



Statement of Accounts 2014 – 15



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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To be inserted

1. INTRODUCTION

The Statement of Accounts for Northampton Borough Council provides a picture of the Council's financial position at 31st March 2015 and a summary of its income and expenditure in the year to 31st March 2015. The Council has a statutory duty to approve and publish this Statement of Accounts document. It is, in parts, a complex document which sets out to ensure that the accounts of all Government funded bodies provide comparable and consistent information and comply with International Financial reporting Standards. As a result, its format is largely prescribed.

The accounts will be approved by the Audit Committee on 7th September 2015.

2. THE STATEMENTS

The main statements which make up these accounts are as follows:

Core Financial Statements

- Movements in Reserves Statement
- Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
- Balance Sheet
- Cash Flow Statement
- Notes to the Core Financial Statements

Supplementary Financial Statements

- Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Income and Expenditure Account
- Movement in Housing Revenue Account Reserve
- Notes to the HRA Accounts
- The Collection Fund Income and Expenditure Account
- Notes to the Collection Fund

An explanation of each of these statements accompanies each statement.

3. REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2014/15

3a. Financial climate in 2014/15

The latest data and intelligence surrounding the UK economy is positive. However, there remains some uncertainty over the outlook for the UK and this will continue to put pressure on Local Government finances over the medium term. This was emphasised in the Autumn Statement announced on 3rd December 2014 with clear expectations that public sector funding would continue to be reduced in the next spending review period in line with those seen in the current spending review. This would indicate local government could see its funding reduce by 10% at least per annum until 2018, possibly longer.

3b. Local position

The national economic position has had, and continues to have, specific repercussions locally. In addition to significant reductions in government funding since 2010 the following impacts have been felt locally:

- Investment interest levels remain low, and are expected to do so for at least the next few years before rising gradually.
- Funding for capital expenditure is linked both to revenue funding in relation to borrowing costs and the Council's ability to generate capital receipts.
- There remains some short term uncertainty, but the biggest risks facing the Council are in assessing the financial implications of our continuing to provide services at current levels and the forecast reduction to Local Government funding over the medium term.

3c. Government Funding and policy changes

In addition to unprecedented funding reductions local government has seen significant changes to the way it receives its funding and new policy initiatives. Some of these changes are set out below:

- Business Rates Retention Scheme – The previous grant regime was replaced with a Business Rate Retention Scheme in April 2013. The key aim of this was to incentivise local business growth. As well as sharing in the benefits of growth the Council also takes the risk of volatility in the business rates system. During 2013/14 the Council experienced a reduction in the amount of business rates collectable from local businesses. A significant amount of this was due to successful appeals resulting in reductions in rateable value. During 2014/15 the Council has applied its learning and is building on its data intelligence to ensure forecasting into the future is more robust.
- Welfare Reform – Over the medium term planning period, more information and detail will be released about universal credit and other welfare reform initiatives which will have an impact upon the current service provision of NBC.
- New Homes Bonus – New Homes Bonus (NHB) is a core funding stream which is effectively replacing other funding streams, such as revenue Support Grant (RSG), which are now reducing at a much faster rate than anticipated. A significant proportion of NHB is used to support local infrastructure, projects and initiatives which provide economic benefit within the borough.

The issues referred to above are discussed in more detail in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan. This document also includes more about the Council's plans in future years, from 2015/16 to 2019/20. The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan can be found here:

[NBC MTFP 2015/16-2019/20](#)

3d. Significant events in 2014/15 – Formation of Northampton Partnership Homes and the requirement for Group Accounts

The Council has set up an Arm's Length Management Organisation (ALMO) called Northampton Partnership Homes from 5th January 2015. The aim is to improve housing services to tenants and to achieve improvements in value for money. As Northampton Partnership Homes is wholly owned by the Council, the Council is required to produce Group Accounts. The Group Accounts are the Council's own accounts (the single entity accounts) combined with the accounts of Northampton Partnership Homes, to give a picture for the Group as a whole.

The Group Accounts are shown alongside the Council's single entity accounts on the core financial statements (and selected notes where the Group is materially different). Further information about the Group Accounts is in note 56 to the accounts.

4. SUMMARY OF MAJOR TRANSACTION AND BALANCES IN NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCILS ACCOUNTS

The following provides a summary of the major transactions and balances for Northampton Borough.

Service Expenditure	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000
General Fund			
Service costs (excl. benefits)	53,577	-24,526	29,051
Benefits	73,761	-72,824	937
Housing Revenue Account			
Service costs	39,854	-67,225	-27,371
Capital Expenditure	Capital Investment £000	Sources of Finance £000	
General Fund Capital	31,654	-31,654	
Housing Revenue Account Capital	29,965	-29,965	
Total Service/ Capital	£000	£000	
Total Service and Capital	228,811	-226,194	

Assets and Liabilities	Liabilities £000	Assets £000	Net Assets £000
Assets and Liabilities	403,288	652,935	249,647

Gross Income collected by NBC	£000
Council Tax	92,263
National Non-Domestic Rates	99,013

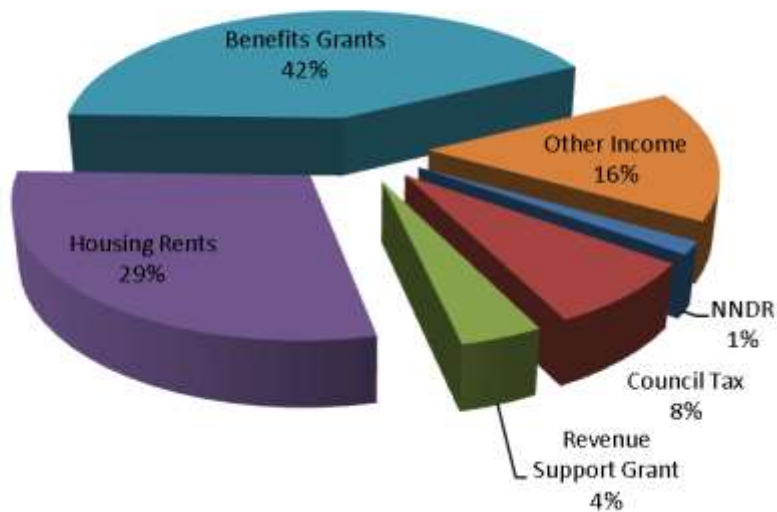
Further information about some of these transactions and balances can be found in the following sections and also in the Statement of Accounts.

5. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE: WHERE THE COUNCIL’S MONEY COMES FROM AND WHAT IT SPENDS IT ON

5a. Income and Expenditure

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is one of the core financial statements. This statement shows the Council’s income and expenditure, including both General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account. The following pie charts show the various sources of income that the Council received, and then how this money was spent.

Council Income



Council Expenditure



Further details of the Council’s income and expenditure can be found in the related notes to the accounts.

5b. General Fund Final Outturn Position

Northampton Borough Council managed a net budget of £32.561m in 2014/15 to deliver key services to the community it serves. The following table summarises the position for the general Fund for 2014/15.

General Fund Account	Budget £000	Actual £000	Variance £000
Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning	3,307	3,056	-251
Director of Housing	1,538	1,428	-110
Borough Secretary	14,040	13,035	-1,005
Director of Customers & Communities	13,676	12,469	-1,208
Total within Budget Managers Control	32,561	29,987	-2,574
Capital Expenditure charged to Revenue Account	0	2,714	2,714
Provisions	0	983	983
Net Support Service Recharges	-6,361	-4,968	1,393
Interest and Financing	2,377	1,617	-760
Parish Precepts & Grants	1,056	1,025	-31
Government Funding	-13,742	-16,325	-2,583
Council Tax	-13,871	-13,840	31
Council tax freeze grant	-148	-152	-4
Non specific grants (mainly New Homes Bonus)	-2,679	-4,614	-1,935
Technical Accounting Adjustments	-33,368	-33,560	-192
General Fund (under) / over spend	-807	-3,573	-2,766
Net Contribution to/(from) Reserves	807	1,746	939
General Fund Deficit (Surplus)	0	-1,827	-1,827
Balance b/fwd		-3,643	
Balance c/fwd		-5,470	

This position will be reported at the Cabinet meeting on 15th July 2015.

5c. Housing Revenue Account

Included within the overall income and expenditure above are specific amounts relating to the provision, maintenance and sale of Council houses and flats. These specific items of income and expenditure are also shown separately in an account called the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), because this account has to be self-financing. A summary of the Housing Revenue Account is shown below:

Housing Revenue Account	£000
Total within Budget Managers Control	-27,371
Amount used to finance capital expenditure	12,212
Interest and Investment Income	6,011
Other technical adjustments	5,613
Net contribution to reserves	3,535
Housing Revenue Account surplus / deficit	0
Balance Brought Forward	-5,000
Balance Carried Forward	-5,000

After taking account of contributions to reserves and balances, the Council's Housing Revenue Account working balance has remained at £5m. This is after making a net contribution to HRA earmarked reserves of £3.534m.

This position will be reported at the Cabinet meeting on 15th July 2015.

Further details of the Housing Revenue Account can be found in the Housing Revenue Account section of the Statement of Accounts.

5d. Collection Fund

NBC is a Billing Authority for Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rating Income (NNDR/Business Rates), and is therefore required under statute to maintain a separate Collection Fund. The Collection Fund shows all of the transactions completed by NBC on an agency basis for both NBC and on behalf of its precepting bodies. NBC collects Council Tax precepts on behalf of Northamptonshire County Council and the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner, and collects NNDR on behalf of Central Government and Northamptonshire County Council.

For 2014/15, the gross income collected within the Collection Fund by NBC was as follows:

Gross Income collected by NBC	£000
Council Tax	92,263
National Non-Domestic Rates	99,013

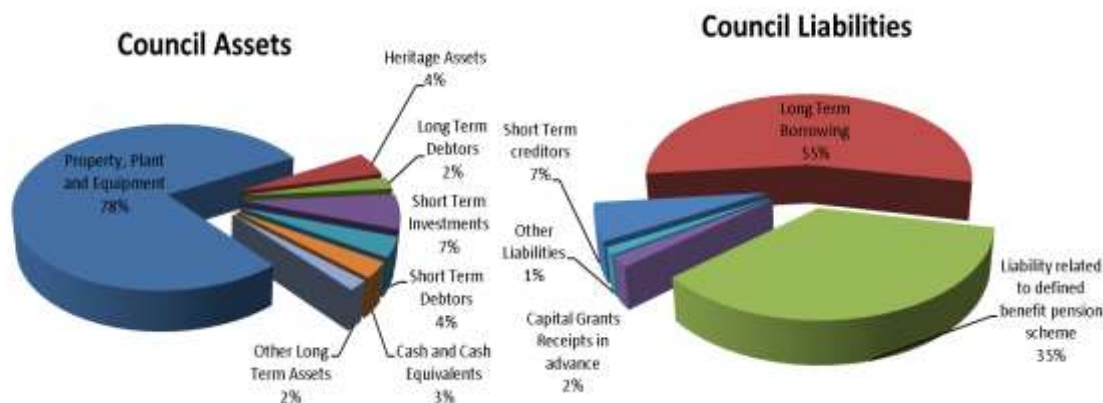
For further details please see The Collection Fund statement and accompanying notes at Section H of the accounts.

6. ASSETS AND LIABILITIES: WHAT THE COUNCIL OWNS AND WHAT THE COUNCIL OWES

6a. Assets and Liabilities

The Balance Sheet is another core financial statement. The Balance Sheet shows everything the Council owns (the Council's assets) and everything that the Council owes (the Council's liabilities).

The following pie charts represent the relative sizes of the council's assets and liabilities.



6b. Capital expenditure

Capital expenditure represents major investment in new and improved assets such as land, buildings, infrastructure, equipment, and information technology assets. Expenditure is incurred in pursuit of the Council's objectives and priorities and the delivery of services, and can be for the acquisition of new assets or enhancement of existing assets. The table below provides a summary of the 2014/15 capital expenditure.

Capital Expenditure and Financing	Budget £000s	Actual £000s	Variance £000s
Expenditure			
Housing Revenue Account Schemes	43,717	29,965	-13,752
General Fund Housing Schemes	1,740	1,276	-464
Other General Fund Schemes	37,888	30,378	-7,510
Total Capital Expenditure	83,345	61,619	-21,726
Sources of Financing			
Major Repairs Allowance		12,328	
Revenue Contributions to Capital Expenditure		2,714	
Grants & Contributions		22,518	
Capital Receipts		3,383	
Borrowing		20,676	
		61,619	

Capital Programme spending in 2014/15 was some £21.7 m (26%) below budget. A large proportion (£15.2m) of this variance relates to schemes that are currently underway or still planned to take place and these budgets will be carried forward into the next financial year (2014/15). The majority of this carry forward is due to the timing of approvals and the timescales for letting contracts and funding agreements.

Capital Expenditure	£000s
Housing Revenue Account	
Council Housing	29,207
Other Housing Assets	434
Repurchase of Former Council Housing	324
HRA Total	29,965
General Fund	
Information Technology	157
Corporate Buildings	600
Greyfriars Bus Demolition	3,852
Parks & Open Spaces	544
Delapre Abbey Restoration	351
Vulcan Works	488
Bus Interchange	264
Capital Loans	7,150
Enterprise Zone	4,351
Other Capital Works	1,020
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	12,876
General Fund Total	31,654
Total	61,619

6c. Capital Receipts

During 2014/15 the Council generated capital receipts from the sale of assets of £14.1m. Most significantly, £7.7m was received from the sale of the Egyptian statue, Sekhemka. This is expected to be reinvested in the future extension and refurbishment of the Northampton Central Museum. Other General Fund receipts of £1.5m came from the sale of surplus land and buildings, £1.2m of which was applied during the year to fund capital investment. HRA capital receipts totalled £4.5m, mostly from the sale of dwellings under Right-to-Buy. Of this total almost £1m was paid over to central government under pooling arrangements and a further £1.4m was set aside to fund replacement dwellings. The remaining £2m was invested in improvements to existing council dwellings.

6d. Current Borrowing Facilities

A significant element of the Council's liabilities are borrowing. Current borrowing facilities are detailed below:

Description	HRA £000	GF £000	Third Party £000	Total £000
Long Term Borrowing - PWLB	184,065	6,049	15,617	205,731
Long Term Borrowing - LOBOs	9,068	0	0	9,068
Homes & Communities Agency	0	1,148	0	1,148
Growing Places Fund	0	6,640	0	6,640
Local Infrastructure Fund	0	1,041	0	1,041
Long Term Finance Leases	0	348	0	348
Other Short Term Borrowing	0	289	0	289
Total	193,133	15,515	15,617	224,265

Long term borrowing is undertaken to finance capital programme expenditure, both in relation to the historic programme and for future capital schemes up to three years in advance.

The prudential indicator for gross debt and the capital financing requirement (CFR) is the key indicator of prudence, measuring whether external borrowing exceeds the closing CFR in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional capital requirement for the current and next two financial years.

New capital programme expenditure of £20.676m was financed by borrowing during 2014-15. This included £5.75m of external borrowing for loans to third parties.

Existing external borrowing was reduced by £15.7m as a result of the maturity of two LOBO Loans. A Lenders Option Borrowers Option (LOBO) is a type of long term loan, usually 40 to 60 years, with a fixed rate of interest. However, this type of loan has 'call' options at pre-determined dates. On these dates the lender has the 'option' to propose a new rate of interest for the remaining term and the borrower has the 'option' to either accept the new rate or repay the loan. Principal repayments totalling £257k on annual annuity and EIP loans were also made.

6e. Liability related to defined benefit pension scheme

Retirement Benefits that are promised to employees under the terms of the pension scheme are recognised as a liability on the Council's balance sheet. Liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis, estimating the future cash flows that will arise. The Council's share of the investments held in the pension scheme is measured at fair value at the date of the balance sheet. Details of the Council's pension assets and liabilities can be found in note 45 to the financial statements.

There has been a significant increase in year on the overall pension liability of £6.7m. This is largely as a result of a decrease in bond yields and subsequent discount rate, which places a higher value on the Fund Liabilities.

6. Further Information

Further information about these accounts is available from:

<p>Glenn Hammons Chief Finance Officer Northampton Borough Council LGSS Northamptonshire County Council John Dryden House 8-10 The Lakes Northampton NN4 7YD</p>	<p>Kelly Watson Strategic Finance Manager Northampton Borough Council LGSS Northamptonshire County Council John Dryden House 8-10 The Lakes Northampton NN4 7YD</p>
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Interested members of the public have a statutory right to inspect the accounts before the audit is completed and the availability of the accounts was advertised in the local press and on the Council's website in order to facilitate this.

This Statement of Accounts has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom.

The Authority's Responsibilities

The Authority is required to:-

- Make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Authority, that officer is the Chief Finance Officer;
- Manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets
- Approve the Statement of Accounts

The Chief Financial Officer

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Chief Financial Officer has:

- Kept proper accounting records which were up to date;
- Taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities;
- Selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently;
- Made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent;
- Complied with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting.

Certificate

I certify that this Statement of Accounts gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority at the reporting date and of its income and expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2015.

<i>G Hammons</i>
Glenn Hammons – Chief Finance Officer
Date: 19th June 2015

Approval by Audit Committee

I confirm that these audited accounts were approved by the Audit Committee at the meeting held on 7th September 2015.

Councillor Jonathan Nunn – Chair of Audit Committee
Date:

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The accounting policies for the Authority have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as adopted by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code for Local Authority Accounting. Where there is no specific guidance in the CIPFA Code, the Authority has developed its own accounting policy, which is aimed at creating information, which is:

- Relevant to the decision making needs of users; and
- Reliable, in that the financial statements:
 - Represent faithfully the financial position, financial performance and cash flows of the entity;
 - Reflect the economic substance of transactions, other events and conditions and not merely the legal form;
 - Are neutral i.e. free from bias;
 - Are prudent; and
 - Are complete in all material respects.

This document outlines how Northampton Borough Council (the Council) will account for all income, expenditure, assets and liabilities held and incurred during the 2014/15 financial year.

The accounting policies of the Authority are updated annually to reflect any changes in IFRS, including changes in International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), HM Treasury guidance, CIPFA guidance or any other change in statute, guidance or framework impacting on the authorities accounts.

The accounting policies of the Authority as far as possible have been developed to ensure that the accounts of the Authority are understandable, relevant, reliable and comparable, and free from material error or misstatement.

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 certain categories of financial instrument.

A **Glossary of Terms** can be found in section I.

1.2 ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

a **Going Concern**

The Authority prepares its accounts on the basis that the Authority is a going concern; that is that there is the assumption that the functions of the Authority will continue in operational existence. In the case of a pending local government reorganisation, where assets and liabilities are due to be redistributed, the Authority would still account on the basis of going concern as the provision of services would continue in another authority.

b **Accruals Concept**

The Authority accounts for income and expenditure in the period to which the service to which it relates has taken place, rather than when cash payments are received or made.

Where income and expenditure has been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet respectively. Equally, where cash has been received or paid which is not yet recognised as income or expenditure, a creditor (income in advance) or debtor (payment in advance) is recorded in the Balance Sheet respectively and the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement adjusted accordingly.

c Cost of Services

Internal service costs (e.g. Human Resources) are apportioned across the core service areas to represent the total cost of delivering that service to the public.

This is in accordance with the costing principals of the CIPFA Service Reporting Code of Practice 2014/15 (SERCOP). The total absorption costing principle is used – the full cost of overheads and support services are shared between users in proportion to benefits received, with the exception of:

- Corporate and Democratic Core – costs relating to the Council's status as a multi-democratic organisation.
- Non-Distributed Costs – the costs of discretionary benefits awarded to employees retiring early and any depreciation and impairment losses chargeable on non-operational properties.

These two cost categories are accounted for as separate headings in the Income and Expenditure Account as part of the Net Cost of Services.

d Value Added Tax

Income and expenditure treated as either capital or revenue, excludes any amounts related to VAT. All VAT collected is payable to HM Revenue and Customs and all VAT paid is recoverable from it. Any amounts outstanding (payment or receipt) at the year-end date is held as a creditor or debtor after netting off the amounts due / owed.

e Changes in Accounting Policy

Where there is a known future change in accounting policy required by the CIPFA Code, the Authority will disclose in the notes to the accounts:

- The nature of the change in accounting policy;
- The reasons why applying the new accounting policy provides reliable and more relevant information;
- For both the current reporting period, and the previous year comparatives reported, the extent to which the change in accounting policy would have impacted on the financial statements if it had been adopted in that year;
- The amount of adjustment relating to years previous to those reported in the set of financial statements, had the proposed policy been adopted retrospectively;
- If retrospective application is impracticable for a particular period, the circumstances that led to the existence of that condition and a description of how and from when the change in accounting policy has been applied.

The Authority will also disclose information relating to an accounting standard, which has been issued but not yet adopted.

f Previous Year Adjustments

Omissions from, and misstatements in, the entity's financial statements for one or more prior periods arising from a failure to use, or misuse of, reliable information that:

- i) Was available when financial statements for those periods were authorised for issue; and
- ii) Could reasonably be expected to have been obtained and taken into account in the preparation and presentation of those financial statements.

Such errors include the effects of mathematical mistakes, mistakes in applying accounting policies, oversights, or misinterpretations of facts, and fraud.

Where those errors are thought to be material, an adjustment will be entered into the financial statements comparative year balances, and the columns headed restated. In addition full disclosure as to the nature, circumstance, and value of the adjustment will be disclosed in the notes to the accounts.

g Events after the Balance Sheet date

Where there is a material post balance sheet event, a disclosure in the notes to the accounts will be included. If this event provides additional evidence of conditions that existed at the Balance Sheet date, and materially affects the amounts to be included in the accounts; adjusting items will have been shown in the accounts.

h Exceptional and extraordinary items and prior period adjustments

Exceptional and extraordinary items will have been disclosed separately on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and details will be disclosed in the notes to the accounts.

i Contingent assets and liabilities

Where the Council has a contingent asset or liability this will be disclosed as a note to the accounts.

Capital Accounting

j Recognition of Capital Expenditure (de-minimis Policy)

In accordance with International Accounting Standard 16 (IAS 16), the Council recognises non-current assets when all four of the following tests are met:

- Assets held for use in the production or supply of goods or services, rental to others, or for administrative purposes.
- Assets expected to be used for more than one financial period.
- Assets where it is expected that future economic benefit will flow to the Authority.
- Assets where the cost can be measured reliably.

The capital cost of an asset is recognised to be:

- Purchase price, construction cost, minimum lease payments or equivalent including import duties and non-refundable purchase taxes, after deducting trade discounts and rebates.
- Costs associated with bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner required by management.
- Initial estimate of the costs of dismantling and removing the asset and restoring the site on which it is located, the obligation for which the Authority incurred either when the asset

was acquired or as a consequence of having used the asset during a particular period for purposes other than producing inventories during that period.

- Subsequent expenditure that will substantially increase the market value of the asset.
- Subsequent expenditure that will substantially increase the extent to which the Authority can use the asset for the purpose, or in conjunction with the functions of the Authority.

The Authority has a general de-minimis level of £6,000 for capital expenditure purposes. Where an asset has been acquired for less than £6,000 but has been funded by ring fenced capital funding, this will be treated as capital.

Capital Assets are held on the balance sheet as non-current assets, unless otherwise stated.

k **Non-Current Asset Classification**

The Authority manages its assets in the following categories:

- **Intangible Assets.**

In line with International Accounting Standard 38 (IAS 38), the Authority recognises intangible assets as non-monetary assets without physical substance, where that asset meets the capital expenditure criteria set out in accounting policy j.

- **Property, Plant and Equipment Assets**

Property Plant and Equipment Assets are subcategorised into Operational Land and Building, Community Assets, Vehicles Plant and Equipment, Infrastructure Assets, Assets Under Construction and Non-Operational Assets.

- **Land and/or Buildings Assets**, in line with IAS 16, are recorded, valued and accounted for based on their significant components.
- **Community Assets** are assets that have no determinable useful life and which may, in addition, have restrictions on their disposal. There is little prospect for sale or change of use.

If the asset is used for a specific operational purpose, it does not qualify as a community asset and should be valued accordingly.

Test for Community Assets:

- Is the intent to hold the asset forever?
- Does the asset have an indeterminable useful life?
- Are there restrictions on disposal?

The answers for the first two questions have to be yes, while an affirmative answer to the third question is not obligatory but may help determine the correct classification.

- **Infrastructure Assets**, include all tangible (physical) assets required within the authorities land drainage system, and cemetery roadways. There is no prospect for sale of infrastructure assets; expenditure is only recoverable through continued use of the asset.
- **Vehicles, Plant and Equipment Assets and Assets under Construction** are also classified as Property Plant and Equipment where they do not meet the criteria for Investment Property Assets or Assets Held for Sale.

- **Surplus Assets** are assets, which the Authority no longer operates from, however do not meet the definition of held for sale. All surplus assets are treated in the same way as operational assets of the same type (valuation, depreciation, recognition etc).
- **Heritage Assets** are assets with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that make it important to ensure that they are preserved for future generations. They may be any kind of asset including buildings, works of art, furniture, exhibits, artefacts, etc. or intangible assets such as recordings of significant historical events.

As such, assets in this category are held principally for their contribution to knowledge and/or culture.

- **Investment Property Assets** are items of land and / or buildings held by the Authority solely for the purpose of rental income generation or capital appreciation or both.

Therefore, where there is a service of the Authority being delivered from the property, this is not classified as Investment Property Assets. This includes where the intention of the asset is to generate economic growth to an area such as below market value rental.

Some Assets Under Construction will also be classified as Investment Property Assets where the intended eventual use is rental income generation or capital appreciation.

- **Assets Held for Sale**

The Authority will classify assets as held for sale where:

- The asset is in the condition required for sale and is vacant.
- The assets sale is highly probable.
- The asset has been advertised for sale and a buyer sought.
- The completion of the sale is expected within 12 months.

Assets which become non-operational / surplus which do not meet all of the requirements set out as assets held for sale continue to be classified and accounted for as their previous category. In addition, if the asset later no longer meets the criteria, it is restored to its previous classification and all transactions, which would have occurred, shall be retrospectively applied as though the asset had never been held for sale. Investment properties, which become available for sale, remain as Investment Properties.

Assets meeting the criteria as held for sale are held as current assets on the balance sheet as income is expected within 12 months.

It is possible that assets meet the criteria to be held for sale; however a change in circumstance beyond the control of the Authority means that the sale is delayed beyond 12 months. In these instances the Authority follows the policies outlined for assets held for sale; however disclosure of the value for these assets is within non-current assets.

I Non-Current Asset Valuation Methodology

The various classifications of assets as outlined in accounting policy k are valued on differing basis. Where not explicitly stated otherwise, property revaluations are completed by an RICS qualified valuer, on a 5 year rolling programme i.e. 20% of the Council's assets are revalued each year.

Where there is an upward revaluation, the carrying value is increased and the associated credit charged directly to the revaluation reserve. This is then reflected in the MIRS as a revaluation gain. Where there is a revaluation, which results in a lower than carrying amount valuation, this is treated in line with accounting policy m impairment of assets. Exceptionally, gains might be credited to the Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services where they arise from the reversal of a loss previously charged to a service.

Valuations are completed as follows:

- **Intangible Assets** - the Authority recognises Intangible Assets at cost. The Authority will revalue intangible assets annually where there is determinable market value for the asset.
- **Property Plant and Equipment** - Property Assets are held at fair value, which is the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use. This requirement is met by providing a valuation on the basis of exiting use value (EUV) in accordance with UKPS 1.3 of the RICS Valuation Standards. As a matter of last resort, where no other valuation method can be used, depreciated replacement cost is used.
 - **Council Dwellings** – Land and building structure are valued at EUV for Social Housing, being 34% of market value. Individual components are valued at Depreciated Historic Cost.
 - **Vehicles and Assets under construction** within PPE are held at fair value.
 - **Community Assets** - the Authority recognises Community Assets at depreciated historic cost (not revalued).
 - **Infrastructure Assets** - the Authority recognises Infrastructure Assets at depreciated historic cost (not revalued).
- **Investment Property Assets** - Investment Properties are annually revalued at fair value, which is to be interpreted as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its highest and best use, i.e. market value. This includes investment property under construction. The fair value of investment property held under a lease is the lease interest.
- **Assets Held for Sale** - Assets held for sale are held at fair value.
- **Heritage Assets** – Heritage Assets are held at valuation where practicable (and at depreciated historic cost where it is not practicable to obtain a valuation).

m Impairment of Non-Current Assets

The accounting policy has been created in accordance with IAS 36.

Impairment is the amount to which the carrying amount of an asset exceeds the recoverable amount.

At the end of each reporting period the Authority assesses whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired

The Authority recognises impairment as:

- A significant decline (i.e. more than expected as a result of the passage of time or normal use) in an assets market value during the period;
- Evidence of obsolescence or physical damage of an asset;
- A commitment by the Authority to undertake a significant reorganisation; and
- A significant adverse change in the statutory or other regulatory environment in which the Authority operates.

Where there has been a previous revaluation taken to the revaluation reserve, an impairment up to that value would reverse the previous revaluation. Any further impairment or if there has been no previous revaluation, the impairment is charged to revenue. This is then reversed through the movement in reserves statement and charged to the capital adjustment account.

n Disposal of Non-Current Assets

Where an asset is identified as surplus to requirements, and meets the definition of an asset held for sale (see note k) it will be accounted for in accordance with note k, where an asset does not meet the classification of available for sale it will be tested for impairment, prior to being made available for disposal. There will be no impairments at the point of disposal. When an asset is disposed of or decommissioned, the value of the asset in the Balance Sheet is written off to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal). Any revaluation gains in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Sale proceeds in excess of £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts. A proportion of receipts relating to housing disposals (75% for dwellings, 50% for land and other assets, net of statutory deductions and allowances) is payable to the Government. The balance of receipts are credited to the Useable Capital Receipts Reserve, and can then only be used for new capital investment or set aside to reduce the Council's underlying need to borrow (the capital financing requirement). Receipts are transferred to the Reserve from the movement in reserves statement. The value of the asset is transferred to the capital adjustment account via the movement in reserves statement.

Sale proceeds below £10k are below de-minimis and are credited straight to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

o Depreciation / Amortisation Methodology

Depreciation is provided for on all completed assets with a determinable finite life (except for investment properties), by allocating the value of the asset in the balance sheet over the periods expected to benefit from their use.

Depreciation is calculated using the Straight-Line method over the determined life of the asset. The Council depreciates assets in the year of acquisition and disposal. This is in accordance with regulations. Where an asset has major components with different estimated useful lives, these are depreciated separately.

Residual values

Asset Type	Assumed Residual Value
Property Assets	Land Value only
Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	Nil
Intangible Assets	Nil

Useful Economic Lives of assets are:

Asset Group	Useful economic Lives (UELs)
Council Dwellings	50 years
Housing Buildings	10-70 years*
Other Buildings	4-69 years*
Land	Not depreciated
Community Assets	15-50 years*
Heritage Assets	Not depreciated*
Infrastructure Assets	25 years
Intangible Assets	3-10 years*
Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	3-25 years*
Investment Properties	Not depreciated
Assets Held for Sale	Not depreciated
Surplus Assets	5-60 years*

* Depending on the nature of the specific asset

In the Year of acquisition and disposal, the Authority charges a quarter of the annual depreciation where the asset is owned on the first day of each financial quarter.

Individual components within Council Dwellings are depreciated separately from the building structure, using the following lives:

Asset Group	Useful Economic Lives (UELs)
Kitchens	20 years
Bathrooms	30 years
Windows and Doors	30 years
Heating Systems	20 years
Lights and Electric	25 years

p Component Accounting

For **Council Dwellings** the following components are valued, enhanced and depreciated separately – Kitchen, Bathroom, Windows and Doors, Heating Systems and Lights and Electrics. No other components are material and are therefore treated as part of the building structure. The separately identified components will be depreciated over their useful lives. They will be derecognised when replaced by new components.

For **all other assets**, components will only be shown separately in the asset register if they are significant i.e. if they cost more than £250,000 and their cost amounts to more than 25% of the total cost of the asset. Where the value of an asset is not known, Gross Book Value will be used as a proxy for the determination of significant components.

Land and buildings will be separately valued. The building component will be fully depreciated over its useful life, the residual value of the whole asset being the land component.

The nature of property assets is such that any revaluation relates mainly to the land and structure so will not be passed down to any individual components that have been identified.

Non-dwelling assets will be considered for componentisation if they are material, i.e. have a total building valuation in excess of £1m. Components will only be separately valued if they are significant, i.e. above the de-minimis level of 25% detailed above.

Components will only be separately valued if they are significant, i.e. above the de-minimis level detailed above.

Components will be derecognised if their replacement is deemed to be significant under this policy, i.e. if the cost of it is more than £250,000 and amounts to more than 25% of the total cost of the asset.

Where significant components, as defined above, have been separately recorded on the Asset Register they will be depreciated over their useful lives.

q Leases

In line with the interpretation IFRIC 4, the Authority recognises a lease to be any agreement, which transfers the right to use an asset for an agreed period in exchange for payment, or a series of payments.

This includes; leases, hire purchase, rental, contracts of service, service level agreements and any other arrangement where the ability to use an asset is conveyed.

r Defining a Finance Lease

A finance lease is where substantially all of the risks and rewards incidental to ownership transfer to the lessee.

Tests to give an indication of the transfer of risk and reward are:

- If the lessee will gain ownership of the asset at the end of the lease term (e.g. hire purchase).
- If the lessee has an option to purchase the asset at a sufficiently favourable price that it is reasonably certain, at the inception of the lease, that it will be exercised.
- If the lease term is for the major part of the economic life of the asset even if title is not transferred.
 - The economic life of the asset is deemed to be that which is consistent with the class of asset in the depreciation policy.
 - The Authority recognises major part to be 75% of the life of the asset, unless on an individual case basis this would not give a true representation of the substance of the transaction.
- At the inception of the lease, the present value of the minimum lease payments amounts to at least substantially all of the fair value of the leased asset.
 - The present value of the minimum lease payments is calculated by discounting at the rate inherent in the lease.
 - If this rate cannot be determined the incremental borrowing rate applicable for that year is used.

- The Authority recognises “substantially all” to mean 90% of the value of the asset. In some circumstances, a level of 75% can be used if the Council believes that using this level will give a result that better reflects the underlying transaction.
- The leased assets are of such a specialised nature that only the lessee can use them without major modifications.
- If the lessee cancels the lease, the losses of the lessor, associated with the cancellation are borne by the lessee.
- Gains or losses from the fluctuation in the fair value of the residual accrue to the lessee (e.g. in the form of a rent rebate equalling most of the sales proceeds at the end of the lease).
- The lessee has the ability to continue the lease for a secondary period at a rent that is substantially lower than market rent.

A suitably experienced accountant, with assistance from qualified valuers, will make a judgement based on the level of risk and reward held by the Authority as to whether an asset is operating or finance.

s Defining an Operating Lease

Any lease which is not a finance lease is recognised by the Authority to be an operating lease.

t Lessee Accounting for a Finance Lease

Where the Authority is tenant in a property, or is, by definition of IFRIC 4, leasing an asset which is deemed under IAS 17 to be a finance lease the Authority will recognise that asset within the asset register, and account for that asset as though it were an owned asset.

The initial recognition of the asset is at the fair value of the asset, or if lower, the present value of the minimum lease payments. A liability is also recognised at this value, which is reduced as lease payments are made. Lease payments made to the lessor, are split between the repayment of borrowings, and interest, which is charged to the Income and Expenditure account.

u Lessor Accounting for a Finance Lease

Where the Authority is the lessor for a finance lease, the asset is not recognised in the asset register; however a long-term debtor at the present value of minimum lease payments is recognised. Income received is split between capital - credited against the debtor, and finance income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as interest receivable.

v Lessor Accounting for an Operating Lease

Where the Authority is the lessor for an operating lease, normally the asset is classified as an investment property. Any rental income is credited to the relevant service income.

w Lessee Accounting for an Operating Lease

Costs associated with operating leased assets where the Authority is the lessor are charged immediately to the relevant revenue service expenditure within the net cost of services on an accruals basis.

x Service Concession Agreements (PFI and other similar contracts)

PFI and similar arrangements are usually agreements with the private sector for the construction or enhancement of fixed assets needed to provide services to a public sector body. PFI and similar contracts are assessed against criteria within IFRIC 12 (Service Concession

Arrangements) to determine whether the risks and rewards incidental to ownership lie with the Authority or the contractor.

Where these lie with the contractor, all payments made during the life of the contract are chargeable to revenue as incurred.

Where these lie with the Authority, the Authority shall assess them against two tests:

- a) The local authority controls or regulates what services the operator must provide with the infrastructure, to whom it must provide them, and at what price;
and where
- b) The local authority controls – through ownership, beneficial entitlement or otherwise – any significant residual interest in the infrastructure at the end of the term of the arrangement.

Where test a) is met but not test b) the arrangement is reviewed to see if it contains an embedded lease, in which case this will be accounted for in accordance with the Authority's leasing policies.

Where test b) is met but not test a) the Authority will recognise the difference between the expected value of the fixed assets at the end of the arrangement and the amount (if any) it will have to pay the contractor then.

Where both tests are met the Authority will recognise a Property, Plant or Equipment asset in the Balance Sheet for value of the construction costs. Once recognised this asset is treated in line with the Authority's other PPE assets. A corresponding long-term liability of equal value is also recognised.

Payments made during the life of the contract are split into finance costs, capital costs and service costs. The split of payments is calculated at the inception of the contract and is based on the inherent interest rate within the original agreement. Finance costs are chargeable to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as Interest payable. Capital Costs reduce the level of liability in the Balance Sheet. Service costs are chargeable to the relevant revenue service expenditure. Pre-payments or Dowry payments reduce the level of liability at the start of the contract.

PFI Credits are treated as general revenue government grants.

y Capital Grants and Contributions

The Authority recognises capital grants and contributions as being related to capital assets and uses them to fund capital expenditure on those assets. Grants, contributions, and donations are recognised as income at the date that the Authority has satisfied the conditions of entitlement, and there is reasonable assurance that the monies will be received.

Any grant received before these recognition criteria were satisfied would be held as a capital grant received in advance. Any grant, which had met the recognition criteria but had not been received, would be shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account with a corresponding debtor. This is in line with the accruals concept policy.

Once the recognition criteria above have been satisfied, capital grants are recognised as income in the relevant service revenue account within the net cost of services.

In order to not impact on the level of Council Tax, the Authority removes the credit from the General Reserves through the Movement in Reserves Statement, and crediting to the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve.

Once expenditure has been incurred on the related asset, the credit is removed from the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve and credited to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Relevant Government Grants are treated in accordance with this policy.

z Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute (REFCUS)

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

aa Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

The Council has implemented the 2012 CLG Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) guidance, and assessed their MRP in accordance with the main recommendations contained within the guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 21(1A) of the Local Government Act 2003.

Where a historical debt liability was created prior to 1st April 2008, MRP will be charged at the rate of 4% on the reducing balance, in accordance with Option 1 of the guidance, the “regulatory method”.

The debt liability relating to capital expenditure incurred from 2008-09 onwards is subject to MRP under option 3, the “asset life method”, and is charged over a period that is reasonably commensurate with the estimated useful life applicable to the nature of expenditure, using the equal annual instalment method. For example, capital expenditure on a new building, or on the refurbishment or enhancement of a building, is related to the estimated life of that building.

Estimated life periods are determined in line with accounting guidance and regulations. To the extent that expenditure is not on the creation of an asset and is of a type that is subject to estimated life periods that are referred to in the guidance, the Council generally adopts these periods. However, the Council reserves the right to determine useful life periods and prudent MRP in exceptional circumstances where the recommendations of the guidance would not be appropriate.

As some types of capital expenditure incurred by the Council are not capable of being related to an individual asset, asset lives are assessed on a basis that most reasonably reflects the anticipated period of benefit that arises from the expenditure. Also, whatever type of expenditure is involved, it is grouped together in a manner that reflects the nature of the main component of expenditure and is only be divided up in cases where there are two or more major components with substantially different useful economic lives.

The Council seeks to spread MRP charges prudently in relation to asset lives, and with regard to the revenue impact of MRP charges. Where prudent to do so, capital receipts are used to repay borrowing previously taken out in relation to assets with a short life. MRP on residual debt is based on the lives of the remaining asset for which borrowing was undertaken.

MRP is charged from the financial year after the asset comes into use. In cases where the Council has approved the use of capital receipts to fund the asset, this funding is assumed when the receipt is contractually certain, even if not actually received. In such cases no MRP charge is made.

Where finance leases are held on the balance sheet, the MRP is set at a charge equivalent to the element of the annual lease charge that goes to write down the balance sheet liability, thereby applying Option 3 in a modified form.

The Council has taken advantage of any transitional arrangements introduced to minimise or negate the impact of retrospective accounting adjustments as a result of the transfer to the balance sheet of finance leases previously treated as operating leases under the introduction of IFRS.

ab Capital Reserves

The Authority holds capital reserves for the purpose of financing capital expenditure. Reserves will be disclosed as either usable (available to fund capital expenditure) or unusable (reserves held as a result of timing differences associated with recognition of capital expenditure and related financing).

Movements in capital reserves are accounted for through the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Revenue Accounting

ac Recognition of Revenue Expenditure.

The Authority recognises revenue expenditure as expenditure, which is not capital.

ad Employee Costs

In accordance with IAS 19, the Authority accounts for the total benefit earned by employees during the financial year.

Employee Costs are split into 3 categories; short term benefits, termination benefits and pensions costs.

Short-term employee benefits:

- **Salaries and Wages** - The total salary and wages earned by employees within the financial year have been charged to the revenue expenditure account. Where the amount accrued exceeds the amount paid at the 31st March, a creditor will be reflected in the accounts.
- **Leave Owed** - The Authority allows employees to earn time off in one period and carry forward amounts of accrued leave into the following period, such as annual leave, flexi-time and time off in lieu. The cost associated with this leave is attributable to the period in which it is earned, rather than when it is exercised. As such a charge has been made to the service revenue account and a creditor accrual has been reflected in the Balance Sheet.
- **Maternity/Paternity Leave** - The obligation upon the Authority to allow maternity leave and pay maternity pay occurs in mid stages of pregnancy. The cost associated with this leave is attributable to the period in which the obligation is created, rather than when it is exercised. As such a charge has been made to the service revenue account and a creditor accrual has been reflected in the Balance Sheet for time off owed at the 31st March.

Termination Benefits

- **Redundancy Costs** - The obligation to pay redundancy costs occurs when there is a formal plan to create redundancies, which has been approved. The plan would include the location, function and approximate number of employees affected; the termination benefits offered; and the time of implementation. When these recognition criteria have been met the Authority recognises the costs associated with this in the service revenue expenditure and create a creditor in the Balance Sheet.

In the case of an offer to encourage voluntary redundancy, the Authority has recognised the estimated cost based on the expected number of employees taking the offer.

- **Pensions Costs**

Employees of the Council are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme administered by Northamptonshire County Council. The Scheme provides benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions) earned as employees of the Council.

The Local Government Pension Scheme is a defined benefit scheme. The liabilities of the scheme attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc. and projections of earnings for current employees.

Pension liabilities are measured using the projected unit method and discounted at the balance sheet date rate of return on high quality corporate bonds of equivalent term to the liabilities. The discount rate is the weighted average of spot yields on AA rated corporate bonds.

The change in the net pension liability is analysed into seven components:

- Current service cost - the increase in liabilities as result of years of service earned this year - allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the revenue accounts of 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 Net Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Non Distributed Costs.
- Interest cost - the expected increase in the present value of liabilities during the year as they move one year closer to being paid - debited to Net Operating Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
- Expected return on assets - the annual investment return on the fund assets attributable to the Council, based on an average of the expected long-term return - credited to Net Operating Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
- Gains/losses on settlements and curtailments the result of actions to relieve the Council of liabilities or events that reduce the expected future service or accrual of benefits of employees - debited to the Net Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Non Distributed Costs.
- 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 - debited to the Statement of Comprehensive Income and expenditure.
- Contributions paid to the Northamptonshire County Council Pension Fund – cash paid as employers contributions to the Pension Fund.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Reserves to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the pension fund in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. Adjustments are therefore made in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

- **Early Retirement, Discretionary Payments** - the Authority 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.

ae Revenue Grants and Contributions

Grants, contributions, and donations are recognised as income at the date that the Authority has satisfied the conditions of entitlement, and there is reasonable assurance that the monies will be received. Any grant received before these recognition criteria were satisfied would be held as a creditor (receipts in advance). Any grant, which had met the recognition criteria but had not been received, would be shown as a debtor. This is in line with the accruals concept policy.

Revenue grants will either be received to be used only for a specific purpose, or can be used for general purpose. Those for a specific purpose are recognised as income in the relevant service revenue account (wherever the related expenditure is incurred) within the net cost of services. Those, which are for general purpose, are shown in the foot of the Comprehensive Expenditure and Income Statement, before the net surplus or deficit.

af Provisions

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Council an obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefits, but where the timing of the transfer is uncertain. For instance, the Council may be involved in a court case that could eventually result in the making of a settlement or the payment of compensation.

Provisions are charged to the appropriate service revenue account in the year that the Authority recognises an obligation, based on the best estimate of the likely settlement. When payments are eventually made, it is charged to the provision.

Estimated settlements are reviewed at the end of each financial year and adjustments with the service revenue account are made as required.

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

ag Revenue Reserves

The council sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. Reserves are created by appropriating amounts in the Statement of Movement on the General Fund Balance. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service revenue account in that year to score against the Net Cost of Services in the Income and Expenditure Account. The reserve is then appropriated back into the General Fund Balance statement so that there is no net charge against Council Tax in that year for the expenditure.

The Council maintains earmarked reserves for a number of reasons including: -

- Setting aside money for future policy initiatives;
- To finance expenditure on future projects;
- To mitigate the impact between financial years of expenditure and income on general working balances;

- To mitigate the effect of specifically identified significant risks; and
- To protect the Authority against unexpected events and change in legislation.

The Council's risk-based assessment of the required level of General Fund working balance is £4.9m for 2014/15. This level of general working balance is considered reasonable due to the mitigation of some risks through the holding of earmarked reserves.

Certain reserves are kept to manage the accounting processes for tangible fixed assets, retirement benefits, and financial instruments and these reserves do not represent usable resources for the Council. The usable Earmarked Reserves are set out in the notes to the Statement of Accounts.

ah Council Tax Recognition

Council Tax income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the year shall be the accrued income for the year. The Authority's share of the accrued Council Tax income is obtained from the information that is required by billing authorities in the production of the Collection Fund Statements.

If the net cash paid to the Authority in the year is more than its proportionate share of net cash collected from Council Tax debtors in the year the Authority will recognise a credit adjustment for the same amount in creditors after adjusting for the previous year brought forward and vice versa if net cash paid is less than the proportionate share.

The Cash Flow Statement includes within operating activities the net Council Tax cash received from the Collection Fund in the year (i.e. the precept for the year plus its share of Collection Fund surplus for the previous year, or less the amount paid to the Collection Fund in respect of its share of the previous year's Collection Fund deficit). The difference between the net cash received from the Collection Fund and the Authority's share of cash collected from Council Tax debtors by the billing authority in the year is included within financing activities in the Cash Flow Statement.

The difference between the income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the amount required by regulation to be credited to the General Fund shall be taken to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account and reported in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

ai Inventories and long-term contracts

Inventories include goods held for future use. Inventories are included in the Balance Sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Inventories are recorded in terms of average cost. Work in progress on long term contracts is subject to an interim valuation at the year-end and recorded in the Balance Sheet at cost plus any profit reasonably attributable to the works. The Council currently does not have any contracts that fulfil this criterion.

aj Provisions for bad and doubtful debts

In order to suitably reflect the varied nature of debtors within the Council, the basis for providing for bad debts is specific to the circumstances in each individual department. The general policy followed is:

- No public sector debt is provided for (other Local Authorities, NHS, or Central Government).
- Aged debt is reviewed and a reasonable percentage provided for.

Significant individual invoices are reviewed and wholly provided for where it is thought to be necessary.

Treasury Management

ak Definition of Treasury Management Activities

The Authority has adopted the following definition of Treasury Management activities:

The management of the Authority's cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.

The Authority regards the successful identification, monitoring, and control of risk to be the prime criteria by which the effectiveness of its treasury management activities will be measured. Accordingly, the analysis and reporting of treasury management activities will focus on their risk implications for the Authority.

The Authority acknowledges that effective treasury management will provide support towards the achievement of its service objectives. It is therefore committed to the principals of achieving best value in treasury management, and to employing suitable performance measurement techniques, within the context of effective risk management.

al Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are initially measured at fair value and carried at their amortised cost.

Annual charges to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. For most of the borrowings that the Council has, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable plus any interest accrued to 31st March and interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable for the year in the loan agreement.

Gains and losses on the repurchase or early settlement of borrowing are credited and debited to Net Operating Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year of repurchase/settlement. However, where repurchase has taken place as part of a restructuring of the loan portfolio that involves the modification or exchange of existing instruments, the premium or discount is respectively deducted from or added to the amortised cost of the new or modified loan and the write-down to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is spread over the life of the loan by an adjustment to the effective interest rate. Where premiums and discounts have been charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, regulations allow the impact on the General Reserves to be spread over future years.

The Authority has a policy of spreading the gain/loss over the term of the replacement loan subject to a minimum period of 10 years with the case of discounts. The reconciliation of amounts charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net charge required against the General Reserves is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

am Financial Assets

Financial assets are classified into two types:

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

Loans and receivables are initially measured at fair value and carried at their amortised cost. Annual credits to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest receivable are based on the carrying amount of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. For most of the loans that the Council has made, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal receivable plus any interest accrued to 31st March and interest credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement. However, the Council could make loans to organisations or individuals at less than market rates (soft loans).

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

Where assets are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a past event that payments due under the contract will not be made, the asset is written down and a charge made to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Any gains and losses that arise on the derecognition of the asset are credited/debited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

- **Available-for-sale assets** - assets that have a quoted market price and/or do not have fixed or determinable payments.

Available-for-sale assets are initially measured and carried at fair value. Where the asset has fixed or determinable payments, annual credits to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest receivable are based on the amortised cost of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument.

Values are based on the following principles:

- Instruments with quoted market prices the market price.
- Other instruments with fixed and determinable payments discounted cash flow analysis.

Changes in fair value are balanced by an entry in the Available-for-sale Reserve and the gain/loss is recognised in the Movement in Reserves Statement. The exception is where impairment losses have been incurred these are debited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, along with any net gain/loss for the asset accumulated in the Reserve. Where assets are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a past event that payments due under the contract will not be made, the asset is written down and a charge made to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Any gains and losses that arise on the derecognition of the asset are credited/debited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, along with any accumulated gains/losses. Where fair value cannot be measured reliably, the instrument is carried at cost (less any impairment losses).

- **Financial assets at fair value through income and expenditure** – The council does not generally deal in derivatives but may take out forward loans from time to time as part of its overall Treasury Management Strategy.

an Interests in Companies and Other Entities

The Council owns one subsidiary, Northampton Partnership Homes, and has prepared Group Accounts, see policy ar. The Council has one Joint Arrangements that is Not an Entity (JANEs), the Joint Planning Unit (JPU): this is not material to the accounts.

ao Business Improvement Districts

The Council collects Business Rates in respect of two Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), the first based on the Brackmills Industrial Estate geographic area, and the second based on the Town Centre geographic area. For both of these BIDs, the Council collects the business rates and pays the amount collected over to the BID on a monthly basis. The money collected is treated as a creditor in the Council's accounts to reflect the fact that the cash received will be paid to the BID and any balances are only there because of a timing issue.

ap Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash is represented by notes and coins held by the Authority and deposits available on demand. Cash equivalents are 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. Bank overdrafts only arise as part of the Council's cash management and are therefore netted off against Cash and Cash Equivalents.

Bank overdrafts will only be shown separately as liabilities in the Balance Sheet where they are not an integral part of the Council's cash management; no such instances currently exist that would require separate disclosure from cash and cash equivalents.

aq General Government Grants

General government grants and contributions in the form of Revenue Support Grant, Retained Business Rates, New Homes Bonus, etc. are disclosed on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the line Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income.

ar Group Accounts

The Council is required to produce Group Accounts alongside its own financial statements where it has material interests in subsidiaries, associates and/or joint ventures. The Council has involvement with a company, and has concluded that the requirement to produce Group Accounts applies in relation to its interest in Northampton Partnership Homes. In the Council's single-entity accounts, the interest in the company is recorded as financial assets at cost less any provisions for losses.

E1 MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

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.

The Group Accounts are shown in the separate highlighted columns. This includes the transactions of Northampton Partnership Homes. Note that as Northampton Partnership Homes only started trading in 2014/15, no Group Accounts are shown for the prior period.

The Statement is shown on the next page.

Movement in Reserves Statement	Single Entity Accounts										Group Accounts	
	General Fund Balance £000s	Earmarked GF Reserves £000s	Housing Revenue Account £000s	Earmarked HRA Reserves £000s	Major Repairs Reserve £000s	Capital Receipts Reserve £000s	Capital Grants Unapplied £000s	Total Usable Reserves £000s	Total Unusable Reserves £000s	Total Authority Reserves £000s	Authority share of reserves of subsidiary £000s	Total Reserves £000s
Balance at 31 March 2013 Brought forward	-3,128	-17,071	-5,001	-12,549	-1,542	-3,267	-2,537	-45,096	-164,717	-209,813	0	-209,813
Movement in reserves during 2013/14												
(Surplus) or deficit on provision of services (Note 31c)	-6,384	0	-21,508	0	0	0	0	-27,892	0	-27,892	0	-27,892
Other Comprehensive Expenditure and Income (Note 9)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-228	-228	0	-228
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	-6,384	0	-21,508	0	0	0	0	-27,892	-228	-28,120	0	-28,120
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 7)	-2,441	0	17,763	0	-7,863	910	-1,275	7,094	-7,094	0	0	0
Net (Increase)/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	-8,825	0	-3,745	0	-7,863	910	-1,275	-20,798	-7,322	-28,120	0	-28,120
Transfers (to)/from Earmarked Reserves (Note 8)	8,310	-8,310	3,746	-3,746	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(Increase) / Decrease in Year	-515	-8,310	1	-3,746	-7,863	910	-1,275	-20,798	-7,322	-28,120	0	-28,120
Balance at 31 March 2014 carried forward	-3,643	-25,381	-5,000	-16,295	-9,405	-2,357	-3,812	-65,894	-172,039	-237,930	0	-237,930
Movement in reserves during 2014/15												
(Surplus) or deficit on provision of services (Note 31c)	10,395	0	-37,637	0	0	0	0	-27,242	0	-27,242	-140	-27,382
Other Comprehensive Expenditure and Income (Note 9)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15,529	15,529	1,765	17,294
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	10,395	0	-37,637	0	0	0	0	-27,242	15,529	-11,713	1,625	-10,088
Adjustments between group accounts and authority accounts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13,685	13,685
Net (Increase)/Decrease before transfers	10,395	0	-37,637	0	0	0	0	-27,242	15,529	-11,713	15,310	3,597
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 7)	-13,968	0	34,102	0	117	-9,615	-1,252	9,384	-9,384	0	0	0
Net (Increase)/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	-3,573	0	-3,535	0	117	-9,615	-1,252	-17,858	6,145	-11,713	15,310	3,597
Transfers (to)/from Earmarked Reserves (Note 8)	1,746	-1,746	3,535	-3,535	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(Increase) / Decrease in Year	-1,827	-1,746	0	-3,535	117	-9,615	-1,252	-17,858	6,145	-11,713	15,310	3,597
Balance at 31 March 2015 carried forward	-5,470	-27,129	-5,000	-19,829	-9,288	-11,972	-5,064	-83,752	-165,895	-249,647	15,310	-234,337

E2 COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

This statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. This statement does not show in detail the amount of funding from local taxes and general government grants. 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 Notes to the Core Statements.

The Group Accounts are shown in the separate highlighted columns. This includes the transactions of Northampton Partnership Homes. As Northampton Partnership Homes only started trading on 5th January 2015, no Group Accounts are shown for the prior period.

Re-stated 2013/14			COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT	2014/15			Group Accounts 2014/15		
Gross Expenditure £000s	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000		Gross Expenditure £000s	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000	Gross Expenditure £000s	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000
			INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ON SERVICES						
3,679	-1,753	1,926	Central services to the public	3,579	-1,494	2,085	3,579	-1,494	2,085
			Cultural, Environmental & Planning						
8,627	-1,910	6,717	Cultural & related services	10,059	-2,655	7,404	10,059	-2,655	7,404
9,612	-3,121	6,491	Environment and Regulatory Services	10,113	-3,598	6,515	10,113	-3,598	6,515
8,242	-3,419	4,823	Planning Services	20,740	-5,030	15,710	20,740	-5,030	15,710
2,846	-3,748	-902	Highways, Roads & Transport Housing	14,303	-3,116	11,187	14,303	-3,116	11,187
41,119	-53,327	-12,208	Housing Revenue Account	55,458	-87,075	-31,617	53,896	-85,652	-31,756
85,670	-79,566	6,104	General Fund Housing	85,152	-79,936	5,216	85,037	-79,936	5,101
3,196	-649	2,547	Corporate & Democratic Core	2,399	-64	2,335	2,399	-64	2,335
250	-2,417	-2,167	Non Distributed Costs	3	-8,760	-8,757	3	-8,760	-8,757
163,241	-149,910	13,331	COST OF SERVICES	201,806	-191,728	10,078	200,129	-190,305	9,824
10,173	-7,201	2,972	Other Operating Expenditure (Note 10)	20,368	-15,238	5,130	20,368	-15,238	5,130
20,470	-8,235	12,235	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure (Note 11)	20,994	-8,767	12,227	21,166	-8,825	12,341
36,636	-93,065	-56,429	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income (Note 12)	37,823	-92,500	-54,676	37,823	-92,500	-54,676
		-27,891	(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services			-27,241			-27,381
		-10,529	Surplus or deficit on revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment assets			-1,335			-1,335
		10,301	Actuarial gains / losses on pension assets/liabilities			16,864			18,629
		-228	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure (Note 9)			15,529			17,294
		-28,119	TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE			-11,712			-10,087

E3 BALANCE SHEET

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Authority. The net assets of the Authority (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Authority. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves 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'.

The Group Accounts are shown in the separate highlighted column. This includes the transactions of Northampton Partnership Homes. As Northampton Partnership Homes only started trading on 5th January 2015, no Group Accounts are shown for the prior period.

31st March 2014		31st March 2015	Notes	Group Accounts
£000s	Balance Sheet	£000s		31st March 2015
				£000s
485,704	Property, Plant & Equipment	509,188	13	509,188
36,592	Heritage Assets	29,484	14	29,484
7,479	Investment Property	7,295	15	7,295
1,531	Intangible Assets	1,035	16	1,035
0	Long Term Investments	2,507	17g	2,507
8,996	Long Term Debtors	15,090	20	15,090
540,302	Long Term Assets	564,599		564,599
28,612	Short Term Investments	43,142	17g	43,142
1,309	Assets Held for Sale	1,474	22	1,474
164	Inventories	72	18	152
19,650	Short Term Debtors	24,322	20	20,385
42,060	Cash and Cash Equivalents	19,326	21	26,539
91,795	Current Assets	88,336		91,692
-16,283	Short Term Borrowing	-2,628	17e	-2,628
-21,548	Short Term Creditors	-26,944	23	-30,217
-392	Provisions	-1,993	24	-1,993
-38,223	Current Liabilities	-31,565		-34,838
-8,233	Long Term Creditors	-7,377	38	-7,377
-1,272	Provisions	-29	24	-29
-210,126	Long Term Borrowing	-221,289	17f	-221,289
-136,313	Other Long Term Liabilities	-143,028	41b/45	-158,421
-355,944	Long Term Liabilities	-371,723		-387,116
237,930	Net Assets	249,647		234,337
65,894	Usable Reserves	83,752	MiRS	83,835
172,036	Unusable Reserves	165,895	26	150,502
237,930	Total Reserves	249,647		234,337

E4 CASH FLOW STATEMENT

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

The Group Accounts are shown in the separate highlighted column. This includes the transactions of Northampton Partnership Homes. As Northampton Partnership Homes only started trading on 5th January 2015, no Group Accounts are shown for the prior period.

2013/14 £000	Cashflow Statement	2014/15 £000	Group Accounts 2014/15 £000
27,891	Net Surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services	27,241	27,381
28,840	Adjustment to surplus or deficit on the provision of services	19,377	26,450
-26,439	Adjustment for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	-40,165	-40,165
30,292	Net Cashflows from Operating Activities	6,453	13,666
-17,423	Net Cashflows from Investing Activities	-25,513	-25,513
7,388	Net Cashflows from Financing Activities	-3,674	-3,674
20,257	Net increase or decrease in cash and cash equivalents	-22,734	-15,521
21,803	Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Reporting Period	42,060	42,060
42,060	Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of the Reporting Period	19,326	26,539

1. PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENTS

There have been no material prior periods adjustments identified that require disclosure within Note 1 of the accounts for 2014/15.

2. ACCOUNTING STANDARDS THAT HAVE BEEN ISSUED BUT HAVE NOT BEEN ADOPTED

IAS 8 requires an authority to disclose the impact of an accounting change that has been issued but not yet adopted. These changes will be applied retrospectively unless there are specific transitional arrangements specified in the Code. There are a number of changes detailed below that are likely to apply for 2015/16, all of which will apply from 1st April 2015, and will be adopted (where applicable) by Northampton Borough Council from 1st April 2015:

IFRS13: Fair Value Measurement (May 2011)

IFRS 13 applies to IFRSs that require or permit fair value measurements or disclosures and provides a single IFRS framework for measuring fair value and requires disclosures about fair value measurement.

Annual Improvements to IFRSs (2011 – 2013 Cycle)

The IASB carries out cyclical work to identify and implement improvements in IFRSs. The following amendments will be incorporated into the 2015/16 Code of Practice:

- IFRS 1: Meaning of effective IFRSs;
- IFRS 3: Scope of exceptions for joint ventures;
- IFRS 13: Scope of paragraph 52 (portfolio exception); and
- IAS 40: Clarifying the interrelationship of IFRS 3 Business Combinations and IAS 40 Investment Property when classifying property as investment property or owner-occupied property.

IFRIC 21 Levies

IFRIC 21 provides guidance on when to recognise a liability for a levy imposed by a government, both for levies that are accounted for in accordance with IAS 37 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets and those where the timing and the amount of the levy is certain.

3. CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES

In applying the accounting policies set out in Section D (above), the Authority has had to make certain judgments about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. The critical judgments made in the Statement of Accounts are:

- There is a high degree of uncertainty about future levels of funding for local government. However, the Authority has determined that this uncertainty is not yet sufficient to provide an indication that the assets of the Authority might be impaired as a result of a need to reduce levels of service provision.
- The state of the economy is very unpredictable at the present time. The Authority has based its assumptions about bad debt levels based on its current expectations about peoples' ability to pay.
- Valuations of Council Dwellings have been based on the latest Government guidance, and impairment has been recognised to reflect this. Local authority housing is facing significant financial reform in the coming years; however, there are no indications at present that the social housing valuation percentages for the local area will be changed again.

- Useful economic lives are based on estimates either from professional (RICS qualified) valuers in the case of property, and service experts in relation to other assets. Infrastructure has a useful economic life of 25 years in line with CIPFA guidance.
- Estimates and judgements are evaluated based on historical experience and other factors including horizon scanning for future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual events may differ from these expectations.

Estimates and judgements are evaluated based on historical experience and other factors including horizon scanning for future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual events may differ from these expectations.

The main areas where judgement and estimates are used are in accounting for fixed assets and provisions.

4. ASSUMPTIONS MADE ABOUT THE FUTURE AND OTHER MAJOR SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

The Statement of Accounts contains estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the Authority about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends, and other relevant factors. However, because balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates. The items in the Authority’s Balance Sheet at 31 March 2015 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
Property, Plant and Equipment (excluding land) - Depreciation & Useful Lives	Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependant on assumptions about the level of repairs and maintenance that will be carried out in relation to individual assets. The current economic climate makes it uncertain how much the authority will be able to spend on repairs and maintenance on these assets, so there is uncertainty in the useful economic lives allocated to each asset.	If useful economic lives are reduced there would be an increase in depreciation and a reduction in the carrying value of the assets. It is estimated that the annual depreciation charge for buildings would increase by approximately £0.423m for every year that useful lives had to be reduced.
Property, Plant and Equipment (excluding land) - Valuations	Assets are valued each year by professional valuers (NBC Internal Valuers) using appropriate valuation methods, judgements, and assumptions. Council dwellings are valued as at 1 April annually, non investment properties with a closing value of over £300k the previous year are revalued mid-year, and other non-investment property is valued on a 5-year rolling programme part way through the year. The assumptions used and timings of these valuations introduce a degree of estimation risk if property values differ from the valuations used.	The net book value of an asset at 31 March is the value of that asset as it appears on the Balance sheet. - A 1% variation in value on Dwellings is equivalent to £3.976m - A 1% variation in value on other operational property is equivalent to £1.172m

Benefit Overpayments Provision	The Authority has made a provision of £4.899m in respect of Overpayments to Benefit Claimants. This provision is based upon a analysis of outstanding debt as at year end and is considered prudent in light of the highly uncertain nature of future recovery levels.	As the provision for Benefit Overpayments is currently set at 92.2% of the overall debt, any movement in the level of overpayments will have a corresponding, equivalent impact on the level of provision required.
Insurance Provision and Reserve	The Council has made a provision of £0.336m for actual insurance claims outstanding and a reserve of £1.762m is set aside for unknown future claims. The amount in the reserve is based upon an actuarial report from our independent advisors, who have specialist experience in forecasting.	If the insurance provision proves to be insufficient then funds can be transferred from the insurance reserve. If the level of insurance reserve were to prove incorrect, then the effect would be equivalent to the amount of the additional claims.
Pensions Liability	The Council has a liability for retirement benefits promised under the terms of the pension scheme of £142.680m. Liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis, estimating future cash flows discounted to present values. This estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.	If the principal assumptions used to measure the liability were to differ, then the increase in liability would be: - 0.5% decrease in discount rate = £26.708m - 1 year increase in life expectancy = £9.301m - 0.5% salary increase = £5.000m - 0.5% increase in Pensions rate = £21.384m
Arrears	The General Fund has provided for a bad debt provision of £0.855m. This is based on modelled assumptions of the amount of debt cleared at various time points. The model is based on past recovery rates but any changes in the economic climate could impact on the recovery of outstanding debts.	The amount of debt having a provision against it equates to £3.911m. Therefore any changes in the recovery of our debts will have a maximum impact of £3.055m.

Business Rates Appeals	The council has made a provision for the effects of business rates appeals (including backdated appeals) of which the NBC element is £1.62m. This is based on appeals that had been lodged and were outstanding at 31 March 2015. Additional contingent liabilities in relation to Business Rates have been disclosed within note 46.	If appeals on the list are rejected or settled at a lower value from the amount taken into account in the appeal provision, the provision for the excess would be released. If appeals on the list are settled at a higher value than the appeal provision or appeals are settled that are not included on the list at 31 March, there would be an impact on the business rates income to the authority under the Rates Retention Scheme.
Minimum lease payments on operating leases (authority as lessor)	Future estimates of minimum lease payments contain a number of assumptions about lease rental income and lease periods; for example that leases will not be renewed at the end of their term, and that vacant properties will not be leased at a future date.	If leases are extended beyond their original term or renewed on expiry, and vacant properties are leased out, then future rental income will exceed the minimum lease payments calculated. Conversely if lessees default on their leases or payments then future rental income may be reduced.

This list does not include assets/liabilities that are carried at fair value based on recently observed market prices. For items relating to the Housing Revenue Account, please see section G of the Accounts.

5. MATERIAL ITEMS OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

During the financial year 2014/15, NBC has five material items disclosed in the accounts.

- 1) The first item relates to a contract to carry out the councils Environmental Services (Waste Collection, Street Cleaning, Parks etc.).The contract cost in relation to this item in 2014/15 was £6.08m.
- 2) The second item relates to the contract with LGSS to cover the majority of the councils back office functions (HR, Finance, ICT etc.).The contract cost in relation to this item in 2014/15 was £8.98m.
- 3) There was a grant of £15.5m for Decent Homes from the Homes and Communities Agency.
- 4) There was expenditure on Housing Benefits for £42m in relation to Rent Allowances and £32m in relation to Rent Rebates. The grant income received from DWP in respect of these payments is disclosed within Note 38.
- 5) £7.7m was received from the sale of the Egyptian statue, Sekhemka. This will be reinvested in the future extension and refurbishment of the Northampton Central Museum.

6. EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

The Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Chief Finance Officer on the date shown in the section C. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or notes. Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31 March 2015, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information. There has been one non-adjusting event after the balance sheet date that requires disclosure:

The Chancellor announced in his 2015 summer budget that rents in social housing are to be reduced by 1% a year from April 2016 for the next four years. The Council will need to consider the impact that the rent reductions may have on its Housing Revenue Account and revise its HRA plan accordingly.

7. ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATION

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	General Fund Balance £000s	Housing Revenue Account £000s	Earmarked Reserves £000s	Major Repairs Reserve £000s	Capital receipts Reserve £000s	Capital Grants Unapplied £000s	Total Usable Reserves £000s	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000s
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	-4,226	0	0	-8,939	0	0	-13,165	13,165
Revaluation gains on PPE	945	33,261	0	0	0	0	34,206	-34,206
Revaluation losses on PPE	-16,140	-18,124	0	0	0	0	-34,263	34,263
Movements in the market value of Investment properties	-182	51	0	0	0	0	-132	132
Amortisation of Intangible assets	-320	0	0	0	0	0	-320	320
Capital Grants & contributions applied (if any)	8,315	15,522	0	0	0	0	23,837	-23,837
Income in relation to donated assets if any	57	0	0	0	0	0	57	-57
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	-12,876	0	0	0	0	0	-12,876	12,876
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	-9,532	-6,145	0	0	0	0	-15,678	15,678
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement								
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	1,253	0	0	0	0	0	1,253	-1,253
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	2,714	0	0	0	0	0	2,714	-2,714
Balance of MRA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account	-29,993	24,565	0	-8,939	0	0	-14,366	14,366

2014/15	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Earmarked Reserves	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account:								
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	2,382	0	0	0	0	-2,382	0	0
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account	0	0	0	0	0	1,130	1,130	-1,130
Total Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	2,382	0	0	0	0	-1,252	1,130	-1,130
Adjustments primarily 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	9,605	4,454	0	0	-14,059	0	0	0
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	0	0	0	3,383	0	3,383	-3,383
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve towards administrative costs of non-current asset disposals	0	-114	0	0	114	0	0	0
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance payments to Government Capital Receipts pool	-955	0	0	0	955	0	0	0
Transfer from Deferred Capital receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash	0	0	0	0	-8	0	-8	8
Total Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserve	8,650	4,339	0	0	-9,615	0	3,375	-3,375
Adjustment primarily involving the Major Repairs Reserve:								
Reversal of major Repairs Allowance credited to the HRA	0	3,273	0	-3,273	0	0	0	0
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	0	0	12,328	0	0	12,328	-12,328
Total Adjustment primarily involving the Major Repairs Reserve	0	3,273	0	9,055	0	0	12,328	-12,328

2014/15	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Earmarked Reserves	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Adjustments 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	-419		0	0	0	0	-419	419
Adjustments primarily involving the Pensions Reserve: Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and expenditure Statement	1,960	526	0	0	0	0	2,486	-2,486
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	6,143	1,372	0	0	0	0	7,515	-7,515
Total Adjustments primarily involving the Pensions Reserve	8,104	1,898	0	0	0	0	10,001	-10,001
Adjustments primarily involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account: Amount by which council tax income and non-domestic rating income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax income and non-domestic rating income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	-2,711	0	0	0	0	0	-2,711	2,711
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	19	26	0	0	0	0	44	-44
Total Adjustments	-13,968	34,101	0	117	-9,615	-1,252	9,382	-9,382

2013/14	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Earmarked Reserves	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
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	-2,475	0	0	-8,477	0	0	-10,952	10,952
Revaluation gains on PPE	1,437	14,829	0	0	0	0	16,266	-16,266
Revaluation losses on PPE	-2,309	-18,701	0	0	0	0	-21,010	21,010
Movements in the market value of Investment properties	157	-9	0	0	0	0	148	-148
Amortisation of Intangible assets	-329	0	0	0	0	0	-329	329
Capital Grants & contributions applied (if any)	4,993	17,020	0	0	0	0	22,013	-22,013
Income in relation to donated assets if any	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	-2,841	0	0	0	0	0	-2,841	2,841
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	-3,068	-3,867	0	0	0	0	-6,935	6,935
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement								
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	1,065	0	0	0	0	0	1,065	-1,065
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	132	0	0	0	0	0	132	-132
Balance of MRA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account	-3,238	9,272	0	-8,477	0	0	-2,443	2,443

2013/14	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Earmarked Reserves	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account:								
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	2,678	0	0	0	0	-2,678	0	0
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account	0	0	0	0	0	1,404	1,404	-1,404
Total Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	2,678	0	0	0	0	-1,274	1,404	-1,404
Adjustments primarily 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	1,702	4,379	0	0	-6,081	0	0	0
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	0	0	0	6,067	0	6,067	-6,067
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve towards administrative costs of non-current asset disposals	0	-113	0	0	113	0	0	0
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance payments to Government Capital Receipts pool	-869	0	0	0	869	0	0	0
Transfer from Deferred Capital receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash	0	0	0	0	-56	0	-56	56
Total Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserve	833	4,266	0	0	912	0	6,011	-6,011
Adjustment primarily involving the Major Repairs Reserve:								
Reversal of major Repairs Allowance credited to the HRA	0	3,671	0	-3,671	0	0	0	0
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	0	0	4,286	0	0	4,286	-4,286
Total Adjustment primarily involving the Major Repairs Reserve	0	3,671	0	615	0	0	4,286	-4,286

2013/14	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Earmarked Reserves	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Adjustments 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	-943	41	0	0	0	0	-902	902
Adjustments primarily involving the Pensions Reserve: Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and expenditure Statement	-4,450	-1,633	0	0	0	0	-6,083	6,083
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	5,848	2,140	0	0	0	0	7,988	-7,988
Total Adjustments primarily involving the Pensions Reserve	1,398	507	0	0	0	0	1,905	-1,905
Adjustments primarily involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account: Amount by which council tax income and non-domestic rating income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax income and non-domestic rating income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	-3,221	0	0	0	0	0	-3,221	3,221
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	49	6	0	0	0	0	55	-55
Total Adjustments	-2,444	17,763	0	-7,862	912	-1,274	7,095	-7,095

8. TRANSFERS TO / FROM EARMARKED RESERVES

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund and HRA balances in earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from earmarked reserves to meet General Fund and HRA expenditure in 2014/15.

Earmarked Reserve	Balance at 31 March 2013 £000s	Additions to Reserve £000s	Use Of Reserve £000s	Balance at 31 March 2014 £000s	Additions to Reserve £000s	Use Of Reserve £000s	Balance at 31 March 2015 £000s
General Fund							
General Revenue Grants (Ringfenced)	2,991	50	-330	2,712	949	-557	3,105
S106 Contributions	809	1,660	-44	2,425	148	-95	2,479
Total Ringfenced Grants & Contributions	3,800	1,710	-374	5,137	1,098	-652	5,583
Supporting Business/Economic Growth	225	1,075	-95	1,205	193	-100	1,298
Service Improvements/Performance and Change	702	331	-150	883	0	-51	832
General Earmarked Reserves	5,493	1,511	-2,423	4,581	1,924	-1,843	4,662
Delapre Abbey	883	75	-63	895	72	-146	820
Specific Carry Forwards	247	268	-89	426	0	-154	272
Total Service Related Reserves	7,550	3,260	-2,820	7,989	2,189	-2,293	7,885
Strategic Investment Reserve	0	0	0	0	1,429	-67	1,362
New Homes Bonus	1,647	2,326	-763	3,210	539	-1,772	1,977
Total Corporate Reserves	1,647	2,326	-763	3,210	1,968	-1,839	3,340
Financial Pressures Reserve	1,625	1,407	0	3,032	1,812	-1,883	2,960
Insurance Reserve	2,443	196	-155	2,484	750	-1,471	1,762
Technical Reserves	7	3,580	-57	3,530	2,183	-114	5,599
Total Technical Reserves	4,075	5,183	-212	9,045	4,744	-3,468	10,321
Total General Fund	17,072	12,479	-4,169	25,382	9,998	-8,252	27,129
HRA							
HRA Reserves	8,794	6,705	-2,500	12,999	4,068	0	17,067
HRA Supporting People Reserve	558	0	0	558	0	0	558
HRA Reform Reserve	1,333	0	-460	873	0	-865	8
HRA Leaseholder Reserve	168	0	0	168	332	0	500
HRA Service Improvement Reserve	1,396	36	-36	1,395	0	0	1,395
HRA Insurance Reserve	300	0	0	300	0	0	300
Total HRA	12,549	6,741	-2,996	16,294	4,400	-865	19,829
Total Earmarked Reserves	29,621	19,220	-7,165	41,676	14,398	-9,117	46,958

General Revenue Grants (Ring-fenced)

The reserve contains grants which have been received but not spent but which are ring-fenced for a specific purpose in future years.

S106 Contributions

These are developer contributions towards future maintenance and infrastructure costs relating to future growth development across Northampton.

Supporting Business/Economic Growth

This reserve has been set up to support business and economic growth in the local area.

Service Improvements/Performance and Change

This reserve will continue to support strategic business reviews and other service reviews that will improve the performance of the Council.

General Earmarked Reserves

The General Reserve allows the Council to commit funding to individual projects which may spread across more than one year.

Delapre Abbey

This reserve is set aside to support the restoration of Delapre Abbey.

Specific Carry Forwards

Monies received in the current financial year that are required for future years are held in this reserve.

Strategic Investment Reserve

The Council has set aside funding to support future Invest to Save initiatives and meet strategic priorities. This reserve has strict criteria before monies can be drawn down. The criteria are set out in the Medium Term Financial Plan 2015-20.

New Homes Bonus

Some of the New Homes Bonus funding is set aside to support local infrastructure projects and initiatives which provide additional economic benefit within the borough.

Financial Pressures Reserve

The Council has set aside monies to assist with mitigation of specific risks facing the Council. These risks are set out in more detail in the Medium Term Financial Plan 2015-20.

Insurance Reserve

This reserve assists the Council in managing its liabilities surrounding future Insurance Claims.

Technical Reserves

These reserves are set aside to assist the Council with managing cash flow accounting and new policy, legislative and technical changes across local government. The majority of this reserve is set aside to manage the current NNDR Collection Fund deficit.

HRA Earmarked Reserves

These reserves contain amounts specifically set aside to finance HRA projects. The money in these reserves must be used on the Housing Revenue Account.

9. OTHER COMPREHENSIVE EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

2013/14 £000s	Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	2014/15 £000s
	Revaluation Reserve	
-11,211	General Fund Revaluation Gains	-2,943
1,177	General Fund Revaluation Losses	2,411
-574	HRA Revaluation Gains	-831
80	HRA Revaluation Losses	28
-10,528	Total	-1,335
10,301	Actuarial Gains & Losses to the Pensions Reserve	16,864
-227	Other Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	15,529

10. OTHER OPERATING EXPENDITURE

2013/14 £000s	Other Operating Expenditure	2014/15 £000s
1,014	Parish council precepts	1,046
-20	Levies	-21
869	Payments to the Government Housing Capital Receipts Pool	955
141	Trading	1,418
968	Gains/Losses on the disposal of non-current assets	1,732
2,972	Total	5,130

11. FINANCING AND INVESTMENT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

2013/14 £000s	Financing And Investment Income And Expenditure	2014/15 £000s
7,746	Interest payable and similar charges	8,121
5,517	Pensions interest cost and expected return on pensions assets	5,555
-676	Interest receivable and similar charges	-1,327
-352	Income and expenditure in relation to investment properties and changes in their fair value	-122
12,235	Total	12,227

12. TAXATION AND NON SPECIFIC GRANT INCOME

2013/14 £000s	Taxation And Non Specific Grant Income	2014/15 £000s
-13,380	Council tax income	-13,796
-23,928	Capital grants and contributions	-22,310
-8,971	Revenue Support Grant	-6,958
-5,948	Non domestic rates	-6,701
-4,203	Non-ring fenced government grants	-4,854
0	Donated Assets	-57
-56,430	Total	-54,676

13. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

a) Movement

Movements in 2014/15	Council Dwellings £000s	Housing Land and Buildings £000s	Other Land and Buildings £000s	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment £000s	Infrastructure Assets £000s	Community Assets £000s	Surplus Assets £000s	Assets Under Construction £000s	Total Property, Plant and Equipment £000s
Cost or Valuation									
At 1st April 2014	371,882	18,382	89,480	3,156	2,203	13,174	365	192	498,834
Additions	29,718	33	4,974	362	327	412	215	4,362	40,403
Donations	0	0	1,878	0	0	571	0	0	2,449
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	73	553	720	-254	0	-289	0	0	803
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	2,791	11	-14,958	-2,518	0	0	0	0	-14,674
Derecognition – disposals	-2,946	-88	-694	-19	0	0	0	0	-3,747
Derecognition – other	-3,887	-65	-65	0	0	0	0	0	-4,017
Assets reclassified (to) / from Held for sale	0	0	-666	0	0	0	-14	0	-680
Other movements in cost or valuation	0	0	3	1	0	15	14	-23	10
At 31 March 2015	397,631	18,826	80,672	728	2,530	13,883	580	4,531	519,381
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment									
At 1 April 2014	9,617	732	1,853	480	360	81	7	0	13,130
Depreciation Charge	8,604	332	2,291	577	59	160	2	0	12,025
Depreciation written out to the revaluation reserve	0	-177	-34	-170	0	-151	0	0	-532
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	-12,336	0	-1,568	-713	0	0	0	0	-14,617
Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	0	1,050	0	0	0	0	0	1,050
Derecognition – Disposals	-70	-1	0	-8	0	0	0	0	-79
Derecognition – other	-762	-7	-15	0	0	0	0	0	-784
Other Movements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
At 31 March 2015	5,053	879	3,577	166	419	90	9	0	10,193
Net Book Value									
At 31 March 2014	362,265	17,650	87,627	2,676	1,843	13,093	358	192	485,704
At 31 March 2015	392,578	17,947	77,095	562	2,111	13,793	571	4,531	509,188

Movements in 2013/14	Council Dwellings £000s	Housing Land and Buildings £000s	Other Land and Buildings £000s	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment £000s	Infrastructure Assets £000s	Community Assets £000s	Surplus Assets £000s	Assets Under Construction £000s	Total Property, Plant and Equipment £000s
Cost or Valuation									
At 1st April 2013	361,264	18,307	80,094	2,913	2,134	5,325	365	1,789	472,191
Additions	24,371	0	9,111	979	69	565	0	191	35,286
Donations	0	0	1,500	0	0	0	0	0	1,500
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	-42	353	2,410	-1	0	7,160	0	0	9,880
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	-9,804	18	-2,194	-722	0	0	0	0	-12,702
Derecognition – disposals	-1,893	-269	-1,674	-14	0	0	0	0	-3,850
Derecognition – other	-2,014	-27	-1,044	0	0	0	0	0	-3,085
Assets reclassified (to) / from Held for sale	0	0	-457	0	0	124	0	0	-333
Other movements in cost or valuation	0	0	1,734	0	0	0	0	-1,787	-53
At 31 March 2014	371,882	18,382	89,480	3,155	2,203	13,174	365	193	498,834
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment									
At 1 April 2013	-7,707	-599	-2,414	-442	-302	-17	-5	0	-11,486
Depreciation Charge	-8,150	-324	-1,351	-777	-58	-80	-2	0	-10,742
Depreciation written out to the revaluation reserve	0	182	317	133	0	16	0	0	648
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	5,914	0	1,445	600	0	0	0	0	7,959
Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derecognition – Disposals	41	5	8	6	0	0	0	0	60
Derecognition – other	285	4	142	0	0	0	0	0	431
Other Movements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
At 31 March 2014	-9,617	-732	-1,853	-480	-360	-81	-7	0	-13,130
Net Book Value									
At 31 March 2013	353,557	17,708	77,680	2,471	1,832	5,308	360	1,789	460,705
At 31 March 2014	362,265	17,650	87,627	2,675	1,843	13,093	358	193	485,704

b) Depreciation

The useful lives and depreciation rates used in the calculation of depreciation are detailed in accounting policy 'o'.

c) Revaluations

The Authority carries out a rolling programme that ensures that all Property, Plant and Equipment required to be measured at fair value is revalued at least every five years. All valuations were carried out internally. Valuations of land and buildings were carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. Valuations of vehicles, plant, furniture, and equipment are based on current prices where there is an active second-hand market or latest list prices adjusted for the condition of the asset.

The main Housing stock was initially valued by the Beacon Method at April 2000. A rolling programme of revaluation exists whereby approximately 20% of the Housing Stock is revalued each year and the average percentage change established on the revalued properties is then applied to the remaining stock.

The significant assumptions applied in estimating the fair values are:

- Each property has good title
- Each property is not subject to flooding, subsidence, shrinkage, or other such hazards
- The land is not affected in any way by contamination
- Each property is free from structural defect and is in reasonable condition
- Where properties are vacant, the current and future use are the same with no potential redevelopment of the site

	Council Dwellings	Housing Land & Build.	Other Land & Build.	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equip.	Surplus Assets	Total
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Valued at fair value in:						
2014/15	367,235	12,491	56,417	328	0	436,471
2013/14	327,904	12,044	52,092	2,176	0	394,216
2012/13	19,607	163	14,920	0	6	34,696
2011/12	0	0	578	0	0	578
2010/11	0	6,143	4,469	0	359	10,971
2009/10	0	32	6,810	0	0	6,842
Total	714,746	30,873	135,286	2,504	365	883,774

d) Information on Assets Held

31 March 2014 Number	Information on Assets Held	31 March 2015 Number
	Operational Assets	
11,969	Council Dwellings	11,883
	Other Land and Buildings	
27	Council Houses not used as dwellings - Community Rooms	26
81	Shared Ownership Properties	79
3,130	Council Garages	3,127
21	Other Housing Properties	21
66	Operational Shops	66
62.88ha	Allotments	62.88ha
7	Sports & Leisure Centres	7
23	Community Centres	24
1	Museums, Art Galleries	1
1	Open Markets	1
8	Public Conveniences	8
5	Multi-Storey Pay & Display Car Parks	5
1	Local Area Offices	1
3	Central Administrative Offices	3
1	Gypsy Site	1
1	Bus Station	1
18	Surface Pay & Display Car Parks	17
7	Pavilions	7
1	Depots	1
14	Sub-Depots	14
81	Infrastructure	84
174	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment	174
	Community Assets	
887.45ha	Parks and Open Spaces	925.53ha
1	Guildhall	1
1	Historical Buildings	1
2	Monuments/Memorials/Exhibitions	2
8	Cemeteries	8
	Heritage Assets	
37	Buildings & Statuary	37
163	Museum Exhibits	164
123	Guildhall Contents	123
15	Mayoral Regalia	15
	Non-operational Assets	
290	Commercial Property (Units)	287
65.97ha	Agricultural Land	65.97ha
1	Golf Course	1
1	Cinepod	1
1	Theatres	1
53	Intangible Assets	53

e) Donated Assets

During the financial year 2014/15, the Council received land and building assets from Homes and Communities Agency with a value of £2.45m. The Museum received one painting and a set of 12 drawings to the value of £57k.

During the financial year 2013/14, the Council received donated assets from West Northamptonshire Development Corporation with a value of £1.5m, due to the closure of the Corporation on 31 March 2014.

f) Commitments under Capital Contracts

At 31 March 2015, the Authority has one committed contract for the construction or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment in 2015/16 and future years budgeted to cost £1,289k.

Scheme	Contractor	2015/16 £000s	2016/17 £000s	2017/18 £000s	2018/19 £000s	Basis of Commitment
Greyfriars Demolition	DSM Demolition	1,289	0	0	0	Demolition works

14. HERITAGE ASSETS

Reconciliation of the heritage assets held by the Authority:

Movements in 2014/15	Historic Buildings & Statuary £000s	Museum Exhibits £000s	Mayoral Regalia £000s	Guildhall Artefacts £000s	Total Heritage Assets £000s
Cost or Valuation					
1 April 2014	5,161	29,655	48	1,932	36,796
Additions	919	3	0	0	922
Donations	0	57	0	0	57
Derocognition - Disposals	0	-8,000	0	0	-8,000
Other movements in cost or valuation	0	3	0	0	3
31 March 2015	6,080	21,718	48	1,932	29,778
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment					
1 April 2014	204	0	0	0	204
Depreciation Charge	90	0	0	0	90
31 March 2015	294	0	0	0	294
Net Book Value					
at 31 March 2014	4,957	29,655	48	1,932	36,592
at 31 March 2015	5,786	21,718	48	1,932	29,484

Heritage Assets	Historic Buildings & Statuary £000s	Museum Exhibits £000s	Mayoral Regalia £000s	Guildhall Artefacts £000s	Total Heritage Assets £000s
Cost or Valuation					
1 April 2013	4,927	29,655	48	1,932	36,562
Additions	234	0	0	0	234
Disposals	0	0	0	0	0
31 March 2014	5,161	29,655	48	1,932	36,796
Depreciation and Impairment					
1 April 2013	-114	0	0	0	-114
Depreciation	-89	0	0	0	-89
31 March 2014	-203	0	0	0	-203
Net Book Value					
at 31 March 2013	4,813	29,655	48	1,932	36,448
at 31 March 2014	4,958	29,655	48	1,932	36,593

Buildings and Statuary

Historic Buildings that were previously included in Community Assets were valued as part of the five-year rolling programme of valuations undertaken by the Council's internal valuers. Statuary has been valued at market valuations by Art and Antiques Ltd in March 2012.

Museum Exhibits

Museum Exhibits were valued in March 2010 by Arts and Antiques Ltd for insurance purposes: these valuations are based on market values. Of particular interest is the shoe collection, which is the largest collection of shoe heritage in the world and is designated as being of national importance.

Of the £8m disposal, materially this relates to £7.7m received from the sale of the Egyptian statue, Sekhemka. This is expected to be reinvested in the future extension and refurbishment of the Northampton Central Museum.

Mayoral Regalia

These comprise of the chains and pendants of office and were valued in March 2010 by Arts and Antiques Ltd for insurance purposes. These valuations are based on market values.

Guildhall Artefacts

These are items within the Guildhall such as paintings, clocks, lighting and furniture. Again, they were valued in March 2010 based on market values by Arts and Antiques Ltd for insurance purposes.

Enhancements of Heritage Assets

Enhancements on Heritage Assets reflect improvement works undertaken at Delapre Abbey and restorations to various artworks.

15. INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

a) 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 £000s	Investment Properties	2014/15 £000s
-525	Rental income from investment property	522
22	Direct operating expenses arising from investment property	-108
-503	Net (gain) / loss	414

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.

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

2013/14 £000s	Investment Property Valuations	2014/15 £000s
7,398	Balance at start of the year	7,479
	Additions:	
0	Construction	223
0	Subsequent expenditure	-262
28	Disposals	-132
	Transfers:	
53	to/from Property, Plant and Equipment	-13
7,479	Balance at end of year	7,295

16. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

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

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

	Purchased Assets
	£000s
3 Years	455
5 Years	424
10 Years	155
Total	1,035

The carrying amount of intangible assets is amortised on a straight-line basis. The amortisation of £891k charged to revenue in 2013/14 was charged to the appropriate cost centres and then absorbed as an overhead across all the service headings in the Net Expenditure of Services where the original service charged was an overhead. It is not, therefore, possible to quantify exactly how much of the amortisation is attributable to each service heading.

b) Movements

2013/14		Intangible Assets	2014/15	
Other Assets £000s	Total £000s		Other Assets £000s	Total £000s
		Balance at start of year		
5,376	5,376	Gross carrying amounts	5,090	5,090
-3,162	-3,162	Accumulated amortisation	-3,559	-3,559
2,214	2,214	Net carrying amount at start of year	1,531	1,531
533	533	Purchases	46	46
-819	-819	Disposals - Gross value	0	0
493	493	Disposals - Amortisation	0	0
-891	-891	Amortisation for the Period	-542	-542
1,530	1,530	Net carrying amount at end of year	1,035	1,035
		Comprising:		
5,091	5,091	Gross carrying amounts	5,136	5,136
-3,560	-3,560	Accumulated Amortisation	-4,101	-4,101
1,531	1,531	Net carrying amount at end of year	1,035	1,035

c) Material Items

There is one item of capitalised software that is individually material to the financial statements:

Carrying Amount 31 March 2014 £000s	Material Intangible Assets	Carrying Amount 31 March 15 £000s	Remaining Amortisation Period
665	IBS - Housing Management System	443	3 Years

17. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

a) Categories of Financial Instruments

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

Categories of Financial Instruments	Long-Term		Current	
	31 March 2014 £000s	31 March 2015 £000s	31 March 2014 £000s	31 March 2015 £000s
Investments				
Loans and receivables	0	2,507	70,671	52,457
Available for sale financial assets	0	0	0	10,031
Debtors				
Loans and receivables	8,996	15,090	10,726	13,435
Borrowings				
Financial Liabilities at amortised cost	-210,126	-221,289	-16,283	-2,628
Other Long Term Liabilities				
PFI and finance leases	-496	-348	0	0
Creditors				
Financial Liabilities at amortised cost	-8,233	-7,377	-12,919	-15,325
Financial Liabilities carried at contract amount	-8,233	-7,377	-12,919	-15,325

b) Reclassifications

There have been no reclassifications of financial instruments during the year.

c) Income, Expense, Gains, and Losses

2013/14				Income, Expense, Gains and Losses	2014/15			
Financial Liabilities measured at amortised cost £000s	Financial Assets: Loans and Receivables £000s	Financial Assets: Available for Sale £000s	Total £000s		Financial Liabilities measured at amortised cost £000s	Financial Assets: Loans and Receivables £000s	Financial Assets: Available for Sale £000s	Total £000s
7,746	0	0	7,746	Interest expenditure	8,121	0	0	8,121
0	902	0	902	Impairment losses	0	1,025	0	1,025
7,746	902	0	8,648	Total Expense in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	8,121	1,025	0	9,146
0	-675	0	-675	Interest income	0	-1,324	0	-1,324
0	0	0	0	Increases in fair value	0	0	-6	-6
0	-675	0	-675	Total Income in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	-1,324	-6	-1,330
7,746	227	0	7,973	Net gain/(loss) for the year	8,121	-299	-6	7,816

The Authority did not have any Assets and Liabilities at Fair Value through Profit and Loss for either 2013-14 or 2014-15.

d) Fair Values of Assets and Liabilities

Financial liabilities, financial assets represented by loans and receivables, and long term debtors and creditors are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost. Their fair value can be assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that will take place over the remaining term of the investments, using the following assumptions.

- Ranges of estimated interest rates and discount rates at 31 March 2015:
 - 1.11% to 3.08% for loans from the PWLB, based on new lending rates for equivalent loans at that date
 - 2.41% to 3.13% for other loans payable, based on discount rates applying at that date
 - 0.37% to 1.10% for loans receivable, based on new market rates for equivalent loans at that date
- No early repayment or impairment is recognised
- The fair value of trade and other receivables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.

The fair values calculated are as follows:

	31 March 2014		31 March 2015	
	Carrying amount	Fair value	Carrying amount	Fair value
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Financial Liabilities	-30,359	-30,685	-17,953	-18,051
Long Term Creditors	-220,520	-197,886	-229,014	-249,351

The fair value of liabilities at 31 March 2015 was higher than the carrying amount at the same date because the Authority's portfolio of loans included a number of fixed rate loans where the interest payable was higher than the prevailing rates at the Balance Sheet date. This showed a notional future loss (based on economic conditions at 31 March 2015) arising from a commitment to pay interest to lenders above current market rates.

	31 March 2014		31 March 2015	
	Carrying amount	Fair value	Carrying amount	Fair value
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Loans and Receivables	81,690	81,736	68,399	68,435
Available for Sale	0	0	10,031	10,031
Long Term Debtors	8,996	8,996	15,090	15,090

The fair value of the assets at 31 March 2015 is marginally higher than the carrying amount at the same date because the Authority's portfolio of investments includes a number of fixed rate investments where the interest receivable is higher than the prevailing rates at the Balance Sheet date. This shows a notional future gain (based on economic conditions at 31 March 2015 respectively) attributable to the commitment to receive interest above current market rates.

Available for sale assets and assets and liabilities at fair value through profit or loss are carried in the Balance Sheet at their fair value. These fair values are based on public price quotations where there is an active market for the instrument.

e) Short Term Borrowing

31 March 2014 £000s	Short Term Borrowing	31 March 2015 £000s
90	Billing Parish Council 7 day notice account	100
189	Northampton Volunteer Bureau 7 day notice account	189
22	HCA principal due within 1 year	24
15,721	LOBO Loans principal due within 1 year	0
261	PWLB Loans principal due within 1 year	2,315
16,283	Total	2,628

f) Long Term Borrowing

31 March 2014 £000s	Long Term Borrowing	31 March 2015 £000s
	Analysis of loans by type	
199,910	Public Works Loan Board	203,416
9,068	Money Market LOBOs	9,068
1,148	Homes & Communities Agency	1,124
0	Growing Places Fund	6,640
0	Local Infrastructure Fund	1,041
210,126	Total	221,289
	Analysis of loans by maturity	
2,259	Maturing in 1-2 years	6,296
18,299	Maturing in 2-5 years	16,932
16,312	Maturing in 5-10 years	28,522
173,256	Maturing in over 10 years	169,539
210,126	Total	221,289

g) Investments

31 March 2014 £000s	Investment Type	31 March 2015 £000s
	Included in Cash and Cash Equivalents	
21,681	Deposit and Call Accounts	370
22,860	Money Market Funds	18,473
44,541	Total - Cash and Cash Equivalents	18,843
	Investments:	
	Current Investments - Under 1 Year	
28,612	Fixed Term Investments	33,111
	Long Term Investments - Over 1 Year	
0	Fixed Term Investments	2,507
28,612	Total - Investments	35,618
	Available for Sale Financial Instruments:	
	Current Investments - Under 1 Year	
0	Fixed Term Investments	10,031
0	Total - Available for Sale Financial Instruments	10,031
73,153	Total	64,492

h) Soft Loans

The Council has made loans to two local sports club. These have been assessed as material soft loans.

One loan has been made to Northampton Town Football Club (NTFC) to redevelop the Sixfields Stadium.

The other loan has been made to Northampton Rugby Football Club (NRFC) to redevelop the Franklins Garden Stadium.

2013/14 £000s	Material Soft Loans	2014/15 £000s
0	Balance at 1 April 2014	9,057
10,000	Nominal value of new loans granted in year	5,750
-974	Fair value adjustment on initial recognition	-609
31	Write down of fair value adjustments in year	190
0	Loans repaid	-235
9,057	Balance at 31 March 2015	14,153

The interest rate used to calculate the fair value of these soft loans has been arrived at by taking the EU reference rate at the start date of the loan and adding a margin of 400 basis points (4%) to reflect the Council's risk in the loans.

18. INVENTORIES

	Westbridge Depot Main Stores £000s	Sub Stores £000s	Other Stores £000s	Total £000s
2013/14				
Balance outstanding at start of year	0	0	67	67
Purchases	1,264	0	135	1,398
Revaluations	0	0	1	1
Recognised as an expense in the year	-1,194	0	-100	-1,294
Written off balances	-68	0	-7	-75
Reclassification / Transfers	68	0	0	68
Balance outstanding at year end	69	0	95	164
2014/15				
Balance outstanding at start of year	69	0	95	164
Purchases	100	0	106	206
Recognised as an expense in the year	-147	0	-125	-272
Written off balances	-22	0	-4	-26
Balance outstanding at year end	0	0	72	72

19. CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS

In 2014/15, the Council did not have any external construction contracts in progress.

20. DEBTORS

Debtors	Long-term	Long-term	Short-term	Short-term
	31 March 2014	31 March 2015	31 March 2014	31 March 2015
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Central Government Bodies	0	0	10,456	14,102
Less Impairment Allowance	0	0	0	0
Central Government Bodies	0	0	10,456	14,102
Other Local Authorities	0	0	4,753	3,071
Less Impairment Allowance	0	0	-104	-126
Other Local Authorities	0	0	4,649	2,946
NHS Bodies	0	0	28	3
Less Impairment Allowance	0	0	-10	0
NHS Bodies	0	0	17	3
Other Entities & Individuals	8,996	15,090	12,719	15,994
Less Impairment Allowance	0	0	-8,192	-8,722
Other Entities & Individuals	8,996	15,090	4,527	7,272
TOTAL	8,996	15,090	19,650	24,322

21. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

31 March 2014	Cash and Cash Equivalents	31 March 2015
£000s		£000s
13	Cash held by the authority	10
13	Total Cash & Giro Accounts	10
-2,494	Operating Account used as part of cash management/ overdraft	473
21,681	Deposit Account Facilities with banks	370
22,860	Deposits with money market funds	18,473
44,541	Total Cash Equivalents	18,843
42,060	Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	19,326

22. CURRENT ASSETS HELD FOR SALE

Current 2013/14 £000s	Assets Held for Sale	Current 2014/15 £000s
1,144	Balance outstanding at start of year	1,309
	Assets newly classified as held for sale:	
333	Property Plant and Equipment	679
-168	Assets sold	-515
1,309	Balance outstanding at year end	1,474

Note: All assets transferred to Held for Sale in 2014/15 are classified as current assets as disposal within 12 months is anticipated.

23. CREDITORS

31 March 2014 £000s	Creditors	31 March 2015 £000s
-3,818	Central Government Bodies	-7,078
-8,800	Other Local Authorities	-14,024
-14	Public Corporations and Trading Funds	0
-8,917	Other entities and Individuals	-5,841
-21,548	Total	-26,944

24. PROVISIONS

Long Term Provisions

Long Term Provisions	Insurance Provision £000s	Business Rates Appeals £000s	Other Provisions £000s	Total £000s
Balance at 1 April 2014	-84	-1,183	-5	-1,272
Transferred to Short Term Provisions	0	1,183	0	1,183
Additional Provisions Made	-24	0	0	-24
Amounts Used	50	0	0	50
Unused Amounts Reversed	34	0	0	34
Balance at 31 March 2015	-24	0	-5	-29

Short Term Provisions

Short Term Provisions	Insurance Provision £000s	Business Rates Appeals £000s	Accumulated Absences £000s	Total £000s
Balance at 1 April 2014	-284	-4	-104	-392
Transferred from Long Term Provisions	0	-1,183	0	-1,183
Additional provisions made	-249	-1,074	-2	-1,325
Amounts used	153	641	46	840
Unused amounts reversed	68	0	0	68
Balance at 31 March 2015	-312	-1,621	-60	-1,992

a) Insurance Provision

The provision covers the following risks: -

- Liability claims under the policy excess arising from 1992/93 onwards.
- Claims under the policy excess on the Council's own dwellings.
- Claims over the "paid locally" figure but under the excess on the Council's motor vehicles.
- Death-in-service cover for employees who have council loans for the purchase of cars required for essential purposes.
- Other small miscellaneous items arising from time to time.

External premiums are charged direct to the revenue accounts, as are the costs of the internal Insurance Provision. This provision is reduced as claims are settled.

The estimated cost of outstanding claims is held in the Insurance provision as at 31st March 2015; an actuarial forecast of future valid claims made against 2014/15 and before is held in the Insurance Reserve.

b) Business Rates Appeals Provision

Following the localisation of the Business Rates Retention Scheme, NBC is now liable for the impact of its share of the effects of any appeals against business rates ratings assessments decided by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), including the effects of any backdating. The provision at 31st March 2015 is therefore based on the number of appeals that have been made to the VOA at the balance sheet date, split between long-term and short-term, depending on when the appeals are expected to be settled. Disclosure has been made in the Contingent Liabilities note (note 46) for the risk of appeals being made in the future.

This note excludes the Collection Fund provisions for appeals, which are shown in the Collection Fund notes in section H to these Accounts.

c) Other

The balance of £5k on Long Term Provisions represents a small provision in respect of the Rent Assistance and Rent Guarantee Schemes.

The balance of £60k on Short Term Provisions represents a provision for payments for leave time owed to staff at 31st March; there is unlikely to be a claim for this so this is represented as a provision rather than a charge to the accounts.

25. USABLE RESERVES

Movements in the Authority’s usable reserves are detailed in the Movement in Reserves Statement and note 7 and further detail about earmarked reserves is shown in Note 8.

26. UNUSABLE RESERVES

a) Balances

31 March 2014 £000s	Unusable Reserves	31 March 20145 £000s
-60,056	Revaluation Reserve	-51,633
943	Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	1,362
0	Available for Sale Financial Instruments Reserve	-6
-251,877	Capital Adjustment Account	-264,109
-155	Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve	-147
135,817	Pensions Reserve	142,680
3,188	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	5,899
104	Short Term Compensated Absences Account	60
-172,036	Total	-165,895

b) Revaluation Reserve

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

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

The Reserve contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 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			Revaluation Reserve	2014/15		
General Fund £000s	Housing Revenue Account £000s	TOTAL £000s		General Fund £000s	Housing Revenue Account £000s	TOTAL £000s
-44,675	-6,039	-50,714	Balance at 1 April	-53,913	-6,143	-60,056
-11,211	-574	-11,785	Upward Revaluation of assets	-2,943	-831	-3,774
1,177	79	1,256	Downward Revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	2,411	28	2,439
-10,034	-495	-10,529	Surplus or Deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-532	-803	-1,335
407	168	575	Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	835	164	999
389	223	612	Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	8,465	294	8,759
796	391	1,187	Amounts written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	9,300	458	9,758
-53,913	-6,143	-60,056	Balance at 31 March	-45,145	-6,488	-51,633

c) Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

The Financial Instruments Adjustment Account is used to reconcile the accounting treatment of Financial Instruments that has been adopted and the actual charges that must be made under statute.

2013/14 £000s	Financial Instruments Adjustments Account	2014/15 £000s
41	Balance as at 1 April	943
-41	Transitional Arrangements - Unattached Premia	0
943	Soft Loans - Statutory Fair Value Adjustments	419
943	Balance as at 31 March	1,362

d) 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.

2013/14 £000s	Available for Sale Financial Instruments Reserve	2014/15 £000s
0	Balance as at 1 April	0
0	Upward Revaluation of Investments	-6
	Surplus or Deficit on revaluation of Investments not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	
0		-6
0	Balance as at 31 March	-6

e) 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 7 provides details of the source of all the transactions posted to the Account, apart from those involving the Revaluation Reserve.

2013/14			Capital Adjustment Account	2014/15		
General Fund £000s	HRA £000s	Total £000s		General Fund £000s	HRA £000s	Total £000s
-61,289	-180,089	-241,378	Balance at 1 April	-62,569	-189,308	-251,877
			Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:			
2,475	8,477	10,952	Charges for depreciation and impairment of non current assets	4,226	8,939	13,165
2,309	18,700	21,009	Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	16,140	18,124	34,264
-1,437	-14,829	-16,266	Revaluation gains on Property, Plant and Equipment	-945	-33,261	-34,206
329	0	329	Amortisation of intangible assets	320	0	320
2,841	0	2,841	Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	12,876	0	12,876
3,068	3,868	6,936	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	9,532	6,145	15,677
9,585	16,216	25,801	Total	42,149	-53	42,096
-796	-390	-1,186	Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	-9,300	-457	-9,757
8,789	15,826	24,615	Net written out amount of the cost of the Revaluation Reserve	32,849	-510	32,339
			Capital financing applied in the year:			
-2,319	-3,748	-6,067	Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to Finance new capital expenditure	-1,268	-2,115	-3,383
0	-4,286	-4,286	Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	-12,328	-12,328
-4,992	-17,020	-22,012	Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital expenditure	-8,315	-15,522	-23,837
-1,404	0	-1,404	- Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	-1,130	0	-1,130
-1,065	0	-1,065	Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	-1,253	0	-1,253
-132	0	-132	Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	-2,714	0	-2,714
-9,912	-25,054	-34,966	Total	-14,680	-29,965	-44,645
-157	9	-148	Movements in the market value of Investment Properties debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	182	-51	131
0	0	0	Movement in the Donated Assets Account credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	-57	0	-57
-62,569	-189,308	-251,877	Balance at 31 March	-44,275	-219,834	-264,109

f) Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve

The Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve holds the gains recognised on the disposal of noncurrent 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.

2013/14 £000s	Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve	2014/15 £000s
-214	Balance as at 1 April	-155
0	Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	0
59	Transfer to the Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash	8
-155	Balance as at 31 March	-147

g) 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 a benefit 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 £000s	Pensions Reserve	2014/15 £000s
127,421	Balance as at 1 April	135,817
10,301	Actuarial gains or losses on pension assets and liabilities	16,864
6,083	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	-2,486
-7,981	Employer’s pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	-7,451
-7	Pension contribution adjustment	-64
135,817	Balance as at 31 March	142,680

h) Collection Fund Adjustment Account

The Collection Fund Adjustment Account manages the differences arising from the recognition of Council Tax and NNDR income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as it falls due compared with the statutory arrangements for paying across amounts to the General Fund from the Collection Fund.

2013/14 £000s	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	2014/15 £000s
-33	Balance as at 1 April	3,188
-243	Amounts by which council tax income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	44
3,464	Amounts by which NNDR income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from NNDR income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	2,667
3,188	Balance as at 31 March	5,899

i) Unequal Pay Back Pay Account

The Unequal Pay Back Pay Account compensates for the differences between the rate at which the Authority provides for the potential costs of back pay settlements in relation to Equal Pay cases and the ability under statutory provisions to defer the impact on the General Fund Balance until such time as cash might be paid out to claimants. The information available at this time is that any further settlements of Unequal Pay Back Pay are unlikely to be made.

j) Short Term Compensated Absences Account

The Short Term Compensated 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.

2013/14 £000s	Short Term Compensated Absences Account	2014/15 £000s
159	Balance as at 1 April	104
-55	Movements in year	-44
104	Balance as at 31 March	60

27. CASH FLOW STATEMENT – OPERATING ACTIVITIES

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items: (Note that activities for the Group Accounts (including Northampton Partnership Homes) are included in the highlighted column on the right).

2013/14 £000	Operating Activities	2014/15 £000	Group Accounts 2014/15 £000
10,952	Depreciation	13,165	13,165
4,744	Impairment and downward valuations	58	58
329	Amortisation	320	320
1,722	Increase/(decrease) in creditors	-764	2,509
4,164	Increase/(decrease) in debtors	-876	3,061
-97	Increase/(decrease) in inventories	92	12
-1,905	Movement in pension liability	-10,001	-10,058
1,141	Contributions to/(from) provisions	0	0
6,936	Carrying amount of non-current assets and non-current assets held for sale, sold or derecognised	15,677	15,677
854	Other non-cash items charged to the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services	1,706	1,706
28,840	Total	19,377	26,450

The surplus or deficit on the provision of services has been adjusted for the following items that are investing and financing activities:

2013/14 £000	Items removed from net cost of service that are investing/financing activities	2014/15 £000	Group Accounts 2014/15 £000
-5,965	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	-13,945	-13,945
-20,474	Any other items for which the cash effects are investing or financing cash flows	-26,220	-26,220
-26,439	Total	-40,165	-40,165

28. CASH FLOW STATEMENT - OPERATING ACTIVITIES (INTEREST)

2013/14 £000s	Operating Activities (Interest)	2014/15 £000s	Group Accounts 2014/15 £000s
1,734	Interest Received	1,097	1,097
-7,687	Interest Paid	-8,030	-8,030
-5,953	Total	-6,933	-6,933

29. CASH FLOW STATEMENT - INVESTING ACTIVITIES

2013/14 £000s	Cash Flows from Investing Activities	2014/15 £000s	Group Accounts 2014/15 £000s
-33,827	Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment, investment property and intangible assets	-38,625	-38,625
-2,000	Purchase of short and long term investments	-45,500	-45,500
-10,000	Long term loans granted	-7,150	-7,150
6,024	Proceeds from the sale of property plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	13,954	13,954
0	Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments	28,500	28,500
22,380	Other Receipts from Investing Activities	23,308	23,308
-17,423	Total Cash Flows from Investing Activities	-25,513	-25,513

30. CASH FLOW STATEMENT – FINANCING ACTIVITIES

2013/14 £000s	Cash Flows from Financing Activities	2014/15 £000s	Group Accounts 2014/15 £000s
10,095	Cash receipts of short and long term borrowing	13,465	13,465
-2,645	Billing Authorities - Council Tax and NNDR adjustments	90	90
-115	Repayment of Short-Term and Long-Term Borrowing	-140	-140
-190	Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases and on-balance sheet PFI contracts	-16,048	-16,048
243	Other items in relation to financing activities	-1,041	-1,041
7,388	Total Cash Flows from Financing Activities	-3,674	-3,674

31. 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 *CIPFA Service Reporting Code of Practice (SERCOP)*. However, decisions about resource allocation are taken by the Authority’s Cabinet on the basis of budget reports analysed across Directorates and 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 support services is budgeted for within the relevant department and not charged to other departments and directorates.

The income and expenditure of the Authority’s directorates recorded in the budget reports for the year is as follows:

a) Income and expenditure of the Authority’s Directorates Recorded in the Budget Reports for the Year 2014/15:

2014/15	Customers & Communities	Regeneration, Enterprise, and Planning	Borough Secretary	Housing General Fund	General Fund Total	HRA	Total
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Fees, Charges, & Other Service Income	-12,731	-3,942	-3,842	-1,508	-22,022	-67,225	-89,247
Government Grants	0	0	-75,328	0	-75,328	0	-75,328
Total Income	-12,731	-3,942	-79,170	-1,508	-97,350	-67,225	-164,575
Employee Expenses	6,193	3,429	6,386	1,866	17,875	9,145	27,020
Other Service Expenses	19,006	3,569	85,819	1,069	109,463	30,709	140,172
Total Expenditure	25,199	6,998	92,205	2,935	127,338	39,854	167,192
Total	12,468	3,056	13,035	1,427	29,988	-27,371	2,617

Income and expenditure of the Authority’s Directorates Recorded in the Budget Reports for the Year 2013/14:



2013/14	Customers & Communities	Regeneration, Enterprise, and Planning	Borough Secretary	Housing General Fund	General Fund Total	HRA	Total	Total
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Fees, Charges, & Other Service Income	-9,572	-4,748	-3,906	-2,112	-20,338	-53,244	-73,582	-72,128
Government Grants	0	-35	-75,890	0	-75,925	0	-75,925	-89,646
Total Income	-9,572	-4,783	-79,796	-2,112	-96,263	-53,244	-149,507	-161,774
Employee Expenses	6,007	3,691	7,764	2,551	20,013	11,316	31,329	36,655
Other Service Expenses	16,911	3,797	85,381	1,160	107,249	12,939	120,188	126,701
Total Expenditure	22,918	7,488	93,145	3,711	127,262	24,255	151,517	163,356
Total	13,346	2,705	13,349	1,599	30,999	-28,989	2,010	1,582

b) Reconciliation of Income and Expenditure Reported in Budget Reports to Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:

	2013/14 £000s	2014/15 £000s
Net expenditure in the Directorate Analysis	2,009	2,616
Amounts in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement not reported to management in the Analysis	11,112	8,757
Amounts included in the Analysis not included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	211	-1,296
Cost of Services in Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	13,332	10,077

c) Reconciliation to Subjective Analysis 2014/15:

Reconciliation to Subjective Analysis	2014/15							
	Customers & Communities	Regeneration, Enterprise, and Planning	Borough Secretary	Housing General Fund	HRA	Debt Financing	Other (Below the line)	Total
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Fees, charges and other service income	-12,780	-6,616	-3,842	-2,605	-67,225	0	-6,105	-99,174
Interest and investment income	0	0	0	0	-340	-1,027	0	-1,367
Income from council tax	0	0	0	0	0	0	-13,796	-13,796
Government grants and contributions	0	0	-75,328	0	-15,522	0	-19,253	-110,104
Employee expenses	6,841	3,752	-7,157	1,988	6,058	0	0	11,482
Other service expenses	19,234	3,777	86,279	1,106	31,125	0	0	141,521
Support service recharges	-1,458	11,439	-4,417	2,344	4,965	0	0	12,873
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	16,170	3,577	174	3	-6,028	0	0	13,896
Interest payments	0	0	0	0	6,351	1,811	0	8,162
Pensions interest cost and expected return on pensions assets	0	0	0	0	1,175	0	4,380	5,555
Precepts and levies	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,026	1,026
Payments to Housing Capital Receipts Pool	0	0	0	0	0	0	955	955
Gain or loss on disposal of non-current assets	520	-592	0	0	1,806	0	0	1,734
Surplus or deficit on the provision of services	28,527	15,337	-4,291	2,836	-37,635	784	-32,793	-27,237

Reconciliation to Subjective Analysis 2013/14:



Reconciliation to Subjective Analysis	2013/14							
	Customers & Communities	Regeneration, Enterprise, and Planning	Borough Secretary	Housing General Fund	HRA	Debt Financing	Other (Below the line)	Total
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Fees, charges and other service income	-9,572	-4,964	-79,471	-2,694	-67,357	0	-6,034	-170,092
Interest and investment income	0	0	0	0	-319	-405	0	-724
Income from council tax	0	0	0	0	0	0	-13,380	-13,380
Government grants and contributions	0	0	0	0	-17,020	0	-19,995	-37,015
Employee expenses	6,529	4,042	887	2,746	9,322	0	0	23,526
Other service expenses	17,081	3,817	85,752	1,178	27,471	0	0	135,299
Support service recharges	-2,379	409	-5,453	3,298	6,041	0	0	1,916
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	2,626	697	141	54	12,920	0	0	16,438
Interest payments	0	0	0	0	6,351	1,443	0	7,794
Pensions interest cost and expected return on pensions assets	0	0	0	0	1,481	0	4,036	5,517
Precepts and levies	0	0	0	0	0	0	993	993
Payments to Housing Capital Receipts Pool	0	0	0	0	0	0	869	869
Gain or loss on disposal of non-current assets	683	191	101	391	-398	0	0	968
Surplus or deficit on the provision of services	14,968	4,192	1,957	4,973	-21,508	1,038	-33,511	-27,891

32. TRADING ACCOUNTS

The Authority has established a trading unit where the service manager is required to operate in a commercial environment and balance their budget by generating income from other parts of the Authority or other organisations. Details of the unit are as follows:

2013/14 Net £000s	Trading Accounts	2014/15 Income £000s	2014/15 Exp. £000s	2014/15 Net £000s
-225	Property Management	-1,839	3,181	1,342
-225	Total Surplus\Deficit	-1,839	3,181	1,342

Property Management - Relates to the property costs of Industrial Units, Investment Property and Other Properties that the Council rents out.

Trading operations are incorporated into the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Some are an integral part of one of the Authority’s services to the public (e.g. markets), whilst others may be support services to the Authority’s services to the public. The expenditure of these operations is allocated or recharged to headings in the Net Operating Expenditure of Continuing Operations. Only a residual amount of the net surplus on trading operations is charged as Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure:

2013/14 Net £000s	Trading Undertakings	2014/15 Income £000s	2014/15 Exp. £000s	2014/15 Net £000s
503	Markets	-334	957	622
503	Total Surplus\Deficit	-334	957	622

Markets - This service maintains and manages the Northampton market square.

33. AGENCY SERVICES

An Agency agreement with the County Council commenced on 1st July 2003 which allows the Council to undertake a much smaller range of functions than under the previous Highways Agency Agreement.

2013/14 £000s	Agency Income and Expenditure	2014/15 £000s
264	Administration costs and ancillary services	268
-187	Income including transfer fees from NCC	-187
77	Net surplus / deficit arising on the agency agreement	82

34. POOLED BUDGETS

The Council has entered into a pooled budget arrangement with its partners, led by Northamptonshire County Council; to work together to increase the joint working they undertake to improve the well-being of children and young people in their area and to deliver the "Every Child Matters" agenda. In 2014/15, 2013/14 and 2012/13, the Borough's contribution to the pooled budget was £10,680.

The contributions were agreed to be in the following proportions for 2014/15:

Northamptonshire County Council	56%
Nene & Corby CCG	31%
Districts/Borough Councils in Northamptonshire (total)	11%
Police and Crime Commissioner	2%

The contributions are subject to change as per the agreement.

2013/14 £000s	Pooled Budgets	2014/15 £000s
-291	Balance B/f	-717
	Funding Provided to the Pool	
-11	Northampton BC	-11
-829	Other Partners	-963
-840	Total	-974
414	Expenditure met from the Pool	323
-717	Balance c/f	-1,368

35. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

The Authority paid the following amounts to members of the Council during the year:

2013/14 £000s	Members' Allowances	2014/15 £000s
	Expenditure	
27	Mayor/Deputy Mayor Allowance	14
446	Members' Allowances	401
1	Expenses	0
474	Total	415

36. OFFICERS' REMUNERATION

a) Senior Officers

Position	Position Group	Year	Note	Salary (inc Fees & Allowances) £000	Compensation for loss of Office £000	Total Remuneration excl Pension Contributions £000	Pension Contributions £000	Total Remuneration inc Pension Contributions £000
Chief Executive	Head of Paid Service	2014/15		138	0	138	18	157
		2013/14		138	0	138	18	157
Borough Secretary	Monitoring Officer	2014/15		81	0	81	11	92
		2013/14		79	0	79	11	90
Director of Customers & Communities	Director	2014/15		111	0	111	15	126
		2013/14		111	0	111	15	126
Director of Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning	Director	2014/15		105	0	105	14	119
		2013/14		105	0	105	14	119
Head of Customer & Cultural Services	Head of Service	2014/15		70	0	70	9	79
		2013/14		71	0	72	9	81
Head of West N'ptonshire Joint Planning Unit	Head of Service	2014/15		70	0	70	9	79
		2013/14		69	0	69	9	79
Head of Planning	Head of Service	2014/15	1	38	0	38	5	43
		2013/14		85	0	85	11	97
Head of Communities & Environment	Head of Service	2014/15	2	69	37	106	9	115
		2013/14		66	0	66	9	75
Head of Housing & Wellbeing	Head of Service	2014/15	3	3	0	3	0	3
		2013/14		0	0	0	0	0
Totals for the year:		2014/15	4	684	37	721	90	812
		2013/14		726	0	726	96	823

Notes: 2014/15

- 1 - Head of Planning Left 14 September 2014 - Annualised Salary £87k. This post is currently covered by an Interim.
- 2 - Head of Communities & Environment Left 31 March 2015 - The post was deleted.
- 3 - Head of Housing & Wellbeing commenced employment on 16th March 2015. The annualised salary is £70k.
- 4 - There are 2 posts that are not included in the figures above. One of which is the Head of Major Projects & Enterprise; which is currently covered by Interim. The other relates to the Council's Chief Finance Officer that is contracted out to Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) and fully remunerated by NCC this post will therefore be included in NCC's statement of Accounts.

b) Officers paid over £50,000

The Council is required, under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (regulation 7(2)) to disclose the number of employees whose remuneration was £50,000 or more (excluding employer's pension contributions). This is shown in bands of £5,000 in the table below:

Note: Senior Officers earning in excess of £50k have been excluded from this note as they are disclosed within Note 36a (Senior Officers).

2013/14 No. of Employees	Remuneration Band	2014/15 No. of Employees
3	£50,000 - £54,999	3
3	£55,000 - £59,999	0
1	£60,000 - £64,999	0

c) Exit Packages

Exit Package cost band (including special payments)	Number of compulsory redundancies		Number of other agreed departures		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	15	8	18	5	33	13	325	96
£20,001 - £40,000	1	1	6	0	7	1	251	37
£40,001 - £60,000	3	0	4	0	7	0	324	0
£60,001 - £80,000	1	0	2	0	3	0	73	0
£80,001 - £100,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£100,001 - £150,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	122	0
£150,001 - £200,000	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	21	9	30	5	50	14	1,095	133

The total cost of £1,228k in the table above includes £133k for exit packages that have been agreed, accrued for and charged to the authority's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the current year and £1,095k for 2013/14.

37. EXTERNAL AUDIT COSTS

The Authority has incurred the following costs in relation to the audit of the Statement of Accounts, certification of grant claims and statutory inspections and to non-audit services provided by the Authority’s external auditors:

2013/14 £000s	External Audit Costs	2014/15 £000s
107	Fees payable with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor (Section 5 Audit Commission Act 1998)	108
12	Fees payable for the certification of Grant Claims and Returns (Section 28 Audit Commission Act 1998)	15
119	Total	123

The Council’s appointed auditor for the 2014/15 and 2013/14 Statement of Accounts audits was KPMG LLP.

38. GRANT INCOME

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

Re-stated 2013/14 £000s	Grant Income	2014/15 £000s
	Credited to Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	
-8,971	Revenue Support Grant	-6,958
-163	Council tax freeze grant	-152
-2,042	New Homes Bonus	-2,815
-693	Business Rates related grants	-1,468
-2,000	WNDC - Bus Interchange	0
-1,500	WNDC - Transferred Assets	0
0	WNDC - Closure	-600
-17,000	Decent Homes Grant	-15,522
-148	St Crispins S106	0
-1,201	Princess Marina S106	0
0	DCLG Grant re Cosworth	-1,400
-227	Cherry Orchard S106	-377
0	Upton Country Park	-1,132
0	British Timken S106	-72
0	South Meadow Road	-716
0	Blackthorn Good Neighbours	-174
0	Heritage Lottery Fund	-114
0	Assets Transferred from HCA	-2,449
-627	Other Grants Individually Less Than £100,000	-173
-34,572	Total	-34,122
	Credited to Services	
-145	West Northants Development Corporation	0
-341	Additional Housing Administration Grant	-243
-187	Northampton County Council Contribution for Grounds Maintenance	-187
-1,477	Housing Benefit Administration Grant	-1,402
-31,375	HRA Rent Rebates Grant	-31,521
-439	Non HRA Rent Rebates	-440
-1,766	Northamptonshire County Council Recycling Credits	-2,237
-41,840	Rent Allowance Grant	-41,303
-386	Section 106 Contributions	-132
-126	Home choice funding	-105
-577	Joint Planning Unit Contribution	-434
0	Supporting People	-157
-141	HPDG Planning	-1,396
-1,391	Total of Other Grants not included in the above	0
-80,191	Total	-79,557

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

Current Liabilities

2013/14 £000s	Grant Income Unapplied - Current Liabilities	2014/15 £000s
	Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	
65	English Heritage Grant	0
124	Other Grants/Contributions Individually Less Than £100,000	21
189	Total - Capital Receipts in Advance	21
	Revenue Grants Receipts in Advance:	
41	Grants/Contributions Individually Less Than £100,000	15
230	Total - all Receipts in Advance	36

Long-Term Liabilities

2013/14 £000s	Grant Income Unapplied - Long-Term Liabilities	2014/15 £000s
	Capital Grants Receipts in Advance:	
873	S106 - SW Country Park - Swan Valley	873
442	S106 - Land at Upton SWD Ph1 re Country Park	442
125	S106 - Southern Development Link road	125
421	S106 - Sainsburys Sixfields	346
0	S106 - Newport Pagnell Rd Off-Site Open Space	103
307	S106 - Land at Booth Rise	850
115	S106 - British Timken	65
0	S106 - Former Millway School Site	122
1,900	S106 - Banbury Lane	1,493
278	S106 - Brackmills Point	60
395	S106 - Wellingborough Rd	437
0	S106 - Goldings School	218
1,400	Department of Communities and Local Government	0
1,100	West Northamptonshire Development Corporation	1,083
0	Albion Place Public Realm Contribution	150
506	Other Grants/Contributions Individually Less Than £100,000	518
7,862	Total - Capital Receipts in Advance	6,885
	Revenue Grants Receipts in Advance:	
155	S106 - Pineham	155
216	Other Grants/Contributions Individually Less Than £100,000	337
371	Total - Revenue Receipts in Advance	492
8,233	Total - all Receipts in Advance	7,377

39. RELATED PARTIES

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

Central Government

Central Government has effective control over the general operations of the Council. It is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Council operates and provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties (e.g. housing benefits). Grants received from government departments are set in Note 31 Amounts Reported for Resource Allocation Decisions. Any amounts outstanding are reported in Note 38 Grant Income.

Northampton Partnership Homes

Northampton Partnership Homes is a fully owned subsidiary of The Council, and is incorporated on the group accounts which are shown alongside the core financial statements. Northampton Partnership Homes was incorporated on the 30th April 2014 and commenced trading on the 5th January 2015. Northampton Partnership Homes is an Arm's Length Management Organisation that is wholly owned by the Council, but which has its own board of Directors. It is a company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) and is a not for profit organisation. Further information on Northampton Partnership Homes and details of transactions can be found in note 56 to the accounts.

Members of the Council

Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. The total of members' allowances paid in 2014/15 is show in Note 35.

During 2014/15 expenditure to the value of £2.221m (re-stated 2013/14 £2.289m) was paid or granted to parties where members had an interest or where they serve as a nominated representative on the outside body. Income to the value of £0.909m (re-stated 2013/14 £3.695m) was receivable from these parties. Parties with transactions over £200,000 are shown below:

Re-stated 2013/14 £000s	Related Parties - Expenditure	2014/15 £000s
678	Northampton Leisure Trust	630
401	Northampton Theatres Trust	427
229	West Northamptonshire Development Corporation	0
391	Brackmills Bid	369
284	Northampton Town Centre Bid	327

Re-stated 2013/14 £000s	Related Parties - Income	2014/15 £000s
-244	Northampton Leisure Trust	-244
-217	Northampton Theatres Trust	-240
-3,100	West Northamptonshire Development Corporation	0
-147	Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust	-286

At 31st March 2015, the outstanding balances with these parties were debtors of £72k (2013/14 £127k); creditors of £159k (2013/14 £69k).

Contracts were entered into in full compliance with the Council's standing orders and all grants were made with proper consideration of declarations of interests. The relevant members did not take part in any discussions or decisions that involved their disclosed interests. The Register of Members' Interest is open to public inspection at The Guildhall, Northampton during office hours and is available on the Council's website.

A number of the Members of Northampton Borough Council are also members of Northamptonshire County Council. Material transactions with Northamptonshire County Council have been disclosed elsewhere in the accounts, see Notes 34, 38, and 45.

Additionally, a number of Members are also Parish Councillors within the district of Northampton Borough Council. As above, these members did not take part in discussions related to these bodies.

One Member is also on the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) Board. SEMLEP is the economic development partnership for the South East Midlands, a company operated jointly by the public and private sectors. SEMLEP is the lead body for the Enterprise Zone, administered by NBC. Additionally, SEMLEP are the accountable body (through Luton Borough Council, the administering body) for payments from DCLG's Growing Places Fund. NBC took out a £6.6m Growing Places Fund loan in 2014/15, see Note 17f. There were no material transactions in 2013/14.

NBC is working in partnership with the Delapre Abbey Preservation Trust (DAPT) in regards to the Delapre Abbey Restoration Project, and has a Member on the DAPT Board of Trustees. There were no transactions between these two parties in 2014/15.

Senior Officers of the Council

During 2014/15 the only disclosures made by Senior Officers were in relation to roles at other Local Authority bodies, namely:

- 1) Northamptonshire County Council (see above within Members disclosures for reference of material transactions disclosed with NCC elsewhere in the accounts).
- 2) East Northamptonshire District Council (see 'Other Public Bodies' below).

Other Public Bodies

In 2013/14 the Council transferred the majority of its support services to LGSS, a Partnership established by the County Councils of Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire, where NBC is an Added Value Partner. Following this transfer, an NBC member is now a representative on the LGSS Panel.

The Chief Financial Officer (Section 151 Officer) for NBC is also contracted from LGSS, who is shared on a part-time basis with East Northamptonshire District Council.

The Council is also involved in a number of joint working initiatives across the county with various other Local Authorities, for instance the Joint Planning Unit. In this capacity, a number of NBC Members have representations on their running boards. None of these relationships are considered material to either party involved both in terms of the value of transactions or the potential for the authority to control or influence NBC’s actions to materially affect transactions or balances.

40. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND CAPITAL FINANCING

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

Re-stated 2013/14 £000s	Capital Expenditure and Financing	2014/15 £000s
216,615	Opening Capital Financing Requirement	232,042
	Capital Investment	
35,286	Property, Plant & Equipment	40,402
234	Heritage Assets	922
0	Investment Properties	223
533	Intangible Assets	46
2,841	Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	12,876
10,000	Loans to third parties	7,150
48,894	Total	61,619
	Sources of Finance	
-6,067	Capital Receipts	-3,383
-21,916	Government Grants and Other Contributions	-22,519
-1,065	Sums Set aside from Revenue	-1,253
0	Write Down of Third Party Loans	-235
-4,419	Direct Revenue contributions	-15,042
-33,467	Total	-42,432
232,042	Closing Capital Financing Requirement	251,229

2013/14 £000s	Capital Financing Requirement	2014/15 £000s
216,615	Opening Capital Financing Requirement	232,042
15,018	Increase in underlying need to borrow (unsupported by government financial assistance)	19,187
409	Assets acquired under finance lease	0
15,427	Increase/(decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement	19,187
232,042	Closing Capital Financing Requirement	251,229

41. LEASES

Authority as Lessee

Finance Leases

- a) The Council has a number of assets that are required to be treated as finance leases under IFRS accounting rules. These include recycling equipment, IT software and a specialist vehicle. The assets acquired under these leases are carried in the Balance Sheet at the following net amounts:

31 March 2014 £000s	Local Authority as Lessee - Finance Leases	31 March 2015 £000s
250	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment	225
400	Intangible Fixed Assets	272
650	Total	497

- b) 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 present value of the leases and the future minimum lease payments at the balance sheet date are as follows:

31 March 2014 £000s	Local Authority as Lessee - Finance Leases	31 March 2015 £000s
	Future minimum lease payments	
320	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment	243
390	Intangible Fixed Assets	297
		0
710	Future minimum lease payments	540
	Net present value of minimum lease payments	
140	Current	148
496	Non-current	348
636	Present value of minimum lease payments	496
74	Finance costs payable in future years	44

- c) The present value of the leases and the minimum lease payments at the balance sheet date split over the over future periods are as follows:

31 March 2014		Local Authority as Lessee - Finance Leases	31 March 2015	
Present Value of Leases £000s	Minimum Lease Payments £000s		Present Value of Leases £000s	Minimum Lease Payments £000s
140	170	Not later than one year	148	170
496	540	Later than one year and not later than five years	348	369
0	0	Later than 5 years	0	0
636	710	Total	496	539

- d) The Council has no sub leases required to be treated as finance leases

Operating Leases

- e) The Council leases IT equipment, gym equipment and vehicles financed under the terms of operating leases. The future minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable leases in future years are:

The authority sub leases housing contract hire vehicles to the Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH) for the provision of housing services with effect from 5 January 2015.

31 March 2014 £000s	Local Authority as Lessee - Operating Leases	31 March 2015 £000s
433	Not later than one year	574
830	Later than one year and not later than five years	655
0	Later than 5 years	0
1,263	Minimum lease payments	1,229
-163	Future minimum sub-lease payments receivable	-1,087

f) Charges to revenue

The expenditure charged to the Council's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the year in relation to operating leases was:

2013/14 £000s	Local Authority as Lessee - Operating Leases	2014/15 £000s
	Minimum lease payments	
98	Contract Hire	580
133	Other	124
-106	Sublease payments receivable	-266
125	Total	438

Authority as Lessor

Finance Leases

g) The authority has two lessor property leases that have been assessed as finance leases.

The gross investment in the leases and the minimum lease payments receivable at the balance sheet date are as follows:

31 March 2014 £000s	Leases - Authority as Lessor - Finance Leases	31 March 2015 £000s
	Gross investment in leases	
193	Other Land and Buildings	176
	Net present value of minimum lease payments	
7	Current	8
116	Non-current	108
123	Present value of minimum lease payments receivable	116
70	Unearned finance income	60

h) The gross investment in the leases and the minimum lease payments receivable at the balance sheet date split over the future periods is as follows:

31 March 2014		Leases - Authority as Lessor - Finance Leases	31 March 2015	
Gross investment in leases	Minimum Lease payments receivable		Gross investment in leases	Minimum Lease payments receivable
£000	£000		£000	£000
17	7	Not later than one year	17	8
69	35	Later than one year and not later than five years	69	38
107	81	Later than five years	89	70
193	123	Minimum lease payments receivable	175	116

In respect of pre-existing leases as at 31 March 2010 the Authority has adopted the mitigation contained in The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2010.

Operating Leases

i) Periods

The Authority leases out property under operating leases for the following purposes:

- The provision of other land and buildings including shops and industrial units to meet local demand for commercial premises.
- The provision of community assets to meet residents' community needs.
- To provide infrastructure enabling current and future construction to service local demand for housing and commercial property.

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

31 March 2014	Local Authority as Lessor - Operating Leases - Minimum Lease Payments	31 March 2015
£000s		£000s
1,934	Not later than one year	2,282
5,480	Later than one year and not later than five years	6,293
53,333	Later than 5 years	47,354
60,747	Total	55,929

The minimum lease payments receivable do not include rents that are contingent on future events, such as adjustments following rent reviews. In 2014-15 £1k contingent rents were receivable by the Authority (compared with £2k in 2013-14).

Note: Assets provided under operating leases, where the Council is lessor, have been included in the Council's disclosures on owned assets.

42. IMPAIRMENT LOSSES

The only asset impaired during 2014/15 was land at St Peter's Waterside. This land was transferred from the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation in March 2014. The valuation of £1.05m at transfer was based upon a special assumption that the property comprises a fully cleared and remediated development site, that the sewer has been diverted to the south west boundary and that the flood defence has been reinstated. The valuation also assumed a mixed use scheme similar to the former retail uses. The Council's subsequent decision to lease the site to a development partner solely for office development has reduced the valuation to zero.

43. CAPITALISATION OF BORROWING COSTS

The Council has no capitalised borrowing costs. All borrowing costs are recognised as an expense in the accounts as they are incurred.

44. TERMINATION BENEFITS

The Authority terminated the contracts of a number of employees in 2014/15, incurring liabilities of £133k (£1,095k in 2013/14 Re-stated). Of this, £6k relates to pension strain, and £126k relates to lump sum payments. The majority of these benefits were incurred as a result of restructures that occurred during the year.

45. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEMES

Participation in Pension Schemes:

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

The Authority participates in one post-employment scheme:

The Local Government Pension Scheme, administered locally by Northamptonshire County Council – this is a funded defined benefit final salary scheme, meaning that the Authority and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pensions liabilities with investment assets.

Transactions Relating to Post-employment Benefits:

We recognise 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 we are 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:

Local Government Pension Scheme 2013/14 £000	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	Local Government Pension Scheme 2014/15 £000
	COST OF SERVICE:	
	Service cost comprising:	
3,416	Current service cost	2,880
345	Past service cost (including curtailments)	25
-3,195	Gain from settlements	-10,946
-7	Pension contribution adjustment	-64
	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	
5,517	Net interest expense	5,555
6,076	Total Post-employment Benefits charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-2,550
	OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS CHARGED TO THE COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT:	
	Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability comprising:	
-7,611	Return on plan assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense)	-12,573
4,647	Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	0
10,610	Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	33,727
2,655	Other expenditure	-4,290
16,377	Total Post-employment Benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:	14,314
	MOVEMENT IN RESERVE STATEMENT:	
-16,413	Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the Code	-14,378
	Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year:	
7,981	Employers' contributions payable to scheme	7,451

Pension Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet:

The amounts included in the Balance Sheet arising from the authority’s obligation in respect of its defined benefit plans are as follows:

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Discretionary Benefits Arrangements*		Total	
	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000
Present value of the defined benefit obligation	280,013	295,164	14,644	14,856	294,657	310,020
Fair value of plan assets	-158,840	-167,340	0	0	-158,840	-167,340
Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation	121,173	127,824	14,644	14,856	135,817	142,680

Reconciliation of the Movements in Fair Value of Scheme (Plan) Assets:

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Discretionary Benefits Arrangements*		Total	
	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000
Opening fair value of scheme assets	160,419	158,840	0	0	160,419	158,840
Interest income	6,661	6,735	0	0	6,661	6,735
Remeasurement gain/(loss):						
The return on plan assets, excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	7,611	12,573	0	0	7,611	12,573
Contributions from employer	7,082	6,639	906	-	7,988	6,639
Contribution from employees into the Scheme	964	791	0	0	964	791
Benefits Paid:	-10,520	-11,703	-906	0	-11,426	-11,703
Assets Distributed in Settlements	-13,377	-6,535	0	0	-13,377	-6,535
Closing fair value of scheme assets	158,840	167,340	0	0	158,840	167,340

Reconciliation of Present Value of the Scheme Liabilities (Defined Benefit Obligation):

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Discretionary Benefits Arrangements*		Total	
	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000
Opening balance at 1 April	287,841	294,657	0	0	287,841	294,657
Current service cost	3,416	2,880	0	0	3,416	2,880
Interest cost	12,178	12,290			12,178	12,290
Contribution from scheme participants	964	791	0	0	964	791
Remeasurement gain/(loss):					0	0
Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	4,647	0	0	0	4,647	0
Actuarial gain/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	10,610	33,727	0	0	10,610	33,727
Other expenditure	2,655	-4,290	0	0	2,655	-4,290
Past service cost	345	25	0	0	345	25
Losses/(gains) on curtailment:			0	0	0	0
Benefits Paid	-10,520	-11,703	-906	-876	-11,426	-12,579
Liabilities extinguished on settlements	-16,573	-17,481	0	0	-16,573	-17,481
Closing present value of scheme liabilities	295,563	310,896	-906	-876	294,657	310,020

Local Government Pension Scheme assets comprised:

Fair value of scheme assets ₁	Assets comprised of:	Fair value of scheme assets ₁
2013/14 £000		2014/15 £000
3,513	Cash and cash equivalents	3,821
	Equity instruments:	
	By industry type	
12,320	Consumer	13,440
7,629	Manufacturing	0
11,171	Energy and utilities	8,403
10,504	Financial institutions	12,560
7,610	Health and care	8,232
10,515	Information technology	11,786
3,405	Other	9,318
63,154	Total Equity	63,739
	Bonds:	
	By sector	
15,834	Corporate	0
4,265	Government	4,910
8,604	Other	0
28,702	Total Bonds	4,910
	Private Equity:	
173	Overseas	142
173	Total Private Equity	142
	Property:	
8,190	Retail	12,850
8,190	Total Property	12,850
	Investment Funds and Unit Trusts:	
54,201	Equities	56,391
907	Bonds	25,487
55,108	Total Investment Funds and Unit Trusts	81,878
158,840	Total assets	167,340

¹ All scheme assets have quoted prices in active markets

² The risks relating to assets in the scheme are also analysed by company size below:

Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

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

Both the Local Government Pension Scheme and discretionary benefits liabilities have been estimated by Hymans Robertson, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the County Council Fund being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 1 April 2013.

The significant assumptions used by the actuary have been:

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Discretionary Benefits Arrangements*	
	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000
Mortality Assumptions				
Longevity at 65 for Current Pensioners:				
Men	22.3	22.3		
Women	24.3	24.3		
Longevity at 65 for Future Pensioners:				
Men	24	24	-	-
Women	26.6	26.6	-	-
Other:				
Rate of Increase in Pensions	3%	2%	3%	3%
Rate of Increase in Salaries **	5%	4%	-	-
Rate for Discounting Scheme Liabilities	4%	3%	4%	5%

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. The sensitivity analyses below have been determined based on reasonably possible changes of the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period and assumes for each change that the assumption analysed changes while all the other assumptions remain constant. The assumptions in longevity, for example, assume that life expectancy increases or decreases for men and women. In practice, this is unlikely to occur, and changes in some of the assumptions may be interrelated. The estimations in the sensitivity analysis have followed the accounting policies for the scheme, i.e. on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method. The methods and types of assumptions used in preparing the sensitivity analysis below did not change from those used in the previous period.

Change in assumptions at 31 March 2015:	Approximate increase to Employer Liability %	Approximate Monetary Amount £000
0.5% decrease in Real Discount Rate	9%	26,708
1 year increase in member life expectancy	3%	9,301
0.5% increase in the salary increase rate	2%	5,000
0.5% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	7%	21,384

Asset and Liability Matching (ALM) Strategy

The pensions committee of Northamptonshire County Council has agreed to an asset and liability matching strategy (ALM) that matches, to the extent possible, the types of asset invested to the liabilities in the defined benefit obligation. The fund has matched assets to the pensions' obligations by investing in long-term fixed interest securities and index linked gilt edged investment with maturities that match the benefits payments as they fall due. This is balanced with a need to maintain the liquidity of the fund to ensure that it is able to make current payments. As is required by the pensions and (where relevant) investment regulations the suitability of various types of investment have been considered, as has the need to diversify investments to reduce the risk of being invested in too narrow a range. A large proportion of the assets relate to equities (72% of scheme assets) and bonds (18%). These percentages are materially the same as the comparative year. The scheme also invests in properties as a part of the diversification of the scheme's investments.

Impact on the Authority's Cash Flows

The objectives of the scheme are to keep employers' contributions at as constant a rate as possible. The County Council has agreed a strategy with the scheme's actuary to achieve a funding level of 100% over the next 20 years. Funding levels are monitored on an annual basis. The next triennial valuation is due to be completed on 31 March 2016.

The scheme will need to take account of the national changes to the scheme under the Public Pensions Services Act 2013. Under the Act, the Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales and the other main existing public service schemes may not provide benefits in relation to service after 31 March 2014 (or service after 31 March 2015 for other main existing public service pension schemes in England and Wales).

The Act provides for scheme regulations to be made within a common framework, to establish new career average revalued earnings schemes to pay pensions and other benefits to certain public servants.

The authority is anticipated to pay £6.8m expected contributions to the scheme in 2015/16.

46. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The Council is potentially liable for the following:

Northampton Partnership Homes

- As set out in the explanatory forward and Note 56 Group Accounts, NBC set up an Arm's Length Management Organisation on 5th January 2015, Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH). NPH is a company limited by guarantee, and as such, NBC has agreed to provide support as necessary to NPH to ensure they are able to meet their debts as they fall due, and are otherwise a 'going concern'. NBC has also agreed to ensure that NPH is able to discharge its liabilities for the pensions costs attributable to NPH's past, present and future employees. See Note 56 for disclosure of the financial performance of NPH in 2014/15.

Business Rates

- Following new Local Authority funding arrangements for Business Rates in April 2013, NBC now assumes a proportion of the liability for refunding businesses who appeal to the Valuation Office (VO) against the rateable value of their properties.
- The VO published a list of appeals outstanding up to 31st March 2015 in April 2015. Estimates of these appeals that have been lodged and their success judged to be probable under IAS 37 have been provided for, see Note 24 for the NBC share (40%) of the provision (£1.6m) and CF Note 4 for the Collection Fund share (£4m).
- The estimated value of appeals that have been lodged but their success deemed only possible as per IAS 37 totalled £6.1m. For prudence, a total provision of £610k has been included in the Collection Fund against these appeals, resulting in a contingent liability for all precepting bodies of the remaining £5.5m. For NBC (40% share), this equates to a provision £244k and a contingent liability of £2.2m.
- In May 2015, the VO updated the list of appeals outstanding at 31st March 2015. This list included an estimated additional provision of £308k against appeals lodged on/before 31st March 2015 which have not been included in the above appeals review and therefore are being disclosed as a contingent liability.
- Additionally, it is possible that other appeals will be lodged by businesses in the future against rateable values. As the value and timing of these appeals by their nature cannot be known, it is necessary to recognise this as a contingent liability.
- The VOA have advised that Virgin Media has put forward a proposal to merge the Virgin Media network that appears in councils rating lists countrywide into a single national assessment, appearing from 1 April 2010. The rateable value (RV) in relation to Virgin Media within Northampton Borough is £910k. If this proposal is approved, this could see the removal of the
- Full £910k RV from NBC's rating list, which equates to approximately £439k in net rates per annum.

Other

- A capital grant agreed by the Heritage Lottery Fund for redevelopment of Delapre Abbey and procurement of a specialist construction company has taken place and restoration works are underway. NBC resources have been committed and S106 contributions. It is recognised that, in the event of non-compliance of the grant funding conditions or of issues which may impact time and cost, a contingent liability should be disclosed for £3.7m.
- A capital grant received from the East Midland Development Agency (EMDA) for site clearance of the Blueberry Diner, Albion Place. The grant was awarded on condition of scheme completion within a fixed time period and, due to that time period not having been complied with, up to the full amount of the grant of £2m may be clawed back by HCA (Homes and Communities Agency - who took overtook over all RDA land and property projects, holdings and contingent assets from EMDA – East Midlands Development Agency). The Council has completed agreement leading to current development of part of the site (Hotel) and has kept the HCA updated of its progress. HCA are agreeable in principle to extension of time periods for development to be completed, but issues are to be resolved within NBC about approach to development for the balance of the site.
- Following the disbandment of West Northamptonshire Development Corporation, NBC received donated land assets valued at £1.5 million on 31st March 2014. There are a number of contingent liabilities associated with the land; however there are measures in place to ensure that the Council would not be materially affected should these events occur.
- Under the 1987 [bond issue], Home Group raised finance to carry out development in a number of local authority areas. In so doing they entered into arrangements with local authorities for the purchase of land in return for nomination rights over 50% of the properties constructed. In addition the local authorities agreed to indemnify bond holders against a fixed percentage of indebtedness under the bonds incurred by Home Group. Home Group in turn gave a counter indemnity to the said local authorities in the same amount. Thus, for so long as Home Group remains solvent, there is no practical likelihood of a claim under the indemnity being made against a participant local authority. Home Group has a strong credit rating, the bond issue is underpinned by income from the properties constructed using the finance provided. The NBC proportion is 1.35% of £82.6m representing a value of £1.1m.
- There are a number of other contingent liabilities estimated at a total of £2.8m that are considered insignificant (both individually and collectively), and thus do not require separate disclosure.
- There are two outstanding planning appeals in relation to Hardingstone and Collingtree that are currently going to enquiry. At this early stage, probability of success, potential financial impact and timing cannot be determined.
- There are various outstanding issues relating to the Councils Environment contract with EMS, however they are not considered individually material.

47. CONTINGENT ASSETS

The Council is currently monitoring the following contingent assets:

- Recovery of costs estimated at £1.75 million from Legal and General expended by NBC upon the Grosvenor Multi Storey Car Park (MSCP) refurbishment, in the event that the Development Agreement becomes unconditional.
- Payback of administration and infrastructure loan costs relating to the Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone which will come from Business Rates uplift. Costs incurred to date that have yet to be reimbursed from uplift total £1.5m.
- Obligation upon National Grid (owners of property) to pay to NBC part of monies advanced by WNDC to NG for remediation of land. Payment due to NBC by 2019 or on sale of the land affected estimated £1.6m

48. NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

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

- **Credit risk** – the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the Authority;
- **Liquidity risk** – the possibility that the Authority might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments; and
- **Market risk** – the possibility that financial loss might arise for the Authority as a result of changes in interest rates and stock market movements.

The Council's risk management processes consider the unpredictability of financial markets and seek to minimise potential adverse effects on the resources available to fund services. The Local Government Act 2003 places a statutory duty on the Council to have regard to guidance issued or specified by the Secretary of State.

This guidance includes the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice. Treasury risk management is undertaken by the LGSS treasury team under policies approved by the Council in its Treasury Management Policy Statement, Treasury Management Practices and accompanying Schedules and the annual Treasury Management Strategy. These contain overall principles for risk management and specific risks which include credit and counterparty risk, liquidity risk, interest rate risk, exchange rate risk, refinancing risk, legal and regulatory risk, and market risk.

Credit Risk

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

The risk exposure from investment counterparties is minimised through policies and procedures set out in the Council's Treasury Management Practices and accompanying Schedules and its Annual Investment Strategy. These require that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet identified minimum credit criteria that includes, but is not entirely dependent on, external credit ratings, including sovereign ratings.

The Annual Investment Strategy also imposes value and investment period limits for each category of approved counterparty. The maximum limits for placements with individual or group counterparties in 2014-15 were £20m and 729 days for UK nationalised or part nationalised banking institutions, and £15m and 729 days for other UK counterparties, overseas counterparties with AAA sovereign ratings, UK local authorities and the UK Debt Management Office. Within this ceiling, lower limits apply in many instances depending on credit ratings and other factors specific to each institution.

Due to the nature of its business, the Council does not assess operational customers for credit worthiness and does not set credit limits on customers. In relation to mortgages, the Authority holds an equity stake in each relevant property as collateral against the mortgage outstanding. There are also certain exceptional circumstances under which the Council has placed a charge on a property as collateral against a specific debt. Business customers are not given individual credit limits.

However, business customers are assessed, taking into account their financial position, past experience, and other factors, in line with parameters set by the council, when contracts are entered into. This forms part of the Council's procurement procedures.

To support local economic regeneration the Council has made third party loans to local organisations. Assessment of the credit risk to the authority from the loans was undertaken as part of the due diligence work prior to the signing of the loan agreements.

The Council's maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to its investments totalling £64.5m in banks, building societies and other institutions cannot be assessed generally as the risk of any counterparty failing to make interest payments or repay the principal sum will be specific to each individual institution. Recent experience has shown that it is rare for such entities to be unable to meet their commitments. A risk of irrecoverability applies to all of the Council's deposits, but there was no evidence at 31 March 2015 that this was likely to crystallise.

The following analysis summarises the Council's potential maximum exposure to credit risk based on experience of default and uncollectability over the last five financial years adjusted to reflect current market conditions:

Estimated Maximum Exposure to Default and Uncollectability at 31 March 2014 £000	Credit Risk	Amount at 31 March 2015 £000s	Historical Experience of Default at 31 March 2015 %	Historical Experience Adjusted for Market Conditions at 31 March 2015 %	Estimated Maximum Exposure to Default and Uncollectability at 31 March 2015 £000s
0	Third Party Loans	14,952	0%	0%	0
0	Mortgages	29	0%	0%	0
0	Finance Leases	116	0%	0%	0
76	Customers: Tenants	2,015	2.75%	2.75%	55
1,126	Customers: Sundry Debtors	7,758	27.51%	27.51%	2,134
0	Deposits with Banks and Financial Institutions	0	0%	0%	0
1,202	Total	24,870			2,189

No credit limits were exceeded during the reporting period and the Council does not expect any losses from non-performance by any of its counterparties in relation to deposits. The Council held no investments in the form of bonds during 2014-15.

With the exception of third party loans and mortgages, the Council does not generally allow credit for its customers. As shown in the table above, at 31st March there were outstanding loans to third parties of £14.95m. Whilst there is no history of default on such loans, they do, by their nature, carry a degree of risk.

Of the £89.4m exposure to credit risk £9.8m is past its due date for payment. The past due, but not impaired, amount can be analysed by age as follows:

Amount at 31 March 2014 £000s	Aged Debt Analysis	Amount at 31 March 2015 £000s
3,380	Less than three months	5,917
1,267	Three to six months	2,091
597	Six months to one year	364
1,199	More than one year	1,400
6,443	Total	9,772

Impairment on the debtors financial asset has been identified, standing at a total of £7.0m at the end of 2014-15.

Collateral

The authority holds collateral against a number of mortgages. The balance sheet value of the principal amount outstanding on these is currently £31.7k (£31.9k in 2013-14).

The terms and conditions relating to the pledge are standard in all the mortgages held and are summarised as follows:

- The property is to be kept in good and substantial repair;
- No structural alterations, demolitions, additions are to be carried out to the property or any part of it without written consent of the Council;
- To comply in all respects with the Planning Acts;
- Not to do or permit on the property anything which may prejudice the insurance of the property;
- Limitations on the usage of the property;
- The right of the Council to inspect the property;
- That the borrower is required to observe and perform any covenants and provisions relating to the property;
- The Council’s power of sale;
- Events on which the whole mortgage becomes repayable;
- Remedies available to the Council;
- The Council’s power to transfer the benefit of the charge;
- The power of the Council to make written concessions in favour of the borrower.

Liquidity Risk

The Council has a comprehensive cash flow management system in place that seeks to ensure that cash is available as needed. In the event of unexpected movements to the downside, the Council has ready access to borrowings from the money markets and (for capital expenditure purposes) from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB). There is no significant risk that the Council will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments. Instead, the risk is that the authority will be bound to replenish a significant proportion of its borrowings at a time of unfavourable interest rates. The strategy is to manage loans that are due to mature within any rolling three-year period through a combination of careful planning of new loans taken out and (where it is economic to do so) making early repayments.

The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is as follows:

31 March 2014 £000s	Maturity Profiles of Financial Liabilities	31 March 2015 £000s
-30,359	Less than one year	-17,953
-12,305	One to two years	-13,828
-18,647	Two to five years	-17,125
-189,568	More than five years	-198,061
-250,879	Total	-246,967

Amounts maturing within one year include short term creditors, short term grants and Section 106 funding commitments, short term borrowing, principal due within 12 months on annuity and EIP (Equal Interest Instalment) loans, and long term loans maturing within the next 12 months. A £2m PWLB loan is due for maturity in the final quarter of 2014-15. Repayment of these will be funded from internal borrowing, new loans, or a combination of both. Longer term maturities consist of long term debt (including finance leases), and long term grants and Section 106 funding.

Market Risk

Interest Rate Risk

The authority is exposed to significant 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 example a rise in interest rates would have the following effects:

- Borrowing at variable rates – the interest expense charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services will rise;
- Borrowing at fixed rates – the fair value of the liabilities will fall;
- Investment at variable rates – the interest income credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services will rise;
- Investments at fixed rates – the fair value of the assets will fall.

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

The authority has a number of strategies for managing interest rate risk. For example, during periods of falling interest rates and where economic circumstances make it favourable, fixed rate loans may be repaid early to limit exposure to losses.

The Council has an active strategy for assessing interest rate exposure that feeds into the setting of the annual budget and which is used to update the budget during the year. This allows any adverse changes to be accommodated. The analysis will also advise whether new borrowing taken out is fixed or variable.

According to this assessment strategy, at 31 March 2015, if interest rates had been 1% higher with all other variables held constant, the financial effect would be:

31 March 2014 £000s	Market Risk	31 March 2015 £000s
249	Increase in interest payable on variable rate borrowing	228
-392	Increase in interest receivable on variable rate investments	-259
-143	Impact on Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-31
107	Share of overall impact credited to the HRA	65
-36	Impact remaining on General Fund	34
117	Increase in fair value of fixed rate investment assets	169
117	Impact on Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	169
50	Decrease in fair value of fixed rate borrowings liabilities (no impact on the surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services or Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure)	91

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

Price Risk

The authority does not invest in equity shares and therefore has no exposure to loss arising from movements in share prices.

Foreign Exchange Risk

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

49. BUILDING CONTROL TRADING ACCOUNT

A local authority is required at the end of the financial year to prepare a statement that sets out fully the details of its scheme for setting charges in relation to its building control function. The statement should also show the income recovered and the total costs incurred. There is no requirement for the information to be published; however it has been decided to continue publishing this note.

The Building Control chargeable services have, for the three-year period to 31st March 2015, made an operating surplus of £38k on a turnover of £727k. In the previous three-year period to 31st March 2014, there was an operating surplus of £25k against a turnover of £768k.

Building Control Trading Account	2014/15		
	Chargeable	Non-Chargeable	Total
	£000s	£000s	£000s
Expenditure			
Employees	108	85	193
Premises	0	0	0
Transport	3	2	5
Supplies and services	4	4	9
Support service charges	86	68	154
Capital Charges	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	202	159	361
Income			
Building Regulation fees	-238	0	-238
Other Income	0	0	0
Total Income	-238	0	-238
Surplus (-) / Deficit for Year	-36	159	123
	2013/14		
Comparatives for 2013/14	Chargeable	Non-Chargeable	Total
	£000s	£000s	£000s
Expenditure	241	198	439
Income	-244	0	-244
Surplus (-) / Deficit for Year	-3	198	195

50. PUBLICITY EXPENDITURE

There is now no longer a requirement to publish this note within the statement of accounts, however, the information must be produced and made available on request. It has been decided to continue publishing the note. In accordance with the Local Government Act 1986 (Section 5(1)), the Council’s spending on publicity was:

2013/14 £000s	Publicity Expenditure	2014/15 £000s
	Expenditure	
21	Recruitment Advertising	32
406	Publicity Unit	467
214	Other Publicity	156
641	Total	655

51. LOCAL AUTHORITIES (GOODS AND SERVICES) ACT 1970

The Council is empowered by this Act to provide goods and services to other public bodies. The Authority provides a variety of services to other local authorities, the income from this is outlined below: -

2013/14		Local Authority (Goods & Services) Act 1970	2014/15	
Exp £000s	Income £000s		Exp £000s	Income £000s
101	-42	Call Care	301	-45
115	-115	Print Services Unit	258	-258
216	-157	Total	559	-303

52. TRUST FUNDS

The Council acts as sole trustee in respect of two Trust Funds. one the Northamptonshire Regiment museum (balances of £97k)and the other Northamptonshire Yeomanry Museums Trust (balances of £1k) The Trust funds are used to finance expenditure on the exhibits donated by the Regiments at their disbandment, these collections are housed at the Abington Museum. Surplus funds are invested and accounted for separately to the Council's funds.

53. MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION

The Council is required by Statutory Instrument 2003 No. 3146 to set aside a minimum revenue provision (MRP) for the repayment of debt, and, by Statutory Instrument 2008 No.414, determine an amount of minimum revenue provision which it considers to be prudent. In doing so the Council is required to have regard to guidance issued under Section 21A of the Local Government Act 2003.

The Council approved the Council's Annual MRP statement for 2014/15, which is required by the guidance issued by CLG, on 24th February 2014. The MRP charged to the 2014/15 accounts relates to the general fund historic debt liability incurred for the year.

The debt liability for general fund capital expenditure up to and including 2007/08 has been calculated at the rate of 4% on the reducing balance, in accordance with option 1 of the guidance, the "regulatory method".

The debt liability for general fund capital expenditure incurred since 2008/09 has been calculated as equal instalments over a period reasonably commensurate with the estimated useful life of each asset, in accordance with option 3 of the guidance, the "asset life method".

The Council's Minimum Revenue Provision, including finance leases, for 2014/15 was £1.253m. This compares to £1.065m in 2013/14.

54. HERITAGE ASSETS – 5 YEAR SUMMARY OF TRANSACTIONS

Paragraph 4.10.4.5 of the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting requires the disclosure of Heritage Assets acquired through purchase and donation, and disposed of, over the last five years. It also allows for this information not to be given for any period prior to 1 April 2010 where it is not practicable. This is the case for Northampton Borough Council.

There was a large collecting programme of trainers to enhance the shoe collection between April 2009 and April 2012. This amounted to £75k for which the museum was given a purchase grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Since 1 April 2012 a number of shoes, social and military history artefacts, archaeology and art works have been donated to the museum the aggregate value of which is less than £3k. There were two significant donations of artworks in 2014. Local artist Peter Newcombe donated twelve framed and glazed pictures depicting John Clare 'Shepherd's Calendar' in medium of pen, wash and other media, with a valuation of £50k. The second major donation was of an oil painting 'And Then the Comet Came and Changed All Things' by Roberta Booth (1947-2014), with a valuation of £7k.

There have been two disposals from the collections which have realised a financial return. In March 2011, a collection of mounted natural history specimens sold at auction for £52k, which has been taken to be its carrying value at the time. In July 2014 an Egyptian statue was sold at auction for £14m, with NBC receiving £8.239m payment from the sale.

55. HERITAGE ASSETS – COLLECTIONS AND POLICIES

Collections**1. Designated Shoe Collection**

The collection of shoes and related objects from the industry is recognised by Arts Council England as a Designated Collection of national and international importance. The Shoe Collection is the largest collection of shoe heritage and related shoe industry objects in the world. The Shoe Collection began purely as a collection of footwear, however, over the years this has developed into a collection including over 12,000 shoes and covering the whole of the footwear industry worldwide. In total the collection contains over 60,000 objects and can be analysed into the following subdivisions: Footwear, Machinery, Tools, Lasts, Patterns and Material associated with the selling of shoes, Polish, Shoe Trees and other items used in the care of shoes, including shoe repairing, Factory Furniture and Fittings, Overshoes, Spats, Gaiters, Ice Skates and other items worn with shoes (excluding hosiery), Objects shaped like shoes and depicting shoes, Archival material including catalogues, photographs and trade magazines and Prints and paintings of shoes and shoemakers.

2. Archaeology Collection

For over a century, Northampton Museums has collected archaeological material. The majority of archaeological material now coming to light in the county is the product of contract excavations in advance of development. Significant collections include Bronze Age pottery, Iron Age finds from Hunsbury, Roman finds from Duston and Irchester, pottery, weapons and jewellery from Anglo-Saxon cemeteries and many other objects were first collected in the 19th century. This set the scene for collecting and through excavations and fieldwork this has carried on ever since. There is a Numismatic Collection of about 12,000 items, principally locally found Roman, English Medieval and later coins and tokens. Particular strengths are the coins from Northampton Mint, and a large number of Northamptonshire tokens and checks. There is also a collection of approximately 800 medals relating to local people, clubs or societies. There is a small Ancient Egyptian collection of approximately 250 items.

3. Art Collection

The greater part of the fine art collection consists of British easel paintings and works on paper, from the 19th and 20th centuries. The collection's greatest strength lies in landscapes and portraits, topographical works and graphic art from 1960-2000. The collection has strong representation from local, professional artists, some of whom have been recognised nationally and are often linked to the 100 year old Town & County Art Society. The non-British pictures include an important group of 15th to 18th century Italian paintings - works of high quality by secondary masters, particularly from the Venetian School, most of which were consciously collected between 1967 and 1987 as a result of a former policy which sought to concentrate purchases in this one area of the collection. At present there are approximately 2,700 items in the Art Collection which fall into the following categories: Watercolours, Drawings, Prints (contemporary), Mixed Media (excluding drawings), and Sculpture.

4. Decorative Art

The current collection encompasses ceramics, glassware, and metal ware. The great areas of strength are the fine collections of British and Oriental ceramics given early in the 20th century by five private collectors. There are approximately 4,100 items in the decorative art collection (excluding furniture): Ceramics – British (and some Continental and North African), Glass – British (and some Irish), Metalwork, Enamels, and Oriental Collections (ceramics, bronzes and miscellaneous).

5. Ethnography

The ethnographic collection consists of about 300 historic (not contemporary) objects from India, China and Japan, Africa, North America and. Many objects were purchased in the early to mid-20th century to enhance the displays at Abington Museum or acquired as the result of local collecting as well as some casual donations.

6. Geology

A substantial number of Geological items were given to the Museum in the forty years following its founding in 1866, principally by the Third and Fourth Marquesses of Northampton and Beeby Thompson. The collection consists of about 40,000 items of which 75% are Northamptonshire Jurassic finds. The remaining 25% consists of fossils from outside the county, and a worldwide mineral collection.

7. Natural History

The small Natural History Collection consists of a few mounted specimens and small collections of birds' eggs.

8. Social History

In general, the Social History collection covers historical material post 1600 to the present that does not fall within another collection and includes fashion and costume. – The collection covers community life including civic affairs, working life, and the full range of personal and domestic life material.

9. Northamptonshire Regiment and Yeomanry

Northampton Borough Council is the sole trustee for the Northamptonshire Regimental Museum and Northamptonshire Yeomanry Regimental Museum Trust. The collecting for these collections will follow the inherent themes for regimental collections – reflecting both the military and civilian aspects of the Regiments impact.

Policies

The Council maintains a record of its heritage assets within its asset register supplemented by the detailed records held by the relevant departments.

Some museum heritage assets are on display at the Authority's two museums; while others are held at secure locations in storage e.g. while awaiting conservation work. Access to the civic regalia is limited to appropriate occasions, such as the use of the mace and mayor's chain at Council meetings. The statues, buildings, and similar heritage assets are largely accessible to the public to view in the parks and public places of Northampton.

56. GROUP ACCOUNTS – NORTHAMPTON PARTNERSHIP HOMES

Group Boundary

Northampton Partnership Homes was incorporated on the 30th April 2014 and commenced trading on the 5th January 2015. Northampton Partnership Homes is an Arm’s Length Management Organisation that is wholly owned by the Council, but which has its own board of Directors. It is a company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) and is a not for profit organisation.

Northampton Partnership Homes is a subsidiary of Northampton Borough Council for accounting purposes, and have been consolidated into the Council’s group accounts.

Intra-Group Transactions

During 2014-15 the Council made payments of £13.893m to Northampton Partnership Homes (nil in 2013-14). During 2014-15 the Council received payments of £1.873m from Northampton Partnership Homes (nil in 2013-14). At 31st March 2014 there was a Council debtor balance of £4.551m (nil in 2013-14), and a creditor balance of £1.695m (nil in 2013/14) with Northampton Partnership Homes.

Basis of consolidation

The Financial Statements of Northampton Partnership Homes have been consolidated with those of the Council on a line by line basis; which has eliminated in full balances, transactions, income and expenses between the Council and Northampton Partnership Homes.

Business activities of Northampton Partnership Homes

Northampton Partnership Homes is responsible for the following services:

- Lettings
- Repairs and maintenance
- Housing management including dealing with anti-social behaviour
- Tenancy support
- Tenant involvement

Accounting policies

In preparing the Group Accounts the Council has aligned the accounting policies of Northampton Partnership Homes with those of the Council.

Corporation Tax

Northampton Partnership Homes have receive confirmation from HMRC that their commercial service provision activities with Northampton Borough Council are deemed to be non-trading in nature and hence do not attract Corporation Tax.

Material items of Income and Expenditure

The only material difference between the Single Entity Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is on the actuarial gains/losses on the pension asset/liability:

Area of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	Single entity accounts £000	Group accounts £000	Difference £000
Actuarial gains / losses on pension assets/liabilities	16,864	18,629	1,765

Further details on the actuarial gains/losses on the pension asset/liability can be found in the section below on the Group defined benefit pension scheme.

Material Movements in Reserves

The material differences between the Single Entity Movement in Reserves Statement and the Group Movement in Reserves Statement are shown below:

Area of Movement in reserves Statement	Single entity accounts £000	Group accounts £000	Difference £000
Other Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	15,529	17,294	1,765
Adjustments between group accounts and authority accounts	0	13,685	13,685

Further detail on both of these items can be found in the section below on the Group defined benefit pension scheme.

Material items on the Balance Sheet

The material differences between the single entity balance sheet and the Group balance sheet are shown below:

Area of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	Single entity accounts £000	Group accounts £000	Difference £000
Short Term Debtors	24,322	20,385	-3,937
Cash and Cash Equivalents	19,326	26,539	7,213
Short Term Creditors	-26,944	-30,217	-3,273
Other Long Term Liabilities	-143,028	-158,421	-15,393
Unusable Reserves	165,895	-150,502	-15,393

The differences to short term debtors, cash and cash equivalents and short term creditors are due to the balances held by Northampton Partnership Homes. The differences on other long term liabilities and unusable reserves both represent the pension liability of Northampton Partnership Homes, further details of which can be found in the section below on the Group defined benefit pension scheme.

Group Defined Benefit Pension Scheme

Northampton Partnership Homes is a fully owned subsidiary of Northampton Borough Council. Therefore details of the Northampton Partnership Homes pension scheme need to be combined with the Northampton Borough Pension scheme to give an understanding of the group pension scheme. Full details of the Northampton Borough Council pension scheme are in note 45 to the core financial statements.

Northampton Partnership Homes is a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme administered by Northamptonshire County Council. This is a funded defined benefit scheme which provides index linked retirement benefits to employees who choose to join.

The scheme was opened on 5th January 2015 when employees of Northampton Partnership Homes Ltd transferred from Northampton Borough Council under Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE). At the time of admission the Company scheme was fully funded under the actuarial valuation assumptions made. However the figures presented in these financial statements are reported under the requirements of IAS19, which are prepared on a different basis to the actuarial valuation. The Actuary’s calculation for business combination at the time of transfer gives scheme obligation of £20.22m and plan assets of £6.535m resulting in a reported fund deficit of £13.685m on 5th January 2015. The opening deficit in the scheme has been treated as an adjustment between group accounts and authority accounts in the Movement in Reserves Statement as it represents the transfer of the opening balance on the scheme from the Council.

In addition to staff that joined the Company in January 2015 under TUPE transfer from Northampton Borough Council, the scheme is currently open to new employees. Employees and the Company pay contributions to the fund. During 2014/15 the employer’s rate was 13.3% and employees contribute variable rates which increase on banded salary ranges. At 31st March 2015 the scheme had 187 active members.

A comprehensive actuarial valuation is undertaken every three years and the latest review was undertaken on 31 March 2013 by the actuary Hymans Robertson LLP.

The following tables give details of the pension assets and liabilities for the Group, including Northampton Borough Council and Northampton Partnership Homes. No prior year comparative figures are given, as there was no group in 2013/14, so the 2013/14 figures are the same as the single entity figures given in note 45.

The following transactions have been made in the Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the General Fund balance via the Group Movement in Reserves Statement during the year:

Cost of Service	£000s
Current service cost	3,197
Past service cost (including curtailments)	25
Gain from settlements	-10,946
Pension contribution adjustment	-64
Net interest expense	5,670
Total post employment benefits charged to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services	-2,118
Other post employment benefits charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement	
Return on plan assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense)	-12,954
Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	0
Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	35,873
Other expenditure	-4,290
Total post-employment benefits charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement	16,511
Movement in reserves statement	
Reversal of net charges made to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the code	-14,378
Employers contributions payable to the scheme	7,451

Reconciliation of the movements in fair value of scheme assets:

	£000s
Opening fair value of scheme assets	158,840
Interest income	6,793
Return on plan assets excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	12,954
Contributions from employer	7,128
Contributions from employees into the scheme	865
Benefits paid	-11,703
Assets distributed in settlements	0
Closing fair value of scheme assets	174,877

Reconciliation of present value of the scheme liabilities (defined benefit obligations):

	£000s
Opening present value of scheme liabilities	294,657
Current service cost	3,197
Interest cost	12,463
Contribution from scheme participants	865
Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	35,873
Actuarial gains/losses arising from other experience	-4,290
Past service cost	25
Benefits paid	-12,579
Liabilities extinguished on settlements	2,739
Closing present value of scheme liabilities	332,950

Fair value of plan assets:

	£000s
Equity securities	
Consumer	14,045
Energy & utilities	8,782
Financial institutions	13,125
Health and care	8,603
Information technology	12,317
Other	9,738
Debt securities	
UK Government	5,131
Private equity	
All	148
Real Estate	
UK property	12,289
Overseas property	1,140
Investment funds and unit trusts	
Equities	58,931
Bonds	26,635
Cash and cash equivalents	
All	3,993
Total	174,877

Group External Audit costs

Fees payable for external audit services across the Group are detailed below:

Group Auditor Fees	2014/15 £000s
Northampton Borough Council Auditor Fees (KPMG LLP)	123
Northampton Partnership Homes Auditor Fees (Grant Thornton LLP)	18
Total Group Auditor Fees	141

G1. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) summarises the transactions relating to the provision, maintenance, and sale of Council houses and flats. The account has to be self-financing and there is a legal prohibition on cross subsidy to or from local taxpayers.

2013/14 £000s	Housing Revenue Account	2014/15 £000s	£000s	Notes
	<u>Income</u>			
-49,154	Dwelling Rents	-50,481		HRA3-4
-1,136	Non Dwelling Rents	-1,140		
-2,321	Charges for services & facilities	-2,467		
-37	Contributions Towards Expenditure	-33		
-52,648	Total Income		-54,121	
	<u>Expenditure</u>			
16,447	Repairs & Maintenance	16,206		HRA5
	Supervision & Management			
5,982	General Management	7,645		HRA6
4,343	Special Services	4,074		
301	Rent, Rates, Taxes & other charges	276		
12,910	Depreciation, Impairment & Revaluation of Fixed Assets	-5,978		
98	Debt Management Costs	65		
360	Increased in provision for bad/doubtful debts	216		
40,440	Total Expenditure		22,504	
-12,207	Net Cost of Services		-31,617	
590	HRA Services share of Corporate and Democratic Core		557	
-11,617	Net Cost of HRA Services		-31,060	
-398	Gain (-) or Loss on sale of HRA Fixed Assets		1,806	HRA6
6,047	Interest and Investment Income		5,966	
1,481	Pensions interest cost and expected return on pensions assets		1,175	
-17,020	Non Specific Grant Income		-15,522	
-494	Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non current assets		-803	
-22,002	Surplus (-) or Deficit for the year on HRA services		-38,438	

G2. MOVEMENT IN HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT RESERVE

The Income and Expenditure Account shows the Council's actual financial performance for the year, measured in terms of the resources consumed and generated over the last twelve months. However, the Authority is required to account for the net costs of Council Housing in a different way.

This statement below and the detailed reconciling items on the following page summarise the differences between the outturn on the HRA Income and Expenditure Account and the Housing Revenue Account Balance.

2013/14 £000s	Statement of Movements on the Housing Revenue Account Balance	2014/15 £000s
-22,002	Surplus (-) / Deficit for the year on the HRA Income and Expenditure Account	-38,439
22,003	Net additional amount required by statute to be debited or credited to the HRA Balance for the year	38,439
1	Increase (-) / Decrease in the HRA Balance for the Year	0
-5,001	HRA Balance brought forward	-5,000
-5,000	HRA Balance carried forward	-5,000

There has been a significant increase in the surplus for the year compared to 2013/14 due to revaluation increases, as detailed in HRA Note 6b.

DETAILED TRANSACTIONS

2013/14 £000s	Reconciling Items for the Statement of Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Balance	2014/15 £000s	Note
	Amounts included in the HRA Income and Expenditure Account but required by statute to be excluded when determining the Movement on the HRA Balance for the year		
-18,710	Revaluation Losses	-18,128	
14,829	Revaluation Gains	33,316	
17,020	Capital Grants and Contributions Transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account	15,522	
398	Gain or Loss on sale of HRA non-current assets	-1,806	
-1,633	HRA share of contributions to or from the pensions reserve	526	
11,904	Total	29,430	
	Amounts not included in the HRA Income and Expenditure Account but required by statute to be included when determining the Movement on the HRA Balance for the year		
3,672	Transfer to / from (-) Major Repairs Reserve	3,273	HRA7
494	Transfers to / from (-) Revaluation Reserve	803	HRA6
2,140	Employer's contributions payable to the Northamptonshire County Council Pension Fund and retirement benefits payable direct to pensioners	1,372	
41	Financial Instruments Adjustments	0	
6	Amount by which officer remuneration charged to CI&E on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	26	
3,746	Net transfers to / from (-) earmarked reserves	3,535	
10,099	Total	9,008	
22,003	Net additional amount required to be credited or debited to the HRA balance for the year	38,439	

G3. NOTES TO THE HRA

1. PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENTS

There are no prior year adjustments in relation to the Housing Revenue Account in 2014/15.

2. HRA ASSETS AND CAPITAL TRANSACTIONS

- a) At 31st March 2015 the Council was responsible for managing 11,883 units of accommodation (excluding shared ownership properties):

Type of Property	Number of Bedrooms				Total
	One	Two	Three	Four+	
Flats-Low Rise	1,447	391	2	1	1,841
Flats-Medium Rise	1,752	840	118	4	2,714
Flats-High Rise	396	82	21	0	499
Houses & Bungalows	882	2,509	3,106	332	6,829
Total	4,477	3,822	3,247	337	11,883

- b) The movement in housing stock can be summarised as follows:

Type of Property	Stock at 01 April 2014	Stock Movements			Stock at 31 March 2015
		Sold	Additions	Demolished	
Flats	5,082	-30	4	0	5,056
Houses & Bungalows	6,887	-58	0	-2	6,827
Dwellings (excl. Shared)	11,969	-88	4	-2	11,883
Shared Ownership	82	0	0	0	82
Total	12,051	-88	4	-2	11,965

- c) The gross balance sheet value of housing assets at 31st March was as follows:

31 March 2014 £000s	Gross Balance Sheet Value	31 March 2015 £000s
	Operational Assets	
104,914	Land	113,594
232,469	Dwellings	236,636
20,501	Other Capital Assets	20,942
357,884	Total Operational Assets	371,172
604	Non Operational Assets	869
358,488	Total	372,041
1,031,600	Vacant Possession Value as at 1st April	1,029,228

d) Capital Receipts

2013/14 £000s	Housing Capital Receipts	2014/15 £000s
-189	Land Sales	-26
-4,190	Dwelling Sales	-4,430
-4,379	Total	-4,456
869	Payable to the Secretary of State	955
869	Net cost of Payments to CLG	955
-3,510	Useable Capital Receipts	-3,501

e) Capital Expenditure and Financing

2013/14 £000s	HRA Capital Expenditure and Financing	2014/15 £000s
	Expenditure	
0	Land Purchase	0
23,476	Dwellings	29,207
793	Re-Purchase of Former Council Housing	324
103	Other Property	434
0	Self Financing	0
24,372	Total Expenditure	29,965
	Financing	
	Dwellings	
0	Borrowing	0
2,169	Useable Capital Receipts	2,115
0	Revenue Contributions	0
4,286	Major Repairs Reserve	12,328
17,020	Grants	15,522
0	Third Party Contributions	0
23,475	Total Financing	29,965
	Other Property	
896	Useable Capital Receipts	0
0	Major Repairs Reserve	0
896	Total Other Property	0
24,371	Total Financing	29,965

3 ARREARS

During 2014/15, arrears as a proportion of gross income were 3.8%. This represents a decrease of 1% since 2013/14 when the proportion was 4.8%. The figures for rent arrears are detailed below:

2013/14 £000s	Rent Arrears	2014/15 £000s
2,375	Gross Arrears at 31 March	1,913
-717	Prepayments	-680
1,657	Net Arrears at 31 March	1,233
998	Provision for bad debts at 31 March	835

4. VACANT POSSESSION VALUE

2013/14 £000s	HRA Vacant Possession Value	2014/15 £000s
1,031,600	Vacant Possession Value as at 1st April	1,029,228

2013/14 £000s	HRA Existing Use	2014/15 £000s
351,054	Existing Use Value as at 1st April	350,230

The vacant possession value of dwellings within the HRA as at 31st March 2015 was £1,029m (£1,033m in 2013/14). For the balance sheet, the figure has been reduced to 34% of this value for all except a small number of specific properties - i.e. £350m (£351m in 2013/14). This reflects the economic cost of providing Council housing at less than open market rents.

5. HOUSING REPAIRS ACCOUNT

The transactions on the Housing Repairs Account for 2014/15 balanced to nil for the year, although this may not always be the case.

2013/14 £000s	Housing Repairs Account	2014/15 £000s
0	Balance B/f	0
16,447	Expenditure in the Year	16,206
-16,447	Contributions to the Housing Repairs Account	-16,206
0	Increase (-) / Decrease in the Housing Repairs Account Balance for the year	0
0	Balance c/f	0

6. DEPRECIATION, AMORTISATION, IMPAIRMENT, AND REVALUATION OF NON CURRENT ASSETS

a) Depreciation and Amortisation

2013/14 £000s	Depreciation and Amortisation	2014/15 £000s
	Operational Assets	
8,150	Dwellings	8,604
325	Other Property	333
2	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	1
8,477	Total Depreciation	8,939
562	Intangible Assets -amortisation	222
562	Total Amortisation	222
9,039	Total	9,160

b) Revaluation Gains and Losses

2013/14 I&E £000s	2013/14 RRA £000s	Revaluation Gains & Losses	2014/15 I&E £000s	2014/15 RRA £000s
18,701	72	Dwellings	18,118	19
0	7	Other Property	6	9
0	0	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	0	0
18,701	79	Revaluation Losses	18,124	28
-14,811	-30	Dwellings	-33,245	-728
-18	-543	Other Property	-17	-103
0	0	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	0	0
-14,829	-573	Revaluation Gains	-33,262	-831
3,872	-494	Total	-15,138	-803

7. MAJOR REPAIRS RESERVE

Authorities are required to maintain a Major Repairs Reserve (MRR). The MRR has two functions; the first is to act as a credit entry for the cost of depreciation on Council dwellings. The second is to hold unused balances of the notional Major Repairs Allowance (MRA), which can be used in future years. The notional MRA is as used in the self-financing valuation and represents the estimated annual cost of maintaining an Authority's stock at its existing level.

Council dwellings depreciation is not the same as the MRA; therefore an adjustment is required to ensure there is no bottom line impact on the HRA. This is known as the Capital asset charges accounting adjustment. The transactions on the MRR are detailed below:

Major Repairs Reserve	£000s
Balance at 1 April 2014	-9,405
Council Dwellings Depreciation	-8,939
Depreciation adjustment to agree to MRA	-3,273
Total	-21,617
Amount used to finance Capital Expenditure	
Dwellings	12,328
Total	12,328
Balance at 31 March 2015	-9,288

H1. COLLECTION FUND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

The Council has a statutory requirement to operate a Collection Fund as a separate account to the General Fund. The purpose of the Collection Fund is to isolate the income and expenditure relating to Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Business Rates. The administrative costs associated with the collection process are charged to the General Fund.

Collection Fund surpluses/deficits declared by the Billing Authority in relation to Council Tax are apportioned to the relevant precepting bodies in the subsequent financial year. For NBC, the Council Tax precepting bodies are Northamptonshire County Council and Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner.

In 2013/14, the Local Government finance regime was revised with the introduction of the retained business rates scheme. The main aim of the scheme is to give Councils a greater incentive to grow businesses in the Borough. It does, however, also increase the financial risk to the authority due to non-collection and the volatility of the NNDR tax base.

The scheme allows the Council to retain a proportion of the total NNDR received. The initial Northampton Borough Council share is 40% with the remainder paid to precepting bodies. For NBC, the NNDR precepting bodies are Central Government (50% share) and Northamptonshire County Council (10% share). The NBC share is then subject to a tariff payment to Government, which was £32.1m in 2014/15 (£31.5m in 2013/14). The residual amount is then compared to the assessment in the Local Government Finance Settlement and any growth above the Settlement level is subject to a levy payment to Government.

Northampton Borough Council participated in a pool for 2014/15 with other local authorities in the county to minimise the levy payment due and thereby maximise the local retention of locally generated business rates.

NNDR surpluses/deficits declared by the Billing Authority in relation to the Collection Fund are apportioned to the relevant precepting bodies and Government in the subsequent financial in their respective proportions.

The Code of Practice followed by Local Authorities in England stipulates that a Collection Fund Income and Expenditure account is included in the Council's accounts. The Collection Fund balance sheet meanwhile is incorporated into the Council's consolidated balance sheet.

The following statement on the next page shows the statutory transactions relating to this fund.

2013/14 Council Tax £000s	2013/14 NNDR £000s	2013/14 Total £000s	Collection Fund	2014/15 Council Tax £000s	2014/15 NNDR £000s	2014/15 Total £000s	Note
INCOME							
-88,509	0	-88,509	Council Tax (net of benefits, discounts & transitional relief)	-92,263	0	-92,263	
Transfers from General Fund							
235	0	235	Council Tax benefits	0	0	0	
0	-98,294	-98,294	Income collectable from business ratepayers	0	-99,013	-99,013	
-88,274	-98,294	-186,568	Total Income	-92,263	-99,013	-191,276	
EXPENDITURE							
Precepts & demands:-							
59,857	0	59,857	Northamptonshire County Council	64,431	0	64,431	
11,248	0	11,248	Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner	12,108	0	12,108	
13,137	0	13,137	Northampton Borough Council	13,841	0	13,841	
National Non-Domestic Rates							
0	50,108	50,108	Payments to Central Government	0	51,610	51,610	CF1
0	10,022	10,022	Payments to Northamptonshire County Council	0	10,322	10,322	
0	40,086	40,086	Amount retained by Northampton Borough Council	0	41,288	41,288	
0	301	301	Cost of collection	0	299	299	
0	536	536	Other transfers to General Fund - Enterprise Zone	0	519	519	
0	2,871	2,871	Transitional Protection Payments	0	885	885	
Bad & Doubtful Debts / Appeals							
2,473	3,859	6,332	Provisions	2,129	1,511	3,639	CF4
Contributions							
0	0	0	Towards previous years' Collection Fund deficit	0	-2,225	0	CF3
0	0	0	Prior Year Adjustments (deferrals)	0	-198	0	
86,715	107,783	194,498	Total Expenditure	92,509	104,011	198,942	
-1,559	9,489	7,930	Net (Surplus)/deficit for the year	245	4,998	7,665	
COLLECTION FUND BALANCE							
-211	0	-211	Balance brought forward at 1st April	-1,770	9,489	7,719	
-1,559	9,489	7,930	Net Deficit/(surplus) for the year (as above)	245	4,998	5,243	
-1,770	9,489	7,719	Balance carried forward at 31 March	-1,524	14,486	12,962	
Allocated to:-							
0	4,744	4,744	Central Government	0	7,243	7,243	
-1,257	949	-308	Northamptonshire County Council	-1,089	1,449	360	
-236	0	-236	Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner	-205	0	-205	
-276	3,795	3,519	Northampton Borough Council	-231	5,795	5,564	
-1,770	9,489	7,719	Fund Balance c/fwd	-1,524	14,486	12,962	

H2. NOTES TO THE COLLECTION FUND

1. NATIONAL NON DOMESTIC RATES (NNDR)

The total non-domestic rateable value as at 31 March 2015 was £244.3m and the equivalent figure for 2013/14 was £243.6m. The National Non-Domestic Rate multiplier for 2014/15 was 48.2p and the equivalent figure for 2013/14 was 47.1p. The small business non-domestic rating multiplier for 2014/15 was 47.1p and the equivalent figure for 2013/14 was 46.2p.

2. COUNCIL TAX

The Council's tax base, i.e. the number of chargeable dwellings in each valuation band (adjusted for dwellings where discounts apply) converted to an equivalent number of band D dwellings for 2012/13, was calculated as follows: -

2013/14 Band D Equivalents	Band	Estimated number of taxable properties 2014/15 after discounts	Ratio	2014/15 Band D Equivalents
16.35	A(-)	25	5/9	14.08
14,616.21	A	18,658	6/9	12,438.60
12,248.00	B	15,921	7/9	12,382.65
15,386.64	C	18,991	8/9	16,881.07
8,136.84	D	9,231	9/9	9,230.77
5,325.00	E	5,031	11/9	6,148.82
2,749.42	F	2,206	13/9	3,186.11
1,628.86	G	1,170	15/9	1,950.06
81.47	H	51	18/9	102.00
60,188.79	Gross Council Tax Base			62,334.16
2,115.00	Non-collection provision			1,683.00
58,074	Council Tax Base Used for setting the Precept			60,651

The provision for non-collection was set at 2.7% for 2014/15 (3.5% for 2013/14).

3. ANALYSIS OF IN-YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUND DEFICITS

2013/14 £000s	In Year Contribution to Deficit NNDR	2014/15 £000s
0	Central Government	-1,112
0	Northamptonshire County Council	-222
0	Northampton Borough Council	-890
0	Total Deficit Recovered	-2,225

4. PROVISION FOR BAD AND DOUBTFUL DEBTS

2013/14 £000s	Provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts Council Tax	2014/15 £000s
8,094	Bad Debt Provision B/f	9,514
-819	Write Offs	-1,125
-235	Council tax benefit transferred to reserve	-77
2,474	Provision Made in Year	2,129
9,514	Bad Debt Provision c/f	10,441

The Collection Fund now also provides for Bad debts on NNDR arrears:

2013/14 £000s	Bad and Doubtful Debts NNDR	2014/15 £000s
449	Bad Debt Provision B/fwd	679
0	Write offs of uncollectible debt	-430
230	Allowance for non collection	426
679	Bad Debt Provision c/f	675
659	Amounts written off in year not charged to provision	0

The Collection Fund account also provides for provisions for appeals against the rateable valuation set by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) not settled as at 31st March 2015:

2013/14 £000s	Provision for Appeals	2014/15 £000s
0	Appeals Provision B/fwd	2,969
11	Provision for 13/14 appeals	-1,601
2,958	Provision for backdated appeals	2,685
2,969	Appeals Provision c/f	4,053

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Accrual

The accruals concept requires that the cost or benefit of a transaction is shown in the period to which the goods or services are received or provided, rather than when the cash is paid or received.

Actuarial Basis

The estimation technique applied when estimating the liabilities to be recognised for defined benefit pension schemes in the financial statements of an organisation.

Amortisation

The term used to describe the charge made for the cost of using intangible fixed assets. The charge for the year will represent the amount of economic benefits consumed aka wear and tear.

Amortised Cost

The cost of intangible assets reduced by the amount of amortisation charged to date.

Assets

Right or other access to future economic benefits.

Assets Held for Sale

Non-Current Assets which meet the relevant criteria to be classified as held for sale.

Available for Sale Assets

Financial assets that have a quoted market price and/or do not have fixed or determinable payments.

Balance Sheet

Shows all balances including reserves, long-term debt, fixed and net current assets, together with summarised information on the fixed assets held.

Balance Sheet Date

The date at which the Authority reports its financial statements. For Northampton Borough Council, this date is the 31st March.

Capital Adjustment Account

Capital reserve largely comprising of resource applied to capital financing and is not available to the Authority to support new investment

Capital Costs

Reflects the element of annual payment for PFI or Leased assets which is in relation to the reduction in the long term debt associated with the asset.

Capital Expenditure

Expenditure on the acquisition of, or enhancement to fixed assets. This cannot be merely to maintain the value of an existing asset.

Capital Grant

Grant which is intended to fund capital expenditure.

Capital Grant Unapplied Reserve

Capital reserve reflecting the value of capital grant received where there are no conditions outstanding; however expenditure on the associated asset has not been incurred.

Capital Reserves

Reserve balances held for capital purposes

Cash Flow Statement

This consolidated statement summarises the inflows and outflows of cash arising from transactions with third parties for revenue and capital purposes.

CIPFA Code

A publication produced by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) that provides comprehensive guidance on the content of a Councils Statement of Accounts.

Collection Fund

The fund maintained by authorities who have responsibility to bill Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rate payers (billing authorities).

Collection Fund Adjustment Account

Revenue reserve to represent the difference between the income received by a local authority in Council Tax and the amount attributable to them.

Collection Fund Statements

The statutory financial statements produced as part of the Statement of Accounts by authorities who have responsibility to bill Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rate payers (billing authorities).

Community Assets

Assets which are held for the benefit of the community where there is no determinable useful life, such as works of art.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)

This statement reports the net cost of all the services which the Council is responsible for, and demonstrates how that cost has been financed.

Contingent Liability

Potential costs that the Council may incur in the future because of something that happened in the past, but there is no certainty that a cost will occur.

Core Service Areas

The services provided by the Authority externally, such as education, highway maintenance and adult social care.

Corporate and Democratic Core

Costs associated with the democratic management of the Authority such as the Chief Executive's salary and Members' Allowances.

Council

The Council comprises all of the democratically elected Councillors who represent the various electoral divisions.

Council Tax

Council Tax is a local taxation that is levied on dwellings within the local Council area, and funds all Council services

Credit

A credit represents income to an account.

Creditors

Represents the amount that the Council owes other parties.

Debit

A debit represents expenditure against an account.

Debtors

Represents the amounts owed to the Council.

Deficit

Arises when expenditure exceeds income or when expenditure exceeds available budget.

Defined Benefit Scheme

Also known as a Final Salary Scheme. Pension scheme arrangement where the benefits payable to the members are determined by the scheme rules. In most cases there is a compulsory members contribution but over and above this all costs of meeting the quoted benefits are the responsibility of the employer.

Depreciation

The term used to describe the charge made for the cost of using tangible fixed assets. The charge for the year will represent the amount of economic benefits consumed aka wear and tear.

Derecognition

The process by which assets that are no longer deemed to belong to the Authority either by sale, destruction or other form of disposal, are removed from the accounts of the Authority.

Discount

An allowance received through the early repayment of debt

Discounted Cash Flow

A method of analysing future cash flows, by removing the impact time has on the value of money, and producing an equivalent current value (present value).

Donated Assets

Assets which have been acquired at below market cost.

Earmarked Reserves

Reserve balances which have been set aside for future spending in a specific area.

Employee

A person who holds an office within the Authority, but does not include a person who is an elected councillor.

Employee Costs

The costs directly associated with employees, including but not exhaustively salaries and wages, National Insurance contributions and pensions costs.

Enhancement Expenditure

Expenditure which increases the value of an asset.

Exceptional Items

Events which are material in terms of the Authority's overall expenditure and are not expected to recur frequently or regularly.

Extraordinary Items

Material items possessing a high degree of abnormality which arise from events or transactions that fall outside the ordinary activities of the reporting entity and which are not expected to recur.

Fair Value

Usually the amount that would be paid for an asset in an active market, however where there is no market for a certain type of asset (such as schools) other methods to determine fair value are used.

Finance Costs

Reflects the element of annual payment for PFI or Leased assets which is in relation to interest payable on the loan liability.

Finance Lease

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

Financial Assets

A right to future economic benefits controlled by the Authority.

Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

Revenue reserve which records the timing differences between the rate at which gains and losses are recognised and the rate at which debits and credits are required to be made against Council Tax.

Financial Liabilities

An obligation to transfer economic benefits controlled by the Authority.

General Reserves / General Fund Balance

The reserve held by the County Council for general purposes, i.e. against which there are no specific commitments.

Going Concern

The going concern accounting concept assumes that the organisation will not significantly curtail the scale of its operation in the foreseeable future.

Grants

Payment towards the cost of local authority services. These are either for particular purposes or services (specific grants) or in aid of local services generally (formula grant).

Impairment

Impairment of an asset is caused either by a consumption of economic benefits, a deterioration in the service provided by an asset, or by a general fall in prices of that particular asset.

Infrastructure Assets

Assets associated with the road networks owned and maintained by Northampton Borough Council.

Intangible Asset

Non-current assets which do not have physical form such as software.

Internal Service Costs

The provision of services by the central departments of the County Council. Examples finance, personnel, legal, administration, information technology and property.

International Accounting Standard (IASs)

Regulations outlining the method of accounting for activities, IASs are currently being replaced with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) issued by the International Accounting Standards Board.

International Financial Reporting Standards

Regulations outlining the method of accounting for activities, issued by the International Accounting Standards Board.

Inventory

Fair value of current assets purchased which have not yet been consumed.

Investment Property Assets

Assets held solely for the purposes of rental generation or for increasing the value pre-sale (capital appreciation).

Leases

A method of funding expenditure by payment over a defined period of time.

Lessee

The person or organisation that is using or occupying an asset under lease (tenant).

Lessor

The person or organisation that owns an asset under lease (landlord).

Liabilities

An obligation to transfer economic benefits. Current liabilities are payable within one year.

Loans and Receivables

Financial assets which are not quoted in an active market and have either a fixed or determinable payment.

Materiality

Materiality is an expression of the relative significance or importance of a particular matter in the context of the financial statements as a whole.

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

A minimum amount, set by law, which the Council must charge to the income and expenditure account, for debt redemption or for the discharge of other credit liabilities (e.g. finance lease).

Movement in Reserves Statement

The statement detailing the movement in the reserves of the Authority.

Non-Current Assets

Assets that yield benefits to the Council for a period of more than one year, examples include land, buildings and vehicles.

Non-Distributed Costs

The value of revenue operating expenditure that is not able to be apportioned to one of the authorities core service areas.

Operating Lease

A lease where an asset is used only for a small proportion of its economic life.

Pensions Costs

The benefits paid by the Authority which are accrued during the period of employment and paid to ex-employees after retirement.

Pensions Liability

The cost, calculated by an Actuary, of providing the current members of a pension scheme with retirement benefits as set out in the pension scheme rules.

PFI

See Private Finance Initiative

PFI Credits

The financial support provided to Local Authorities to part fund PFI capital projects.

Premium

A payment made in association with the early repayment of debt.

Previous Year Adjustments

These are material adjustments relating to prior year accounts that are reported in subsequent years and arise from changes in accounting policies or from the correction of fundamental errors.

Principal

The amount of repayment to a lender which relates to the reduction in the loan, rather than the interest paid on the loan.

Private Finance Initiative (PFI)

A Government initiative that enables, through the provision of financial support, Authorities to carry out capital projects through partnership with the private sector.

Projected Unit Method

This is a common actuarial funding method to value pension scheme liabilities.

Provisions

Potential costs that the Council may incur in the future because of something that happened in the past, which are likely or certain to be incurred and a reliable estimate can be made to the costs.

Provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts

A prudent reduction in the reported level of income owed to the Authority for non-payment of invoices and other debt.

Quoted Market Prices

A method of determining the fair value of financial assets via prices quoted on an active market.

Recognition

The process upon which assets are deemed to belong to the Authority either by purchase, construction or other form of acquisition.

Revaluation Gain

The increase to the fair value of an asset following a valuation.

Revaluation Reserve

This reserve contains revaluation gains on assets recognised since 1 April 2007 only, the date of its formal implementation.

Revenue Expenditure

Expenditure which is not capital.

Revenue Grant

Grant which is not capital.

Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute

This is expenditure that is classified as capital although it does not result in the creation of a fixed asset.

Service Reporting Code of Practice (SERCOP)

Produced by CIPFA, this establishes proper practice with regard to consistent financial reporting, which allows direct comparisons to be made with the financial information published by other local authorities.

Service Concession Arrangements

Arrangements which involve the supply and maintenance of assets and service delivery.

Service Costs

Reflects the element of annual payment for PFI or Leased assets which is in relation to services provided within the contract.

Short Term Benefits

Employee benefits earned and consumed during employment.

Soft Loans

Low interest rate loans.

Specific Grant

A grant awarded to a Council for a specific purpose or service that cannot be spent on anything else.

Straight Line Basis

The method of calculating depreciation via charging the same amount each year over the life of the asset.

Subsidiary

An organisation that is under the control of the Council aka the Council is the majority shareholder.

Surplus

Arises when income exceeds expenditure or when expenditure is less than available budget.

Surplus Assets

Assets which are no longer in operation.

Tenant

The person or organisation that is occupying an asset under lease.

Termination Benefits

Employee benefits paid upon termination of employment such as redundancy.

Treasury Management

Utilisation of cash flows through investments and loans.

Useful Life

The period with which an asset is expected to be useful to the Authority in its current state.

Value Added Tax

National taxation charged on goods and services.

Work in Progress

The fair value of incomplete contracts for goods and services which are to be charged to external customers.

