STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2014/15

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EXPLANATORY FOREWORD

INTRODUCTION

Gwynedd Council's accounts for the year 2014/15 are presented here on pages 8 to 108.

The Accounts consist of:-

- **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.

- **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.

- **The Balance Sheet** - Sets out the financial position of the Council on 31 March 2015.

- **The Cash Flow Statement** - This statement summarises the flow of cash to and from the Council during 2014/15 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 Foreword, the Accounting Policies and various notes to the accounts.

REVENUE EXPENDITURE IN 2014/15

- The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on page 9 shows that the Council's gross revenue expenditure on 'Cost of Services' level was £350m during 2014/15, with the net position as £227m.

- The financial out-turn position for 2014/15 was reported to the Cabinet at its meeting on 2 June 2015. The members of the Cabinet approved the carry forward of net service underspends of £447k for the year.

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	243,061	243,049	(12)
Departmental Carry Forward at year end	0	447	447
	243,061	243,496	435
Financed by -			
Council Tax Income	(68,090)	(68,525)	(435)
Share of National Non-Domestic Rate	(38,991)	(38,991)	0
General Government Grants	(135,980)	(135,980)	0
	0	0	0

- The Movement in Reserves Statement and the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on page 8 and 9 detail the actual 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	Transposition Adjustment	Income & Expenditure Statement
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Human Resources	31	0	31
Education	92,758	(345)	92,413
North & Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency	16	(86)	(70)
Finance	1,360	87	1,447
Economy and Community	14,118	(439)	13,679
Adults, Health and Wellbeing	50,940	50	50,990
Children and Families	14,353	(100)	14,253
Highways and Municipal	26,816	(1,645)	25,171
Regulatory (Planning, Transport and Public Protection)	11,760	120	11,880
Strategic and Improvement	730	11	741
Gwynedd Consultancy	1,236	(10)	1,226
Corporate Management Team	621	0	621
Corporate	14,262	448	14,710
Reserves	281	0	281
Cost of Services	229,282	(1,909)	227,373
Other (Contains Centralised and Corporate Adjustment)	14,214	1,909	16,123
Total	243,496	0	243,496

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

- Full standard Income and Expenditure format analysis is contained on page 9.
- Full analysis of amounts reported for resource allocation decisions is contained within Note 28, page 52.
- Service Reporting Code of Practice (SeRCOP) Analysis is contained within Appendix A.
- **Material Items of Income and Expenditure**

  Related items include:-
  - A movement of £74m on pensions, on the remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability/(assets), relating to pensions, in line with Gwynedd Council's Actuary's assessment (Note 24).
  - A net increase of £28m following full revaluation of the Council's Land and Buildings on 1 April 2014 (Note 15 & 24).
  - A reduction of £11m in the value of asset impairment, relating to the level of expenditure on capital schemes in 2014/15 in comparison with 2013/14 (Note 15).

- **Impact of Current Economic Climate**

  There have been unprecedented problems in the global financial situation in recent years. Due to this general situation, it has been necessary for the Authority to take these circumstances into account in its financial plans, and also keep a prudent level of balances and reserves.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE IN 2014/15

Capital expenditure for 2014/15 amounted to £32.4m. The following table gives an analysis of this expenditure and the way it was financed.

SUMMARY OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND FINANCING

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
35	Human Resources	3
8,630	Education	4,905
38	Finance	788
5,199	Economy and Community	4,746
8,536	Customer Care	0
3,377	Social Services, Housing and Leisure	0
0	Adults, Health and Wellbeing	4,355
8,690	Highways and Municipal	6,164
6,360	Regulatory	10,993
14	Strategic and Improvement	0
582	Gwynedd Consultancy	464
41,461		**32,418**
	FINANCED BY -	
10,664	Borrowing	8,594
18,904	Grants and Contributions	15,520
1,377	Capital Receipts	1,873
10,516	Revenue and Other Funds	6,431
41,461		**32,418**

There was a change to the Departmental structure between 2013/14 and 2014/15, and consequently there is a change to the comparative breakdown figures to reflect the current Departments

- Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute of £4,832,784 is included in the above table. This has been charged to the Income and Expenditure Account in the year. Total expenditure on Non-current Assets and Assets Held for Sale was £27,427,780 as shown in Note 15 and 20 on pages 33 to 35 and 45.

- The Council's Loan Debt on 31 March 2015 was £112m – a reduction of £1.1m (from £113.1m) during the year. Repayments of £1.18m were made in accordance with the terms of individual loans.

Provisions and Reserves

In addition to General Balances of £6.3m, the Council had other provisions of £12.3m, earmarked reserves of £48.6m and school balances of £3.5m. In total, these amounted to £70.7m. These are detailed in the Balance Sheet, Movement in Reserves Statement and in Notes 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 £77m to £248.7m in 2014/15. Refer to Note 40 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 74 to 104) show an increase during the year of £187.8m in the market value of the net assets of the Fund, to £1,497.4m. The book value of the net assets at 31 March 2015 was £1,077.7m (2014: £994.4m).

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 of the Accounts on page 12.

Changes in Accounting Policies and to the Statement of Accounts

There were no significant changes to accounting practices during 2014/15.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Statement of Accounts is available on Gwynedd Council's website www.gwynedd.gov.uk.

Further information relating to the accounts is available from:

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Senior Finance Manager
01286 679406

or

Ffion Madog Evans
Finance Manager - Resources and Corporate
01286 679133

Finance Department
Gwynedd Council
Council Offices
Caernarfon
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

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 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.

1 December 2015

Chair Audit Committee

THE HEAD OF FINANCE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

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

In preparing 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 of Practice.

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 2015 and the Council's income and expenditure for the year then ended.

23 November 2015

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

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

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

	Note	General Fund Balance	Earmarked General Fund Reserves	Total Reserves held by Schools	Housing Revenue Account	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 2013 carried forward		**(8,051)**	**(49,894)**	**(3,813)**	**(1,727)**	**(2,240)**	**(1,890)**	**(67,615)**	**(35,236)**	**(102,851)**
Movement in reserves during 2013/14										
(Surplus)/Deficit on provision of services		1,419	0	0	0	0	0	**1,419**	**0**	**1,419**
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	**(1,679)**	**(1,679)**
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		1,419	0	0	0	0	0	**1,419**	**(1,679)**	**(260)**
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	*9*	62	0	0	0	(167)	(2,363)	**(2,468)**	**2,468**	**0**
Net (Increase)/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves		1,481	0	0	0	(167)	(2,363)	**(1,049)**	**789**	**(260)**
Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves	*10*	(1,832)	69	36	1,727	0	0	**0**	**0**	**0**
(Increase)/Decrease in 2013/14		(351)	69	36	1,727	(167)	(2,363)	**(1,049)**	**789**	**(260)**
Balance 31 March 2014 carried forward		**(8,402)**	**(49,825)**	**(3,777)**	**0**	**(2,407)**	**(4,253)**	**(68,664)**	**(34,447)**	**(103,111)**
Movement in reserves during 2014/15										
(Surplus)/Deficit on provision of services		3,964	0	0	0	0	0	**3,964**	**0**	**3,964**
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	**47,154**	**47,154**
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		3,964	0	0	0	0	0	**3,964**	**47,154**	**51,118**
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	*9*	(382)	0	0	0	(321)	1,676	**973**	**(973)**	**0**
Net (Increase)/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves		3,582	0	0	0	(321)	1,676	**4,937**	**46,181**	**51,118**
Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves	*10*	(1,530)	1,249	281	0	0	0	**0**	**0**	**0**
(Increase)/Decrease in 2014/15		2,052	1,249	281	0	(321)	1,676	**4,937**	**46,181**	**51,118**
Balance 31 March 2015 carried forward		**(6,350)**	**(48,576)**	**(3,496)**	**0**	**(2,728)**	**(2,577)**	**(63,727)**	**11,734**	**(51,993)**

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT – 2014/15

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.

2013/14					2014/15		
Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure		Note	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
£'000	£'000	£'000			£'000	£'000	£'000
17,598	(7,203)	10,395	Culture and Related Services		17,682	(7,474)	10,208
28,711	(10,501)	18,210	Environmental and Regulatory Services		26,688	(9,372)	17,316
16,245	(11,660)	4,585	Planning Services		10,531	(5,486)	5,045
125,423	(22,033)	103,390	Education and Children's Services - Education		112,039	(19,358)	92,681
18,050	(2,412)	15,638	Education and Children's Services - Children's Social Care		21,550	(4,944)	16,606
28,817	(10,980)	17,837	Highways and Transport		32,912	(14,325)	18,587
43,063	(38,123)	4,940	Housing Services (Council Fund)		42,982	(38,325)	4,657
61,650	(15,399)	46,251	Adult Social Care		62,671	(16,907)	45,764
12,096	(2,311)	9,785	Central Services to the Public		12,698	(1,709)	10,989
8,433	(3,865)	4,568	Corporate and Democratic Core		9,136	(4,279)	4,857
308	0	308	Non Distributed Costs		663	0	663
360,394	**(124,487)**	**235,907**	**Cost of Services**		**349,552**	**(122,179)**	**227,373**
19,144	(288)	18,856	Other Operating Expenditure	*11*	19,842	0	19,842
14,238	(651)	13,587	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	*12*	13,960	(474)	13,486
0	(266,931)	(266,931)	Taxation and non-specific grant income	*13*	0	(256,737)	(256,737)
393,776	**(392,357)**	**1,419**	**(Surplus) / Deficit on Provision of Services**		**383,354**	**(379,390)**	**3,964**
		1,429	(Surplus) / Deficit on revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment assets	*24*			(23,518)
		0	(Surplus) / Deficit on revaluation of available for sale financial assets	*24*			(25)
		(3,108)	Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability/(assets)	*24*			70,697
		(1,679)	**Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure**				**47,154**
		(260)	**Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure**				**51,118**

BALANCE SHEET – 31 MARCH 2015

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

31 March 2014		Note	31 March 2015
£'000			£'000
378,869	Property, Plant and Equipment	15	412,453
111	Heritage Assets		110
100	Investment Property	16	247
2,526	Surplus Assets	15	2,644
77	Long Term Investments	17	1,190
4,449	Long Term Debtors	17	4,862
386,132	**Long Term Assets**		**421,506**
27,083	Short Term Investments	17	37,236
2,488	Assets Held for Sale	20	1,040
1,455	Inventories		1,467
52,134	Short Term Debtors	18	42,357
20,886	Cash and Cash Equivalents	19	18,480
104,046	**Current Assets**		**100,580**
(19,496)	Bank Overdraft	19	(21,397)
(1,884)	Short Term Borrowing	17	(904)
(63,291)	Short Term Creditors	21	(66,353)
(479)	Short Term Provisions	22	(2,954)
(1,775)	Capital and Revenue Grants Receipts in Advance	33	(2,881)
(86,925)	**Current Liabilities**		**(94,489)**
(100)	Long Term Creditors	17	(49)
(10,824)	Long Term Provisions	22	(9,350)
(111,215)	Long Term Borrowing	17	(111,108)
(171,689)	Net Pension Liability	40	(248,721)
(2,372)	Finance Leases Liability	36	(2,253)
(3,942)	Capital and Revenue Grants Receipts in Advance	33	(4,123)
(300,142)	**Long Term Liabilities**		**(375,604)**
103,111	**Net Assets**		**51,993**
(68,664)	Usable Reserves	23	(63,727)
(34,447)	Unusable Reserves	24	11,734
(103,111)	**Total Reserves**		**(51,993)**

CASH FLOW STATEMENT – 2014/15

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.

2013/14		***Note***	**2014/15**
£'000			**£'000**
1,419	Net (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services		3,964
(32,017)	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	*25a*	(48,235)
1,514	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	*25b*	2,190
(29,084)	Net cash flows from Operating Activities		(42,081)
28,063	Investing Activities	*26*	45,188
935	Financing Activities	*27*	1,200
(86)	Net (increase) / decrease in cash and cash equivalents		4,307
(1,304)	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	*19*	(1,390)
(1,390)	**Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period**	*19*	**2,917**

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

NOTE 1 – ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Authority's transactions for the 2014/15 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2015. The Authority is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014, which those Regulations require to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2014/15* and the Service Reporting Code of Practice 2014/15, 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 and Democratic Core

The Corporate and Democratic Core 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 made at the wage and salary rates applicable in the following accounting year, being the period in which the employee takes the benefit. The accrual is charged to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, but then reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement so that holiday benefits are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs.

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 Non Distributed Costs line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement at the earlier of when the authority can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when the authority recognises costs for a restructuring.

Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the 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 Pensions 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' Pensions 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 is 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 earning for current employees.

Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate of 3.2% calculated as a weighted average of 'spot yields' on AA rated corporate bonds.

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 Non-Distributed Costs.

- Net interest on the net defined benefit/(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 Wales and England 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.

NOTE 1 – ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

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.
- 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 (where it is possible to estimate the cost).

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.
- Financial guarantees.

Financial assets

- Bank deposits
- Trade receivables (debtors)
- Loans receivable
- Investments

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.

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.

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 have 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 employed 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.

1.12 Inventories and Long Term Contracts

Stocks and work in progress should be shown in the balance sheet at the lower of cost or 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.

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:

The Authority currently has no Finance Leases where the Authority is the lessor.

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 existing use value.

1.16 Overheads and Support Services

Charges for services provided by the Central Support Departments are derived from a combination of pre-determined fixed charges, actual recorded staff time, transaction logging and pre-determined formulae.

The only unallocated residual costs are those of corporate management and support service costs which the Code of Practice specifies should not be allocated. The allocation complies with the Service Reporting Code of Practice (SeRCOP) 2014/15.

1.17 Long Term Assets

The Council's assets as recorded on the Property Services database are revalued at least every 5 years. 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. The last complete revaluation was effective from 1st April 2014.

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 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.

NOTE 1 – ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

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 Property (Land and Buildings) where expenditure 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 2014/15 financial year this has been set at £1.83m 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

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 are 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 centers. 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.

Minimun 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 2014/15: 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 2014/15 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.

1.18 Non Distributed Costs
The majority of central support services are allocated to the service divisions in accordance with the Service Reporting Code of Practice (SeRCOP) 2014/15. The items that are excluded from this treatment 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.

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 their 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 two years 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.

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 the lower of its carrying value (market value) less costs to sell on reclassification.

1.28 Disposals

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 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 set aside is no longer necessary. 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. Gwynedd Council was below the relevant threshold in respect of 2014/15.

1.31 Cost Relating to Unequal Pay Claims

A provision 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 2015.

1.32 Landfill Allowance Schemes

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 2014/15.

1.33 Service Concession Arrangements

Service Concession Arrangements, otherwise known as 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 are 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 Jointly Controlled Operations and Jointly Controlled Assets

Jointly controlled operations are activities undertaken by the Authority in conjunction with other venturers that involve the use of assets and resources of the venturers rather than the establishment of a separate entity. The Authority recognises on its Balance Sheet, the assets that it controls and the liabilities it incurs and debits and credits the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement with the expenditure it incurs and the share of income it earns from the activity of the operation.

Jointly controlled assets are items of property, plant and equipment that are jointly controlled by the Authority and other venturers. The joint venture does not involve the establishment of a separate entity. The Authority accounts only for its share of the jointly controlled assets, the liabilities and expenses that it incurs on its own behalf or jointly with others in respect of interests in the joint venture and income that it earns from the venture.

1.35 Other Policies

Gwynedd Council has policies in respect of the following, but they are not considered material for the 2014/15 financial year:

- Intangible Assets
- Contingent Assets
- Foreign Currency Conversion.

NOTE 2 – CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING POLICY

There are no changes in the accounting policies during the 2014/15 financial year.

NOTE 3 – PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENTS

There are no prior period adjustments during 2014/15.

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 2015/16 has introduced several changes in accounting policies which will be required from 1 April 2015. The changes are as follows:

IFRS 13 Fair Value Measurement
This standard provides a consistent definition of fair value and enhanced disclosure requirements. The adoption of this standard will require surplus assets (assets that are not being used to deliver services, but which do not meet the criteria to be classified as either investment properties or non-current assets held for sale) to be revalued to market value rather than value in existing use as at present. Operational property, plant and equipment assets are outside the scope of IFRS 13.

IFRIC 21 Levies
This standard provides guidance on levies imposed by government in the financial statements of entities paying the levy. The IFRIC specifies the obligating event as the activity that triggers the timing of the payment of the levy. The amount payable may be based on information relating to a period before the obligation to pay arises or the levy is payable only if the threshold is reached, or both.

Annual Improvements to IFRSs 2011-2013 Cycle - These improvements are minor, principally proving clarification.

It is not likely that the above changes will have a material effect on Gwynedd Council's Statement of Accounts.

NOTE 5 – CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 1, the Authority has had to make judgments, 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 judgments, estimates and associated assumptions applied are based on current proper practices, historical experience and other factors, including historical, professional assessment, current trends, local factors and actual future projections and assumptions 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.

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

The following items in the Authority's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2015 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 5 years, and 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 Equal Pay, Landfill 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 judgments 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 Council. Further details are contained in Note 39 and 40.

- **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 & Expense include the following:-

- A movement of £74m on pensions, on the remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability/ (assets), relating to pensions, in line with Gwynedd Pension Fund's Actuary's assessment (Note 24).
- A net increase of £28m following full revaluation of the Council's Land and Buildings on 1 April 2014 (Note 15 & 24).
- A reduction of £11m in the value of asset impairment, relating to the level of expenditure on capital schemes in 2014/15 in comparison with 2013/14 (Note 15).

NOTE 8 – EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

There are no known post balance sheet events.

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.

2014/15 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 primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account:				
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:				
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non current assets	(16,564)	0	0	16,564
Capital grants and contributions applied	13,990	0	1,676	(15,666)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(4,833)	0	0	4,833
Amounts of non current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(229)	0	0	229
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:				
Revenue provision for the financing of supported capital investment	5,692	0	0	(5,692)
Revenue provision for the financing of unsupported capital investment	1,454	0	0	(1,454)
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	6,430	0	0	(6,430)
Adjustments involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:				
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	2	(2,192)	0	2,190
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	1,873	0	(1,873)
Principal repayment of debt	0	(2)	0	2
Adjustment primarily involving the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account:				
Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	64	0	0	(64)
Adjustments primarily involving the Pensions Reserve:				
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited/credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (Note 40)	(26,533)	0	0	26,533
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	20,198	0	0	(20,198)
Adjustment primarily involving the Accumulated Absences Account:				
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(53)	0	0	53
Total Adjustments	**(382)**	**(321)**	**1,676**	**(973)**

NOTE 9 – ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATIONS (continued)

2013/14 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 primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account:				
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:				
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non current assets	(25,426)	0	0	25,426
Capital grants and contributions applied	21,352	0	(2,363)	(18,989)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(6,222)	0	0	6,222
Amounts of non current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	288	0	0	(288)
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:				
Revenue provision for the financing of supported capital investment	5,731	0	0	(5,731)
Revenue provision for the financing of unsupported capital investment	966	0	0	(966)
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	10,516	0	0	(10,516)
Adjustments involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:				
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	28	(1,542)	0	1,514
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance repayment of debt	0	0	0	0
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	1,377	0	(1,377)
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve towards administrative costs of non-current asset disposals	0	0	0	0
Principal repayment of debt	0	(2)	0	2
Adjustment primarily involving the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account:				
Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	11	0	0	(11)
Adjustments primarily involving the Pensions Reserve:				
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited/credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (Note 40)	(26,345)	0	0	26,345
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	19,727	0	0	(19,727)
Adjustment primarily involving the Accumulated Absences Account:				
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(564)	0	0	564
Total Adjustments	**62**	**(167)**	**(2,363)**	**2,468**

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:

2014/15	Balance	Transfers			Balance
	31 March 2014	between reserves	in	out	31 March 2015
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
School Balances	3,777	0	994	(1,275)	3,496
Total	**3,777**	**0**	**994**	**(1,275)**	**3,496**

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 2014/15.

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

Earmarked Reserves

2014-15	Balance		Transfers		Balance
	31 March 2014	between reserves	in	out	31 March 2015
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Renewals Reserves	2,184	0	3,071	(2,471)	2,784
Capital Reserves	10,064	(88)	1,783	(749)	11,010
Insurance Reserves	3,463	(1,348)	789	(846)	2,058
Services Fund	4,973	(1,571)	1,838	(960)	4,280
Convergence Programme Fund	1,111	0	0	(313)	798
Redundancy Costs to Realise Savings Reserve	2,434	2,928	60	(1,141)	4,281
Central Training	612	(45)	0	(164)	403
Communication Centre Reserve	34	0	0	(15)	19
Education Services Reserves	1,125	0	495	(416)	1,204
Economy and Community Reserves	138	(55)	21	(9)	95
Highways and Municipal Reserves	2,159	(900)	250	(34)	1,475
Waste Developments Reserve	272	0	0	(122)	150
Gwynedd Consultancy Reserves	401	0	0	(16)	385
Regulatory Reserves	876	(103)	84	(99)	758
Major Maintenance Work on County Roads Fund	120	0	120	(120)	120
Care - Other Reserves	102	100	74	(10)	266
Ffordd Gwynedd Fund	244	0	54	0	298
Invest to Save Fund	2,534	(2,569)	166	(131)	0
Invest to Save Fund - Carbon Reduction Plan	1,145	0	14	(590)	569
Transformation Fund	7,185	(6,146)	154	(1,193)	0
Transformation / Invest to Save Fund	0	11,371	0	0	11,371
Committed Revenue Grants Fund	311	0	140	(158)	293
Capital Reserve to Realise Savings	209	(209)	0	0	0
Contracts Tendering Fund	674	0	0	(157)	517
Housing Water and Sewerage Services Fund	744	0	0	(63)	681
Housing Environmental Warranty	480	0	0	0	480
Savings Programme Reserve	946	(946)	0	0	0
Information Technology Reserve	374	0	41	(321)	94
Restoration Fund	346	(250)	0	(96)	0
Preparatory Work for European Grant Funding Schemes	150	0	0	0	150
Pension Deficit Reserve (Pre Housing Revenue Account)	1,727	0	0	0	1,727
Supporting the 2014/15 Financial Strategy Reserve	579	(579)	0	0	0
Welfare Fund	444	(244)	452	0	652
EDRMS Fund	288	0	0	(96)	192
Partnering Arrangements	0	514	360	(176)	698
Various Other Reserves	1,377	140	764	(1,513)	768
Total	**49,825**	**0**	**10,730**	**(11,979)**	**48,576**

The above figures reflect the earmarked reserves closing balance as at 31 March 2015, but 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)

(i) The Renewals Reserve is used by the various departments of the Council to replace vehicles and equipment.

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

(iii) 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.

(iv) 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.

(v) Convergence Programme Fund - fund created for corresponding capital or revenue contribution by the Council in relation to revenue and capital projects within the Convergence Programme.

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

(vii) Central Training – relates to the Council's staff training programme.

(viii) Communication Centre Reserve – sums set aside towards developing the Communication Centre.

(ix) Education Services 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'.

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

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

(xii) The Waste Developments Reserve is for relevant commitments and developments in the waste field including our commitment to the North Wales Waste Partnership.

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

(xiv) Regulatory Reserves – includes 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 Unitary Development Plan.

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

(xvi) Other Care Reserves – includes amounts set aside to protect against possible situations of uneven expenditure due to contract requirements.

(xvii) Ffordd Gwynedd Fund – to aid the business transformation process, realise savings and assist in achieving the aims and objectives of "Ffordd Gwynedd".

(xviii) Invest to Save Fund – provision for the investment in various plans to realise permanent financial savings, and now forms part of the Transformation / Invest to Save Fund.

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

(xix) 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.

(xx) Transformation Fund – provision to change the Council's internal procedures to be more effective and efficient, and now forms part of the Transformation / Invest to Save Fund.

(xxi) 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.

(xxii) Committed Revenue Grants Fund – includes revenue grants received and committed for future use.

(xxiii) Capital Reserve to realise savings – provision to support capital plans that will realise permanent financial revenue savings, and now forms part of the Transformation / Invest to Save Fund.

(xxiv) Contracts Tendering Fund – in response to uneven spending situations as a result of the tendering process for contracts.

(xxv) 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.

(xxvi) 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.

(xxvii) Savings Programme Reserve – strategic financing provision to assist and give the Council some flexibility with regards to the essential savings programme in the future, and now forms part of the Transformation / Invest to Save Fund.

(xxviii) Information Technology Reserve – renewals fund in order to respond to future uneven expenditure patterns.

(xxix) Restoration Fund – provision towards the cost of the restoration work following flood damage to roads, bridges, etc.

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

(xxxi) Pension Deficit Reserve (Pre Housing Revenue Account) – provision set aside to reduce the unavoidable pension liability inherited in transferring the housing stock.

(xxxii) Supporting the 2014/15 Financial Strategy Reserve – a fund established to assist and support the financial strategy for 2014/15.

(xxxiii) Welfare Fund - provision to respond to uneven patterns in the related requirements.

(xxxiv) Electronic Document and Records Management System (EDRMS) - provision for the work programme related to the purchase, implementation and develop the documents and records management system.

(xxxv) Partnering Arrangements – includes amounts allocated in relation to various requirements of partnering and joint working.

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

NOTE 11 – OTHER OPERATING EXPENDITURE

2013/14		2014/15
£'000		£'000
1,507	**Community Councils Precepts**	1,599
	Levies	
10,908	Police & Crime Commissioner North Wales	11,305
5,508	North Wales Fire Authority	5,588
1,153	Snowdonia National Park Authority	1,053
68	Local Drainage Boards	68
17,637		18,014
(288)	(Gains)/losses on the disposal of non-current assets	229
18,856	**Total**	**19,842**

NOTE 12 – FINANCING AND INVESTMENT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

2013/14		2014/15
£'000		£'000
6,476	Interest payable and similar charges	6,591
7,556	Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset)	7,369
(445)	Interest receivable and similar income	(474)
13,587	**Total**	**13,486**

NOTE 13 – TAXATION AND NON SPECIFIC GRANT INCOME

2013/14		*Note*	2014/15
£'000			£'000
(66,095)	Council Tax Income	*13a*	(68,525)
(38,209)	Non Domestic Rates	*13b*	(38,991)
(144,714)	Non-ringfenced Government Grants	*33*	(137,255)
(17,913)	Capital Grants and Contributions	*33*	(11,966)
(266,931)	**Total**		**(256,737)**

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 2014/15 was calculated as follows:-

CALCULATION OF THE COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR 2014/15

Valuation Bands	Number of Properties following discounts	Statutory Multiplier	Equivalent Band D properties
A*	9	5/9	4.72
A	7,230	6/9	4,820.04
B	13,236	7/9	10,294.80
C	10,535	8/9	9,364.80
D	9,209	1	9,209.32
E	7,315	11/9	8,940.08
F	3,560	13/9	5,142.58
G	1,165	15/9	1,940.83
H	162	18/9	324.50
I	54	21/9	126.00
		Total	50,167.67
Council Tax base after allowing for losses on collection			49,665.99

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

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
(66,493)	Council Tax raised	(68,873)
398	**Less** Provision for bad debts	348
(66,095)		(68,525)

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 (47.3p in 2014/15) 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 2014/15 financial year there were 7,338 properties on the local valuation list in Gwynedd, representing a rateable value of £99,361,487.

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

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
(34,716)	National Non-Domestic Rate raised	(35,186)
364	Cost of Collection allowance	368
284	Provision for Bad Debts	443
34,068	Sum paid to the National Pool	34,375
0		0
(38,209)	Receipts from the National Pool	(38,991)
(38,209)	**Net Income from Non Domestic Rates**	(38,991)

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 small surplus in 2014/15 and it can be seen that there is an accumulated surplus over the 3 year period.

2014/15	£'000
Total charges income received (excluding VAT)	(479)
Total charges expenditure incurred	478
(Surplus) / Deficit for 2014/15	(1)
(Surplus) / Deficit for 2013/14	1
(Surplus) / Deficit for 2012/13	(10)
(Surplus) / Deficit for the last three years	**(10)**

NOTE 15 – PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Movements on Balances

Movements in 2014/15:

	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 1.04.14	277,132	175,157	37,046	995	2,624	12,516	505,470
Additions	6,963	7,137	4,428	35	4	9,293	27,860
Sales	(919)	0	(6,548)	0	(101)	0	(7,568)
Transfers	4,609	0	0	0	(182)	(4,648)	(221)
Revaluation - to Revaluation Reserve	(20,382)	0	0	6	302	0	(20,074)
Revaluation - to Services	(1,686)	0	0	0	84	0	(1,602)
Balance at 31.03.15	**265,717**	**182,294**	**34,926**	**1,036**	**2,731**	**17,161**	**503,865**
Depreciation							
Balance at 1.04.14	15,236	24,901	21,922	7	35	2	62,103
Depreciation in year	4,516	4,555	3,050	1	24	0	12,146
Sales	(36)	0	(6,407)	0	(3)	0	(6,446)
Transfers	(2)	0	0	0	(23)	(2)	(27)
Revaluation	(14,305)	0	0	0	(12)	0	(14,317)
Balance at 31.03.15	**5,409**	**29,456**	**18,565**	**8**	**21**	**0**	**53,459**
Impairment							
Balance at 1.04.14	61,536	63	80	230	63	0	61,972
Impairment in year - to Revaluation Reserve	3,705	0	0	0	2	0	3,707
Impairment in year - to Services	2,822	0	0	0	2	0	2,824
Sales	(197)	0	(12)	0	(1)	0	(210)
Transfers	(20)	0	0	0	0	20	0
Revaluation	(32,984)	0	0	0	0	0	(32,984)
Balance at 31.03.15	**34,862**	**63**	**68**	**230**	**66**	**20**	**35,309**
Net Book Value 31 March 2015	**225,446**	**152,775**	**16,293**	**798**	**2,644**	**17,141**	**415,097**
Net Book Value 31 March 2014	**200,360**	**150,193**	**15,044**	**758**	**2,526**	**12,514**	**381,395**

NOTE 15 – PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (continued)

Comparative Movements in 2013/14:

	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 1.04.13	254,200	166,267	34,077	991	819	12,157	468,511
Additions	15,720	8,865	4,303	4	0	5,100	33,992
Additions - GwyriAD	4,734	0	0	0	0	0	4,734
Sales	(579)	0	(1,334)	0	0	0	(1,913)
Transfers	3,280	25	0	0	1,805	(4,741)	369
Revaluation	(223)	0	0	0	0	0	(223)
Balance at 31.03.14	**277,132**	**175,157**	**37,046**	**995**	**2,624**	**12,516**	**505,470**
Depreciation							
Balance at 1.04.13	11,657	20,333	20,128	6	27	2	52,153
Depreciation in year	3,917	4,568	2,891	1	8	0	11,385
Sales	(23)	0	(1,097)	0	0	0	(1,120)
Transfers	(192)	0	0	0	0	0	(192)
Revaluation	(123)	0	0	0	0	0	(123)
Balance at 31.03.14	**15,236**	**24,901**	**21,922**	**7**	**35**	**2**	**62,103**
Impairment							
Balance at 1.04.13	46,196	63	200	230	58	0	46,747
Impairment in year - to Revaluation Reserve	1,588	0	0	0	0	0	1,588
Impairment in year - to Services	13,450	0	0	0	0	573	14,023
Sales	0	0	(120)	0	0	0	(120)
Transfers	543	0	0	0	5	(573)	(25)
Revaluation	(241)	0	0	0	0	0	(241)
Balance at 31.03.14	**61,536**	**63**	**80**	**230**	**63**	**0**	**61,972**
Net Book Value 31 March 2014	**200,360**	**150,193**	**15,044**	**758**	**2,526**	**12,514**	**381,395**
Net Book Value 31 March 2013	**196,347**	**145,871**	**13,749**	**755**	**734**	**12,155**	**369,611**

NOTE 15 – PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (continued)

The Council's operational Land and Buildings were revalued on 1 April 2014 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. 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 new 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 explanatory foreword.

Within "Assets under Construction", there is an element that relates to Pont Briwet. This amount only reflects Gwynedd Council's proportion of the project construction costs (based on an estimated split of the road and the rail elements of the project. This split currently stands at 41% road element (£2.91m in 2014/15 and a total of £6.67m) and 59% rail element).

Capital Commitments

Significant commitments under capital contracts at 31 March 2015 were as follows:

	Sum	Payments to date	Balance
	£'000	£'000	£'000
New Hafod Lon School	11,650	211	11,439
Briwet Bridge *	16,450	12,406	4,044
Bro Llifon School	3,795	1,544	2,251
Welsh National Sailing Academy	4,198	2,468	1,730

* Since Gwynedd Council is lead body on this project (together with Network Rail), the capital commitment outstanding and equivalent funding reflects the total cost of this project and not just Gwynedd Council's element.

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:

	2013/14	2014/15
	£'000	£'000
Rental income from investment property	0	6
Direct operating expenses arising from investment property	0	0
Net gain / (loss)	0	6

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 or repairs, maintenance or enhancement.

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

	2013/14	2014/15
	£'000	£'000
Balance 1 April	**824**	**100**
Net gains /(losses) from fair value adjustments	0	16
Transfers:		
to/(from) Property, Plant and Equipment	(724)	131
Balance 31 March	**100**	**247**

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
- 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
- impaired investments in Icelandic banks
- 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 2014 £'000	**31 March 2015 £'000**	**31 March 2014 £'000**	**31 March 2015 £'000**
Loans at amortised cost:				
Principal sum borrowed	111,215	111,108	1,193	214
Accrued interest	0	0	691	690
Total Borrowing	**111,215**	**111,108**	**1,884**	**904**
Loans at amortised cost:				
Bank overdraft	0	0	19,496	21,397
Total Cash Overdrawn	**0**	**0**	**19,496**	**21,397**
Liabilities at amortised cost:				
Trade Payables	100	49	0	0
Finance leases	2,372	2,253	0	0
Total other Long Term Liabilities	**2,472**	**2,302**	**0**	**0**
Liabilities at amortised cost:				
Trade Payables	0	0	59,298	64,565
Finance Leases	0	0	112	119
Included within Creditors*	**0**	**0**	**59,410**	**64,684**
Total Financial Liabilities	**113,687**	**113,410**	**80,790**	**86,985**

* The short term creditors line on the Balance Sheet includes £1,669,000 (£3,881,000 at 31 March 2014) 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 2014 £'000	31 March 2015 £'000	31 March 2014 £'000	31 March 2015 £'000
Loans and Receivables:				
Principal at amortised cost	17	17	27,000	37,002
Accrued interest	0	0	83	234
Available for sale investments:				
Principal at amortised cost	60	1,173	0	0
Total Investments	**77**	**1,190**	**27,083**	**37,236**
Loans and Receivables:				
Cash	0	0	61	60
Cash equivalents at amortised cost	0	0	20,825	18,420
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	**0**	**0**	**20,886**	**18,480**
Loans and Receivables:				
Trade Receivables	4,449	4,862	20,021	18,161
Included in Debtors*	**4,449**	**4,862**	**20,021**	**18,161**
Total Financial Assets	**4,526**	**6,052**	**67,990**	**73,877**

* The short term debtors line on the Balance Sheet includes £24,196,000 (£32,113,000 at 31 March 2014) 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 Account. The 2014/15 Code of Practice sets out specific accounting and disclosure requirements for soft loans. During 2014/15 Gwynedd Council identified the following "soft loans":

- Deferred Payments on charges due from people under care (amount outstanding at 31.03.15 £3,234,042)
- Car and Bike Loans to employees (amount outstanding at 31.03.15 £1,016,266)

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.

	2013/14			2014/15		
	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	50,206	(50,206)	0	3,119	(3,119)	0
Total Financial Assets	**50,206**	**(50,206)**	**0**	**3,119**	**(3,119)**	**0**
Bank overdraft	(69,702)	50,206	(19,496)	(24,516)	3,119	(21,397)
Total Financial Liabilities	**(69,702)**	**50,206**	**(19,496)**	**(24,516)**	**3,119**	**(21,397)**

(c) Financial Instruments - Gains and Losses

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

	Financial Liabilities	Financial Assets	
	Liabilities measured at amortised cost	Loans and Receivables	Total 2014/15
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Interest expense	6,585	0	6,585
Interest payable and similar charges	**6,585**	**0**	**6,585**
Interest income	0	(418)	(418)
Interest and investment income	**0**	**(418)**	**(418)**
Net (gain) / loss for the year	**6,585**	**(418)**	**6,167**

(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 31st March 2015, 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 31st March.
- other long-term loans and investments have been discounted at the market rates for similar instruments with similar remaining terms to maturity on 31st 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 2014 £'000	Fair Value 31 March 2014 £'000	Carrying Amount 31 March 2015 £'000	Fair Value 31 March 2015 £'000
Financial Liabilities:				
Loans borrowed	(113,099)	(140,550)	(112,012)	(166,103)
Finance leases	(2,484)	(2,484)	(2,372)	(2,372)
Trade Payables	(59,298)	(59,298)	(64,565)	(64,565)
Total Financial Liabilities	**(174,881)**	**(202,332)**	**(178,949)**	**(233,040)**
Financial Assets:				
Long term investments	77	77	1,190	1,190
Short term investments	27,000	27,083	37,002	37,227
Trade Receivables	20,021	20,021	18,161	18,161
Total Financial Assets	**47,098**	**47,181**	**56,353**	**56,578**

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 one longer dated covered bond maturing in 2018.

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 £3,778,353 equating to 94% from the administrators up to 31 March 2014.

No distributions were received in 2014/15. Notice has been received that a further dividend will be paid in August 2015, although the amount is not yet known. The administration is ongoing, but it is likely that the full amount should eventually be recovered.

(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 are based on seeking the highest rate of return consistent with the proper levels of security and liquidity.

The main risks covered are:

NOTE 17 – FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

- *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.

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 2014/15 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 2014/15 a limit of 10% of the total portfolio was placed on the amount that can be invested with a single counterparty (reduced to £1m for some building societies). The Council also set a total group investment limit of 10% for institutions that are part of the same banking group. No more than £30m 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 £37m 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 the 31 March 2015 that this was likely to crystallise.

The Council does not hold collateral against any investments.

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

Credit Rating	**Short term**	
	31 March 2014	**31 March 2015**
	£'000	**£'000**
AAA	0	0
AA+	0	0
AA	0	0
AA-	10,000	22,485
A+	0	7,000
A	37,825	24,937
A-	0	0
Unrated	0	1,000
Total Investments	**47,825**	**55,422**

NOTE 17 – FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

Credit Rating	Long Term	
	31 March 2014 £'000	31 March 2015 £'000
AAA	0	0
AA+	0	0
AA	0	0
AA-	0	0
A+	0	0
A	0	0
A-	0	1,121
Unrated	0	0
Total Investments	**0**	**1,121**

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.

A small number and value of long term loans to local companies and organisations were inherited by the Council from former councils. Only one of these loans is now outstanding and the payment record is excellent.

The Council has launched a Business Loan Fund for small and medium sized businesses within Gwynedd. The interest rates charged on such loans is 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 2014 £'000	31 March 2015 £'000
Less than 1 year	1,193	214
Over 1 but not over 2	199	1,981
Over 2 but not over 5	4,625	4,657
Over 5 but not over 10	8,069	11,451
Over 10 but not over 20	39,305	34,003
Over 20 but not over 30	15,464	15,464
Over 30 but not over 40	0	0
Over 40	27,352	27,352
Uncertain date*	16,200	16,200
Total	**112,407**	**111,322**

NOTE 17 – FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

* 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.

Market Risks: 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 2015, 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	150	(71)
Impact on Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	**150**	**(71)**
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*	(21,085)	21,085

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

Market Risks: 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 Risks: Foreign Exchange Risk

The Council has no financial asset 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 2014	31 March 2015
	£'000	£'000
Welsh Government	19,660	14,339
Other Central Government Bodies	5,206	4,408
Other Local Authorities	6,152	6,338
National Health Service	2,113	1,129
Public Corporations and Trading	45	586
Council Tax	1,927	1,831
Other Entities and Individuals	17,031	13,726
Total	**52,134**	**42,357**

NOTE 19 – CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash comprises cash in hand and demand deposits. Cash will also include bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and that are integral to the authority's cash management.

Balances classified as 'Cash Equivalents' fit the definition of being short-term highly liquid investments, that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.
The net balance of Cash and Cash Equivalents is made up of the following elements at the Balance Sheet date:

	31 March 2014	31 March 2015
	£'000	£'000
Cash in hand	14	13
Bank current accounts	47	47
Call Accounts	20,825	18,420
Cash and Cash Equivalents	**20,886**	**18,480**
Bank overdraft	(19,496)	(21,397)
Total	**1,390**	**(2,917)**

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 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 £13.7m (£12.1m at 31 March 2014).

NOTE 20 – ASSETS HELD FOR SALE

	2013/14	2014/15
	£'000	£'000
Balance 1 April	**2,905**	**2,488**
Assets newly classified as held for sale:		
Property, Plant and Equipment	1,199	283
Expenditure in year	16	2
Revaluation Losses	0	(6)
Revaluation Gains	0	0
Impairment Losses	(16)	(2)
Assets declassified as held for sale:		
Property, Plant and Equipment	(1,062)	(220)
Assets sold	(554)	(1,505)
Transfers from non-current to current	0	0
Balance 31 March	**2,488**	**1,040**

NOTE 21 – SHORT-TERM CREDITORS

	31 March 2014	31 March 2015
	£'000	£'000
Welsh Government	1,815	2,217
Other Central Government Bodies	4,307	4,667
Other Local Authorities	19,837	24,137
National Health Service	587	255
Public Corporations and Trading	136	135
Council Tax	1,012	1,170
Other Entities and Individuals	35,597	33,772
Total	**63,291**	**66,353**

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 2014 £'000	(Addition) / Reduction / Transfer £'000	Used during the year £'000	Balance at 31 March 2015 £'000
Short Term Provisions				
Waste Sites Provision	(452)	(308)	483	(277)
Other	(27)	0	20	(7)
Equal Pay	(2,091)	(600)	21	(2,670)
	(2,570)	**(908)**	**524**	**(2,954)**
Long Term Provisions				
Council Tax Property Transfers	(250)	(250)	10	(490)
Waste Sites Provision	(7,984)	(127)	0	(8,111)
Third Party Claims Provision	(188)	0	85	(103)
MMI Insurance Provision	(198)	0	0	(198)
Pension Provisions	0	(335)	0	(335)
Other	(113)	0	0	(113)
	(8,733)	**(712)**	**95**	**(9,350)**
Total	**(11,303)**	**(1,620)**	**619**	**(12,304)**

Council Tax Property Transfers Provision - Provision relating to the implications of properties transferring from Council Tax to National Non-Domestic Rates.

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

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

Third Party Claims Provision – relating to cases of third party claims against the Council.

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.

Pension Provision – provision for future pension requirements

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

NOTE 23 – USABLE RESERVES

The Movement in Reserves Statement details the movements in the Authority's usable reserves.

NOTE 24 – UNUSABLE RESERVES

31 March 2014		31 March 2015
£'000		£'000
41,009	Revaluation Reserve	62,580
60	Available For Sale Financial Instruments Reserve	85
169,777	Capital Adjustment Account	179,024
(948)	Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	(885)
4	Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve	2
(171,689)	Pensions Reserve	(248,721)
(3,766)	Accumulated Absences Account	(3,819)
34,447	**Total Unusable Reserves**	**(11,734)**

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.

2013/14		2014/15
£'000		£'000
44,043	**Balance 1 April**	**41,009**
263	Upward revaluation of assets	29,821
(1,692)	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses	(6,303)
(1,429)	**Surplus or deficit on revaluation of assets**	**23,518**
(1,066)	Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	(1,205)
(539)	Accumulated gains on assets sold	(742)
(1,605)	**Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account**	**(1,947)**
41,009	**Balance 31 March**	**62,580**

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 24 – UNUSABLE RESERVES (continued)

2013/14 £000		2014/15 £'000
60	**Balance 1 April**	**60**
0	Upward revaluation of investments	33
0	Downward revaluation of investments not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(8)
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
60	**Balance 31 March**	**85**

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.

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
163,466	**Balance 1 April**	**169,777**
	Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:	
(25,426)	Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(16,564)
(6,222)	Revenue Expenditure funded from Capital under Statute	(4,833)
(686)	Adjustment to non-current balance on the sale of assets	(1,676)
1,066	Transfer from Capital Revaluation Reserve	1,205
	Capital financing applied in the year:	
1,377	Capital Receipts	1,873
18,989	Grants and contributions credited to Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital financing	15,666
5,731	Revenue provision for the financing of supported capital investment	5,692
10,516	Capital expenditure charged in year against the General Fund	6,430
966	Capital receipts set aside / Revenue provision for the financing of unsupported capital investment	1,454
169,777	**Balance 31 March**	**179,024**

NOTE 24 – UNUSABLE RESERVES (continued)

Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

The Financial Instruments Adjustment Account (FIAA) was established on 1 April 2007 when Financial Reporting Standards 25, 26 and 29 relating to Financial Instruments were adopted into the SORP (2007 SORP). The balance in the FIAA 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 from 1 April 2006 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.

In the case of premiums and discounts relating to transactions occurring prior to 1 April 2006, these are classified between those that are overhanging and those that are not overhanging. Overhanging premiums and discounts are those that cannot be associated with a continuing loan. These were written off in full as an adjustment to the General Fund Balances Brought Forward at 1 April 2007.

In the case of overhanging premiums or discounts, or those relating to loan extinguishments, Statutory Provisions exist to override the provisions of the Code of Practice. The charges are reversed out in the Movement in Reserves Statement and premiums and discounts are amortised to Revenue over a period of years. Where premiums and discounts are not overhanging or are linked to transactions meeting criteria of a loan modification the statutory provisions relating to the General Fund do not apply.

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 FIAA for 2014/15 are as follows:

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
(959)	**Balance 1 April**	**(948)**
46	Proportion of premiums incurred in previous years charged to General Fund in accordance with statute	46
(35)	Deferred credit for receipt of charges due from people under care	17
(948)	**Balance 31 March**	**(885)**

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.

NOTE 24 – UNUSABLE RESERVES (continued)

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
6	**Balance 1 April**	**4**
(2)	Principal repayment of Right To Buy Mortgages	(2)
4	**Balance 31 March**	**2**

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.

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
(168,179)	**Balance 1 April**	**(171,689)**
3,108	Re-measurements of the net defined benefit liability / (assets)	(70,697)
(26,345)	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	(26,533)
19,727	Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	20,198
(171,689)	**Balance 31 March**	**(248,721)**

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.

NOTE 24 – UNUSABLE RESERVES (continued)

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
(3,201)	**Balance 1 April**	**(3,766)**
(565)	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	(53)
(3,766)	**Balance 31 March**	**(3,819)**

NOTE 25a – CASH FLOW STATEMENT: ADJUSTMENTS TO NET SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON THE PROVISION OF SERVICES FOR NON-CASH MOVEMENTS

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
(11,386)	Depreciation	(12,145)
(14,039)	Impairment and downward valuations	(4,418)
(1,031)	(Increase)/Decrease in Creditors	(7,853)
7,059	Increase/(Decrease) in Debtors	(9,626)
198	Increase/(Decrease) in Stock	12
(6,606)	Pension Liability	(6,335)
(1,226)	Carrying amount of non-current assets sold	(2,419)
(4,986)	Other non-cash items charged to net surplus/deficit on the provision of services	(5,451)
(32,017)		**(48,235)**

NOTE 25b – CASH FLOW STATEMENT – ADJUST FOR ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE NET SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON THE PROVISION OF SERVICES THAT ARE INVESTING AND FINANCING ACTIVITES

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
1,514	Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	2,190
1,514		**2,190**

NOTE 25c – CASH FLOW STATEMENT – OPERATING ACTIVITIES

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
(576)	Interest received	(323)
5,864	Interest paid	5,749

NOTE 26 – CASH FLOW STATEMENT – INVESTING ACTIVITIES

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
31,469	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	31,042
0	Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	143,391
6,554	Other payments for investing activities	5,249
(1,544)	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(2,193)
(8,416)	Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments	(132,301)
28,063	**Net cash flows from investing activities**	**45,188**

NOTE 27 – CASH FLOW STATEMENT – FINANCING ACTIVITIES

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
92	Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liability relating to Finance Leases	112
843	Repayments of short term and long term borrowing	1,088
935	**Net cash flows from financing activities**	**1,200**

NOTE 28 – AMOUNTS REPORTED FOR RESOURCE ALLOCATION DECISIONS

The analysis of income and expenditure by service on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is that specified by the Service Reporting Code of Practice. However, decisions about resource allocation are taken by the Council's Cabinet on the basis of budget reports analysed across departments. These reports are prepared on a different basis from the accounting policies used in the financial statements. In particular:

- no charges are made in relation to capital expenditure (whereas depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses in excess of the balance on the Revaluation Reserve and amortisations are charged to services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement)
- the cost of retirement benefits is based on cash flows (payment of employer's pensions contributions) rather than current service cost of benefits accrued in the year
- expenditure on some support services is budgeted for centrally and not charged to Departments.

This reconciliation shows how the figures in the analysis of departmental income and expenditure relate to the amounts included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and shows how the figures in the analysis of departmental income and expenditure relate to a subjective analysis of the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

NOTE 28 – AMOUNTS REPORTED FOR RESOURCE ALLOCATION DECISIONS (continued)

2014/15	Expenditure			Total	Income		Total	Net
AMOUNTS REPORTED FOR RESOURCE ALLOCATION DECISIONS	**Employees**	**Other**	**Support Services**	**Expenditure**	**Fees and other**	**Government Grants and Contributions**	**Income**	**Expenditure**
	£'000	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
Human Resources	2,695	274	(82)	2,887	(68)	(60)	(128)	2,759
Finance	6,791	2,086	3	8,880	(1,853)	(894)	(2,747)	6,133
Chief Executive Department	1,828	1,013	8	2,849	(169)	(512)	(681)	2,168
Strategic and Improvement	4,693	3,068	8	7,769	(80)	(2,920)	(3,000)	4,769
Education	79,990	22,992	218	103,200	(7,546)	(13,006)	(20,552)	82,648
Economy and Community	9,616	7,974	20	17,610	(6,274)	(3,736)	(10,010)	7,600
Highways and Municipal	16,732	22,784	(46)	39,470	(12,208)	(3,864)	(16,072)	23,398
Regulatory	8,081	8,416	0	16,497	(4,907)	(3,365)	(8,272)	8,225
Consultancy	2,158	502	0	2,660	(2,336)	(260)	(2,596)	64
Trunk Roads	0	0	(224)	(224)	0	0	0	(224)
Children and Families	6,248	10,232	102	16,582	(339)	(3,165)	(3,504)	13,078
Adults, Health and Wellbeing	27,614	41,037	280	68,931	(13,272)	(10,254)	(23,526)	45,405
Total items within Departmental Control	166,446	120,378	287	287,111	(49,052)	(42,036)	(91,088)	196,023
Corporate	1,168	22,074	23,319	46,561	(737)	(32,139)	(32,876)	13,685
Total items within Departmental Control and Central Support Services	167,614	142,452	23,606	333,672	(49,789)	(74,175)	(123,964)	209,708
Items within net cost of services, not under departmental control:								
Capital Charges	0	19,574	0	19,574	0	0	0	19,574
Items under departmental control, not included in net cost of services:								
Contributions to Reserves	(363)	(3,331)	0	(3,694)	0	0	0	(3,694)
Use of Reserves	0	0	0	0	1,785	0	1,785	1,785
Net Cost of Services	167,251	158,695	23,606	349,552	(48,004)	(74,175)	(122,179)	227,373
Other Operating Expenditure								
Precepts and Levies	0	19,613	0	19,613	0	0	0	19,613
(Gains)/Losses on the disposal of Non-current Assets	0	229	0	229	0	0	0	229
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure								
Interest Payable and Similar Charges	0	6,591	0	6,591	0	0	0	6,591
Net Interest on the Net Defined Benefit Liability/(Asset)	0	0	7,369	7,369	0	0	0	7,369
Interest Receivable and Similar Income	0	0	0	0	(474)	0	(474)	(474)
Taxation and non-specific grant income								
Council Tax	0	0	0	0	(68,525)	0	(68,525)	(68,525)
Net income Non-domestic rates	0	0	0	0	(38,991)	0	(38,991)	(38,991)
Government Grants - Revenue	0	0	0	0	0	(137,255)	(137,255)	(137,255)
Grants and Contributions - Capital	0	0	0	0	(170)	(11,796)	(11,966)	(11,966)
(Surplus)/ Deficit on the Provision of Services	**167,251**	**185,128**	**30,975**	**383,354**	**(156,164)**	**(223,226)**	**(379,390)**	**3,964**

NOTE 28 – AMOUNTS REPORTED FOR RESOURCE ALLOCATION DECISIONS (continued)

2013/14	Expenditure			Total	Income		Total	Net
AMOUNTS REPORTED FOR RESOURCE ALLOCATION DECISIONS	Employees	Other	Support Services	Expenditure	Fees and other	Government Grants and Contributions	Income	Expenditure
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Human Resources	2,879	362	(23)	3,218	(56)	(59)	(115)	3,103
Finance	5,262	1,292	2	6,556	(1,686)	(920)	(2,606)	3,950
Democracy and Legal	1,764	741	1	2,506	(679)	(190)	(869)	1,637
Customer Care	6,175	2,220	129	8,524	(1,356)	(99)	(1,455)	7,069
Strategic and Improvement	4,401	4,063	7	8,471	(72)	(3,723)	(3,795)	4,676
Education	79,825	25,463	246	105,534	(6,761)	(15,827)	(22,588)	82,946
Economy and Community	4,731	10,440	19	15,190	(3,420)	(7,986)	(11,406)	3,784
Highways and Municipal	16,032	18,327	(7)	34,352	(7,922)	(3,867)	(11,789)	22,563
Regulatory	5,682	8,948	0	14,630	(3,969)	(4,591)	(8,560)	6,070
Consultancy	2,191	738	0	2,929	(2,685)	(226)	(2,911)	18
Trunk Roads	0	0	(106)	(106)	(142)	0	(142)	(248)
Social Services Housing and Leisure	35,256	49,510	265	85,031	(14,551)	(11,066)	(25,617)	59,414
Total items within Departmental Control	164,198	122,104	533	286,835	(43,299)	(48,554)	(91,853)	194,982
Corporate	1,729	19,921	24,857	46,507	(1,133)	(33,617)	(34,750)	11,757
Corporate Management Team	859	70	1	930	0	(5)	(5)	925
Total items within Departmental Control and Central Support Services	166,786	142,095	25,391	334,272	(44,432)	(82,176)	(126,608)	207,664
Items within net cost of services, not under departmental control:								
Capital Charges	0	29,744	0	29,744	0	0	0	29,744
Items under departmental control, not included in net cost of services:								
Contributions to Reserves	(329)	(3,293)	0	(3,622)	0	0	0	(3,622)
Use of Reserves	0	0	0	0	2,121	0	2,121	2,121
Net Cost of Services	166,457	168,546	25,391	360,394	(42,311)	(82,176)	(124,487)	235,907
Other Operating Expenditure								
Precepts and Levies	0	19,144	0	19,144	0	0	0	19,144
(Gains)/Losses on the disposal of Non-current Assets	0	0	0	0	(288)	0	(288)	(288)
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure								
Interest Payable and Similar Charges	0	6,682	0	6,682	(206)	0	(206)	6,476
Net Interest on the Net Defined Benefit Liability (Asset)	0	0	7,556	7,556	0	0	0	7,556
Interest Receivable and Similar Income	0	0	0	0	(445)	0	(445)	(445)
Taxation and non-specific grant income								
Council Tax	0	0	0	0	(66,095)	0	(66,095)	(66,095)
Net income Non-domestic rates	0	0	0	0	(38,209)	0	(38,209)	(38,209)
Government Grants - Revenue	0	0	0	0	0	(144,714)	(144,714)	(144,714)
Grants and Contributions - Capital	0	0	0	0	(2,967)	(14,946)	(17,913)	(17,913)
(Surplus)/ Deficit on the Provision of Services	**166,457**	**194,372**	**32,947**	**393,776**	**(150,521)**	**(241,836)**	**(392,357)**	**1,419**

NOTE 29 – 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 the year 2014/15 was £46.2m (£51.91m in 2013/14).

During 2014/15, Gwynedd Council acted as an agent to the 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 2014/15, loans amounting to £166,200 were allocated and £242,250 was repaid, a net movement of (£76,050) (£159,000 in 2013/14).

NOTE 30 – MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

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

2013/14		**2014/15**
£'000		**£'000**
1,260	Allowances	1,260
65	Expenses	71
1,325		**1,331**

NOTE 31 – OFFICERS' REMUNERATION

31a. 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, but the employer's national insurance contributions are excluded. Included below is the related gross costs, where substantial savings have been made from senior management restructuring of the Council:

2013-14				Chief Officers	2014-15			
Salary	Employer's Pension Contributions	Other Employer Costs	Total		Salary	Employer's Pension Contribution	Other Employer Costs	Total
£	£	£	£		£	£	£	£
108,264	24,251	174,298	306,813	Chief Executive [1]	53,926	12,079	(20,546)	45,459
0	0	0	0	Chief Executive [2]	50,992	11,422	0	62,414
88,960	19,927	0	108,887	Corporate Director [1]	44,311	9,926	0	54,237
88,960	19,927	0	108,887	Corporate Director	89,022	19,941	0	108,963
41,144	9,216	0	50,360	Corporate Director	84,571	18,944	0	103,515
75,511	16,914	25,813	118,238	Head of Education [3]	32,795	7,021	437	40,253
0	0	0	0	Head of Education [4]	30,211	6,767	0	36,978
0	0	0	0	Head of Education [5]	20,915	4,685	0	25,600
73,578	16,482	0	90,060	Head of Highways and Municipal	73,618	16,490	0	90,108
70,263	15,739	0	86,002	Head of Finance	71,643	16,048	0	87,691
70,263	15,739	0	86,002	Head of Economy & Community	70,312	15,750	0	86,062
70,263	15,739	0	86,002	Head of Adults, Health and Wellbeing	70,312	15,750	0	86,062
0	0	0	0	Temporary Head of Adults, Health and Wellbeing [6]	6,176	1,383	0	7,559
70,263	15,739	0	86,002	Head of Regulatory	64,565	14,463	0	79,028
0	0	0	0	Temporary Head of Regulatory [6]	5,172	1,159	0	6,331
70,263	15,739	0	86,002	Head of Strategic & Improvement [7]	70,312	15,750	47,332	133,394
63,237	14,165	0	77,402	Head of Human Resources [7]	56,249	12,600	0	68,849
59,353	13,295	0	72,648	Head of Gwynedd Consultancy	59,394	13,304	0	72,698
56,210	12,591	99,834	168,635	Head of Democracy and Legal [8]	23,332	5,226	7,090	35,648
19,719	4,417	0	24,136	Head of Children and Families	65,039	14,569	0	79,608

- *"Other Employer Costs" above - in accordance with the requirements, the related commitments as known to the Council as at 31 March 2015 are included.*

- *Other references to the above table:*

1 Holder in post to end of September 2014
2 Holder in post from beginning of October 2014
3 Holder in post to end of August 2014
4 Holder in post from 21 July 2014 to end of December 2014
5 Holder in post from 5 January 2015
6 Temporary holder in post from 2 March 2015
7 Holder in post to end of March 2015
8 The remuneration disclosed above in respect of the Head of Democracy and Legal does not include £4,010 paid in respect of their role as Returning Officer for the authority. Holder in post to end of August 2014

31b. The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 require the Authority to include a ratio of remuneration. During 2014/15 there have been two holders in the Chief Executive's post (refer to note 31a for further details), therefore a combined annualised remuneration figure has been used for the calculation. The ratio of the Chief Executive to the median remuneration of all the Authority's employees is 5.45 : 1.

NOTE 31 – OFFICERS' REMUNERATION (continued)

31c. 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 17 cases in 2014/15 and 4 cases in 2013/14. 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 2013-14				Number in 2014-15		
Schools	Other	Total		Schools	Other	Total
7	0	7	£60,000 - 64,999	8	1	9
5	0	5	£65,000 - 69,999	4	3	7
1	0	1	£70,000 - 74,999	4	3	7
2	0	2	£75,000 - 79,999	1	0	1
0	1	1	£80,000 - 84,999	0	1	1
0	0	0	£85,000 - 89,999	0	1	1
1	1	2	£90,000 - 94,999	0	2	2
1	0	1	£95,000 - 99,999	1	0	1
1	0	1	£100,000 - 104,999	0	0	0
0	0	0	£105,000 - 109,999	0	1	1
0	0	0	£110,000 - 114,999	0	1	1
0	0	0	£115,000 - 119,999	0	1	1
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	0	0
0	0	0	£135,000 - 139,999	0	1	1

NOTE 32 – EXTERNAL AUDIT COSTS

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

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
272	Fees for External Audit Services	267
139	Fees for grant claims and returns	114
411		**381**
(6)	**Less:** Fees for External Audit Services relating to the Joint Committees and Harbour Accounts	(3)
405	**Gwynedd Council Net Fees**	**378**

NOTE 33 – GRANT INCOME

The Council credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2014/15:

	Note	2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000	
Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income					
Outcome Agreement Grant (Non-ringfenced Government Grants)	13		1,290		1,275
Revenue Support Grant (Non-ringfenced Government Grants)	13		143,424		135,980
Government Capital Grants and Contributions -					
21st Century Schools		2,673		2,203	
General Capital Grant		2,543		2,508	
Other		9,730		7,085	
	13		14,946		11,796
Other Capital Grants and Contributions	13		2,967		170
Total			**162,627**		**149,221**
Grants and Contributions Credited to Services					
Welsh Government -					
Supporting People Grant (SPG & SPRG)		5,925		5,703	
Foundation Phase Grant (Education)		4,032		3,941	
Sustainable Waste Management Grant		3,696		3,616	
Post 16 Grant (Education)		3,310		3,027	
Potential Grant		3,156		180	
Other		17,167		15,600	
			37,286		32,067
Other Government Grants and Contributions -					
Department for Work and Pensions		29,708		30,320	
Other		14,853		11,787	
			44,561		42,107
Other Grants and Contributions			1,097		2,776
			82,944		**76,950**

There has been a change to the comparative breakdown figures by amalgamation as the figures were not considered material in 2014/15.

NOTE 33 – 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 2014 £'000	31 March 2015 £'000
Long Term		
Revenue Grants and Contributions : -		
Regulatory (Planning, Transport & Public Protection) Grants	682	771
Adults, Health and Wellbeing Grants	426	245
	1,108	1,016
Capital Grants and Contributions : -		
Highways and Municipal Capital Contributions	1,956	1,810
Regulatory (Planning, Transport & Public Protection) Grants	878	1,297
	2,834	3,107
Total Long Term	**3,942**	**4,123**
Short Term		
Revenue Grants and Contributions : -		
Economy and Community Grants	306	761
Education Grants	261	82
Regulatory (Planning, Transport & Public Protection) Grants	251	506
Adults, Health and Wellbeing Grants	460	623
Children & Families Grants	0	26
Consultancy Grants	29	29
Corporate Management Team Grants	7	0
Highways and Municipal Grants	3	0
Finance Grants	0	402
	1,317	2,429
Capital Grants and Contributions : -		
Economy and Community Grants	215	275
Highways and Municipal Capital Contributions	146	146
Adults, Health and Wellbeing Grants	97	31
	458	452
Total Short Term	**1,775**	**2,881**
Total	**5,717**	**7,004**

There was a change to the Departmental structure between 2013/14 and 2014/15, and consequently there is a change to the comparative breakdown figures to reflect the current Departments

NOTE 34 – 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 28 on reporting for resources allocation decisions. The related position as at 31 March is provided in Note 33.

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 2014/15 is shown in Note 30.

The Authority appoints members to some external charitable or voluntary bodies or they have disclosed a link to organisations, public bodies and authorities. A breakdown of the payments and balances at 31 March 2015 made to these bodies under this heading during 2014/15 is as follows:

Payments made	Amounts owed by the Authority	Amounts owed to the Authority
£'000	£'000	£'000
10,860	1,067	(2,854)

Members have declared an interest or relationship (as defined) in companies or businesses which may have dealings with the Authority. A breakdown of the payments and balances at 31 March 2015 made to these companies under this heading during 2014/15 is as follows:

Payments made	Amounts owed by the Authority	Amounts owed to the Authority
£'000	£'000	£'000
2,469	102	(30)

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 Authority. A breakdown of the payments and balances at 31 March 2015 made to these bodies under this heading during 2014/15 is as follows:

Payments made	Amounts owed by the Authority	Amounts owed to the Authority
£'000	£'000	£'000
3,687	345	(107)

Other Public Bodies
The Authority is the administering authority for the Pension Fund. Details of transactions with the Pension Fund are shown in Note 40 on pages 66 to 70 and the Pension Fund Accounts on pages 74 to 104.

NOTE 34 – RELATED PARTIES (continued)

Welsh Joint Education Committee (WJEC)

Payments made	Amounts owed by the Authority	Amounts owed to the Authority
£'000	£'000	£'000
517	25	-

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 Cyf., Plas Llanwnda, Caernarfon, Gwynedd LL55 1SH. Payments and balances at 31 March 2015 to Cwmni Cynnal during 2014/15 for services to schools are as follows:

Payments made	Amounts owed by the Authority	Amounts owed to the Authority
£'000	£'000	£'000
1,325	60	(26)

Cwmni Gwastraff Môn-Arfon Cyf. was established as a Local Authority Waste Disposal Company in 1994. The Company operated two waste management sites in Anglesey and Gwynedd which were leased from the Local Authorities. The two Councils decided to close the company down during 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 when the Company is wound up. The Company's final accounts have not yet been completed but the investment on the Balance Sheet has been re-valued to reflect its true value when the final distribution of assets takes place. By now £1,193,580 has been received as part of the settlement, and the final payment of approximately £51,730 remains outstanding.

NOTE 35 – CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND CAPITAL FINANCING

The total amount of capital expenditure incurred in the year is shown in the table below (including the value of assets acquired under finance leases), 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 2014		31 March 2015
£'000		£'000
384,095	Non-current Assets	416,493
(41,009)	Revaluation Reserve	(62,580)
(169,777)	Capital Adjustment Account	(179,024)
173,309	**Capital Financing Requirement**	**174,889**

NOTE 35 – CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND CAPITAL FINANCING (continued)

The movement in the year is explained as follows:

2013/14		2014/15
£'000		£'000
165,924	**Capital Financing Requirement 1 April**	**173,309**
20,454	Land and Buildings	6,963
8,865	Infrastructure	7,137
4,303	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	4,428
4	Community Assets	35
0	Surplus Assets	4
5,100	Assets under construction	9,293
16	Assets held for sale	2
6,222	Funded from capital under statute	4,833
(1,377)	Capital Receipts used	(1,873)
(18,989)	Government Grants and other contributions	(15,666)
(10,516)	Capital expenditure charged to revenue	(6,430)
(5,731)	Revenue provision for the financing of supported capital investment	(5,692)
	Additional voluntary set aside :	
(966)	Revenue provision for the financing of unsupported capital investment	(1,454)
173,309	**Capital Financing Requirement 31 March**	**174,889**

NOTE 36 – LEASES

Authority as Lessee

Finance Leases

The Council did have some vehicles and equipment under finance leases. The assets acquired under these leases are carried as Property, Plant and Equipment in the Balance Sheet at the following net amounts:

31 March 2014		31 March 2015
£'000		£'000
4,734	Property, Plant and Equipment	4,485
4,734		**4,485**

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 36 – LEASES (continued)

31 March 2014 £'000		31 March 2015 £'000
	Finance Lease Liabilities (net present value of minimum lease payments):	
112	current	119
2,372	non-current	2,253
0	Finance costs payable in future years	0
2,484	Minimum lease payments	**2,372**

The remaining asset shown above has been funded by a deferred credit (refer to Note 43),

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

	Minimum Lease Payments		Finance Lease Liabilities	
	31 March 2014 £'000	31 March 2015 £'000	31 March 2014 £'000	31 March 2015 £'000
No later than one year	112	119	112	119
Later than one year and not later than five years	521	553	521	553
More than five years	1,851	1,700	1,851	1,700
	2,484	**2,372**	**2,484**	**2,372**

In 2014/15, minimum lease payments were made by the Authority of £111,939 (2013/14 - £95,423) in respect of those assets held as a finance lease.

Operating Leases

	31 March 2014 £'000	31 March 2015 £'000
No later than one year	312	457
Later than one year and not later than five years	169	493
Later than five years	0	243
	481	**1,193**

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

	2013/14 £'000	2014/15 £'000
Minimum lease payments	493	521
Contingent rents	0	0
	493	**521**

NOTE 36 – LEASES (continued)

Authority as Lessor

Finance Leases

Gwynedd Council has no Finance Leases where the Authority is the Lessor.

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 centers
- 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 2014 £'000	31 March 2015 £'000
No later than one year	283	380
Later than one year and not later than five years	536	583
Later than five years	1,892	2,264
	2,711	**3,227**

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 2014/15 £930,248 minimum lease payments were receivable by the Authority (£1,017,925 in 2013/14).

NOTE 37 – IMPAIRMENT LOSSES

Notes 15 and 20 show the movement by class of assets for impairment losses and reversals charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services and to Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

NOTE 38 – 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 2015 are included. Included below are the related gross costs but not the financial savings to the Council, where appropriate.

(a)	(b)		(c)		(d)		(e)	
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 £'000**	
£	**2013/14**	**2014/15**	**2013/14**	**2014/15**	**2013/14**	**2014/15**	**2013/14**	**2014/15**
0 - 20,000	58	61	7	0	65	61	382	431
20,001 - 40,000	7	20	1	1	8	21	211	558
40,001 - 60,000	3	12	0	2	3	14	165	669
60,001 - 80,000	1	2	1	0	2	2	125	132
80,001 - 100,000	0	3	1	0	1	3	100	278
100,001 - 150,000	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	114
150,001 - 200,000	0	0	1	0	1	0	174	0
Reflects adjustment to 2013/14 estimated costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33
Total	**69**	**99**	**11**	**3**	**80**	**102**	**1,157**	**2,215**

NOTE 39 – 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 2014/15 the Council paid £6.04m (£6.03m in 2013/14) in respect of teachers' pension costs, which represented 13.71% (13.68% in 2013/14) 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 2014/15 these amounted to £1.17m (£1.27m in 2013/14) representing 2.66% (2.87% in 2013/14) of teachers' pensionable pay. These costs are accounted for on a defined benefits basis and are included in Note 40.

NOTE 40 – 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 40 – PENSION COSTS (continued)

Change in the Fair Value of Plan Assets, Defined Benefit Obligation and Net Liability	Period ended 31 March 2014			Period ended 31 March 2015		
	Assets	Liabilities	Net (liability) /asset	Assets	Liabilities	Net (liability) /asset
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fair Value of Employer Assets	418,033	0	418,033	468,653	0	468,653
Present Value of Funded Liabilities	0	(559,752)	(559,752)	0	(613,043)	(613,043)
Present Value of Unfunded Liabilities	0	(26,460)	(26,460)	0	(27,299)	(27,299)
Opening Position at 31 March	**418,033**	**(586,212)**	**(168,179)**	**468,653**	**(640,342)**	**(171,689)**
Service Cost						
Current Service Cost*	0	(18,481)	(18,481)	0	(18,446)	(18,446)
Past Service Costs(including curtailments)	0	(308)	(308)	0	(718)	(718)
Total Service Cost	**0**	**(18,789)**	**(18,789)**	**0**	**(19,164)**	**(19,164)**
Net interest						
Interest Income on Plan Assets	18,923	0	18,923	20,231	0	20,231
Interest Cost on Defined Benefit Obligation	0	(26,479)	(26,479)	0	(27,600)	(27,600)
Total Net Interest	**18,923**	**(26,479)**	**(7,556)**	**20,231**	**(27,600)**	**(7,369)**
Total Defined Benefit Cost Recognised in Profit/(Loss)	**18,923**	**(45,268)**	**(26,345)**	**20,231**	**(46,764)**	**(26,533)**
Cashflows						
Plan participants contributions	4,803	(4,803)	0	4,987	(4,987)	0
Employer contributions	17,348	0	17,348	18,058	0	18,058
Contributions in respect of funded benefits	1,744	0	1,744	1,747	0	1,747
Benefits Paid	(16,538)	16,538	0	(19,324)	19,324	0
Unfunded Benefits Paid	(1,744)	1,744	0	(1,747)	1,747	0
Expected Closing Position	**442,569**	**(618,001)**	**(175,432)**	**492,605**	**(671,022)**	**(178,417)**
Re-measurements						
Change in demographic assumptions	0	(15,147)	(15,147)	0	0	0
Change in financial assumptions	0	(12,881)	(12,881)	0	(112,129)	(112,129)
Other experience	0	5,687	5,687	0	4,087	4,087
Return on Assets excluding amounts included in net interest	26,084	0	26,084	37,738	0	37,738
Total remeasurements recognised in Other Comprehensive Income (OCI)	**26,084**	**(22,341)**	**3,743**	**37,738**	**(108,042)**	**(70,304)**
Fair Value of Employer Assets	468,653	0	468,653	530,343	0	530,343
Present Value of Funded Liabilities	0	(613,043)	(613,043)	0	(750,818)	(750,818)
Present Value of Unfunded Liabilities	0	(27,299)	(27,299)	0	(28,246)	(28,246)
Closing Position at 31 March	**468,653**	**(640,342)**	**(171,689)**	**530,343**	**(779,064)**	**(248,721)**

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

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 2014.The split is shown in the table below. The actuary estimates the bid value of the Fund's assets as at 31 March 2015 to be £1,486,000 based on information provided by the Administering Authority and allowing for index returns where necessary.

NOTE 40 – 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 2014				At 31 March 2015			
	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	8,774	0	8,774	2	14,688	0	14,688	3
Energy and Utilities	11,220	0	11,220	2	10,923	0	10,923	2
Financial Institutions	3,916	0	3,916	1	8,271	0	8,271	2
Health and Care	20,770	0	20,770	4	22,077	0	22,077	4
Information Technology	13,074	0	13,074	3	15,419	0	15,419	3
Other	21,376	0	21,376	5	26,883	0	26,883	5
Private Equity								
All	0	22,428	22,428	5	0	22,429	22,429	4
Real Estate								
UK Property	0	40,332	40,332	9	0	50,873	50,873	10
Overseas Property	0	1,197	1,197	0	0	1,535	1,535	0
Investment Funds and Unit Trusts								
Equities	105,123	137,299	242,422	52	121,065	150,665	271,730	51
Bonds	0	69,659	69,659	15	0	73,443	73,443	14
Infrastructure	0	2,067	2,067	0	0	2,502	2,502	0
Cash and Cash Equivalents								
All	11,418	0	11,418	2	9,570	0	9,570	2
Total	**195,671**	**272,982**	**468,653**	**100**	**228,896**	**301,447**	**530,343**	**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 being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2013. The significant assumptions used by the actuary are as follows:-

NOTE 40 – PENSION COSTS (continued)

	31 March 2014	31 March 2015
Financial Assumptions	**% p.a.**	**% p.a.**
Pensions Increase Rate	2.8	2.4
Salary Increase Rate*	4.6	4.3
Inflation Rate	2.8	2.4
Discount rate	4.3	3.2
Long term expected rate of return on all categories of assets	4.3	3.2
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	24.4
Women	26.6	26.6

*Salary increases are assumed to be 1% p.a. until 31 March 2016 reverting to the long term assumption shown thereafter.

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 2015 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 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 31st March 2013, 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 2015**	**Approximate monetary amount 31 March 2015**
	%	£'000
0.5% decrease in real discount rate	11	88,886
1 year increase in life expectancy	3	23,372
0.5% increase in the salary increase rate	4	32,400
0.5% increase in the pension increase rate	7	54,022

NOTE 40 – PENSION COSTS (continued)

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 2013), or at any other time as instructed to do so by the Administering Authority. The contributions payable over the period to 31 March 2017 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 2013 actuarial report dated 31 March 2014.

Information about the Defined Benefit Obligation

	Liability Split		Duration
	£'000	%	
Active Members	440,439	58.7	24.9
Deferred Members	100,185	13.3	24.6
Pensioner Members	210,194	28.0	11.8
Total	**750,818**	**100.0**	**19.8**

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 2013.

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 2016 is £18.2m.

As the Actuary's report is based on estimates and due to timing issues, there is a variance of £393,157 in 2014/15 (£635,323 in 2013/14) 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 41 – 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 three specific contingent liabilities:

- Position in respect of Equal Pay Claims – a provision is contained within the Authority's Accounts and reflects the best estimate of potential cost as at 31 March 2015. The actual final position and liability will depend on the outcome of the outstanding claims.

- 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.

- 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,

NOTE 41 – CONTINGENT LIABILITIES (continued)

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. The initial levy was 15% of the payments made since 30 September 1992 payable by the authorities; this initial levy was paid during 2013/14.

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 42 – TRUSTS

The Council acts as sole trustee for 173 bequests such as school prize funds, and comforts and improvements funds for numerous Council Establishments. The total balance of these Trusts on 31 March 2015 was £606,180 (£563,252 on 31 March 2014). They are fully invested to generate income.

As the sole trustee, the Council holds the property for each trust but makes no decision on its use. In every case, the funds do not represent the assets of the Authority and therefore they have not been included in the Balance Sheet.

Further details on the FMG Morgan Trust Fund and Welsh Church Fund are included in Appendices B and C of these accounts.

NOTE 43 – 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 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 2014/15	498	112	153	763
Payable in 2015/16	498	119	146	763
Payable within 2 to 5 years	1,991	553	507	3,051
Payable within 6 to 10 years	2,489	907	419	3,815
Payable within 11 to 15 years	1,700	793	113	2,606
Total	**7,176**	**2,484**	**1,338**	**10,998**

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:

	2014/15	
	Lease Liability	Deferred Income
	£'000	£'000
Balance outstanding at 1 April 2014	(2,484)	(2,102)
Repayment of principal during the year	112	0
Release of deferred income	0	146
Balance outstanding at 31 March 2015	(2,372)	(1,956)

NOTE 44 – JOINT COMMITTEES

During 2014/15, Gwynedd Council participated in six joint-committees, collaborating in particular areas between Local Authorities. Separate accounts are required for joint-committees. The six joint-committees relating to Gwynedd are:

- Special Educational Needs Joint Committee (SEN)
- GwE
- Joint Planning Policy Committee
- Integrated Transport in North Wales (TAITH)
- Mid Wales Transportation (TRaCC)
- 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%	739
Joint Planning Policy Committee	Gwynedd Council	Gwynedd Council Isle of Anglesey County Council	50%	301
GwE	Gwynedd Council	Conwy County Borough Council Denbighshire County Council Flintshire County Council Gwynedd Council Isle of Anglesey County Council Wrexham County Borough Council	17.99%	641
TAITH	Flintshire County Council	Conwy County Borough Council Denbighshire County Council Flintshire County Council Gwynedd Council Isle of Anglesey County Council Wrexham County Borough Council	17.59%	10
TRaCC	Ceredigion County Council	Ceredigion County Council Gwynedd Council Powys County Council	33.3%	50
NWRWTP	Flintshire County Council	Conwy County Borough Council Denbighshire County Council Flintshire County Council Gwynedd Council Isle of Anglesey County Council	20%	85

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

31 March 2014 £'000		Notes	31 March 2015 £'000
	Dealings with members, employers and others directly involved in the Fund		
65,700	Contributions receivable	7	67,748
17	Interest on deferred contributions		14
3	Income from divorce calculations		2
0	Interest on late payment of contributions		1
3,810	Transfers in from other pension schemes	8	2,015
69,530	**Total contributions received**		**69,780**
(45,167)	Benefits payable	9	(48,610)
(1,516)	Payments to and on account of leavers	10	(1,909)
(46,683)	**Total benefits paid**		**(50,519)**
22,847			**19,261**
(8,118)	Management Expenses	11	**(8,573)**
	Returns on Investments		
13,993	Investment income	14	12,993
(466)	Taxes on income	15	(687)
88,421	Profit and (losses) on disposal of investments and changes in the market value of investments	16	164,833
101,948	**Returns on investments net of tax**		**177,139**
116,677	**Increase in the net assets available for benefits during the year**		**187,827**
	Net assets of the Fund		
1,192,869	At 1st April		1,309,546
116,677	Increase in net assets		187,827
1,309,546			**1,497,373**

NET ASSETS STATEMENT AS AT 31 MARCH 2015

31 March 2014		Notes	31 March 2015
£'000			£'000
1,280,403	Investment assets	16	1,458,025
15,453	Cash deposits	16	22,082
1,295,856			**1,480,107**
(308)	Investment liabilities	16	(229)
17,450	Current assets	21	20,312
(3,452)	Current liabilities	22	(2,817)
1,309,546			**1,497,373**

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 summaries 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 2013) 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 2014/15 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
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 (joined 1 November 2014)
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 Body	
Caterlink (joined 1 September 2013)	Jewsons

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 2015. Employers also make contributions which are set based on triennial actuarial funding valuations. New employer contribution rates were applied for the three years from 1st 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 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 2014/15 financial year and its position at year-end as at 31 March 2015. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2014/15 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 accrual 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.

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.

NOTE 3 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

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 2015 was £71 million (£64 million at 31 March 2014).

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 2015 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
Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Fund with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.	The net pension liability would change if the assumptions used were changed. For instance, an increase in the discount rate assumption would result in a decrease in the pension liability, an increase in assumed earnings inflation would increase the value of liability in assumed life expectancy would increase the liability.
Debtors	At 31 March 2015, the Fund had a balance of sundry debtors of £8.3m. 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 £71 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 have been no events since 31 March 2015, and up to the date when these accounts were authorised, that require any adjustments to these accounts.

NOTE 7 – CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVABLE

By category

2013/14		2014/15
£'000		£'000
50,908	Employers	52,502
14,792	Employees/Members	15,246
65,700		**67,748**

By authority

2013/14		2014/15
£'000		£'000
23,297	Gwynedd Council	24,251
38,065	Other scheduled bodies	38,992
1,722	Admission bodies	1,753
2,369	Community admission body	2,268
31	Transferee admission body	257
162	Resolution Body	173
54	Closed fund*	54
65,700		**67,748**

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

NOTE 7 – CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVABLE (continued)

2013/14		2014/15
£'000		£'000
14,792	Employees normal contributions	15,246
39,711	Employers normal contributions	45,586
11,197	Employers deficit recovery contributions	6,916
65,700		**67,748**

NOTE 8 – TRANSFERS IN FROM OTHER PENSION FUNDS

2013/14		2014/15
£'000		£'000
3,810	Individual transfers	2,015
3,810		**2,015**

NOTE 9 - BENEFITS PAYABLE

By category

2013/14		2014/15
£'000		£'000
34,425	Pensions	37,074
9,787	Commutation and lump sum retirement benefits	9,922
955	Lump sum death benefits	1,614
45,167		**48,610**

By authority

2013/14		2014/15
£'000		£'000
11,613	Gwynedd Council	13,554
20,012	Other scheduled bodies	22,135
984	Admission bodies	1,074
1,000	Community admission body	653
75	Transferee admission body	25
69	Resolution body	72
11,414	Closed fund	11,097
45,167		**48,610**

NOTE 10 – PAYMENTS TO AND ON ACCOUNT OF LEAVERS

2013/14		2014/15
£'000		£'000
(1)	Refunds to members leaving service net of tax repayments	84
1	Payments for members joining state scheme	17
1,516	Individual transfers	1,808
1,516		**1,909**

NOTE 11 – MANAGEMENT EXPENSES

2013/14		2014/15
£'000		£'000
1,218	Administrative costs	1,106
6,850	Investment management expenses (Note 13)	7,419
50	Oversight and governance costs	48
8,118		**8,573**

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

2013/14		2014/15
£'000		£'000
	Administrative costs	
427	Direct employee costs	455
209	Other direct costs	214
366	Support services including IT	323
29	External audit fees	31
187	Actuarial fees	83
1,218		**1,106**
	Oversight and governance costs	
50	Pensions Committee	48
1,268		**1,154**

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

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
6,720	Management fees	7,301
50	Custody fees	53
16	Performance monitoring service	15
64	Investment consultancy fees	50
6,850		**7,419**

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 £0 (2013/14 £37,844) 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. There are reflected in the cost of investment purchases and in the proceeds of sales of investments (see Note 16a).

NOTE 14 – INVESTMENT INCOME

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
2,816	UK equities	1,219
5,374	Overseas equities	6,448
1,264	Private equity	866
99	Infrastructure	257
4,322	Pooled property investments	4,097
118	Interest on cash deposits	106
13,993		**12,993**

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. During 2013/14 a distribution of £36,327 was received by the Pension Fund. This amount has been included in the interest on cash deposits figure for 2013/14 in the above table. There were no distributions in 2014/15. Further information is included in Note 27.

NOTE 15 – TAXES ON INCOME

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
466	Withholding tax – equities	687
466		**687**

NOTE 16 – INVESTMENTS

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
	Investment assets	
194,386	Absolute return	197,323
238,975	Equities	272,050
666,050	Pooled investments	773,481
116,800	Pooled property investments	143,288
59,695	Private equity	62,546
4,497	Infrastructure	8,917
1,280,403		**1,457,605**
15,453	Cash deposits	22,082
0	Debtors	420
1,295,856	**Total investment assets**	**1,480,107**
	Investment liabilities	
(308)	Amounts payable for purchases	(229)
(308)	**Total investment liabilities**	**(229)**
1,295,548	**Net investment assets**	**1,479,878**

Note 16a – Reconciliation of movements in investments and derivatives

2014/15	Market value at 1 April 2014	Purchases during the year	Sales during the year	Change in market value during the year	Market value at 31 March 2015
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fixed interest absolute return securities	194,386	0	0	2,937	197,323
Equities	238,975	81,252	(84,285)	36,108	272,050
Pooled investments	666,050	103,237	(89,693)	93,887	773,481
Pooled property investments	116,800	3,639	(71)	22,920	143,288
Private equity / infrastructure	64,192	9,657	(7,176)	4,790	71,463
	1,280,403	197,785	(181,225)	160,642	1,457,605
Cash deposits	15,453			63	22,082
Amount receivable for sales of investments	0				420
Amounts payable for purchases of investments	(308)				(229)
Fees within pooled vehicles				4,128	
Net investment assets	**1,295,548**	**197,785**	**(181,225)**	**164,833**	**1,479,878**

2013/14	Market value at 1 April 2013	Purchases during the year	Sales during the year	Change in market value during the year	Market value at 31 March 2014
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fixed interest absolute return securities	157,644	31,000	0	5,742	194,386
Equities	206,697	58,392	(49,222)	23,108	238,975
Pooled investments	634,387	7,834	(19,413)	43,242	666,050
Pooled property investments	105,974	1,531	0	9,295	116,800
Private equity / infrastructure	61,787	16,273	(16,894)	3,026	64,192
	1,166,489	115,030	(85,529)	84,413	1,280,403
Forward foreign currency contracts	(58)			11	0
Cash deposits	17,316			(44)	15,453
Amount receivable for sales of investments	0				0
Amounts payable for purchases of investments	(677)				(308)
Fees within pooled vehicles				4,041	
Net investment assets	**1,183,070**	**115,030**	**(85,529)**	**88,421**	**1,295,548**

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 £228,201 (2013/14 £186,342). 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 2014 £'000		31 March 2015 £'000
	Equities	
	UK	
45,272	Quoted	35,517
	Overseas	
193,703	Quoted	236,533
	Pooled funds	
	UK	
229,634	Unit trusts	247,917
	Global (including UK)	
194,386	Fixed income	197,323
231,296	Unit trusts	379,210
	Overseas	
205,120	Unit trusts	146,354
116,800	**Property unit trusts**	143,288
59,695	**Private equity**	62,546
4,497	**Infrastructure**	8,917
1,280,403		**1,457,605**

Investments analysed by fund manager

Market Value at 31 March 2014 £'000	%		Market Value at 31 March 2015 £'000	%
427,249	33.0	BlackRock	485,874	32.8
258,421	19.9	Fidelity	313,418	21.2
194,394	15.0	Insight	197,331	13.3
23,395	1.8	Lothbury	27,214	1.8
64,193	5.0	Partners Group	71,463	4.8
12,001	0.9	Threadneedle	14,170	1.0
63,323	4.9	UBS	76,366	5.2
252,572	19.5	Veritas	294,042	19.9
1,295,548	**100.0**		**1,479,878**	**100.0**

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

Market value 31 March 2014 £'000	% of total Fund	Security	Market value 31 March 2015 £'000	% of total Fund
231,295	17.66	Fidelity Institutional Select Global Equity	281,164	18.78
229,633	17.53	BlackRock Asset Management Aquila Life UK Equity Index Fund	247,916	16.56
194,386	14.84	Insight LDI Solution Bonds Plus	197,323	13.18
0	0	BlackRock Asset Management Aquila Life Global Dev Fundamental Fund	98,047	6.55

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 (excluding cash) by category and net assets statement heading. No financial assets were reclassified during the accounting period.

As at 31 March 2014				As at 31 March 2015		
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			
194,386			Fixed interest securities	197,323		
238,975			Equities	272,050		
666,049			Pooled investments	773,481		
116,800			Pooled property investments	143,288		
59,696			Private equity	62,546		
4,497			Infrastructure	8,917		
189	25,959		Cash	18	34,095	
	6,755		Debtors		8,701	
1,280,592	**32,714**	**0**		**1,457,623**	**42,796**	**0**
			Financial liabilities			
(308)		(3,452)	Creditors	(229)		(2,817)
(308)	**0**	**(3,452)**		**(229)**	**0**	**(2,817)**
1,280,284	**32,714**	**(3,452)**		**1,457,394**	**42,796**	**(2,817)**

Note 17b – Net gains and losses on financial instruments

31 March 2014 Fair value		31 March 2015 Fair value
£'000		£'000
	Financial assets	
84,413	Fair value through profit and loss	160,642
(33)	Loans and receivables	63
84,380	**Total financial assets**	**160,705**
	Financial liabilities	
0	Fair value through profit and loss	0
0	Financial liabilities at cost	0
0	**Total financial liabilities**	**0**
84,380	**Net financial assets**	**160,705**

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 2014 Carrying value £'000	Fair value £'000		31 March 2015 Carrying value £'000	Fair value £'000
		Financial assets		
964,240	1,280,593	Fair value through profit and loss	1,037,989	1,457,624
32,728	32,714	Loans and receivables	42,795	42,795
996,968	**1,313,307**	**Total financial assets**	**1,080,784**	**1,500,419**
		Financial liabilities		
(254)	(253)	Fair value through profit and loss	(229)	(229)
(2,325)	(3,508)	Financial liabilities at cost	(2,817)	(2,817)
(2,579)	**(3,761)**	**Total financial liabilities**	**(3,046)**	**(3,046)**
994,389	**1,309,546**	**Net financial assets**	**1,077,738**	**1,497,373**

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 2015	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	638,447	747,714	71,463	1,457,624
Loans and receivables	42,795	0	0	42,795
Total financial assets	**681,242**	**747,714**	**71,463**	**1,500,419**
Financial liabilities				
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit and loss	0	(229)	0	(229)
Financial liabilities at cost	(2,817)	0	0	(2,817)
Total financial liabilities	**(2,817)**	**(229)**	**0**	**(3,046)**
Net financial assets	**678,425**	**747,485**	**71,463**	**1,497,373**

Values at 31 March 2014	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	556,347	660,053	64,193	1,280,593
Loans and receivables	32,714	0	0	32,714
Total financial assets	**589,061**	**660,053**	**64,193**	**1,313,307**
Financial liabilities				
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit and loss	0	(253)	0	(253)
Financial liabilities at cost	(3,508)	0	0	(3,508)
Total financial liabilities	**(3,508)**	**(253)**	**0**	**(3,761)**
Net financial assets	**585,553**	**659,800**	**64,193**	**1,309,546**

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 and derivative 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 in 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 analytics advisors, the council has determined that the following movements in market price risk are reasonably possible for the 2015/16 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 analytics 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 2014	31 March 2015
	%	%
Equities	11.6	8.7
Fixed Income	1.3	1.0
Alternatives (Private Equity and Infrastructure)	6.2	5.9
Property	2.4	3.2
Cash	0.0	0.0

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 2015 £'000	Percentage change %	Value on increase £'000	Value on decrease £'000
Equities	1,045,531	8.7	1,136,597	954,465
Fixed Income	197,323	1.0	199,375	195,271
Alternatives (Private Equity)	71,463	5.9	75,679	67,247
Property	143,288	3.2	147,830	138,746
Cash	34,112	0.0	34,115	34,109
Total assets available to pay benefits	**1,491,717**		**1,593,596**	**1,389,838**

Asset type	Value as at 31 March 2014 £'000	Percentage change %	Value on increase £'000	Value on decrease £'000
Equities	905,024	11.6	1,009,826	800,222
Fixed Income	194,386	1.3	196,913	191,859
Alternatives (Private Equity)	64,193	6.2	68,154	60,232
Property	116,800	2.4	119,615	113,985
Cash	25,839	0.0	25,844	25,834
Total assets available to pay benefits	**1,306,242**		**1,420,352**	**1,192,132**

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.

The Fund's direct exposure to interest rate movements as at 31 March 2015 and 31 March 2014 is set out below. These disclosures present interest rate risk based on the underlying financial assets at fair value:

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

Asset type	As at 31 March 2014 £'000	As at 31 March 2015 £'000
Cash and cash equivalents	10,695	12,031
Cash balances	15,452	22,082
Fixed interest securities	194,386	197,323
Total	**220,533**	**231,436**

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 2015	Change in year in the net assets available to pay benefits	
		+1%	-1%
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash and cash equivalents	12,031	120	(120)
Cash balances	22,082	221	(221)
Fixed interest securities*	197,323	(1,460)	1,460
Total change in assets available	**231,436**	**(1,119)**	**1,119**

* 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 2014	Change in year in the net assets available to pay benefits	
		+1%	-1%
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash and cash equivalents	10,695	107	(107)
Cash balances	15,452	155	(155)
Fixed interest securities*	194,386	(1,108)	1,108
Total change in assets available	**220,533**	**(846)**	**846**

* 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 0.7% amounting to interest of £103,645 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.

The Fund has made commitments to private equity and infrastructure in foreign currency, (€164million and $45million). These commitments are being drawn down on request from the investment manager over a number of

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

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 2015 and as at the previous period end:

Currency exposure - asset type	As at 31 March 2014 £'000	As at 31 March 2015 £'000
Overseas and Global Equities	630,118	762,098
Global Fixed Income	194,386	197,324
Overseas Alternatives (Private Equity and infrastructure)	64,193	71,463
Overseas Property	3,276	2,925
Overseas Currency	189	208
Total overseas assets	**892,162**	**1,034,018**

Currency risk – sensitivity analysis

Following analysis of historical data in consultation with the Fund investment analytics 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 5.5% fluctuation in the currency is considered reasonable based on the Fund investment analytics advisors analysis of long-term historical movements in the month-end exchange rates over a rolling 36-month period to 31 March 2015. The equivalent rate for the year ended 31 March 2014 was 5.2 %. This analysis assumes that all other variables, in particular interest rates, remain constant.

The following tables show analyses of the Fund's exposure to individual foreign currencies as at 31 March 2015 and as at the previous year end:

Currency exposure - by currency	Value at 31 March 2015 £'000	Change %	Value on increase £'000	Value on decrease £'000
Australian Dollar	16,171	8.9	17,606	14,737
Brazilian Real	2,238	11.7	2,500	1,976
EURO	113,863	6.2	120,865	106,860
Hong Kong Dollar	1,232	7.7	1,327	1,137
South African Rand	6,588	10.7	7,294	5,881
Swedish Krona	6,749	7.3	7,242	6,256
Swiss Franc	20,341	9.3	22,241	18,441
US Dollar	143,949	7.8	155,150	132,747
Pooled Investments				
Global Basket	576,534	5.6	608,867	544,200
Global ex UK Basket	114,099	6.1	121,043	107,155
Emerging Basket	32,255	6.8	34,447	30,063
Total change in assets available	**1,034,019**	**5.5**	**1,090,944**	**977,092**

* The % change for total currency in the table above includes the impact of correlation across the underlying currencies.

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

Currency exposure - by currency	Value at 31 March 2014	Change	Value on increase	Value on decrease
	£'000	%	£'000	£'000
Australian Dollar	12,958	9.8	14,227	11,687
Brazilian Real	5,543	12.7	6,247	4,840
EURO	91,180	6.3	96,933	85,426
Hong Kong Dollar	8,320	8.0	8,984	7,656
South African Rand	7,290	11.3	8,114	6,465
Swedish Krona	6,701	7.0	7,172	6,230
Swiss Franc	9,897	7.4	10,631	9,163
US Dollar	119,472	8.1	129,114	109,831
Pooled Investments				
Global Basket	425,681	5.2	447,859	403,503
Global ex UK Basket	177,994	5.7	188,087	167,902
Emerging Basket	27,126	6.4	28,853	25,398
Total change in assets available	**892,162**	**5.2**	**938,366**	**845,958**

The % change for total currency in the table above includes the impact of correlation across the underlying currencies.

Currency exposure - by asset type	Carrying amount as at 31 March 2015	Change in year in the net assets available to pay benefits	
		Value on increase	Value on decrease
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Overseas and Global Equities	762,099	804,053	720,142
Global Fixed Income	197,324	208,187	186,460
Overseas Alternatives (Private Equity and infrastructure)	71,463	75,398	67,529
Overseas Property	2,925	3,086	2,764
Overseas Currency	208	220	197
Total change in assets available	**1,034,019**	**1,090,944**	**977,092**

Currency Exposure - by asset type	Carrying amount as at 31 March 2014	Change in year in the net assets available to pay benefits	
		Value on increase	Value on decrease
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Overseas and Global Equities	630,118	662,751	597,485
Global Fixed Income	194,386	204,453	184,319
Overseas Alternatives (Private Equity and infrastructure)	64,193	67,517	60,869
Overseas Property	3,276	3,446	3,106
Overseas Currency	189	199	179
Total change in assets available	**892,162**	**938,366**	**845,958**

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.

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

In essence the Fund's entire investment portfolio is exposed to some form of credit risk, with the exception of the derivatives positions, where the risk equates to the net market value of a positive derivative position. 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%
Insight	15.0%
Partners Group	7.5%
Property (UBS, Threadneedle, Lothbury, BlackRock)	10.0%
Veritas	19.0%

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, and the cost of replacing the derivative position in the event of a counterparty default. The residual risk is minimal due to the various insurance policies held by the exchanges to cover defaulting counterparties.

Credit risk on over-the-counter derivative contracts is minimised as counterparties are recognised financial intermediaries with acceptable credit ratings determined by a recognised rating agency.

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 2015 was £12.0m (£12.1m at 31 March 2014).

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.

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 save 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

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

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. This will particularly be the case for cash from the cash flow matching mandates from the main investment strategy to meet the pensioner payment costs; and also cash to meet investment commitments.

The Administering Authority has a comprehensive cash flow management 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 are 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 2015 the value of illiquid assets was £133m, which represented 8.9% of the total Fund assets (31 March 2014: £126m, which represented 9.6% 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 2015 are due within one year as was the case at 31 March 2014.

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 2013.

Description of Funding Policy
The funding policy is set out in the Funding Strategy Statement (FSS) dated March 2015.

The key elements of the funding policy are:

- to ensure the long-term solvency of the Fund (and the share of the Fund attributable to individual employers)
- to ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet all pension liabilities as they fall due for payment
- not to restrain unnecessarily the investment strategy of the Fund so that the Administering Authority can seek to maximise investment returns (and hence minimise the cost of the benefits) for an appropriate level of risk
- to help employers recognise and manage pension liabilities as they accrue

NOTE 19 – FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS (continued)

- to minimise the degree of short-term change in the level of each employer's contributions where the Administering Authority considers it reasonable to do so
- to use reasonable measures to reduce the risk to other employers and ultimately to the council tax payer from an employer defaulting on its pension obligations
- to address the different characteristics of the disparate employers or groups of employers to the extent that this is practical and cost-effective.

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 below the theoretical rate required to return their portion of the Fund to full funding over 21 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 a better than 80% chance that the Fund will return to full funding over the 21 years.

Funding Position as at the Last Formal Funding Valuation

The most recent actuarial valuation carried out under Regulation 36 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008 was at 31 March 2013. This valuation revealed that the Fund's assets, which at 31 March 2013 were valued at £1,195 million, were sufficient to meet 85% of the liabilities (i.e. the present value of promised retirement benefits) accrued up to that date. The resulting deficit at the 2013 valuation was £210 million.

The common contribution rate for the whole Fund based on the Funding level at 31 March 2013 is 18.3% for future service and a further 5.6% to Fund the past service deficit, giving a total rate of 23.9%. The common contribution rate is a theoretical figure – an average across the whole Fund. Individual employers' contributions for the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2017 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 2014.

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.

The key financial assumptions adopted for the 2013 valuation were as follows:

	% per annum Nominal	% per annum Real
Discount rate	4.7	2.2
Pay increases*	4.3	1.8
Price inflation / Pension increases	2.5	-

* Salary increases are assumed to be 1% per annum until 31 March 2016 reverting to the long term assumption shown thereafter.

The key demographic assumption was the allowance made for longevity. The life expectancy assumptions that were adopted for the 31 March 2013 valuation are a bespoke set of VitaCurves that are specifically tailored to fit the membership profile of the Fund. These curves are based on actual data supplied by the Administering Authority. The life expectancy assumptions based on the actuary's fund-specific mortality review are as follows:

Mortality assumption at age 65	Male Years	Female Years
Current pensioners	22.0	24.0
Future pensioners (assumed current age 45)	24.4	26.6

Experience over the Period since April 2013

Real bond yields have fallen dramatically (leading to a higher liability value), but the effect of this has been only partially offset by the effect of strong asset returns. Overall funding levels are likely to have remained approximately the same, but the monetary amount of deficits will have increased over this period as both asset and liability values have increased in size.

The next actuarial valuation will be carried out as at 31 March 2016. 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 FRS 17 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 2015 was £2,114m (£1,747m at 31 March 2014).

As noted above the liabilities above are calculated on an IAS19 basis and therefore differ from the results of the 2013 triennial funding valuation (see Note 19) because IAS19 stipulates a discount rate rather than a rate that reflects market rates.

Assumptions used

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

	31 March 2014	31 March 2015
Assumption	%	%
Inflation/ pension increase rate	2.8	2.4
Salary increase rate*	4.6	4.3
Discount rate	4.3	3.2

* Salary increases are assumed to be 1% p.a. until 31 March 2016 reverting to the long term rate shown thereafter.

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.

NOTE 21 – CURRENT ASSETS

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
1,119	Contributions due - employees	1,173
3,861	Contributions due – employers	4,023
0	Transfer value received (individuals who join)	24
1,775	Sundry debtors	3,061
6,755	**Total debtors**	**8,281**
10,695	Cash	12,031
17,450	**Total**	**20,312**

Analysis of debtors

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
2,116	Gwynedd Council	2,458
955	Central government bodies	1,326
2,564	Other local authorities	2,795
3	NHS bodies	3
1,117	Other entities and individuals	1,699
6,755	**Total**	**8,281**

NOTE 22 – CURRENT LIABILITIES

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
1,904	Sundry creditors	1,944
0	Transfer value payable (leavers)	10
1,548	Benefits payable	863
3,452	**Total**	**2,817**

Analysis of creditors

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
1,126	Gwynedd Council	1,174
22	Central government bodies	33
0	NHS bodies	10
2,304	Other entities and individuals	1,600
3,452	**Total**	**2,817**

NOTE 23 - ADDITIONAL VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS (AVC's)

The market value of the funds is stated below:

	Market value at 31 March 2014 £'000	Market value at 31 March 2015 £'000
Clerical Medical	2,792	2,678
Equitable Life	380	269
Standard Life	214	233
Total	**3,386**	**3,180**

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

	2013 / 2014 £'000	2014 / 2015 £'000
Clerical Medical	331	508
Equitable Life	0	0
Standard Life	10	11
Total	**341**	**519**

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 £986,723 (£1,001,991 in 2013/14) 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 £18.49m to the Fund in 2014/15 (£17.65m in 2013/14). At the end of the year the council owed £2.458m to the Fund (see Note 21) which was primarily in respect of contributions for March 2015 and the Fund owed £1.174m to the council (see Note 22) which was primarily in respect of recharges from the council.

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 2014/15, the Fund received interest of £103,645 (£77,251 in 2013/14) from Gwynedd Council.

Governance
There was 1 member of the pensions committee who was in receipt of pension benefits from the Gwynedd Pension Fund during 2014/15 (Committee member T.O. Edwards). In addition, committee members T.O. Edwards, P. Jenkins, H.E. Jones, D. Meurig, W.T. Owen P.Read and G.G. Williams 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 2014	Commitment at 31 March 2015
	€'000	€'000	€'000
P.G. Direct 2006	20,000	1,384	776
P.G. Global Value 2006	50,000	4,091	3,477
P.G. Secondary 2008	15,000	1,960	1,960
P.G. Global Value 2011	15,000	7,883	6,034
P.G. Global Infrastructure 2012	40,000	34,039	28,285
P.G. Direct 2012	12,000	8,280	5,352
P.G. Global Value 2014	12,000	10,178	9,581
Total Euros	**164,000**	**67,815**	**55,465**
	$'000	$'000	$'000
P.G. Emerging Markets 2011	7,000	3,843	2,648
P.G Secondary 2015	38,000	0	38,000
Total Dollars	**45,000**	**3,843**	**40,648**

'PG' above refers to Partners Group, the investment manager who 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 £3,778,353 equating to 94% from the administrators up to 31 March 2014.

No distributions were received in 2014/15. Notice has been received that a further dividend will be paid in August 2015, although the amount is not yet known. The administration is ongoing, but it is likely that the full amount should eventually be recovered.

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 the following documents:

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 of:

- Gwynedd Council; and
- Gwynedd Pension Fund

for the year ended 31 March 2015 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 2014-15 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, including 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 Explanatory Foreword 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 2015 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 2014-15.

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 2015 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 2014-15.

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion, the information contained in the Explanatory Foreword 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;
- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit; or
- the Governance Statement contains material misstatements of fact or is inconsistent with other information I am aware of from my audit.

Certificate of completion of audit

I have carried out the audit of accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the Auditor General for Wales. The audit cannot be formally concluded and an audit certificate issued until enquiries arising from an objection raised by a member of the public has been formally completed. I am satisfied that the amount which is the subject of the objection will not have a material effect on the statement of accounts.

For and on behalf of
Huw Vaughan Thomas
Auditor General for Wales
Wales Audit Office
24 Cathedral Road
Cardiff CF11 9LJ

2 December 2015

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 2014/15 **APPENDIX A**

ANALYSIS OF SERVICE EXPENDITURE

	Total Expenditure £'000	Total Income £'000	Net Expenditure £'000
Cultural and Related Services			
Division of Service			
Culture and Heritage	2,044	(582)	1,462
Recreation and Sport	10,426	(5,468)	4,958
Open Spaces	1,631	(630)	1,001
Tourism	1,468	(629)	839
Library Service	2,113	(165)	1,948
	17,682	(7,474)	10,208
Environmental and Regulatory Services			
Division of Service			
Cemetery, Cremation and Mortuary Services	1,111	(861)	250
Coast Protection	751	(103)	648
Community Safety (Crime Reduction)	343	(194)	149
Community Safety (CCTV)	369	(66)	303
Community Safety (Safety Services)	451	(355)	96
Flood Defence and Land Drainage	457	(167)	290
Agricultural and Fisheries Services	121	(202)	(81)
Regulatory Service	4,267	(795)	3,472
Street Cleansing (not chargeable to Highways)	2,661	(115)	2,546
Waste Collection	1,984	(138)	1,846
Waste Disposal	4,823	(152)	4,671
Trade Waste	1,774	(1,823)	(49)
Recycling	7,421	(4,365)	3,056
Waste Minimisation	155	(36)	119
	26,688	(9,372)	17,316
Planning Services			
Division of Service			
Building Control	854	(488)	366
Development Control	1,100	(534)	566
Planning Policy	727	(317)	410
Environmental Initiatives	1,115	(412)	703
Economic Research	6	(2)	4
Business Support	1,365	(620)	745
Economic Development	4,275	(2,547)	1,728
Community Development	1,089	(566)	523
	10,531	(5,486)	5,045
Education and Children's Services - Education			
Division of Service			
Early Years	636	(7)	629
Primary Schools	53,029	(9,192)	43,837
Secondary Schools	42,600	(5,507)	37,093
Special Schools And Alternative Provision	3,377	(217)	3,160
Post 16 Provision	4,060	(3,266)	794
Other Education and Community Budget	8,337	(1,169)	7,168
	112,039	(19,358)	92,681
Education and Children's Services - Children's Social Care			
Division of Service			
Sure Start Children's Centres/Flying Start and Early Years	2,497	(2,277)	220
Children Looked After	8,435	(180)	8,255
Other Children and Family Services	1,783	(1,273)	510
Family Support Sevices	1,607	(52)	1,555
Youth Justice	875	(566)	309
Safeguarding Children and Young People's Services	4,738	(308)	4,430
Asylum Seekers	26	(26)	0
Services for Young People	1,589	(262)	1,327
	21,550	(4,944)	16,606

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 2014/15 — APPENDIX A
ANALYSIS OF SERVICE EXPENDITURE

	Total Expenditure £'000	Total Income £'000	Net Expenditure £'000
Highways and Transport			
Division of Service			
Transport Planning, Policy and Strategy	1,414	(550)	864
Structural Maintenance	9,110	(2,856)	6,254
Capital Charges Relating to Construction Projects	3,592	(1,218)	2,374
Environment, Safety and Routine Maintenance	6,654	(3,299)	3,355
Street Lighting (including energy costs)	3,092	(1,170)	1,922
Winter Service	1,687	(583)	1,104
Traffic Management and Road Safety	784	(70)	714
Parking Services	1,648	(2,026)	(378)
Public Transport	4,931	(2,553)	2,378
	32,912	(14,325)	18,587
Housing Services (Council Fund)			
Division of Service			
Housing Strategy	214	(68)	146
Enabling	279	(155)	124
Private Sector Housing Renewal	3,452	(977)	2,475
Licensing of Private Sector Landlords	557	(112)	445
Homelessness	1,355	(476)	879
Housing Benefits Administration	31,109	(30,806)	303
Other Council Property	89	(28)	61
Supporting People	5,927	(5,703)	224
	42,982	(38,325)	4,657
Adult Social Care			
Division of Service			
Service Strategy	307	(12)	295
Older People (aged 65 or over) including Older Mentally Ill	38,232	(13,477)	24,755
Adults aged under 65 with a Physical Disability or Sensory Impairment	3,944	(326)	3,618
Adults aged under 65 with Learning Disabilities	15,594	(2,170)	13,424
Adults aged under 65 with Mental Health Needs	3,681	(407)	3,274
Other Adult Services	913	(515)	398
	62,671	(16,907)	45,764
Central Services to the Public			
Division of Service			
Local Tax Collection	10,854	(799)	10,055
Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages	417	(215)	202
Elections	453	(287)	166
Emergency Planning	163	(30)	133
Local Land Charges	304	(191)	113
Coroners' Court Services	507	(187)	320
	12,698	(1,709)	10,989
Corporate and Democratic Core			
Division of Service			
Democratic Representation and Management	3,032	(39)	2,993
Corporate Management	6,104	(4,240)	1,864
	9,136	(4,279)	4,857
Non Distributed Costs			
Division of Service			
Non Distributed Costs	663	0	663
	663	0	663
COST OF SERVICES	**349,552**	**(122,179)**	**227,373**

THE WELSH CHURCH FUND

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000	2014/15 £'000
519	**Amount of Fund at 1st April**		834
	Add - Income during the year :-		
15	Interest on Investments		6
333	Increase in investments sold		0
0	Increase in land value		148
	Less - Expenditure during the year :-		
0	Transfer of Gwynedd's previous years interest	(27)	
(14)	Loss on sale of investments	0	
(19)	Grants and expenses	(9)	
			(36)
834	**Amount of Fund at 31st March**		952
	Represented by the following Assets :-		
26	Land and Buildings		365
23	Debtors		21
1,858	Cash in Hand		1,831
1,907			2,217
(1,054)	**Less -** Proportion owing to Anglesey and Conwy Councils		(1,232)
853			985
(38)	**Less -** Creditors		(40)
19	**Add -** Proportion owing from Anglesey and Conwy Councils		7
834	**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.

3. The increase in land values follows a re-valuation during 2014/15.

FMG MORGAN TRUST FUND

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
146	**Amount of Fund at 1st April**	152
	Add - Income during the year	
8	Interest on Assets	10
	Less - Expenditure during the year	
(2)	Grants	(2)
152	**Amount of Fund at 31st March**	160
	Assets	
144	Investments	142
8	Cash in Hand	18
152		160

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 2015 was £329,724.98 (£311,766.98 at 31 March 2014).

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 2015 and up to the date of approval of the statement of accounts.

Part 3: GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

3.1 The **Governance Arrangements Assessment Group** was established in 2012/13 to monitor matters of governance continuously in a more disciplined manner, 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 Corporate Commission Service Senior Manager, the Delivering and Supporting Change Service Senior Manager and the Senior Manager Revenues and Risk.

3.2 The Group has identified 31 elements forming Gwynedd Council's Governance framework and special consideration is given to the effect that each one of these is expected to have as they add public value for the people of Gwynedd. Prior to assessing the effectiveness of these elements, an Impact score was noted for each of the elements to reflect how comparatively large the effect of each one of them will be (in the Group's opinion) as they add public value. These scores vary from 1 (very little impact) to 10 (very large impact). These scores have been assessed, challenged and confirmed by the Council's Audit Committee, Corporate Management Team, Cabinet and Management Group.

3.3 None of the elements have scored less than 5 – if they had, it would be questionable if they deserved a prominent place within the governance framework at all.

3.4 The Council is of the opinion that the elements that have the greatest impact as they enable the Council to achieve are:

Score of 10:

The Council's Values	Our values define the Council's culture for both members and staff. The values have been established for some time now. If we achieve the correct culture, this can override everything else that affects our ability to achieve.

Score of 9:

Integrated Public Services	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 the People of Gwynedd.
The Council's Strategic Plan	This is the high level statement that outlines what the Council aims to achieve during the life of the current Council.
Engagement	Clear engagement with the People of Gwynedd, to establish clear communication and to get a true understanding of their needs, is one of the most important elements of the governance arrangements.
Leadership Programme	Leadership sets 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. This underpins the Council's culture.
Information Governance	Having the right information is essential if the Council is to provide the right services to the right people in the right way. The information that is collected and stored must be current and relevant, not only to comply with the Data Protection Act but also to ensure that the services we provide are those that doing the right things. Good Information Governance is the foundation of good decision making.
Financial Strategy	The Financial Strategy sets the key context for everything the Council does. The financial projections for the Council suggest that substantial savings must be identified in the years to come. The Financial Strategy establishes how we will achieve this and, therefore, it is a very important statement that outlines how the Council will deal with the situation.

Score of 8:

Risk Management Arrangements	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.
Staff Appraisal, Training and Development	To ensure that the Council is in a position to provide services that always place the residents of Gwynedd in the centre, there must be continuous staff training, their performance must be monitored and their talent fostered and developed. Staff training arrangements are an important method of promoting and dissipating Gwynedd Way thinking across the Council and of course it is vitally important that the Council has officers with the skills to carry out their duties.

The Local Governance Code	The Local Governance Code is the foundation of the Council's governance arrangements. It encompasses a large number of elements which need to be in place to enable the Council to achieve on behalf of the people of Gwynedd.
The Constitution	As the official guidance for the manner in which the Council operates, it is inevitable that the Constitution, by definition, has a significant impact on the way in which the Council achieves on behalf of the people of Gwynedd.
The 'Cyflawni' system	This is the Council's business planning and performance management system. Consequently, the effect of the system on the Council's ability to provide services on behalf of the people of Gwynedd is crucial.
The Scrutiny procedure	The scrutiny procedure is the process that is in place to ensure that the Council's Cabinet implements its policies in accordance with its pledges and for the benefit of the people of Gwynedd. It is therefore a very important part of the governance framework.

In addition, the following elements received a lower score in terms of their impact on public value**:**

Element	**Impact Score (out of 10)**
The Protocol for Member/Officer Relations Members' Code of Conduct Officers' Code of Conduct Audit Committee Anti-fraud and Anti-corruption Policy The External Auditor's Annual Letter Internal Audit The Scrutiny Strategy Gwynedd Council Performance Report Equality	**7**
The Standards Committee Decision Notices Statutory Officers' Protocols Member Inter-relationship Whistleblowing Code of Practice Member Training and Development The Complaints Procedure	**6**
Statement of the Accounts	**5**

Part 4: EFFECTIVENESS OF THE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

Gwynedd Council is responsible for undertaking, at least on an annual basis, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework including the internal management system. The review of effectiveness is steered by the work of the operational manager within the authority who is responsible for developing and maintaining the governance environment, the annual report of the head of internal audit, along with the observations made by the external auditors and other reviewing agencies and inspectorates.

The Group has convened regularly during the year to continuously assess the Council's governance arrangements, and it has attended to matters that have been brought to its attention that affect the perception of the governance framework. In doing this, it has assessed the effectiveness of each of the 31 elements of the governance framework. The result of this assessment has been challenged regularly by the Corporate Management Team.

In addition, the following has contributed in undertaking the assessment of the effectiveness of the governance framework during the year:

- Assessments by members and principal officers in developing the 'Gwynedd Way' system, namely, the same common and clear vision for everyone in the Council regarding the corporate culture needed if the people of Gwynedd are to be central in everything that we do.
- The work of Internal Audit is summarised in the Head of Internal Audit's Annual Report, submitted to the Audit Committee in May 2014. The report included the following general assurance: ***"On the basis of the work of Internal Audit that was completed in 2014/15, in my opinion, Gwynedd Council has a sound framework of internal controls. This assists in providing confidence in the arrangements for ensuring effective and efficient achievement of the Council's objectives, as the steps taken by the Council during the financial year to establish and strengthen internal controls and to ensure that recommendations to remedy weaknesses identified by the Internal Audit service have, overall, been satisfactory."***
- Consideration of the results of the work of external auditors and regulators, including the Wales Audit Office, Estyn and the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW).

The result of the assessment of the effectiveness of elements of the governance framework is described above, including a comparative score out of 10. These scores vary from 1 (very ineffective) to 10 (very effective), and are shown in the following table.

Element	**Assessment of its Effectiveness in assisting us to deliver**	**Effectiveness Score (out of 10)**
The Council's Values	The Council's values were developed by means of the work of the Managers' Colleges and the Council's values have been included on vehicles, letters and signs in offices. It was reported in the 2014 Statement that evidence is scarce that our staff and members live these values and there is evidence – from system reviews – showing that the values have not in reality filtered down to mean better services for Gwynedd people. Ffordd Gwynedd work has already started in some limited areas within the Council but further work is necessary before a significant change in culture has penetrated through the Council. There are encouraging signs because there is evidence that the values are beginning to emerge from the new speech staff. However, it will take time until there is evidence of behaviour change that would allow an increase in the score.	**3**

Element	Assessment of its Effectiveness in assisting us to deliver	Effectiveness Score (out of 10)
The 'Cyflawni' system	It was reported in 2014 that a self-assessment of the 'Cyflawni' system shows that there are still shortcomings in our arrangements, including a lack of real ownership by units within the Council of performance information and its use for improvement, although arrangements had improved on previous years. Systems tests and the self-assessments undertaken for Ffordd Gwynedd show that more clarity is needed regarding what is a performance indicator and what is management information – this is not always clear to everybody. The 2014 Statement reported that a review was ongoing to reconcile the procedure with Ffordd Gwynedd. This consolidation review has almost been completed, and the intention is to put the new arrangements in place during 2015/16. We will not be in a position to change the score until then.	**3**
Engagement	The 2014 Statement reported that the Engagement Strategy adopted by the Cabinet on 28 January 2014 was the result of a self-assessment that highlighted that the Council's engagement arrangements were not as good as they should be for the new climate ahead. In the context of the this climate, the Gwynedd Challenge initiative, to discuss the financial situation with Gwynedd residents, has been given priority in the last year, and therefore other parts of the strategy have not progressed as expected. It should be noted that the support given to the waste project has been praised by the relevant Scrutiny Committee, but the score will continue to reflect the situation at the time of the original self assessment	**4**
Information Governance	Despite efforts to improve Information Governance, the Council continues to hold vast amounts of information, and we need to continue working to ensure that it does not hold more data than is needed. There is no evidence that the Council, overall, has improved its ability to use its information to make appropriate decisions as effectively as it could. It is expected that the EDRMS project will contribute to a significant improvement in this regard. In addition, there were occasions during 2014/15 where there was a failure on behalf of the Council to secure the information in its possession as expected, which has shown that our arrangements are less effective that we thought when undertaking the 2014 assessment. This has highlighted the need to retrain staff appropriately on Data Protection issues, and improve attitudes in this area.	**4**

Element	Assessment of its Effectiveness in assisting us to deliver	Effectiveness Score (out of 10)
Staff Appraisal, Training and Development	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 for developing internal talent. The formal appraisal procedure has been suspended within the Council whilst a review of its contribution to the Ffordd Gwynedd culture is undertaken. Evidence collected during exit interviews shows that many officers appreciate the training and development that they have received from the Council.	**4**
Member inter-relationship	There is some evidence of tension in the past between members as the new Cabinet arrangements were implemented within the Council and the resulting changes in roles, and there is no evidence to suggest that those tensions have disappeared. Tensions are inevitable during times of significant changes and to be expected.	**4**
Integrated Public Services	A score of 3 was given in 2014, but progress has been made during the last year. The Partnerships Unit has been established with Anglesey County Council, and the Council was among the signatories of a Statement of Intent that has been agreed with the Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board for an integrated service. The Council acknowledges that work remains to be done to develop the Local Services Board, but a Plan has been developed during the last year and a review by the Wales Audit Office in 2015 has reported that the Board is moving in the right direction. In addition, system review work in the Care field, which includes close collaboration with stakeholders from external bodies, is showing promising signs.	**5**

Element	Assessment of its Effectiveness in assisting us to deliver	Effectiveness Score (out of 10)
Risk Management Arrangements	Arrangements are now 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 take-up of risk management amongst individual business units is inconsistent and the general perception is that risk management is a hindrance rather than a help in achieving aims. Also, apart from Health and Safety risks, systems tests show 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 been undertaken in the field of Emergency Planning and Business Continuity, to better prepare the authority for unforeseen events. It was reported in 2014 that risks around Safeguarding Children and Adults were receiving attention after an Estyn and Wales Audit Office report published in 2013 concluded that the Council's arrangements for safeguarding children and young people did not satisfy the statutory requirements. However, substantial steps have been taken since then. A Strategic Panel convenes on a quarterly basis and an Operational Panel on a monthly basis. Major steps have been undertaken during the last year to ensure that the Corporate Safeguarding Policy remains valid, as well as annual reviews of the policies of individual departments. Follow-up audits by Estyn have confirmed that the action plan has been effective, but an extended period of operation is required before we will change the score.	**5**

Element	Assessment of its Effectiveness in assisting us to deliver	Effectiveness Score (out of 10)
The Scrutiny Procedure	The 2014 Statement reported that a revised Scrutiny Strategy was at a draft stage and ready to be published. The Strategy was published during 2014/15. Following the improvements reported in 2014, some examples were seen of scrutiny having a positive impact on services, but there is still some way to go until scrutiny maximises that objective. We will not include improvements to the procedure as an action in this statement and the Strategic Plan as we are already collaborating with WAO to introduce changes. The work that has been done during 2014/15 to use Scrutiny to help us set the direction rather than looking back post- decision has improve the working relationship between the Cabinet and Scrutiny function.	**5**
The External Auditor's Annual Letter	Whilst the letter includes 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 the letter in terms of the effort required to be given to them and the level of risk they represent. However, these examples are not significant; there were no recommendations in the most recent report and in general the messages are positive. The effectiveness score has been changed to 5, since delays in receiving the letter in 2015 means that its ability to assist the Council to improve will be less effective.	**5**
Member Training and Development	Steps have been taken in the period since the 2012 election to draw up a training programme for members with the Democratic Services leading on the work. Personal Development Interviews were introduced during 2014/15, with 20 members taking advantage of them.	**5**
The complaints procedure	It was reported in 2014 that the main weakness of the complaints procedure was a lack of arrangements to allow the Council to learn lessons from investigations into complaints. During 2014/15 new arrangements were introduced to deal specifically with this. A new Corporate Complaints Procedure was introduced, and a Service Improvement Officer was appointed to ensure that we learn lessons from complaints, and avoid repeating mistakes.	**5**

Element	Assessment of its Effectiveness in assisting us to deliver	Effectiveness Score (out of 10)
The Council's Strategic Plan	The Strategic Plan is an important guidance to achieve on behalf of Gwynedd People. The Wales Audit Office has identified improvements in the way that the Council is providing its services. However, the Council recognises that the nature of the current Scheme means that it is not easy to interpret from it what constitutes the core work of the Council. The scheme in its current form is a catalogue of things that need to be changed within the Council and in the Gwynedd area, rather than a business plan for the Authority.	**6**
The Audit Committee	Gwynedd Council's Audit Committee has been established since 1999 and it has agreed terms of reference. It was reported in 2014 that the Audit Committee is very effective in achieving some of the functions that it has undertaken for some time, but its capacity to deal with new responsibilities continue to develop by virtue of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 continue to develop. The is no evidence to suggest that the situation has changed in the last year.	**6**
Internal Audit	The effectiveness of the Internal Audit system is under continuous review and although the service satisfies the professional standards in accordance to expectation, there is a need to consider further whether it reviews the right things and if it operates in a manner that is compatible with Ffordd Gwynedd. The service's capacity has decreased significantly since 1 April 2015, down from 10 to 7 full-time officers. It is expected that the adoption of Ffordd Gwynedd principles will ensure the effectiveness of the service will be maintained, but there may be some reduction in the short term.	**6**
Procurement Strategy	The Procurement Strategy has been in place for several years, but it was reported in 2014 that there is some evidence that its principles do not filter through to the Council consistently and that there is room to changesin the arrangements to reflect new methods of working. In response to this, the Procurement Project in collaboration with Denbighshire and Flintshire councils has led to a new Strategy that will be presented for scrutiny during 2015/16. The Council will move forward to focus on category management (this received Cabinet approval during 2015/16), and appropriate investment has been made.	**6**
Equality	Although an Equality Scheme is in place, there is evidence that awareness of equality is not as rooted as it should, and that the mentality has not yet spread throughout the Council. For example, there is no evidence to show that the Council is thinking of conducting routinely Equality Impact Assessments when making its decisions.	**6**

Element	Assessment of its Effectiveness in assisting us to deliver	Effectiveness Score (out of 10)
Leadership Programme	There is evidence that Leadership skills within the Council has improved after the Council invested in leadership training for its Senior Officers and members. However, the Ffordd Gwynedd self-assessment shows that there is a need to take this to the next level now and ensure that all the Council's leadership are unanimous in implementing the principles of Ffordd Gwynedd if it is to be successful.	**7**
The Local Governance Code	The Local Code, as the focus of all individual elements of the governance framework, operates effectively in achieving its objectives. This is the core of our assessment of governance arrangements. However, it could be reviewed more regularly than in the past but the Audit Committee and the Governance Arrangements Assessment Group are addressing this. Generally, the Council is comfortable with the current arrangements, and a constructive report is expected when the Wales Audit Office undertakes a corporate review during 2016/17. However, during 2015/16 we will consider if there is a need to extend what is fed into the governance system. At the same time, we recognise the need to simplify and rationalise the code, since 31 headings seems excessive.	**7**
Gwynedd Council Performance Report	The Council's Improvement Report is published annually in accordance with the expected timetable. The Report notes that the Council has undertaken its duties of reporting on improvement that is a requirement under the measure, but it could comply more fully with guidance from the Welsh Government. Although this is a report that achieves its purpose there is a risk that it is a report that is produced to satisfy statutory requirements, rather than achieving the objective of providing a complete picture for the People of Gwynedd. It is hoped that the report will improve as we improve the quality of our Strategic Plan.	**7**
The Standards Committee	The Standards Committee is in place and operates with agreed Terms of Reference. Minutes of the Committee show that it examines specific cases as it undertakes its work. The Committee itself has also conducted a self assessment. Further assessment by the Governance Arrangements Assessment Group suggests that the efficiency score of 5 given in 2014 appears to be harsh, and assessment shows improvement. It was noted that the Committee fulfils its policing role well, but there is room for improving its activities of promoting good standards.	**5**

Element	Assessment of its Effectiveness in assisting us to deliver	Effectiveness Score (out of 10)
Whistleblowing Code of Practice	Although very little use has been made of the procedure, the disclosures that have been made have been the subject of thorough investigations in accordance with the Code of Practice. The arrangements have been reviewed recently by the WAO as part of a national review. Evidence from the national review, and a review of awareness by Internal Audit, has demonstrated that the procedures are generally effective, and justify the score given.	**7**

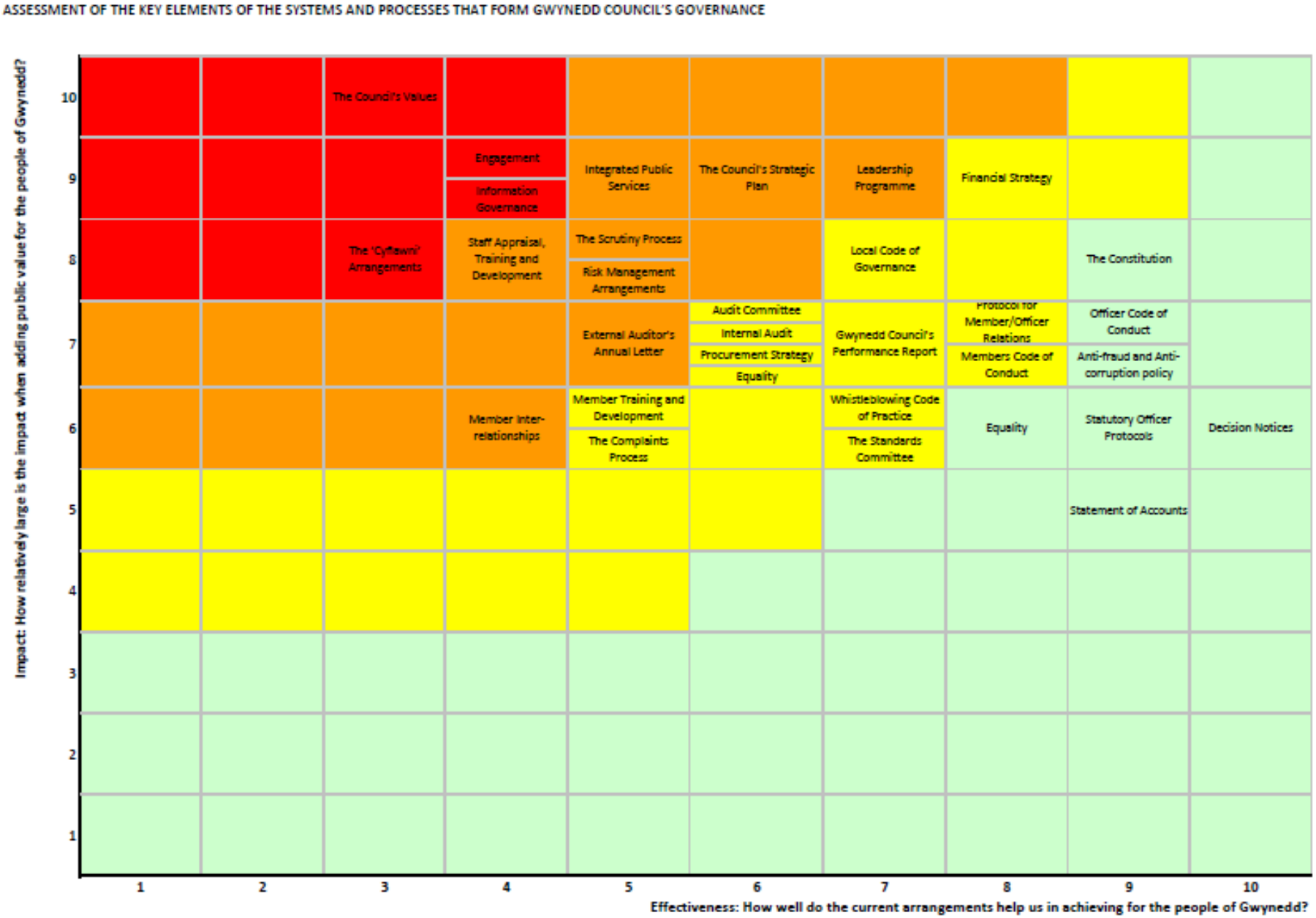
The other elements received an effectiveness score of 8 or above:

Element	Effectiveness Score (out of 10)
Financial Strategy The Protocol for Member/Officer Relations Members' Code of Conduct	**8**
The Constitution Officers' Code of Conduct Anti-fraud and Anti-corruption Policy Statutory Officers' Protocols Statement of the Accounts	**9**
Decision Notices	**10**

We have been advised on the implications of the result of the **review of the effectiveness of the governance framework** by the Audit 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 5: SIGNIFICANT GOVERNANCE ISSUES

In setting the Impact and Effectiveness scores in the diagram below, the issues to be addressed as a matter of priority are displayed, namely those areas that have the greatest impact, but are least effective at the moment:



Many of the items that have been identified in the Action Plan are part of another project which is already in the pipe line. However, the action points for the fields that have a Very High Priority and High Priority are:

Very High Priority

Matter that has been identified	Response Arrangements	Responsibility of whom?
The Council's Values There are encouraging signs that the values of giving Gwynedd people central to everything we do begins to emerge from the new speech staff. Nevertheless, we need to continue the effort to ensure that everyone is "doing" as well as "saying".	The Values of the Council will receive attention under the Effective and Efficient Council priority field within the Strategic Plan, namely project C1 – **Implementing Ffordd Gwynedd Project.**	Chief Executive
The 'Cyflawni' System Lack of ownership of performance information and its use for improvement.	'Cyflawni' will receive attention under the Effective and Efficient Council priority field within the Strategic Plan, namely project C4 – **Implementing a Performance Framework Project.**	Head of Corporate Support
Engagement. The Council's engagement arrangements are not as good as they should be for the new climate that lies ahead.	Receiving attention under the Effective and Efficient Council priority field within the Strategic Plan, namely project C3 –**Engagement Project.**	Chief Executive
Information Governance. The Council maintains a large amount of data. There have been events during 2014/15 where the Council has failed to comply fully with the Data Protection standards.	Receiving attention under the Effective and Efficient Council priority field within the Strategic Plan, namely projects C7 – **Electronic Document and Records Management (EDRMS) Project** and C8 – **Information Governance Project.**	Chief Executive / Head of Adults, Health and Wellbeing

High Priority

Matter that has been identified	Response Arrangements	Responsibility of whom?
Integrated Public Services. Work remains to be done to develop the Local Services Board LSB, but a Plan has been developed during the past year.	Continue with the efforts that started during 2014/15.	Head of Corporate Support
Staff Appraisal, Training and Development Tests have been conducted in different departments to examine different ways to improve the procedure.	Completed a review of the contribution of the appraisal process to the Ffordd Gwynedd culture.	Head of Corporate Support
The Council's Strategic Plan There is concern whether all Council staff give due priority to matters that are in the Strategic Plan.	Continuing to refine business planning arrangements of all the Council's business units in order to address the right priorities.	Delivering and Supporting Change Service Senior Manager
The Scrutiny Procedure We will not include improvements to the system as an action in this release and the Strategic Plan as we are already collaborating with WAO to introduce changes..		
Risk Management Arrangements. The penetration of risk management amongst individual business units is inconsistent and the general perception is that risk management is a hindrance rather than a help in achieving the aims. Risk management tends to be seen as a matter for Managers.	Build on the work completed since 2013/14 where assurance was given that every department had prepared a risk register on a departmental level. Continue to support business units to raise awareness of the use of risk management in their day-to-day work in the context of the Ffordd Gwynedd system. Maintain the work programmes of the Strategic and Operational Safeguarding Panels, and monitor progress against these work programmes.	Senior Manager Audit and Risk Head of Corporate Support
Member inter-relationship Evidence of tension.	Continuous work of ensuring respect and understanding of the different roles of members especially the Executive and other members.	Senior Manager - Corporate Commissioning Service

Matter that has been identified	Response Arrangements	Responsibility of whom?
Leadership Programme. Need to ensure that all the Council's leadership are as one.	Receiving attention under the Effective and Efficient Council priority field within the Strategic Plan, namely project C2 – **Development of Leaders Programme Project**.	Head of Corporate Support
External Auditor's Annual Letter. A draft report for 2013/14 was not received until May 2015, which has not been presented to members as a final version at the time of preparing this statement.	Discuss with the Wales Audit Office to establish, agree and monitor a timetable for preparing the report.	Delivering and Supporting Change Service Senior Manager

Part 6: 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 1/7/2015.

Cllr DYFED WYN EDWARDS
LEADER OF GWYNEDD COUNCIL

DATE 2/7/2015

The maintenance and integrity of the Gwynedd Council's web site is the responsibility of the Head of Adults, Health and Wellbeing; the work carried out by the auditors does not involve consideration of these matters and, accordingly, the auditors accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the financial statements since they were initially presented on the web site.