments at a time of unfavourable interest rates. The Fund does not have any financial instruments that have a refinancing risk as part of its treasury management and investment strategies.

NOTE 19 – FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

In line with the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008, the Fund's actuary undertakes a funding valuation every three years for the purpose of setting employer contribution rates for the forthcoming triennial period. The last such valuation took place as at 31 March 2016.

Description of Funding Policy
The funding policy is set out in the Administering Authority's Funding Strategy Statement (FSS) reviewed as part of the 2016 valuation.

The key elements of the funding policy are:

- to ensure the long-term solvency of the Fund using a prudent long-term view. This will ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet all members'/dependants' benefits as they fall due for payment.
- to ensure that employer contribution rates are reasonably stable where appropriate.
- to minimise the long-term cash contributions which employers need to pay to the Fund by recognising the link between assets and liabilities and adopting an investment strategy which balances risk and return.
- to reflect the different characteristics of different employers in determining contribution rates by having a clear and transparent funding strategy to demonstrate how each employer can best meet its own liabilities over future years.
- to use reasonable measures to reduce the risk to other employers and ultimately to the Council Tax payer from an employer defaulting on it's pension obligations.

The FSS sets out how the Administering Authority seeks to balance the conflicting aims of securing the solvency of the Fund and keeping employer contributions stable.

For employers whose covenant was considered by the Administering Authority to be sufficiently strong, contributions have been stabilised to return their portion of the Fund to full funding over 20 years if the valuation assumptions are borne out. Asset-liability modelling has been carried out which demonstrates that if these contribution rates are paid and future contribution changes are constrained as set out in the FSS, there is still around a 66% chance that the Fund will return to full funding over the 20 years.

Funding Position as at the Last Formal Funding Valuation
The most recent actuarial valuation carried out under Regulation 62 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 was at 31 March 2016. This valuation revealed that the Fund's assets, which at 31 March 2016 were valued at £1,525 million, were sufficient to meet 91% of the liabilities (i.e. the present value of promised retirement benefits) accrued up to that date. The resulting deficit at the 2016 valuation was £145 million.

Each employer had contribution requirements set at the valuation, with the aim of achieving full funding within a time horizon and probability measured as per the FSS. Individual employers' contributions for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2020 were set in accordance with the Fund's funding policy as set out in its FSS.

Principal Actuarial Assumptions and Method used to Value the Liabilities
Full details of the methods and assumptions used are described in the valuation report dated 31 March 2017.

Method
The liabilities were assessed using an accrued benefits method which takes into account pensionable membership up to the valuation date, and makes an allowance for expected future salary growth to retirement or expected earlier date of leaving pensionable membership.

Assumptions
A market-related approach was taken to valuing the liabilities, for consistency with the valuation of the Fund assets at their market value.

NOTE 19 – FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS (continued)

The key financial assumptions adopted for the 2016 valuation were as follows:

Financial assumptions	31 March 2016
Discount rate	3.9%
Salary increase	2.1%
Benefit increase	2.1%

The key demographic assumption was the allowance made for longevity. The life expectancy assumptions are based on the Fund's VitaCurves with improvements in line with the CMI 2013 model, assuming the current rate of improvements has reached a peak and will converge to a long-term rate of 1.25% p.a. Based on these assumptions, the average future life expectancies at age 65 are as follows:

Mortality assumption	Male Years	Female Years
Current pensioners	22.0	24.2
Future pensioners (aged 45 at the 2016 valuation)	24.0	26.4

Copies of the 2016 valuation report and the Funding Strategy Statement are available on the Pension Fund's website www.gwyneddpensionfund.org.uk

Experience over the period since 31 March 2016
Since the last formal valuation, real bond yields have fallen placing a higher value on the liabilities. The effect of this has been broadly offset by strong asset returns. Both events have roughly cancelled each other out in terms of the impact on the funding position as at 31 March 2017.

The next actuarial valuation will be carried out as at 31 March 2019. The Funding Strategy Statement will also be reviewed at that time.

NOTE 20 - ACTUARIAL PRESENT VALUE OF PROMISED RETIREMENT BENEFITS

In addition to the triennial funding valuation, the Fund's actuary also undertakes a valuation of the Pension Fund liabilities, on an IAS19 basis every year using the same base data as the funding valuation rolled forward to the current financial year, taking account of changes in membership numbers and updating assumptions to the current year. This valuation is not carried out on the same basis as that used for setting Fund contribution rates and the Fund accounts do not take account of liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits in the future.

In order to assess the value of the benefits on this basis the actuary has updated the actuarial assumptions (set out below) from those used for funding purposes (see Note 19) and has also used them to provide the IAS19, and FRS102 reports for individual employers in the Fund. The actuary has also valued ill health and death benefits in line with IAS19.

The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits at 31 March 2017 and 2016 are shown below:

	31 March 2016 £'m	31 March 2017 £'m
Active members	1,285	1,214
Salary increase rate	388	246
Discount rate	747	514
Total	**2,420**	**1,974**

As noted above the liabilities above are calculated on an IAS19 basis and therefore differ from the results of the 2016 triennial funding valuation (see Note 19) because IAS19 stipulates a discount rate rather than a rate that reflects market rates.

NOTE 20 - ACTUARIAL PRESENT VALUE OF PROMISED RETIREMENT BENEFITS (continued)

Assumptions used

The financial assumptions used are those adopted for the Administering Authority's IAS19 report as shown below:

Assumption	31 March 2016 %	31 March 2017 %
Inflation/pension increase rate	2.2	2.4
Salary increase rate	4.2	2.4
Discount rate	3.5	2.6

The longevity assumption is the same as used for assessing the funding position as shown in Note 19 above.

The commutation assumption allows for future retirements to elect to take 50% of the maximum tax-free cash up to HMRC for pre-April 2008 service and 75% of the maximum tax-free cash for post-April 2008 service.

The sensitivities regarding the principal assumptions used to measure the liabilities are set out below:

Sensitivity to the assumptions for the year ended 31 March 2017	Approximate % increase to liabilities %	Approximate monetary amount £m
0.5% p.a. increase in the pension increase rate	8	189
0.5% p.a. increase in the salary increase rate	3	73
0.5% p.a. decrease in the discount rate	11	267

The principal demographic assumption is the longevity assumption. For sensitivity purpose the actuary estimates that a one year increase in life expectancy would increase the liabilities by approximately 3 – 5%.

NOTE 21 – CURRENT ASSETS

2015/16 £'000		2016/17 £'000
932	Contributions due - employees	820
3,221	Contributions due – employers	2,845
3,901	Transfer value received (individuals who join)	0
3,399	Sundry debtors	1,944
11,453	**Total debtors**	**5,609**
20,434	Cash	15,375
31,887	**Total**	**20,984**

Analysis of debtors

2015/16 £'000		2016/17 £'000
2,073	Gwynedd Council	2,352
732	Central government bodies	560
5,631	Other local authorities	1,209
3	NHS bodies	3
3,014	Other entities and individuals	1,485
11,453	**Total**	**5,609**

NOTE 22 – CURRENT LIABILITIES

2015/16 £'000		2016/17 £'000
1,714	Sundry creditors	2,591
27	Transfer value payable (leavers)	282
2,538	Benefits payable	1,216
4,279	**Total**	**4,089**

Analysis of creditors

2015/16 £'000		2016/17 £'000
901	Gwynedd Council	1,051
43	Central government bodies	37
1	Other Local Authorities	138
19	NHS bodies	58
3,315	Other entities and individuals	2,805
4,279	**Total**	**4,089**

NOTE 23 - ADDITIONAL VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS (AVC's)

The market value of the funds is stated below:

	Market value at 31 March 2016 £'000	Market value at 31 March 2017 £'000
Clerical Medical	2,936	3,349
Equitable Life	258	229
Standard Life	51	53
Total	**3,245**	**3,631**

AVC contributions were paid directly to the three managers as follows:

	2015/2016 £'000	2016/2017 £'000
Clerical Medical	526	561
Equitable Life	0	0
Standard Life	1	0
Total	**527**	**561**

NOTE 24 - RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Gwynedd Council

The Gwynedd Pension Fund is administered by Gwynedd Council. Consequently there is a strong relationship between the Council and the Pension Fund.

The Council incurred costs of £1,008,589 (£1,075,225 in 2015/16) in relation to the administration of the Fund and was subsequently reimbursed by the Fund for these expenses. The Council is also one of the largest employers of members of the pension fund and contributed £17.63m to the Fund in 2016/17 (£17.31m in 2015/16). At the end of the year the Council owed £2.35m to the Fund (see Note 21) which was primarily in respect of contributions for March 2017 and the Fund owed £1.05m to the council (see Note 22) which was primarily in respect of recharges from the Council.

NOTE 24 - RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS (continued)

The Gwynedd Pension Fund has three bank accounts which are held as part of Gwynedd Council's Group of Bank Accounts. The overall surplus cash held in the Group of Bank Accounts is invested on a daily basis. At the end of the financial year, Gwynedd Council pays interest over to the Pension Fund, based on the Fund's daily balances over the year. During 2016/17, the Fund received interest of £132,567 (£147,611 in 2015/16) from Gwynedd Council.

Governance
There were two members of the Pensions Committee who were in receipt of pension benefits from the Gwynedd Pension Fund during 2016/17 (committee members T.O. Edwards and P. Jenkins). In addition, committee members T.O. Edwards, S. Glyn, P. Jenkins, H.E. Jones, W.T. Owen, and P. Read were active members of the Pension Fund.

There was one member of the Pension Board who was in receipt of pension benefits from the Gwynedd Pension Fund during 2016/17 (Board member S. Warnes). In addition, Board members A.W. Deakin, V. Halloran, A.L Lloyd Evans, O. Richards and H. Trainor are active members of the Pension Fund.

Key Management Personnel
The CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting exempts local authorities from the key management personnel disclosure requirements of IAS24, on the basis that the disclosure requirements for officer remuneration and members' allowances in the Code satisfy the key management personnel disclosure requirements of IAS24. This also applies to the accounts of Gwynedd Pension Fund.

The disclosures required can be found in the accounts of Gwynedd Council.

NOTE 25 - COMMITMENTS UNDER INVESTMENT CONTRACTS

Outstanding capital commitments (investments) at 31 March were as follows:

	Total commitments	Commitment at 31 March 2016	Commitment at 31 March 2017
	€'000	€'000	€'000
P.G. Direct 2006	20,000	776	776
P.G. Global Value 2006	50,000	3,477	3,477
P.G. Secondary 2008	15,000	1,960	1,960
P.G. Global Value 2011	15,000	5,044	3,372
P.G. Global Infrastructure 2012	40,000	22,005	15,894
P.G. Direct 2012	12,000	1,813	1,181
P.G. Global Value 2014	12,000	7,119	4,638
P.G Direct 2016	50,000	18,202	34,373
Total Euros	**214,000**	**60,396**	**65,671**
	$'000	$'000	$'000
P.G. Emerging Markets 2011	7,000	2,078	1,623
P.G Secondary 2015	38,000	34,804	32,723
P.G Direct Infrastructure 2015	43,600	42,111	35,219
Total Dollars	**88,600**	**78,993**	**69,565**

'PG' above refers to Partners Group, the investment manager which invests in 'alternatives' (private equity and infrastructure) on behalf of the Fund.

These commitments relate to outstanding call payments on unquoted limited partnership funds held in the private equity part of the portfolio. The amounts 'called' by these funds are irregular in both size and timing over a number of years from the date of the original commitment.

NOTE 26 – CONTINGENT ASSETS

Three admitted body employers in the Gwynedd Pension Fund hold insurance bonds to guard against the possibility of being unable to meet their pension obligations. These bonds are drawn in favour of the pension fund and payment will only be triggered in the event of employer default.

NOTE 27 – IMPAIRMENT LOSSES

a) Impairment for bad and doubtful debts
As explained in Note 5 there has not been any impairment for bad and doubtful debts.

b) Impairment of Icelandic bank deposit
During 2008/09 the Council made a deposit of £4m with Heritable Bank which is a UK registered bank under Scottish Law. The pension fund's share of that investment was £565,200. The company was placed in administration on 7 October 2008. The Council has received a return of £3,938,407, equating to 98% from the administrators up to 31 March 2017.

NOTE 28 - PENSION FUND PUBLICATIONS

A separate Annual Report is produced for the Pension Fund. This document includes the accounts for the Fund along with more information regarding the administration and investment activities. It includes links to the following documents:

Investment Strategy Statement (which replaces the previous Statement of Investment Principles)
Funding Strategy Statement
Governance Policy and Governance Compliance Statement
Communications Policy Statement

Copies can be obtained from the Pension Fund website www.gwyneddpensionfund.org.uk on the investment page or by contacting Mrs Caroline Roberts on 01286 679128.

Auditor General for Wales' report to the Members of Gwynedd Council

I have audited the accounting statements and related notes, including the Expenditure and Funding Analysis of:

- Gwynedd Council; and
- Gwynedd Pension Fund

for the year ended 31 March 2017 under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

Gwynedd Council's accounting statements comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, and the Cash Flow Statement.

Gwynedd Pension Fund's accounting statements comprise the Fund Account and the Net Assets Statement.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016-17 based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Respective responsibilities of the responsible financial officer and the Auditor General for Wales

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts, the responsible financial officer is responsible for the preparation of the statement of accounts and Gwynedd Pension Fund's accounting statements, which gives a true and fair view.

My responsibility is to audit the accounting statements and related notes in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require me to comply with the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the accounting statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the accounting statements and related notes sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the accounting statements and related notes are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to Gwynedd Council's and Gwynedd Pension Fund's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the responsible financial officer and the overall presentation of the accounting statements and related notes.

In addition, I read all the financial and non-financial information in the Narrative Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited accounting statements and related notes and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by me in the course of performing the audit. If I become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies, I consider the implications for my report.

Opinion on the accounting statements of Gwynedd Council

In my opinion the accounting statements and related notes:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of Gwynedd Council as at 31 March 2017 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016-17.

Opinion on the accounting statements of Gwynedd Pension Fund

In my opinion, the pension fund accounts and related notes:

- give a true and fair view of the financial transactions of Gwynedd Pension Fund during the year ended 31 March 2017 and of the amount and disposition of the fund's assets and liabilities as at that date, and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016-17.

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion, the information contained in the Narrative Report is consistent with the accounting statements and related notes.

Matters on which I report by exception

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters, which I report to you, if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept;
- the accounting statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit;
- the Annual Governance Statement does not reflect compliance with guidance.

Certificate of completion of audit

I certify that I have completed the audit of accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 and the Auditor General for Wales' Code of Audit Practice.

For and on behalf of
Huw Vaughan Thomas
Auditor General for Wales

Wales Audit Office
24 Cathedral Road
Cardiff CF11 9LJ

29 September 2017

THE WELSH CHURCH FUND

2015/16 £'000		2016/17 £'000	£'000
952	**Amount of Fund at 1 April**		952
	Add - Income during the year:-		
5	Interest on Investments		5
0	Increase in land value		0
	Less - Expenditure during the year:-		
0	Transfer of Gwynedd's previous year's interest	0	
(16)	Loss on sale of investments	(11)	
11	Grants and expenses	6	
			(5)
952	**Amount of Fund at 31 March**		952
	Represented by the following Assets:-		
365	Land and Buildings		365
30	Debtors		23
1,798	Cash in Hand		1,803
2,193			2,191
(1,232)	**Less -** Proportion owing to Anglesey and Conwy Councils		(1,232)
961			959
(16)	**Less -** Creditors		(13)
7	**Add -** Proportion owing from Anglesey and Conwy Councils		6
952	**Total**		952

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. The Scheme for the administration of the Fund provides that the income be applied for charitable purposes - educational, recreational and social, at the discretion of the Council.

2. The Charities Act 1993 requires that an independent examination of the statement of accounts of the Welsh Church Fund be carried out annually.

FMG MORGAN TRUST FUND

2015/16 £'000		2016/17 £'000
160	**Amount of Fund at 1 April**	167
	Add - Income during the year	
11	Interest on Assets	10
	Less - Expenditure during the year	
(4)	Grants	(3)
167	**Amount of Fund at 31 March**	174
	Assets	
144	Investments	144
23	Cash in Hand	30
167		174

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. This Fund was set up from the residuary estate of the late Mrs. Florence Merthyr Guest Morgan. The income from the Fund was to be applied to aid residents of certain areas of Llŷn for specified purposes.

2. The investments are shown in the accounts at cost. The market value of the investments at 31 March 2017 was £351,416 (£313,376 at 31 March 2016).

3. The FMG Morgan Trust Fund is outside the provisions of the Charities Act 1993. No independent examination or audit is therefore required in respect of this trust fund.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

This statement meets the requirement to produce a Statement of Internal Control pursuant to Regulation 5 of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulation 2014.

Part 1: SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

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

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

Gwynedd Council has approved and adopted a code of corporate governance, which is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/Solace Framework *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government*. A copy of the code is available on our website or can be obtained by writing to the Gwynedd Council, Council Offices, Shirehall Street, Caernarfon, Gwynedd LL55 1SH. This statement explains how the Authority has complied with the code and also meets the requirements of regulation 5(5) of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 in relation to the publication of a statement on internal control.

Part 2: THE PURPOSE OF THE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

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

The system of internal control is a significant part of the governance framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Gwynedd 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 described above has been in place at Gwynedd Council for the year ended 31 March 2017 and up to the date of approval of the statement of accounts.

Part 3: GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS AND THEIR EFFECTIVENESS

3.1 The **Governance Arrangements Assessment Group** keeps a continuous, disciplined overview on matters of governance, raising a wider awareness of them and promoting a wider ownership of the Annual Governance Statement. The Group comprises the Chief Executive, the Monitoring Officer, the Head of Corporate Support, two Corporate Support Senior Managers, the Senior Manager Revenues & Risk and the Risk & Insurance Manager.

3.2 Following the publication of a new version of the CIPFA/Solace Framework *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government* in 2016, the Group has modified the Council's arrangements for identifying and assessing its governance arrangements to reflect the new framework. The result of this was to set out the local framework in the form of a Governance Risk Register, which is part of the Corporate Risk Register, which identifies 22 areas of governance risk.

3.3 An outline of the Governance Areas, the relevant risks and the Council's arrangements for dealing with them, and the effectiveness of these arrangements, is given in the rest of this part of the Annual Governance Statement.

3.4 For each of the Governance Risks, a current risk score is shown, which is the score after an objective assessment of the control arrangements that are currently in place. Two factors are considered:

- The Impact of the risk if the event were realised
- The likelihood of this happening

3.5 The Impact scores vary from 1 (visible effect) to 5 (catastrophic effect), and the Likelihood scores from 1 (very unlikely) to 5 (is happening now). The risk score is calculated by multiplying these scores together.

3.6 The comparative risk levels are assessed as follows:

Score 20-25	**Very High Risk**
Score 12-16	**High Risk**
Score 6-10	**Moderate Risk**
Score 1-5	**Low Risk**

Culture

Risk: Inappropriate culture within the Council can hinder our ability to do the right things in the correct manner

Assessment:

An appropriate culture can promote all aspects of governance noted in the register, and in the same manner an inappropriate culture can hinder all aspects of governance.

If the culture is correct, this can dominate everything else that affects our ability to achieve, as the principles of good governance are an inevitable part of the day to day conduct of each individual within the establishment. The Ffordd Gwynedd Strategy now notes that one of the Council's main aims is to place the people of Gwynedd at the heart of everything we do. In reality, this also describes the Council's values - namely anything that is in keeping with that objective.

Ffordd Gwynedd work has already commenced at eight work locations within the Council with further substantial work proceeding to try and permeate a change in culture throughout the Council by highlighting what this means to them and their teams. By now there are continuous signs that the culture linked to Ffordd Gwynedd is rooting in the conversations that arise within the Council, and even in some of the talks that happen outside the Council. The hope is that a development programme that is proposed to be given to all Council managers, and commences in 2017/18, will intensify the permeation of the culture within the establishment.

Current Risk Score:

Impact	Likelihood	Risk score
4	4	16

Conduct

Risk: Lack of integrity, ethics and respect in the conduct of members and officers, undermining the public's confidence in the Council

Assessment:

Appropriate behaviour is essential in order to ensure that the County's residents have confidence in those who make decisions on their behalf, and that they do so in a manner whereby they can be confident in them.

The Council has adopted codes of conduct for its members and officers, based on national regulations (codes such as the Member/Officer Relationship Code; Members' Code of Conduct; Officers' Code of Conduct; Anti-fraud and Anti-corruption Policy and the Whistle blowing Code of Practice) and these together set the foundation to ensure integrity and ethics. There is evidence of action when it appears that these codes of conduct have been breached.

In the past, some evidence existed of tension between members as the new Cabinet arrangements were implemented within the Council and the change of roles linked to this, and there is no evidence to suggest that those tensions have completely disappeared, with a recent report by the External Auditor on Scrutiny reinforcing this message. Nevertheless, there are signs that the tensions have started to diminish. Tensions are inevitable and are to be expected when there are any significant changes.

There is clear evidence that the Council gives valid consideration to the Ombudsman's reports as part of the work of the Standards Committee, which works effectively.

Current Risk Score:

Impact	Likelihood	Risk score
2	**2**	**4**

Lawfulness

Risk: Ignoring the rule of law, that means that the Council is open to challenges from the courts.

Assessment:

Everything the Council does has to be in compliance with the law.

Statutory Officers (the Monitoring Officer and the Head of Finance) have to offer comments on any formal decision, as part of a comprehensive Constitution that is regularly reviewed. There are formal protocols in place in order to safeguard the rights of statutory officers.

Current Risk Score:

Impact	Likelihood	Risk score
3	1	3

Openness

Risk: A Council that is not open means that it is not possible to hold it accountable for its decisions.

Assessment:

Being open is essential for accountability and a healthy democracy.

Whilst there is a law that allows reports to be considered exempt for publication, only the minimum of Committee reports are exempt, and in addition to publishing the minutes of full committees, publicity is given to the decision notices of individual members, with procedures to ensure that this occurs. Background papers are published with committee reports in order to ensure that the decisions are made with full information. A number of committee meetings that make decisions are web-broadcast.

The Cabinet regularly considers performance reports as part of its meetings that are open and the Council publishes its Corporate Plan, Annual Performance Report and the Statement of Accounts to seek to give as much information as the residents need for us to be accountable.

Various other methods are also used such as the website, 'Newyddion Gwynedd' and social media to try to ensure that Gwynedd residents are aware of what is happening within the Council.

Current Risk Score:

Impact	Likelihood	Risk score
2	1	2

Stakeholders

Risk: Weak relationship with institutional stakeholders, ending with sub-optimal services

Assessment:

The willingness of public sector bodies, including Gwynedd Council, other neighbouring unitary councils, the Police, the Health Board and others to collaborate in order to deliver public services jointly will have a substantial and visible effect on Gwynedd people.

Work is currently proceeding to respond to the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 that facilitates such a principle. Amongst these requirements is the statutory need to establish a Public Services Board, which includes local authorities and several other bodies. Work has been undertaken to conduct an assessment of well-being, this is part of the initial work of the Public Services Board and has been published.

The Council will consider this assessment when drafting its own Plan from 2018 onwards.

The Council is committed to the Public Services Board, introduced as a result of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, as a means of maintaining a constructive relationship with other public sector stakeholders. The Partnerships Criteria have been established for several years so that Gwynedd Council only goes into partnership when this is for the benefit of the people of Gwynedd.

Collaboration also occurs at a regional level which is not always as effective as it could be due to the footprint size and the difficulty of building a relationship with such a large number of people. There are some examples of success (e.g. Ambition Board) and one of the Council's responses to the recent White Paper was that collaboration should be sought according to the benefit that would stem from it rather than dogmatically adhering to one model. It was also noted that there was a need to ensure that collaboration does not hinder local accountability for services.

Collaboration also occurs at a county level and the success is varied.

There is work to review the system in the Care field; this includes close collaboration with Health and others, which is showing promising signs. Work has been undertaken to identify plans to be commissioned in the future.

Current Risk Score:

Impact	Likelihood	Risk score
3	4	12

Engagement

Risk: Failure to engage with service users and individual citizens, leading to not doing things correctly.

Assessment:

Clear engagement with the People of Gwynedd to establish clear communication and to get a true understanding of the needs, is one of the principal elements of the governance arrangements.

During 2015/16 the Gwynedd Challenge, a plan to discuss the financial position with Gwynedd residents, demonstrated that a significant increase had been made in our engagement arrangements.

The Gwynedd Challenge exercise was extremely successful and attracted a response from over 2,000 Gwynedd residents; this enabled the Council to take logical decisions in terms of future priorities in light of the views of the people we serve. Whilst there is a need to ensure that this good practice permeates amongst all Council departments, the score now reflects the improvement seen in this area bearing the Gwynedd Challenge in mind and the work done specifically in the area of Waste.

The purpose of Council's Engagement Strategy is to ensure that the Council receives the views of the public and other stakeholders as appropriate, with the Communication and Engagement Unit supporting services to consult in a suitable method and give support by analysing the results.

Furthermore, the Research and Information Team supports services to make better use of the information we have in order to increase inclusivity. There are guidelines in order to respond to the Well-being of Future Generations Act for us to consider smaller units than the Council's footprint and the County has been split into eight well-being areas. The residents of those areas were consulted when drafting the well-being assessment.

It was possible to achieve all the elements of the Engagement Strategy; however a recent analysis indicates that we have not yet reached our destination.

Current Risk Score:

Impact	Likelihood	Risk score
3	3	9

Direction and vision

Risk: Direction and vision that is not rooted in the outcomes for individuals, ending with something on paper that does not realise the needs of the People of Gwynedd.

Assessment:

The Strategic Plan is the high level statement that outlines what the Council aims to achieve during the life of the current Council and this ensures that we are clear and open about what it is intended to achieve. The current Plan ends in 2018 and the work of drafting the new plan will commence immediately following the May 2017 election.

The current Plan comprises a number of projects in order to ensure an improvement for the people of Gwynedd, and arrangements are in place to monitor progress of individual projects within the Plan. The Council acknowledges that the nature of the existing Plan means that it is not easy to interpret from it what is the Council's core work. The Plan in its present form is a catalogue of the matters that need to be changed within the Council and in the Gwynedd area, rather than a comprehensive plan for the Authority. Work has been undertaken to see how this can be changed with a view to change the Plan's format for 2018 onwards.

In addition to the content of the document there remains an element of vagueness in the Plan about what exactly what benefit will flow to the people of Gwynedd from the delivery of some projects and what exactly we intend to do.

Current Risk Score:

Impact	Likelihood	Risk score
3	3	9

Sustainability

Risk: A risk of creating unsustainable answers that do not comply with the five principles of the Well-being of Future Generations Act and do not therefore look at the long-term.

Assessment:

The Council has acknowledged the importance of acting in accordance with the Well-being of Future Generations Act and, jointly with its partners on the Public Services Board, have done initial work to identify what needs to be done to operate in accordance with the five principles - Long term, Prevention, Integration, Collaboration and Involvement.

The Council is already complying with all the principles but to a different extent. We have submitted an explanation of the principles of the Act to the Management Group who have agreed that the best way for this to root is that the Department Management Teams pay attention to the principles in forward planning. Whenever reports come before the Cabinet the Corporate Support Department will also review them in order to keep an eye out for areas where perhaps those principles have not been followed as well as they could. Through this it is hoped that we will root the principles naturally rather than tick boxes but time will tell if we are successful. The principles mean that every group of society will of course be included and the Council already has appropriate arrangements to ensure that we improve our provisions for those with protected features.

Current Risk Score:

Impact	Likelihood	Risk score
3	3	9

Decisions

Risk: Unwillingness to make decisions on action which means a delay to achieve the outcomes for the people of Gwynedd

Assessment:

There is a danger that decisions will not be made as they are too difficult or unpopular, but over the last few years there is evidence that this is not the case in Gwynedd with decisions taken to look at the area of schools, externalising Council houses and acting on the difficult results of the Gwynedd Challenge.

Current Risk Score:

Impact	Likelihood	Risk score
2	3	6

Planning Operations

Risk: Intervention without sufficient planning, that could mean either acting on impulse or excessive planning wasting time and resources.

Assessment:

The Council is striving to maintain a suitable balance between Project Management procedures and working efficiently. In this respect, the Council is already supporting robust project management arrangements for the largest projects, using the less comprehensive version but based on the same principles for other projects. In order to ensure that the right matters are measured the achievement measures for every service will be based on achieving the purpose by trying to ensure that any action will improve our ability to achieve this.

We will try to strike a balance between the need for order and the need to achieve as soon as possible by doing as little paperwork as is consistent with this, encouraging simple, brief reports that set out the main key points.

The Council has a Medium Term Financial Strategy, with annual budgets based on this. The Council's work on financial planning is regularly praised by the external auditors, and the Audit and Goverance Committee takes a leading role with financial scrutiny. When reviewing our scrutiny arrangements we will include more forward scrutiny and it is hoped that this will assist the Cabinet to choose the appropriate steps to take in various fields.

However, if we wish to do this we have already recognised that getting the Scrutiny Committee to look at something immediately before it is adopted is not the way, but rather for Scrutiny members to be part of the assessment at the very start. This means that matters need to be known early in the process and Scrutiny used early enough. Time will tell if the new arrangements will do this.

Current Risk Score:

Impact	Likelihood	Risk score
2	2	4

Reviewing Outcomes

Risk: Failure to review the outcomes of our actions, which means that we do not learn lessons by continuing to do the same things incorrectly.

Assessment:

The Council's arrangements for risk assessment, formulating a Corporate Plan and project management will ensure that the intended outcomes to be achieved are clear at the start of any project. The annual performance report will try to focus on assessing to what extent these outcomes have been achieved. There are good examples of where this happened, but there are other examples where it is not as clear that this has occurred.

Current Risk Score:

Impact	Likelihood	Risk score
3	3	9

Property Assets

Risk: The Council's property assets are not used to their full potential

Assessment:

Physical assets, be they buildings, vehicles or structures are essential to achieve for the people of Gwynedd but it is necessary to ensure that those assets meet the requirements of our residents whilst ensuring that we do not spend unnecessarily on assets where the cost of provision is higher than the benefit received.

The Council has an Assets Strategy in place for the period 2009 - 2018 that is updated regularly. The result is that a number of buildings that were not required any more have been disposed.

In terms of vehicles, there is a plan implemented to try and improve the use of the Council's fleet that has already presented some financial savings and is likely to achieve more.

Current Risk Score:

Impact	Likelihood	Risk score
2	2	4

Information Technology Assets

Risk: The Council's IT assets are not used to their full potential

Assessment:

Using technology in an effective way is a crucial tool to ensure that services are provided in a manner that meets with the requirements of our residents, doing this in a cost effective way.

Over the years Information Technology activities have focused on ensuring appropriate infrastructure to guarantee basic support for services. Whilst there are examples where we can use information technology more extensively to improve how we achieve services for the residents of Gwynedd, there is no evidence that this is consistent across the authority and that it happens at the speed we would wish.

The Information Technology Strategy adopted for the coming period will try to extend the use made of technology in order to support the improvement aims in the Strategic Plan, by also improving the ability of the services to take advantage of the opportunities available to use technology effectively.

There is an element of evidence that this is bearing fruit with self-service becoming more and more of a part of using technology to make it easier for residents to receive services.

Current Risk Score:

Impact	Likelihood	Risk score
2	3	6

Workforce Planning

Risk: Council's workforce not being developed, this means that we cannot provide the best services for the people of Gwynedd.

Assessment:

To ensure that the Council is in a position to provide services that always place the residents of Gwynedd at the centre, we must ensure that we have the right staff in place with the correct skills. This means that we need to continuously train staff, evaluate their performance and foster and develop their talent. Staff training arrangements are an important way of promoting and dissipating Ffordd Gwynedd thinking across the Council and of course it is vitally important that the Council has officers with the skills to carry out their duties.

Difficulties in filling some senior posts within the Council suggest that there is a need to improve our ability to create progression at least for senior posts. This has been identified as a basis to develop internal talent within the People Plan. Furthermore, there are recruiting difficulties for some posts in specific geographical areas within Gwynedd (e.g. care workers in Meirionnydd).

A 360° evaluation system has been established for heads of departments. senior managers and some managers; however, it needs to continue to be developed. If we wish to spread one culture of placing the people of Gwynedd at the heart of everything we do, we need a method of ensuring that this occurs consistently across the Council and it is essential that we give the appropriate tools to managers and staff to be able to do this.

The People Plan was adopted for 2016-18 by the Cabinet in November 2016, this will try to improve our arrangements to foster talent within the Council, improve our workforce planning arrangements; and ensure that our learning and development arrangements focus on the essential matters.

Current Risk Score:

Impact	Likelihood	Risk score
3	3	9

Leadership

Risk: Weaknesses in the Council's leadership means that we are not doing the right things.

Assessment:

Leadership establishes the standard that every member and employee in the Council follows. Therefore, its impact is great – good Leadership can overcome everything else, whilst poor Leadership can destroy what the Council is trying to achieve. It is this that facilitates the rooting of the Council's culture.

The roles of the Council, Cabinet, Individual Members and the Chief Officers, together with a clear delegation plan, are set out in the Council's Constitution. Gwynedd Council has also prioritised the development of its Leadership Programme and this is part of the People Plan adopted by the Cabinet.

Whilst there is a clear commitment to try and continuously improve leadership, we have not always been clear regarding what this entails nor how to improve it. There is concern that we do not sufficiently differentiate between staff and members when we think of this.

There is an element of evidence (via self-assessment) that leadership within the Council is improving with many examples of transformational leadership shown rather than transactional leadership.

Current Risk Score:

Impact	Likelihood	Risk score
4	3	12

Risk Management

Risk: Weaknesses in our risk management arrangements that increase the threat of something going wrong or failure to take an opportunity to improve.

Assessment:

Our risk management arrangements are an integral part of the Authority's management arrangements. Robust, correct and proportionate risk management arrangements support innovation and do not inhibit it.

Self-assessment of the Council's risk management arrangements indicated that the procedure for identifying the main risks occur instinctively, but by being systematic when recording these risks there are gaps and in one or two examples this leads to a lack of action or action where it is not required.

Arrangements are in place for every department to maintain a departmental risk register and there are also cross-departmental registers in place with protocols to support them. Nevertheless, the danger is that they only follow a procedure and the permeation of risk management amongst individual business units continues to be a little inconsistent.

There are strong arrangements to monitor our compliance with Health and Safety risks and quantitative evidence that performance in this field is improving - although there are examples of where to improve further.

System tests indicate that not all the workforce is aware of the risks that could prevent achievement for the People of Gwynedd and take ownership of them – risk management tends to be seen as a matter for Managers. Substantial work has already been done in the field of Emergency Planning and Service Continuity to prepare the authority better for unforeseeable events.

Arrangements to deal with risks around Arrangements for Safeguarding Children and Adults continue to receive attention in order to maintain the progress made since 2013. Additional work specified for the Safeguarding Panel during 2016/16 is the PREVENT agenda in relation to radicalisation.

Council risk management arrangements continue to develop and they will evolve further as Ffordd Gwynedd and the culture permeate throughout the Council, and when preparing the Strategic Plan 2018-2022.

Current Risk Score:

Impact	Likelihood	Risk score
5	2	10

Performance

Risk: Weaknesses in our performance management arrangements mean that we cannot take appropriate steps to achieve our purpose.

Assessment:

In the past, the perception was that the effectiveness of Performance Management was comparatively low and reflected inconsistency across the Council. By now, officers and members continually question if we

are measuring the right things. Regular meetings take place with Cabinet Members and managers to assess the latest performance with members of the relevant Scrutiny Committee also present to challenge. Regular performance reports are submitted by Cabinet members on their fields of responsibility to Cabinet meetings.

The Council's Performance Management system has evolved considerably over the last few years. More than anything we now focus on ensuring that business units achieve their purpose and this is done by continuously reviewing if we are measuring the right things. A performance handbook has been developed, it is not prescriptive, but sets out the general principles to be followed.

However, whilst there has been a significant improvement there is evidence that this has not yet permeated every corner of the Council and is not understood by all.

The Auditor General will also observe our performance in different areas by publishing various reports and the Audit and Governance Committee is responsible for ensuring that any recommendations receive attention. Whilst reports include constructive criticism, the Council will try to implement the matters raised but sometimes there may be conflict between what the Council feels should be addressed and some matters raised in terms of the effort required to be given to them and the level of risk they represent. However, these examples are not numerous; there were no recommendations in the most recent report and in general the messages are positive.

Complaints are also a key way of getting information for improvement. The new Corporate Complaints Procedure continues to develop well and the Services Improvement Officer ensures that we learn lessons from any complaints, and try to avoid making the same mistakes again.

Current Risk Score:

Impact	Likelihood	Risk score
2	3	6

Internal Control

Risk: Unsuitable internal control arrangements that entail that we either do not protect ourselves from risks or waste resources on over-control.

Assessment:

Getting suitable levels of internal control is core to the aim of placing the people of Gwynedd at the heart of everything we do. Namely, do the tasks undertaken by staff actually add value, or are they bureaucratic actions that are done without much thinking about their real purpose?

Getting rid of barriers is part of everyone's work, leading to a suitable level of internal control. On the other hand, the principles of public stewardship mean that it is not desirable to dispose of all internal controls (i.e. there are some risks that are not acceptable), and therefore a combination of risk management procedures and an Internal Audit service that meets with professional standards is a vital tool.

The effectiveness of the Internal Audit system is under continuous review and although the service satisfies the professional standards in accordance with expectation, there is a need to consider further whether it reviews the right things and if it operates in a manner that complies with Ffordd Gwynedd. The service's capacity has been reduced significantly since April 2015, down from 10 to 7 full time officers. It is expected that adopting the principles of Ffordd Gwynedd will ensure that the service effectiveness is maintained, however there might be some reduction in the short term.

Gwynedd Council's Audit and Governance Committee has been established since 1999 and it has agreed terms of reference.

There is evidence that the Audit Committee is very effective in achieving some of the functions that it has undertaken for some time, its capacity to deal with new responsibilities by virtue of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 continue to develop.

Current Risk Score:

Impact	Likelihood	Risk score
2	2	4

Information

Risk: Failure to control information leading to the failure of safeguarding the information we have, or not to make the best use of it.

Assessment:

Having the correct information is essential if the Council wishes to provide the right services to the right people in the correct way. The information collected and retained needs to be current and relevant, not only in order to comply with the Data Protection Act but also to ensure that the services we provide do the right things. Good Information Governance is the foundation to good decisions.

Despite efforts to improve the arrangements of Information Governance, the Council continues to retain a great deal of information, and we need to continue to work to ensure that it does not maintain more data than is required.

It is expected that the project to introduce an ERDMS system will contribute to a significant improvement in this, and the Governance Arrangements Assessment Group have also commissioned further work on the arrangements within individual departments.

Whilst there are examples where information is used to make effective decisions, there is room to challenge if the practice is as good as it can be and as wide across all the Council's service units.

Research has shown that there is a continuous need to raise awareness about the principles of Data Protection and improving attitudes in the field. This work continues as part of the Council's Strategic Plan, and shows progress.

Current Risk Score:

Impact	Likelihood	Risk score
3	3	9

Finance

Risk: Weaknesses when controlling public finance, that entails that the Council's finance is not used and prioritised.

Assessment:

It is the Financial Strategy that sets the key context for everything the Council wishes to do. The financial forecast for the Council suggests that substantial savings must be identified in the next few years. It is the Financial Strategy that sets out how we will achieve this and, therefore, it is a very important statement that outlines how the Council will deal with the situation.

Clear evidence exists that the Council's arrangements are robust and the reviews of the external auditors - not only of the Annual Statements of Accounts but also reviews of financial resilience - offer an independent opinion that confirms this.

Current Risk Score:

Impact	Likelihood	Risk score
3	1	3

Accountability

Risk: Poor reporting without transparency and unsuitable for the audience, does not highlight to the public what the Council does for them, undermining the democratic position.

Assessment:

The Council has provided guidelines on preparing reports and on making good decisions, in order to ensure that the reports available to the public are clear. As well as formal reports for making decisions, the reports produced also include the Annual Performance Report, the Strategic Plan (that includes departmental business plans) and the Annual Governance Statement produced in accordance with the CIPFA/Solace framework. The Council also produces regular reports on its financial position.

However despite the Council's efforts, and apart from cases where there is a fairly fundamental change in question, it appears that there is no great aspiration amongst the public to hold the Council accountable. This may be because they are satisfied with what the Council is doing or that it is not their priority.

Even with the Gwynedd Challenge consultation where we prioritised (and considered closing) some fairly key services only 2,000 residents responded out of a 18+ population of nearly 100,000.

Current Risk Score:

Impact	Likelihood	Risk score
2	2	4

Assurance

Risk: Lack of assurance and accountability that raises suspicion amongst the public regarding what the Council is doing.

Assessment:

There are many ways available within the Council in order to provide independent assurance that the Council's governance arrangements are working as they should. Statutory officers ensure that matters comply with the law and the arrangements of the Constitution whilst the Chief Executive and the Directors continually challenge if the departments are doing the right things. Cabinet members also meet often to challenge each other regarding developments.

However, formally it is the scrutiny procedure that continues to hold the Cabinet to account. The Scrutiny arrangements have been subject to a detailed review in 2016/17 and the Audit and Governance Committee keeps an overview of the governance arrangements as well as the implementation of the external auditors' recommendations.

Supporting this is the Internal Audit service that operates in accordance with the statutory professional standards, namely the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

The External Auditor's report was published during 2015/16 noting that in his opinion there were still significant problems with the Scrutiny Procedure and the Council's internal 360° Review has also confirmed that several elements within the system required further attention for improvement.

There is transparent and objective scrutiny and challenging of decisions and policies, however, there is uncertainty regarding how effective this is. This has received attention in the Scrutiny Review

commissioned by the Audit Committee in 2016/17, but at its meeting on 3 May the Council resolved contrary to the Audit Committee's decision and to adopt a different procedure in the future.

The new system will be implemented and the proposals to further refine the purpose of scrutiny and the value it adds with more scrutiny before a decision is made. Some of the proposals of the action plan have already been implemented with others receiving attention with a view on the scrutiny procedure following the elections in May 2017.

Current Risk Score:

Impact	Likelihood	Risk score
2	3	6

We have been advised on the implications of the result of the **review of the effectiveness of the governance framework** by the Audit and Governance Committee, and that the arrangements **continue to be regarded as fit for purpose in accordance with the governance framework**. The areas that have already been addressed and those which the Council will address specifically have new on-going action plans and are outlined below.

Part 4: SIGNIFICANT GOVERNANCE MATTERS

4.1 The scores above show that none of the 22 governance areas present a very high risk, but 3 are high risk and 11 are moderate risk.

4.2 Action steps for those areas that are of high or moderate priority are noted below. Where a specific project within the Strategic Plan has been noted as a response, progress will be reported regularly to the Cabinet in the Performance Report of the relevant Cabinet Member.

HIGH RISKS

Governance Area	Response Arrangements	Responsible Department
The Council's Culture	The Council's Culture is receiving attention under the Ffordd Gwynedd priority area in the Strategic Plan, project **FfG1 – Empowering Units to Implement Ffordd Gwynedd**. By the end of March 2018, it is anticipated that 15 formal service reviews will have been completed and the majority of Service Managers will have been trained in the Ffordd Gwynedd principles (including robust performance management principles) in order for them to be able to undertake their own reviews.	Corporate Support

Governance Area	Response Arrangements	Responsible Department
Stakeholders	Continue to ensure that any collaboration occurs when that is for the benefit of the people of Gwynedd. We will continue to attempt to ensure that the Public Services Board adds value for Gwynedd residents and attempt to simplify the relationship of that body with the various other regional boards that are being established. We will also review our relationship with the Third Sector to ensure that it maximises the benefit that can be derived from having a good relationship with the sector. Assessing the Council's working arrangements to ensure that they are consistent with the Wellbeing Aims and Sustainable Development Principles of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, and sustaining the effort to embed the sustainability principles in the ways of working.	Leadership Team and Legal
Leadership	Continue to develop and implement the Leadership Programme by implementing **Project FfG2 in the Strategic Plan - Leaders development programme**. This means focussing on developing the leadership amongst Cabinet Members following the Election in May 2017.	Corporate Support

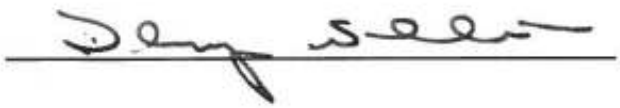
MODERATE RISKS

Governance Area	Response Arrangements	Responsible Department
Engagement	Continue to strengthen Engagement arrangements by implementing **Project FfG3** in the Strategic Plan. This will include reveiwing internal arrangements, strengthening the engagement resource and support and ensuring that the Gwynedd Council brand appears prominently on services and schemes funded by the Council.	Corporate Support
Direction and vision	When preparing a new Corporate Plan the Council will address the contents of the plan to ensure that it gives details of what the Council is currently doing and what plans it wishes to commission in order to do things differently. We will need to ensure that in doing this we note clearly and simply what exactly we intend to do and what benefits will derive to the people of Gwynedd from accomplishing the schemes.	Corporate Support
Sustainability	Continue to assess the Council's working arrangements to ensure that they are consistent with the Wellbeing Aims and Sustainable Development Principles of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, and sustaining the effort to embed the sustainability principles in the ways of working.	Corporate Support
Decisions	Accept the current risk level.	Leadership Team and Legal
Reviewing Outcomes	Accept the current risk level.	Leadership Team and Legal
Information Technology Assets	Acting in accordance with the work programme contained in the Information Technology Strategy - **Project FfG5 in the Strategic Plan**.	Finance
Workforce Planning	The new People Plan will be completed, and implementation will begin.	Corporate Support
Risk Management	The significant steps that have been taken during 2016/17 will be accelerated further, in order to ensure that risk management is becoming an integral part of service planning and the culture of the Council. For the first time, in 2017/18 the contents of risk registers will be taken into account when monitoring the performance of departments.	Finance
Performance	The arrangements that have been established over the last few years will continue to be refined, so that they become increasingly effective.	Corporate Support

Information	Project **FfG7 in the Strategic Plan - Information Governance**. By the end of March 2018, the Council will have moved on to assess how departments use their information for their daily work and forward planning, the Council will have placed more of the Council's information on the website in order for it to be available for others to use and it will have put arrangements in place to prepare for the new data protection legislation.	Corporate Support
Assurance	Adopt the new Scrutiny arrangements following the 2017 Election. Continue to evolve the role of the Audit and Governance Committee, including consideration of the sufficiency of the information it receives on the governance of partnerships, joint committees etc.	Corporate Support

Part 5: OPINION

We propose over the coming year to take steps to address the above matters to further enhance our governance arrangements. We are satisfied that these steps will address the need for improvements that were identified in our review of effectiveness and will monitor their implementation and operation as part of our next annual review.



DILWYN O WILLIAMS

CHIEF EXECUTIVE GWYNEDD COUNCIL

DATE 18-7-2017

Cllr DYFRIG SIENCYN

LEADER OF GWYNEDD COUNCIL

DATE 18/07/17