

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026



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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to explain the Council's financial position and performance during 2025/26 and to set the financial performance in the context of the Council's overall strategic objectives.

These financial statements have been prepared in line with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in United Kingdom for the year ended 31st March 2026 (the Code) and the Department of Communities Accounts Direction, Circular LG 07/26.

The financial statements follow approved accounting standards and are necessarily technical in parts. The annual accounts for 2025/26 have been prepared on the assumption that the Council will continue in existence for the foreseeable future.

CONTEXT

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL SERVES A POPULATION OF OVER 150,000 RESIDENTS, 62,000 HOUSEHOLDS AND COVERS 200 SQUARE MILES. THE COUNCIL IS LED BY 40 COUNCILLORS ACROSS 7 DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS (DEAS).





The Council has a range of strategic documents which together provide the strategic context and framework within which the Council sets its vision, values and delivery objectives. These include the Community Plan, Corporate Plan 2024-2028 and the Local Development Plan. These documents can be accessed on www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk.

This document concentrates on the Statement of Accounts for the year end 31 March 2026.

What is included in the Statement of Accounts?

The Statement of Accounts includes four main elements

- Comprehensive Income and Expenditure (CI&E)
- Movement in Reserves Statement (MIRS)
- Balance Sheet
- Cash Flow Statement

The CI&E Statement sets out the Council's financial performance for the year and shows the annual income and expenditure on the basis of accounting standards and practice. However, there are

statutory arrangements in place which mean that the amount which is chargeable to a Council's general reserves for the year is different from its net income or expenditure for the year. These statutory arrangements are largely designed to change the timing over which items of income or expenditure must be paid for through council taxation, to ensure greater fairness for local ratepayers.

The MIRS sets out how the impact of the Council's net income and expenditure for the year is distributed across its Usable and Unusable Reserves.

The Balance Sheet sets out the Council's financial position at the end of the year, showing the value of the assets and liabilities which make up the Council's overall reserves, sometimes known as its Net Worth.

The Cash Flow Statement sets out how the Council's income and expenditure for the year has been reflected in cash flows to, and from, the Council.

Each of the main statements are followed by notes, which give more

information on the main figures included in the statements. These include a note called the Expenditure and Funding Analysis, which aims to show the differences, at a department level, between the net expenditure chargeable to general reserves and the net expenditure on a proper accounting basis as it appears in the CI&E Statement.

2025/26 Strategic Overview

The 2025/26 financial year represents the second year of delivery under the Council's four-year Corporate Plan. Building on the strong foundations established in 2024/25, the Council has focused on accelerating progress against its strategic priorities, with particular emphasis on delivering sustainable growth, enhancing community wellbeing, and supporting economic development across the Council area.

During the year, the Council continued to advance the implementation of the Regeneration and Economic Reserve, supporting key initiatives aimed at revitalising Lisburn City Centre and stimulating

investment. This has included further development of priority regeneration projects and engagement with partners to maximise the impact of available resources and funding opportunities.

The Community Investment Fund has continued to deliver significant benefits to local communities. These investments have strengthened local infrastructure, enhanced community capacity, and enabled organisations to leverage additional external funding. Collectively, these projects demonstrate the Council's continued commitment to partnership working and the development of resilient and inclusive communities.

Progress has also been maintained across the Council's Capital Programme, Investment in leisure, recreational, and community facilities has remained a priority. Key flagship developments, including the Dundonald International Ice Bowl project, have continued to progress, reinforcing the Council's long-term vision for regional investment and economic benefit

The Council has also continued to promote and celebrate the area's unique heritage and cultural assets. Further progress has been made in the development of the Destination Royal Hillsborough project, alongside an ongoing programme of cultural and heritage events that contribute to tourism growth. Recognition at regional and sectoral level reflects the Council's continued leadership in heritage and community initiatives.

Throughout 2025/26, the Council has maintained a strong focus on enhancing governance, accountability, and operational effectiveness. Building on the previous year's work, further improvements have been implemented in financial management, internal controls, and policy frameworks. This includes continued refinement of procedures and systems to ensure compliance with best practice and support effective decision-making.

Public engagement has remained central to the Council's approach, with continued consultation on key strategies, plans, and service developments. These engagements ensure that the views of residents, businesses, and stakeholders inform policy direction and service delivery.

The Council has also progressed its digital transformation programme, further embedding the use of technology to enhance service delivery, improve efficiency, and support data-driven decision-making. Ongoing investment in systems and digital infrastructure continues to strengthen organisational resilience, responsiveness and cyber security.

The Council remains committed to supporting communities and responding to emerging challenges. During 2025/26, it has continued to work collaboratively with partners to provide targeted support to residents and businesses, particularly in the context of ongoing economic and social pressures. The experience gained from previous emergency responses continues to strengthen the Council's preparedness and

capacity to respond effectively to future events. This ensures that the Council is well positioned to protect and support its communities in times of need.

Outturn

The Council decreased its General Fund reserve by £0.22m from £11.12m to £10.90m.

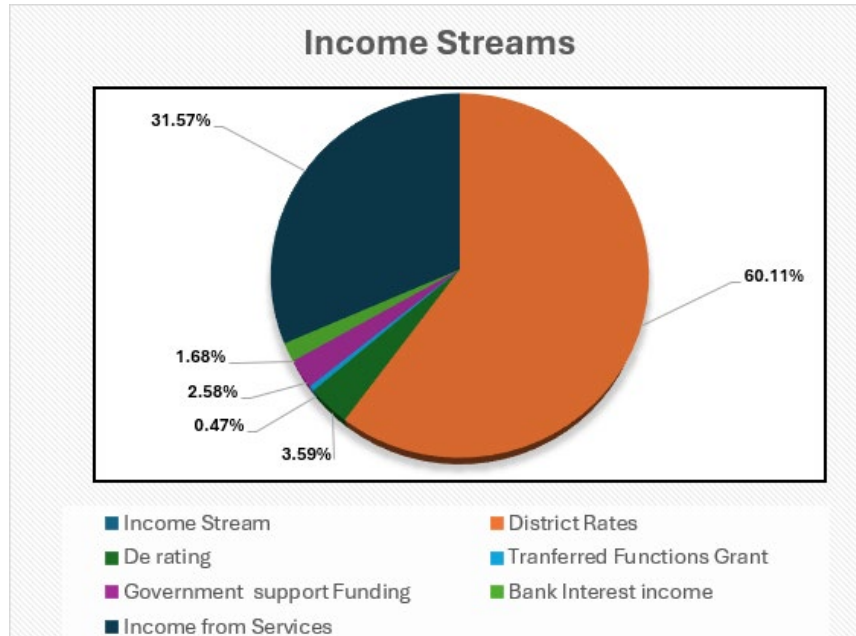
Overall, the usable reserves increased by £3.8m. This was due to several factors, including:

- Continuing success of the Council's Vitality Scheme across the Council area with membership growing to 20,439;
- Continued high bank deposit rates as investments returned higher yields, as the Council maximised treasury investment opportunities throughout the year;
- Managing expenditure particularly in relation to the continued high costs of materials and supplies along with increases in fuel costs;
- Challenges within the recruitment market resulted in underspend in pay related costs; and
- The Council's rate budget of £62.47m was reduced by a negative finalisation of £600k along with a reduction in the de-rating grant receivable of £31.6k.

Where did the Council get its money for 2025/26?

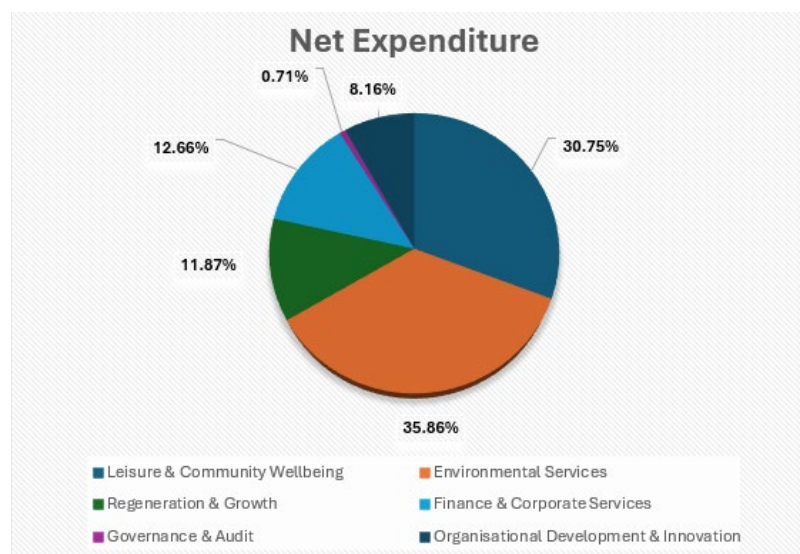
The pie chart below shows the various sources of income. The majority of the income for 2025/26 was generated through domestic and non domestic rates. The remaining balance is made up of a mix of income for Council services, income from treasury investments and other sources.

Income Stream



How did the Council spend its money in 2025/26?

The pie chart indicates the net cost of services across each of the Council directorates aligned with the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The Environmental Services Directorate (responsible for waste collection and disposal) together with the Leisure & Communities Wellbeing Directorate (responsible for leisure, open spaces and communities) are responsible for the majority of the expenditure.



The total net cost of services reported in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is £60,692,615.

GENERAL FUND AND MOVEMENTS TO RESERVES

In light of the year-end financial position, the Council took measures to consider medium and longer term financial health of the organisation. This included transfers to existing reserves to enhance financial resilience and deliver on key objectives of building strong communities and maximising opportunities for business and growth. This resulted in the following movements in reserves:

DEA Reserve – A transfer of £225k into the reserve. This reserve is aimed at providing direct support for communities and businesses with successful projects ranging from community facility enhancements, sports development through to provision of bursaries.

Election Fund - A transfer of £50k to provide resilience against future costs of running the Council Election in 2027.

Capital Fund - A transfer of £1.6m to provide additional resilience for the delivery of the Council's capital programme with £800k of this earmarked specifically for pitches related projects.

Capital expenditure

The capital programme reflects the ambition of the Council moving forward. It contains a mix of projects ranging from new and enhanced leisure and community facilities, replacement of fleet and ongoing maintenance of the Council estate. There is regular

reporting on movements in the capital programme through a defined governance process. The Council continues to maximise all third party funding for capital projects with plans to replace a number of waste vehicles in 2026/27 using DAERA Extended Product Responsibility funding.

Borrowings

The Council had an authorised borrowing limit of £105m for 2025/26 (£90m in 2024/25). This increase reflects the Council's forecast capital expenditure plans over the medium to long term. During the year, the Council was able to finance capital spending from its own resources. At 31 March 2026, the Council had outstanding borrowing of £17.8m (£18.9m in 24/25) a decrease of £1.1m on the prior year reflecting scheduled loan payments made in year.

Pension liability

The Council's outstanding liability relating to its share of the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers Superannuation Scheme amounts to £283k.

In addition, the Council makes contributions to the Northern Ireland Civil Service Pension Scheme in respect of officers who transferred to Local Government on 1 April 2015.

Further information on the pension liability can be found within note 21.

Change to Statutory Functions

There were no changes to statutory functions during 2025/26.

Provisions & Contingencies

The provisions include amounts for landfill costs and insurance costs. The main movement in the provision relates to landfill which decreased by £94k. This provision is to allow future work required at the Landfill Sites acquired from both the former Lisburn City and Castlereagh Borough Councils and is to ensure that they comply with NIEA regulations, and also to changes in the discount rate based borrowing. Note 19 gives further detail on this requirement.

The Council continues to disclose a potential liability which may arise as a result of the procurement of the Residual Waste Treatment Project. Note 24 provides further information on a number of contingencies.

Strategy and Resource Allocation

The Council operates an effective budgetary control system that involves the issuing of monthly reports to each Director showing expenditure against budget and regular meetings between the relevant Department and Finance staff. In addition, the Corporate Services Committee receives



regular reports on budgets and financial performance during the year to ensure that members are provided with an up to date position on corporate finances and challenges associated with the ongoing running and servicing of Council needs.

As part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy, a Treasury Management Strategy is published every year and this fulfils the Council's legal obligation under the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, to have regard to both the CIPFA Code and the DfC Guidance. The Council has engaged professional advisers to assist with this process.

Financial Outlook

The financial environment in which the Council operates continues to present significant challenges and uncertainty. Ongoing global and national

economic pressures, including geopolitical instability and inflationary trends continue to create both financial and operational risks for the organisation.

At a local level, cost of living pressure remains a key concern for ratepayers. In this context, the Council has carefully considered its rates position for 2026/27, seeking to strike an appropriate balance between maintaining financial sustainability and minimising the burden on households and businesses.

As with other public sector bodies, the Council has planned proactively for changes in the wider fiscal landscape. This includes managing the financial implications of national pay agreements, inflationary increases and fuel volatility. These factors continue to place upward pressure on the Council's cost base and require

careful financial planning and monitoring.

Financial sustainability remains a critical component of the Council's overall strategy. The Council's financial approach continues to be underpinned by the following key principles:

- Maintaining a balanced budget that ensures sufficient resources are available to deliver the Council's corporate objectives; and
- Ensuring that both financial and physical assets are managed and utilised effectively in the best interests of ratepayers

Looking ahead, it remains essential that the Council retains sufficient financial capacity to meet future demands and deliver its long-term strategic ambitions. To support this, the Council will:

- Continue to operate within a robust financial



management and governance framework

- Maintain transparent, timely and accessible financial reporting
- Regularly review the key components of its financial strategy to ensure they remain effective in an evolving financial environment.

The Council remains committed to prudent financial management to ensure continued delivery of high-quality services.

Risks

The Council's risk management framework supports the ongoing identification, assessment and monitoring of risks that may impact the quality and continuity of service delivery. Strategic risks are subject to quarterly

review by the Corporate Management Team and the Governance & Audit Committee, while Directorate-level risks are regularly monitored and managed by senior officers.

Financial sustainability remains a key corporate risk and continues to be closely monitored. These include uncertainty in central government funding, reliance on third-party funding streams, pay award pressures, and wider cost increases. Mitigation measures include the application of robust budgetary controls and regular financial performance reviews.

The Council continues to apply the principles of the Prudential Code to ensure that its Capital Investment Programme remains affordable, prudent and sustainable. Continued monitoring of key prudential indicators, including capital expenditure, external borrowing

and treasury management performance.

Group Accounts

The Code requires local authorities to consider all their interests and to prepare a full set of group financial statements where they have material interests in subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures. The Council does not have material interests in such bodies and accordingly is not required to prepare group financial statements.

OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

THE YEAR IN HIGHLIGHTS





Events including: two receptions celebrating local groups receiving the King's Awards for Voluntary Service (KAVS).

Proud to be the only Council in Northern Ireland delivering citizenship ceremonies with **39 citizenship ceremonies facilitated this year. We have welcomed **8120** UK citizens since the service began.**

- **We delivered **52** Health & Wellbeing initiatives for staff.**
- **We implemented the**

Health & Wellbeing Strategy which outlines the overall strategy to improve Health & Wellbeing of staff in accordance with our Corporate Plan.

- **We introduced the Neonatal Leave Policy. This was a new policy that we introduced during Carers Week (9-16 June 2025), which strengthened our commitment to supporting staff with caring responsibilities. LCCC were the first Council in Northern Ireland to extend Neonatal Leave to foster carers.**



- We revised and updated the Managing Attendance Policy and relating Procedure which details how employees will be supported through any periods of sickness absence.
- Building Control have completed **11,500** building control inspections
- Adoption of the Council's Sustainability Strategy, Climate Action Plan and Adaptation Plan
- LCCC successfully took the lead in the Landlord Registration Scheme for all of Northern Ireland and achieved **4,381** new registrations and **6,328** renewals
- Secured funding of **£1.9m** from DAERA through the Collaborative Change Programme to assist with the re-development of Carryduff Household Recycling Centre
- Significantly reduced the



- amount of local authority collected waste that is sent to landfill to **0.28%**
- **8** new bin lorries in service as a result of commencing the implementation of the Interim Fleet Replacement Plan
- Delivered first ever Age Friendly Summer Scheme to support accessibility and inclusion for older people in our community
- Delivered **£4,231,336** in Grant Aid programmes to local communities
- Celebrated the opening of the Hilden Primary School project as a new social enterprise model
- Developed **2** village plans through Community Conversations

HEALTH & WELLBEING



6,885

participants increased their physical activity and socialised through our **Health & Wellbeing** classes



388

individuals were referred by a medical professional on the **PARS** programme



55

clients completed **Cardiac Rehabilitation**

1,367

participants enjoyed our **Inclusion and Outreach** programme including horticulture, walking and bowling

- Development of a **Walking for All Community** programme to inspire people of all ages and abilities to connect to others through regular short walks in the community.

Extensive programme of sessions including horticulture, cardiac rehabilitation, cancer rehabilitation and chair based activities.



SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

£99,434.05

was distributed to 48 clubs
through the **Sports Club
Accelerator Fund** to help develop
sports in the local community



- **Lisburn Half Marathon, 10K and Fun Run**
sold out with **5,000 runners** of all ages
and abilities taking part

171

people registered for
sports training courses through
Coach Education

285

clubs and athletes attended the
annual **Sports Awards** event



SWIMMING

MORE THAN
3,000

children complete
swimming lessons per year



1,851

after-school lessons

79

NPLQ lessons

175

summer swim camps



- Classes cater for all ages
from prenatal up to adults

22%
NPLQ swimmers
gained employment
within the
council



LCCC
Lisburn &
Castlereagh
City Council

Lagan Valley
LeisurePlex ★

VITALITY MEMBERSHIP

20,439

customers are now
Vitality Members



OVER
300

Vitality Plus members enjoy
greater value for money
activities

220

weekly classes are delivered per
week across Sports Services

OVER
11,000

classes and activities are
timetabled per year catering for
over 220,000 users

85%
of members benefit
from household
membership



- Vitality membership caters for a wide demographic including pre & post natal classes & activities, kids' classes & activities, family activities, teen classes, adult classes, 50+ & 60+ classes.
- Refurbishment of the gyms at Glenmore & Kilmakee and new 30 spin group cycle studio at the LeisurePlex enhanced services for members.

LCCC
Lisburn &
Castlereagh
City Council

vitality
membership

vitalityplus
membership

GOLF



1,109

golfers are now members
of **Castlereagh Hills** or
Aberdelghy Golf Courses



OVER
17,000

visitors played golf across
both golf courses

- **Castlereagh Hills** saw growth of
120 additional juvenile members



LCCC
Lisburn &
Castlereagh
City Council


**Castlereagh Hills
Golf Course**

ABERDELGHY
golf course

LAMBEG

SPORTS SERVICES FOOTFALL



1,187,476

users through the doors of
Sports Services facilities per year



Dundonald International Ice Bowl



978

customers learned to **ice skate**
on a lessons programme



27

Vitality members registered for a free
Learn to Bowl programme in Sept
2025

Inclusive Sessions



- Monthly **disability sledge and disability hockey sessions** made a difference to **111** customers at Dundonald Ice Bowl

- **1,135** benefited from regular family time at monthly **sensory friendly** sessions in Indiana Land

- **Weekly disability friendly sessions** in the Leisure Pool had a positive impact on **3,713** customers per year

- 25m **disability swim sessions** helped **261** customers improve their confidence in the water



LCCC
Lisburn &
Castlereagh
City Council

Dundonald International
Ice Bowl

Lagan Valley
LeisurePlex ★



Highlights from 25/26 PIP

- We reduced **72%** of older planning applications that were more 18 months old
- We developed and launched a citizen consultation framework
- We reduced the average processing times of planning applications to **22.8** weeks. (assuming a starting point of **42.5** weeks)
- **161** citizens participated in the Labour Market Partnership programme
- We supported **64** people with a disability with specialist employability support and advice.
- We developed a village plan for Lisburn South (Ballymacash)



- As part of the Glenavy Village Plan we installed a new playpark in Killultagh housing development, and a new bus shelter at Lyngrove. We replaced existing bins and increased capacity of bins in Glenavy area.
- Approximately **0.28%** of collected waste went to landfill through the residual waste treatment contract.
- **80.5%** of supplier invoices paid within 10 days

STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Statement of the Council's and Chief Financial Officer's Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

The Council's Responsibilities

Under Section 1 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 a council shall make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs. A council shall designate an officer of the council as its Chief Financial Officer and these arrangements shall be carried out under the supervision of its Chief Financial Officer. The Director of Finance and Corporate Services has been designated as Chief Financial Officer.

Under Regulation 7 of the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 the Council, or a Committee, is required by resolution, to approve the accounts.

These draft accounts were approved for onward consideration by the Governance & Audit Committee on 24 September 2026.

The Chief Financial Officer's Responsibilities

Under Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, the Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Council's Statement of Accounts in the form directed by the Department for Communities.

The accounts must give a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year and the financial position as at the end of the financial year.

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Chief Financial Officer is required to:

- observe the Accounts Direction issued by the Department for Communities including compliance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom
- follow relevant accounting and disclosure requirements and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis, and
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

The Chief Financial Officer is also required to:

- keep proper accounting records that are up to date
- and take reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR 2025/26

Annual Governance Statement for 2025/26

1. Scope of responsibility:

Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, used economically, efficiently and effectively. Under Part 12 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 the Council also has a duty to make arrangements for continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised whilst having regard to a combination of the following: -

- strategic effectiveness
- service quality
- service availability
- fairness
- sustainability
- efficiency and innovation

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

The Council has prepared an Annual Governance Statement which is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework *"Delivering Good Governance in Local Government"* (2016 edition). This statement explains how the Council has complied with the code and meets the requirements of the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland 2015) in relation to the publication of an annual governance statement.

2. The Purpose of the Governance Framework:

The governance framework comprises the systems and processes, culture and values, by which the Council is directed and controlled. Our governance framework overarches our activities through which we account to, engage with and help to lead our community. It enables the Council to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate services and value for money over the time period specified.

Our system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage and control risk at a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on a continuous process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Council's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised; as well as to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

The council's governance framework continues to be in place at Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council for the Year Ended 31st March 2026 and up to the date of approval of the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) and Statement of Accounts.

3. The Governance Framework:

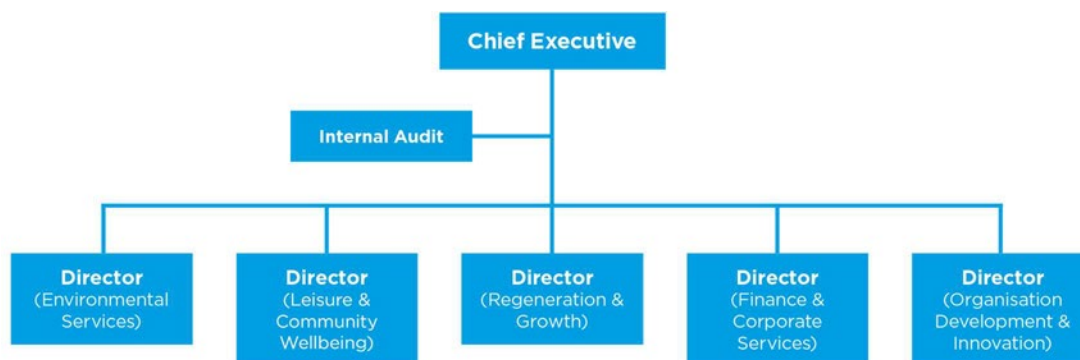
The **key elements** of the systems and processes that comprise the Council's governance arrangements are outlined below.

The Council have an approved committee structure in place during 2025/26 which governs through a full Council & Committee model as set out below: -



The committee structure was approved in March 2023. Committee Terms of Reference are in place.

The management structure is as follows.



The established committee and management structures above have clearly defined roles and responsibilities for elected members, committees, officers, scrutiny functions and executive decision-making. The Council's constitution details responsibility for functions, rules of procedure, codes and protocols which provide clarity and accountability whilst promoting effective communication and informed decision-making. A comprehensive suite of policies and procedures, including Codes of Conduct for Members and Officers, supports high standards of behaviour, ethical governance and compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements. Governance arrangements are regularly reviewed to ensure that decision-making processes remain effective, transparent and supported by reliable information and robust data quality arrangements.

The Council's financial management arrangements operate in accordance with recognised good practice and the principles set out in CIPFA's Statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government. Financial regulations, procurement procedures, budget monitoring, financial reporting and internal controls support the lawful, economic, efficient and effective use of public resources. Assurance arrangements similarly reflect the principles of CIPFA's guidance on the role of the Head of Internal Audit, whilst appropriate arrangements are in place to support the statutory responsibilities of the Chief Executive. The Governance and Audit Committee undertakes the core functions expected of an audit committee and receives regular reports on governance, risk, audit and performance.

The Council is committed to openness, accountability and continuous improvement. Established procedures are in place to ensure compliance with laws, regulations, internal policies and procedures and to facilitate the investigation of complaints, concerns and whistleblowing allegations. The Council supports the development of elected members and officers through structured training and development programmes and maintains clear channels of communication with residents, businesses, community organisations and partner agencies. Public consultation, engagement activities and partnership working contribute to effective service delivery, strengthen accountability and support collaborative approaches to achieving better outcomes for local communities. Governance arrangements for partnerships and joint working initiatives are incorporated within the Council's overall governance framework, ensuring that risks, responsibilities and decision-making arrangements are transparent and appropriately managed.

The Council continually strives to improve its governance arrangements. A selection of highlights has been included to demonstrate our ability to focus on our customers, work together, take informed decisions and apply good governance arrangements.

- Unqualified statutory audit opinion
- Municipal waste to landfill reduced to below 0.1%.
- Footfall at leisure facilities exceeding the 950,000 benchmark.
- Vitality membership increased to 20,216 members over past 8 years.
- 9,554 Vitality leisure classes delivered during the year. 6,600 classes and expanding access to structured physical activity.
- 690 participants across 17 biodiversity projects.
- 8 Green Flag awards.
- Hilden Primary School project completed and occupied as tea room and day care facility.
- Internal Audit peer review carried out by another Council for external scrutiny.
- Updated Business Continuity Plans undertaken to prepare for emergency situations.
- Corporate and Departmental risk registers reviewed quarterly.
- Introduction of Higher-Level Apprenticeships for the first time.
- On-going engagement with the Elected Member Development Steering Group including regular review of training delivery to ensure value for money.
- Health and wellbeing initiatives to support a healthy workforce.
- 95.7% of all invoices paid in 30 days.
- £807k invested in community facilities, bursaries and grants.
- £1.36m match funding provided to 4 new community led facility projects.
- £3.8 million approved by SEUPB

4. Review of Effectiveness of Governance, Risk and Control framework:

The Council is responsible for the stewardship of public money and must therefore demonstrate that it has adequate and effective systems of risk management, governance and control in place.

The Council also has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control.

This review is informed by the work of the executive managers within the Council who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment.

The following reports provide information in support of the Governance Framework:

- Directors - Statements of Assurance
- Head of Service - Statements of Assurance
- Performance Improvement Report
- Operational Performance
- Health & Safety Reports
- Finance & Budget Reports
- Internal Audit Reports
- Risk Management Reports
- External Review Reports
- Service Deep Dives – completed with no serious issues arising.

Each Director and Head of Service complete their own Assurance Statement every six months, and this forms a key part of the corporate governance arrangements for the Council. Internal Audit collates the information and provides the Chief Executive with a briefing paper with all assurance statements attached before he completes his Statement of Assurance that is brought to the Governance and Audit Committee in December and June each year.

4.1 Annual Internal Audit Opinion:

The review of the effectiveness of the Governance Framework is also informed by the Annual Internal Audit Report for the Year Ended 31st March 2026.

Internal Audit Manager Opinion

This Service is satisfied that sufficient internal audit work has been undertaken to allow an opinion to be given as to the adequacy and effectiveness of governance, risk management and control. In giving this opinion, it should be noted that assurance can never be absolute.

The most that the internal audit service can provide is reasonable assurance that there are no major weaknesses in the system of internal control.

The opinion is based on:

- All audits undertaken during the year.
- Results of follow up work undertaken in relation to internal audit recommendations.
- The effects of any significant changes in the organisation's objectives or systems.
- Any limitations which may have been placed on the scope or resources of internal audit.

- What proportion of the organisation's audit needs have been covered to date.
- Results of other sources of assurance work such as the NIAO Report to Those Charged with Governance.
- Review of the Deep Dives carried out by Services.
- Review of the Corporate Assurance Tracker.

The Internal Audit Manager is of the opinion that based on the work completed during the period from 1st April 2025 to 31 March 2026, the Council's systems in relation to internal control, risk management and governance were, in general, adequate and operated effectively and can provide satisfactory assurance in relation to the effective and efficient achievement of the Council's objectives. The Internal Audit Manager is satisfied that the governance issues identified in section 5 below are being monitored and dealt with by management.

Other Internal Audit work:

National Fraud Initiative (NFI) – Data Matching Exercise:

The biennial Data Matching Exercise for 2024/25 concluded in March 2026 with no evidence of duplicate or fraudulent activity found from the sample fieldwork carried out. There were a small number of undeclared potential conflicts of interest that have been referred to line managers to address.

NIAO Local Government Auditor Report 2025

Internal Audit will follow up any recommendations within this report. The result of which will be reported to the Corporate Management Team for discussion and implementation.

Investigations

Internal Audit have been involved with various investigations throughout the year. The results of these have been referred to management and the Northern Ireland Audit Office. All have been dealt with or are in the process of being dealt with under the relevant Council policies.

Internal Working Groups

Internal Audit continues to attend various working groups in an advisory capacity throughout the year. This provides assurance that issues are being identified and addressed in a timely manner.

5. Significant Governance issues:

In this section we have provided a status update on matters included in previous Annual Governance Statements together with the identification of any new governance issues for 2025/2026. Each of these matters are monitored through Risk Registers or internal working groups.

5.1 Identified Significant Governance issues:

Judicial Review & Legal Challenges: Legacy challenges are being addressed through the Courts and have reduced to 9 in number. The continued implementation of the Planning Team Improvement Plan has seen fewer challenges in recent times. This Governance issue is

being managed at a directorate/service level due to significant improvements made over recent years.

Cyber Security/Data Governance: The council remains an attractive target for malicious actors. To address the inherent high risk from cyber security, the council continues to implement a range of initiatives.

GDPR issues continue to be actively managed through the work being carried out by the Information Governance Working Group, formed in 2023. Cyber Security will continue to remain an inherently high corporate risk.

Information Assurance: The Council has appropriate and proportionate Information Governance arrangements in place to ensure that information and personal data are managed lawfully, securely, and in accordance with statutory requirements, including the UK GDPR, Data Protection Act 2018, Freedom of Information Act 2000, and associated guidance.

During the period covered by this assurance, Information Governance risks have been actively monitored and managed. A new Governance team structure has been agreed and recruitment implementation is underway.

No significant Information Governance control failures have been identified during the period that would undermine the Council's overall system of internal governance and internal control. Information Assurance and Governance will continue to remain a corporate risk.

5.2 Significant Governance Issues for 2025/2026

In addition to the matters which remain open from previous years, we identified the following significant governance issues during 2025/26, with input from our external Auditors:

- VAT:

HMRC noted significant concern with VAT submissions between August 2024 and May 2025. Engagement with HMRC on this matter is ongoing and could result in penalties being applied. Assurance reviews regarding VAT treatment have been completed by consultants, with further reviews to be undertaken in the coming months.

- Bank Recs:

NIAO noted that bank reconciliations were not up to date at the time of the audit of the 2024/25 financial statements. This matter has now been fully addressed and all bank reconciliations have been brought up to date, with any outstanding variances identified, investigated and appropriately recorded. As a result of the work undertaken, no significant issues were identified during the 2025/26 audit. While a number of matters were raised through audit procedures, these were administrative in nature and did not indicate any material weaknesses in the operation of the control.

Data Breaches

During the 2025/26 financial year the council has had 23 data breaches. The Information Commissioners' Officer provided advice and no penalties were imposed.

5.3 Effectiveness of System of Internal Control:

The Council has responsibility for conducting at least annually a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control. The review of effectiveness is informed by the work of the Directors and Heads of Service within the Council who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment, the Internal Audit Manager's Annual Report and also by comments made by the external auditors.

The Governance roles and responsibilities of the Council's Committee structure, Council's Corporate Management Team, the Governance & Audit Committee and Internal Audit are described within this Statement.

The Council's System of Internal Control (Governance Framework) is underpinned by compliance with governing legislative and regulatory requirements, commitment from the Corporate Management Team, the Corporate Plan, the Council's financial procedures, oversight functions including a Governance & Audit Committee, regular and timely management information, administrative procedures, whistle blowing procedures, management supervision, delegation and accountability and a commitment to staff development and performance management.

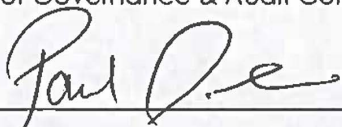
The Council has conducted a Review of the Effectiveness of the system of internal control in place within the Council in 2025/2026, in accordance with Regulation 4(2) of the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

The results of this review, along with the Internal Audit Annual Report were reported to the Governance and Audit Committee in June 2026 to assess the effectiveness of the system of internal control and the consideration of the draft Annual Governance Statement and the draft Statement of Accounts.

From the work undertaken by management, the Governance & Audit Committee and Internal Audit throughout the year, it is considered that key systems are operating soundly.

Signed  Date: 24/9/26

Chairman of Governance & Audit Committee

Signed  Date: 24/9/26

Chief Financial Officer

REMUNERATION REPORT

Remuneration Report

1. Introduction

The Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 require larger local government bodies to prepare a remuneration report as part of the Statement of Accounts.

2. Allowance and Remuneration Arrangements

Councillors

Allowances are payable by councils to Councillors and committee members under Part 3 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and The Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019, which came into operation on 1 October 2019.

Guidance and determinations on Councillors' allowances applicable from 1 April 2024 were issued by the Department for Communities on 20 October 2025 (Circular LG 17/2025). Details of the allowances paid to individual Councillors are published on council websites.

Following local elections on 18 May 2023, 462 Councillors were elected to the 11 new councils for a four year term. Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council had 40 Councillors in 2025/26. One Councillor stepped down in May 2025 with a new Councillor co-opted in June 2025.

Senior Employees

The remuneration of senior employees employed by the Council is determined by the Council in line with that determined by the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services. Senior employees are those staff who are members of the Corporate Management Team.

Council appointments of employees are made in accordance with the Local Government Staff Commissions' Code of Procedures on Recruitment and Selection, which requires appointment to be on merit and on the basis of fair and open competition.

Unless otherwise stated below, the officials covered by this report hold appointments which are open-ended.

Independent Member – Governance and Audit Committee

Mr Edgar Jardine is an independent Member of the Governance and Audit Committee. This role is to help promote the highest standards in the financial management of the Council and thereby ensure the accountability of public funds. A payment of £285 is paid per meeting along with reasonable travelling expenses.

3. Allowances Paid to Councillors

The total amount paid to Councillors by way of allowances, under Part 3 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and the Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 was:

Table 1: Total Allowances paid to councillors (audited information)

	2025/2026		2024/2025	
Allowance	Total Allowances £	Number of councillors receiving Allowance	Total Allowances £	Number of councillors receiving Allowance
Basic Allowance	754,587	41	696,952	43
Special Responsibility Allowance	85,954	25	82,819	26
Chairperson/ Mayor Allowance	26,982	2	26,982	2
Vice Chairperson/ Deputy Mayor Allowance	8,636	2	8,636	2
Mileage Allowance	10,827	21	12,121	19
Public Transport and Other Travel Incidentals	99	1	-	-
Subsistence	-	-	-	-
Courses/Conferences Visits (registration & Joining Fees)	-	-	-	-
Dependants' Carers Allowance	-	-	57	1
Allowances paid on behalf of other bodies	8,580	10	10,680	10
TOTAL ALLOWANCES	895,665		838,247	

Details of the allowances paid to individual councillors in 2025/2026 are published on the council website – link below:

[lisburn-castlereagh-city-council-2025-26-annual-return-councillors-allowances-funded-by-council-pdf](#)

4. Remuneration of Senior Employees

The remuneration of senior employees covers the Corporate Management Team. The following table provides details of the remuneration paid to senior employees:

Table 2: Remuneration (including salary) (audited information)

	2025/2026				2024/2025			
Officers	Salary (Full year equivalent in brackets where applicable) £'000	Bonus Payments £'000	Benefits in kind (to nearest £100) £'000	Total £'000	Salary (Full year equivalent in brackets where applicable) £'000	Bonus Payments £'000	Benefits in kind (to nearest £100) £'000	Total £'000
D Burns Chief Executive	135-140			135-140	130-135			130-135
D Rogan Director of Regeneration & Growth	100-105			100-105	95-100			95-100
L Moore Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing	100-105			100-105	95-100			95-100
C McCrory* Director of Finance & Corporate Services	25-30			25-30	90-95			90-95
P Dane** Director of Finance & Corporate Services	6-10			6-10	-			-
C Magee Director of OD & Innovation	96-100			96-100	90-95			90-95
A McCann*** Director of Environmental Services	90-95			90-95	70-75			70-75
R Harvey**** Acting Director of Environmental Services	75-80			75-80	90-95			90-95

* C McCrory left 30th June 2025

** P Dane commenced on 1st March 2026

*** A McCann commenced 1st June 2025

**** R Harvey finished acting on 31st May 2025

Councils are required to disclose the relationship between the remuneration of the highest paid member of the Corporate Management Team and the median remuneration of the Councils workforce.

The banded remuneration of the highest paid member of the Corporate Management Team in the financial year 2025/2026 was £135k - £140k (2024/2025 £130k - £135k). This was 4.41 times (2024/2025 4.36 times) the median remuneration of the workforce, which was £30,719 (2024/2025 £30,060).

Table 3: Relationship between the remuneration of the highest paid member of the Corporate Management Team and the median remuneration of the Council's workforce (audited information)

	2024/2025 £'000	2023/2024 £'000
Salary Band of Highest Paid member of the Executive/Senior Management Team	135 - 140	130 - 135
Median Total Remuneration	30,719	30,060
Ratio	4.41	4.36

In 2025/2026, no employee received remuneration in excess of the highest paid member of the Executive Management Team/Senior Management Team.

Total remuneration includes salary, bonus payments and benefits in kind.

Salary

"Salary" includes gross salary, overtime, and any gratia payments.

Bonus Payments

Bonus payments are based on performance levels attained and are made as part of the appraisal process. Bonuses relate to the performance in the year in which they become payable to the individual. There were no bonuses paid in 2025/26.

Benefits in Kind

The monetary value of benefits in kind covers any benefits provided by the employer and treated by HM Revenue and Customs as a taxable emolument.

5. Exit Packages for staff

The number of exit packages provided to all staff by the Council, together with total cost per band and total cost of the compulsory and other redundancies are set out in the table below:

Table 4: Exit Packages in 2025/26 (audited information)

2025/2026				
Severance Cost Band	Number of Voluntary Redundancies	Number of Compulsory Redundancies	Total number of packages in each cost band	Total cost of exit packages in each cost band £'000
£60,001 - £80,000	1	-	1	77

There were no exit packages paid in the 2024/25 financial year.

6. Pension Benefits

The Local Government Pension Scheme (Northern Ireland) (the Scheme) which is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, which provides retirement benefits for council employees on a "career average revalued earnings" basis from 1 April 2015. Prior to that date benefits were built up on a "final salary" basis.

From 1 April 2015, a member builds up retirement pension at the rate of 1/49th pensionable pay for each year. Pension benefits in relation to membership between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2015 were built up at the rate of 1/60th pensionable pay for each year of membership. There is no automatic lump sum provided in respect of membership after 31 March 2009. Pension benefits in relation to any membership before 1 April 2009 were built up at the rate of 1/80th (pension) and 3/80ths (tax-free lump sum) of pensionable pay for each year of membership up to 31 March 2009. At retirement, members may give up some pension for additional lump sum, subject to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) limits. The conversion rate is £12 additional lump sum for every £1 of pension given up.

Councillors have been able to join the Scheme since May 2011. The Scheme application is modified to reflect the fact that councillors hold an elected office. Council members have always accrued pension on a career average basis. Prior to 1 April 2015 pension was accrued at a rate of 1/60th and thereafter at a rate of 1/49th.

The Scheme is funded by contributions made by both employees/councillors and employers. Prior to 1 April 2009, a member's contribution rates were fixed at 6% of their pensionable remuneration (except for those who were entitled to contribute to the Scheme at 5% before 1 February 2003 and have remained in continuous employment). Tiered member contribution rates, determined by the whole-time equivalent rate of pay, were introduced from 1 April 2009. From 1 April 2015, the member contribution rates are determined on the actual rate of pay.

The ranges for the bands for tiered contribution rates are revised by the Department for Communities in April each year in accordance with the increase applied to a pension in payment. The bands, effective from 1 April 2025, were as follows:

Table 5: Employee Contribution Rates

Band	Range	Employee Contribution Rate
1	£0 - £18,300	5.5%
2	£18,301 - £28,100	5.8%
3	£28,101 - £47,000	6.5%
4	£47,001 - £57,200	6.8%
5	£57,201 - £113,500	8.5%
6	More than £113,500	10.5%

Employers' contribution rates are determined by the fund's actuary every three years at the triennial valuation. A formal triennial actuarial valuation of the Fund as at 31 March 2022 was carried out in 2022/23 and set the employer contribution rates for the 3 years commencing 1 April 2023 as follows:

Table 6: Employer Contribution Rates

Year	Employer Contribution Rate
1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024	19.0%
1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025	19.0%
1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026	19.0%

The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 were made on 27 June 2014 and The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment and Transitional Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 were made on 30 June 2014. Both sets of regulations are effective from 1 April 2015.

Councillors have only been able to join the Scheme since May 2011 and therefore have not accrued significant benefits thus far. However, the in-year pension contributions made by the Council for all councillors during 2025/26 was £150,897

The value of pension benefits of the most senior management of the Council accrued during the year was as follows:

Table 7: Pension Benefits of senior staff in 2025/26 (audited information)

Officers	2025/2026				
	Accrued Pension at pension age as at 31/3/26 £'000	Real increase in pension lump sum at pension age £'000	CETV at 31/3/26 £'000	CETV at 31/3/25 £'000	Real increase in CETV £'000
D Burns Chief Executive	21 - (LS)	2 - (LS)	291	244	23
D Rogan Director of Regeneration & Growth	53 59 (LS)	1 - (LS)	1,065	998	21
L Moore Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing	34 11 (LS)	2 - (LS)	527	477	23
C McCrory* Director of Finance & Corporate Services	60 - (LS)	1 - (LS)	859	838	11
P Dane** Director of Finance & Corporate Services	- - (LS)	- - (LS)	2	-	2
C Magee Director of OD & Innovation	37 24 (LS)	2 - (LS)	618	556	33
A McCann*** Director of Environmental Services	37 34 (LS)	8 7 (LS)	667	506	138
R Harvey**** Acting Director of Environmental Services	34 29 (LS)	1 1 (LS)	566	547	9

* C McCrory left 30th June 2025

** P Dane commenced on 1st March 2026

*** A McCann commenced 1st June 2025

**** R Harvey finished acting on 31st May 2025

The Cash Equivalent Transfer Value (CETV)

This is the actuarially assessed capitalised value of the pension scheme benefits accrued by a member at a particular point in time. The benefits valued are the member's accrued benefits and any contingent spouse's pension payable from the scheme. It is a payment made by a pension scheme or arrangement to secure pension benefits in another pension scheme or arrangement when the member leaves a scheme and chooses to transfer the pension benefits they have accrued in their former scheme. The pension figures shown relate to the benefits that the individual has accrued as a consequence of their total membership of the pension scheme, not just their service in a senior capacity to which disclosure applies. CETVs are calculated in accordance with The Occupational Pension Schemes (Transfer Values) (Amendment) Regulations and do not take account of any actual or potential reduction to benefits resulting from Lifetime Allowance Tax which may be due when pension benefits are taken.

The real increase in the value of the CETV

This reflects the increase in CETV effectively funded by the employer. It takes account of the increase in accrued pension due to inflation, contributions paid by the employee (including the value of any benefits transferred from another pension scheme or arrangement) and uses common market valuation factors for the start and end of the period.

Chief Executive

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, stylized initial 'D' followed by several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

September 2026

CERTIFICATE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Certificate of the Chief Financial Officer

I certify that:

- a) The Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2026 have been prepared in the form directed by the Department for Communities and under the accounting policies set out on in note 1.
- b) in my opinion the Statement of Accounts gives a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year and the financial position as at the end of the financial year ending 31st March 2026.



Chief Financial Officer

Date 24 September 2026

Council Approval of Draft Statement of Accounts

These draft accounts have been approved by resolution of the Governance and Audit Committee on 24 September 2026.



Chairman

Date 24 September 2026

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF LISBURN AND CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Opinion on financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council for the year ended 31 March 2026 under the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005. The financial statements comprise the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, Movement in Reserves Statement, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement and the related notes including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom supported by UK adopted international accounting standards.

I have also audited the information in the Remuneration Report that is described in that report as having been audited.

In my opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view, in accordance with relevant legal and statutory requirements and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2025-26, of the financial position of Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council as at 31 March 2026 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the Department for Communities' directions issued thereunder.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) (UK). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of this certificate. My staff and I are independent of Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard and have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, I have concluded that Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

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

The going concern basis of accounting for Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council is adopted in consideration of the requirements set out in the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2025-26, under which financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis on the assumption that the functions of the authority will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

My responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Chief Financial Officer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts other than the financial statements, the parts of the Remuneration Report described in that report as having been audited, and my audit certificate and report. The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the other information included in the Statement of Accounts. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in my report, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

My responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters

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

- the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited has been properly prepared in accordance with the Department for Communities' directions made under the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015; and
- the information given in the Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2026 is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which I report by exception

In light of the knowledge and understanding of Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, I have not identified material misstatements in the Statement of Accounts.

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

- in my opinion:
 - the Annual Governance Statement:
 - does not reflect compliance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2025-26;
 - does not comply with proper practices specified by the Department for Communities;
 - is misleading or inconsistent with other information I am aware of from my audit; or
 - adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
 - certain disclosures of remuneration required by the Department for Communities' directions are not made, or the Statement of Accounts and the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
 - I have not received all of the information and explanations I require for my audit, or

- I issue a report in the public interest under Article 9 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005; or
- I designate under Article 12 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 any recommendation made to the Council; or
- I exercise the other special powers of the auditor under Articles 19 to 21 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005.

Responsibilities of the Chief Financial Officer for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Council's and Chief Financial Officer's Responsibilities, and in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, the Chief Financial Officer is responsible for:

- maintaining proper accounting records;
- the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view;
- such internal controls as the Chief Financial Officer determines are necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error;
- assessing Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting on the assumption that the functions of Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, unless the Chief Financial Officer anticipates that the services provided by Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council will not continue to be provided in the future.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 and the Local Government Code of Audit Practice.

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error and to issue a certificate that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

I design procedures in line with my responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud.

My procedures included:

- obtaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council through discussion with management and application of extensive public sector accountability knowledge. The key laws and regulations I considered included the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2025-26, the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the Department for Communities' directions issued thereunder;
- making enquiries of management and those charged with governance on Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council's compliance with laws and regulations;

- making enquiries of internal audit, management and those charged with governance as to susceptibility to fraud, their assessment of the risk of material misstatement due to fraud, and their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- completing risk assessment procedures to assess the susceptibility of Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur. This included, but was not limited to, an engagement director led engagement team discussion on fraud to identify particular areas, transaction streams and business practices that may be susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud. As part of this discussion, I identified potential for fraud in the following areas: revenue recognition and the posting of unusual journals;
- engagement director oversight to ensure the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with the applicable legal and regulatory framework throughout the audit;
- documenting and evaluating the design and implementation of internal controls in place to mitigate risk of material misstatement due to fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- designing audit procedures to address specific laws and regulations which the engagement team considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements in terms of misstatement, including fraud. These audit procedures included, but were not limited to, reading board and committee minutes, and agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation and approvals as appropriate; and
- addressing the risk of fraud as a result of management override of controls by:
 - performing analytical procedures to identify unusual or unexpected relationships or movements;
 - testing journal entries to identify potential anomalies, and inappropriate or unauthorised adjustments;
 - assessing whether judgements and other assumptions made in determining accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
 - investigating significant or unusual transactions made outside of the normal course of business.

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

This report is made solely to the Members of Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council in accordance with the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 and for no other purpose, as specified in the Statement of Responsibilities of the Local Government Auditor and Local Government Bodies.

Certificate

I certify that I have completed the audit of accounts of Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 and the Local Government Code of Audit Practice.

Brian O'Neill

*Brian O'Neill
Local Government Auditor
Northern Ireland Audit Office
106 University Street
BELFAST
BT7 1EU*

30 September 2026

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31 March 2026

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure 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. Councils raise taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with statutory requirements; this may be difference from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in both the Expenditure and Funding Analysis and the Movement in Reserves Statement.

		2025/26			2024/25		Restated
		Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
Service Expenditure	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£
Leisure & Community Wellbeing	2	30,363,205	(11,825,574)	18,537,631	28,405,098	(10,759,159)	17,645,939
Environmental Services	2	28,491,617	(6,873,025)	21,618,592	27,019,528	(3,915,592)	23,103,936
Regeneration & Growth	2	10,281,277	(3,159,753)	7,121,524	10,776,789	(3,125,239)	7,651,550
Finance & Corporate Services	2	9,482,236	(1,852,325)	7,629,911	8,399,380	(1,176,916)	7,222,464
Governance & Audit	2	428,783	(1,000)	427,783	424,018	(3,094)	420,924
Other Income*	2	-	-	-	-	(342,429)	(342,429)
Organisational Development & Innovation	2	5,599,766	(242,592)	5,357,174	5,212,837	(293,643)	4,919,194
Cost of Services on Continuing Operations		84,646,884	(23,954,269)	60,692,615	80,237,650	(19,616,072)	60,621,578
Other Operating Expenditure/Income	8	118,520	(25,100)	93,420	-	(16,000)	(16,000)
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	9	1,908,071	(4,926,757)	(3,018,686)	1,179,930	(3,543,794)	(2,363,865)
Net Operating Expenditure		86,673,475	(28,906,126)	57,767,349	81,417,580	(23,175,866)	58,241,713
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	10	-	(66,445,220)	(66,445,220)	-	(65,648,211)	(65,648,211)
(Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services		86,673,475	(95,351,346)	(8,677,871)	81,417,580	(88,824,077)	(7,406,498)
(Surplus)/Deficit on revaluation of non-current assets	11			(11,814,891)			(3,172,671)
Remeasurements of the Net Defined Benefit Liability (Asset)	21			4,675,000			891,000
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				(7,139,891)			(2,281,671)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				(15,817,762)			(9,688,169)

* Other income relates to the conclusion of a significant sector wide legacy VAT case.

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Movement in Reserves Statement for the year ended 31 March 2026

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

	General Fund Summary	Other Fund Balances and Reserves £	Capital Receipts Reserve £	Total Usable Reserves £	Total Unusable Reserves £	Total Council Reserves £
Balance as at 1 April 2024	11,385,960	44,365,597	1,090,582	56,842,139	119,314,769	176,156,908
Movement in reserves during the year						
Surplus/(Deficit) on the provision of services	7,406,498	-	-	7,406,498	-	7,406,498
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-	-	2,281,671	2,281,671
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	7,406,498	-	-	7,406,498	2,281,671	9,688,169
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding under regulations	(1,349,953)	(1,158,651)	-	(2,508,604)	2,508,604	-
Net increase before transfers to Statutory and Other Reserves	6,056,545	(1,158,651)	-	4,897,894	4,790,275	9,688,169
Transfers to/from Statutory and Other Reserves	(6,322,126)	6,322,126	-	-	-	-
Increase/Decrease in year	(265,582)	5,163,475	-	4,897,894	4,790,275	9,688,169
Balance as at 31 March 2025	11,120,378	49,529,073	1,090,582	61,740,033	124,105,043	185,845,075
Movement in reserves during the year						
Surplus/(Deficit) on the provision of services	8,677,871	-	-	8,677,871	-	8,677,871
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-	-	7,139,891	7,139,891
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	8,677,871	-	-	8,677,871	7,139,891	15,817,762
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding under regulations	(4,053,200)	(808,062)	-	(4,861,262)	4,861,262	-
Net increase before transfers to Statutory and Other Reserves	4,624,671	(808,062)	-	3,816,609	12,001,153	15,817,762
Transfers to/from Statutory and Other Reserves	(4,843,066)	4,843,066	-	-	-	-
Increase in year	(218,395)	4,035,004	-	3,816,609	12,001,153	15,817,762
Balance as at 31 March 2026	10,901,983	53,564,077	1,090,582	65,556,643	136,106,195	201,662,838

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2026

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

	Note	31st March 2026	31st March 2025
		£	£
Fixed Assets	11	204,558,109	167,106,445
Long Term Investments	16	3,133	2,691
Long Term Debtors	15	85,971	106,806
LONG TERM ASSETS		204,647,213	167,215,942
Inventories	14	466,593	541,557
Short Term Debtors	15	4,245,767	9,173,745
Cash and Cash Equivalents	25	35,583,852	51,633,534
CURRENT ASSETS		40,296,212	61,348,836
Short Term Borrowing	17	1,481,754	1,093,374
Short Term Creditors	18	9,917,397	8,645,142
Provisions	19	429,280	(415,439)
CURRENT LIABILITIES		11,828,431	9,323,077
Provisions	19	2,105,850	2,894,642
Long Term Borrowing	17	16,467,306	17,810,292
Other Long Term Liabilities	21	283,000	294,000
Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	23	12,596,000	12,397,692
LONG TERM LIABILITIES		31,452,156	33,396,626
NET ASSETS		201,662,838	185,845,075
USABLE RESERVES			
Capital Receipts Reserve	26	1,090,582	1,090,582
Capital Fund	26	33,967,028	31,248,799
Renewal and Repairs Fund	26	1,097,101	1,543,166
Other Balances and Reserves	26	18,499,948	16,737,107
General Fund	26	10,901,983	11,120,378
		65,556,643	61,740,033
UNUSABLE RESERVES			
Capital Adjustment Account	27	67,959,213	65,040,289
Revaluation Reserve	27	68,867,614	59,789,604
Pensions Reserve	27	(283,000)	(294,000)
Accumulated Absences Account	27	(437,632)	(430,850)
		136,106,195	124,105,043
NET WORTH		201,662,838	185,845,075

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Cash Flow Statement at 31 March 2026

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

	Note	2025/26	2024/25
		£	£
Net Deficit on the provision of services		8,677,871	7,406,498
Adjustment for non-cash movements	25	8,893,089	5,584,945
Adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	25	(420,477)	(822,612)
Net cash flows from operating activities	25	17,150,483	12,168,831
Cash flows from Investing Activities	25	(32,092,254)	(9,158,819)
Net Cash flows from Financing Activities	25	(1,107,911)	(1,177,769)
Net increase or decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(16,049,682)	1,832,243
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		51,633,534	49,801,291
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		35,583,852	51,633,534

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 Accounting Policies

a General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2025/26 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2026. The Council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts in a form directed by the Department for Communities in accordance with regulations 3 (7) and (8) in the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 in accordance with proper accounting practices.

These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2025/26, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The accounting convention adopted in the Statement of Accounts is principally historical cost, modified by the revaluation of certain categories of non-current assets and financial instruments.

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2025/26 also requires disclosure in respect of:

Summary of Material Accounting Policy Information

i) Accruals of Income and Expenditure

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

- Revenue from contracts with service recipients, whether for services or the provision of goods, is recognised when (or as) the goods or services are transferred to the service recipient in accordance with the performance obligations in the contract.

- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed – where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption, they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.

- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.

- Interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.

- Where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where it is doubtful that debts will be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.

ii) **Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months or less from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

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

iii) **Contingent Assets**

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

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

iv) **Contingent Liabilities**

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

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

v) **Employee Benefits**

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

Termination benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Council to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy in exchange for those benefits and are charged on an accruals basis to the appropriate service segment or, where applicable, to a corporate service segment at the earlier of when the Council can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when the Council recognises costs for a restructuring. Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the General Fund Balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the pension fund or pensioner in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, appropriations are required to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for pension enhancement termination benefits and replace them with debts for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end.

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

Post Employment Benefits

Employees of the Council are members of the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund administered by the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee. The scheme provides defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees worked for the Council.

The Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund

The Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund is accounted for as a defined benefits scheme.

The liabilities of the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc., and projections of projected earnings for current employees.

Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate based on the Aon Hewitt GBP Select AA Curve over the duration of the Employer's liabilities.

The assets of the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' pension fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:

- quoted securities – current bid price
- unquoted securities – professional estimate
- property – market value
- unitised securities – current bid price

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

Service cost comprising:

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

Past Service Cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of a scheme amendment or curtailment whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years - debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statements.

Within Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

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

Within Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure (Remeasurements)

The Return on Plan Assets – excluding amounts recognised in the Net Interest on the Net Defined Benefit Liability (Asset) charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. This includes interest, dividends and other income derived from the plan assets, together with realised and unrealised gains or losses on the plan assets, less any costs of managing plan assets, and any tax payable by the plan itself other than tax included in the actuarial assumptions used to measure the present value of the defined benefit obligation.

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

Within the Movement in Reserves Statement Appropriations

Contributions by Scheme Participants – the increase in scheme liabilities and assets due to payments into the scheme by employees (where increased contribution increases pension due to the employee in the future).

Contributions by the Employer - the increase in scheme assets due to payments into the scheme by the employer.

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

Discretionary Benefits

The Council also has restricted powers to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirements. Any liabilities estimated to arise as a result of an award to any member of staff are accrued in the year of the decision to make the award and accounted for using the same policies that are applied to the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' pension fund.

As a result of Local Government Reform on 1 April 2015, staff that transferred from Central Government to the Council retained membership of the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) Pension Scheme. The scheme provides defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions). However, the arrangements for the NICS Pension Scheme mean that liabilities for these benefits cannot ordinarily be identified specifically to the Council. The scheme is therefore accounted for as if it were a defined contribution scheme and no liability for future payments of benefits is recognised in the Balance Sheet.

vi) **Events After the Balance Sheet Date**

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

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

The Statement of Accounts may subsequently be adjusted up to the date when they are authorised for issue. This date will be recorded on the Statement of Accounts and is usually the date the Local Government Auditor issues the certificate and opinion. Where material adjustments are made in this period they will be disclosed.

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

vii) **Exceptional Items**

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

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

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

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

Financial Instruments

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

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

Financial Assets

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

- amortised cost
- fair value through profit or loss (FVPL), and
- fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI)

Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Profit or Loss

Financial assets that are measured at FVPL are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured and carried at fair value. Fair value gains and losses are recognised as they arrive in the Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services.

The fair value measurements of the financial assets are based on the following techniques:

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

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

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

Any gains and losses that arise on the derecognition of the asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

x) **Government Grants and Contributions**

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

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

Amounts recognised as due are not credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement until conditions attaching to the grant or contribution have been satisfied. Conditions are stipulations that specify that the future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the asset in the form of the grant or contribution are required to be consumed by the recipient as specified, or future economic benefits or service potential must be returned to the transferor.

Monies advanced as grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried in the Balance Sheet as creditors. When conditions are satisfied, the grant or contribution is credited to the relevant service line (attributable revenue grants and contributions) or Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income (non-ring-fenced revenue grants and all capital grants) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

xi) **Intangible Assets**

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

Internally generated assets are capitalised where it is demonstrable that the project is technically feasible and is intended to be completed (with adequate resources being available) and the Council will be able to generate future economic benefits or deliver service potential by being able to sell or use the asset. Expenditure is capitalised where it can be measured reliably as attributable to the asset and restricted to that incurred during the development phase (research expenditure is not capitalised).

Intangible assets are measured initially at cost. Amounts are only revalued where the fair value of the assets held by the Council can be determined by reference to an active market. In practice, no intangible asset held by the Council meets this criterion, and they are therefore carried at amortised cost. The depreciable amount of an intangible asset is amortised over its useful life (5 years for software) to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. An asset is tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the asset might be impaired – any losses recognised are posted to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Any gain or loss arising on the disposal or abandonment of an intangible asset is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

xii) Inventories & Long Term Contracts

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

Long-term contracts are accounted for on the basis of charging the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services with the consideration allocated to the performance obligations satisfied based on the goods or services transferred to the service recipient during the financial year.

xiii) Investment Property

Investment properties are those that are used solely to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation. The definition is not met if the property is used in any way to facilitate the delivery of services or production of goods or is held for sale.

Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value, being the price that would be received to sell such an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measureable date. As a non-financial asset, investment properties are measured at highest and best use. Properties are not depreciated but are revalued annually according to market conditions at the year-end. Gains and losses on revaluation are posted to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The same treatment is applied to gains and losses on disposal.

Rentals received in relation to investment properties are credited to the Financing and Investment Income line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and result in a gain for the General Fund Balance. However, revaluation and disposal gains and losses are not permitted by statutory arrangements to have an impact on the General Fund Balance. The gains and losses are therefore reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement and posted to the Capital Adjustment Account and the Capital Receipts Reserve.

xiv) **Landfill Allowance Scheme**

The Landfill Allowances Scheme operates under the Landfill Allowances Scheme (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2005. Local Authorities are allocated annual target figures for the maximum amount of biodegradable municipal waste that can be sent to landfill but there are no tradable allowances. It is not a 'cap and trade' scheme since landfill allowances are not tradable. For this reason, landfill allowances are not recognised as assets on the Balance Sheet.

xv) **Leases**

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

Where a lease covers both land and buildings, the land and buildings elements are considered separately for classification.

Arrangements that do not have the legal status of a lease but convey a right to use an asset in return for payment are accounted for under this policy where fulfilment of the arrangement is dependent on the use of specific assets

The Council as Lessee - lease

The 2025/26 financial year follows the transition to IFRS 16, which was adopted in 2024/25 - Leases within the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting (the Code). Under this transition property, plant and equipment held under leases are recognised as right of use assets on the Balance Sheet. The council has availed of provisions in the Code allowing prospective application of the changes in accounting. This means a prior year restatement of the balance sheet is not required. Provisions in the Code also allow for leases not to be recognised if they are short-term leases (less than one year) and where the asset is of low value. At the commencement of the lease at its fair value measured at the lease's inception (or the present value of the minimum lease payments, if lower). The asset recognised is matched by a liability for the obligation to pay the lessor. Initial direct costs of the Council are added to the carrying amount of the asset. Premiums paid on entry into a lease are applied to writing down the lease liability. Contingent rents are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

Lease payments are apportioned between:

- a. a charge for the acquisition of the interest in the property, plant or equipment – applied to write down the lease liability, and
- b. a finance charge (debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement)

Property, Plant and Equipment recognised under leases is accounted for using the policies applied generally to such assets, subject to depreciation being charged over the lease term if this is shorter than the asset's estimated useful life (where ownership of the asset does not transfer to the Council at the end of the lease period).

The Council is not required to raise district rates to cover depreciation or revaluation and impairment losses arising on leased assets. Instead, a prudent annual contribution is made from revenue towards the deemed capital investment in accordance with statutory requirements. Depreciation and revaluation and impairment losses are therefore substituted by a revenue contribution in the General Fund Balance, by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

The Council as Lessor - lease

Where the Council grants a lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the relevant asset is written out of the Balance Sheet as a disposal. At the commencement of the lease, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (whether Property, Plant and Equipment or Assets Held for Sale) is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. A gain, representing the Council's net investment in the lease, is credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal), matched by a lease asset (long term debtor) in the Balance Sheet.

Lease rentals receivable are apportioned between:

- a. a charge for the acquisition of the interest in the property – applied to write down the lease debtor together with any premiums received, and
- b. finance income (credited to the Financing and Investment income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement).

The gain credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on disposal is not permitted by statute to increase the General Fund Balance and is required to be treated as a capital receipt. Where a premium has been received, this is posted out of the General Fund Balance to the Capital Receipts Reserve in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Where the amount due in relation to the lease asset is to be settled by the payment of rentals in future financial years, this is posted out of the General Fund Balance to the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve in the Movement in Reserves Statement. [When the future rentals are paid, the element for the capital receipt for the disposal of the asset is used to write down the lease debtor. At this point, the deferred capital receipts are transferred to the Capital Receipts Reserve.]

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

The Council as Lessor - Operating Lease

Where the Council grants an operating lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the asset is retained in the Balance Sheet. Rental income is credited to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Credits are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease, even if this does not match the pattern of payments (e.g. there is a premium paid at the commencement of the lease). Initial direct costs incurred in negotiating and arranging the lease are added to the carrying amount of the relevant asset and charged as an expense over the lease term on the same basis as rental income.

xvi)

Disposals and Non-Current Assets Held for Sale

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

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

Assets that are to be abandoned or scrapped are not reclassified as assets held for sale.

When an asset is disposed of, or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (whether property, plant and equipment or assets held for sale) is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals (if any) are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal). Any revaluation gains accumulated for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Amounts received for a disposal are categorised as capital receipts and credited to the Capital Receipts Reserve. Receipts are appropriated to the Reserve from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

xvii) **Overheads and Support Services**

Overheads and Support Services are operated, managed and reported as separate segments and are not apportioned across services but instead reported separately in their own right in the CI&E Statement. Under the Council's current reporting structure, such costs predominantly fall within Finance and Corporate Services and Organisational Development and Innovation.

xviii) **Property, Plant and Equipment**

Assets that have physical substance and are held for use in the production or supply of goods or services, for rental to others, or for administrative purposes and that are expected to be used during more than one financial year are classified as Property, Plant and Equipment.

Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of property, plant and equipment is capitalised on an accruals basis, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. Expenditure that maintains but does not add to an asset's potential to deliver future economic benefits or service potential (i.e. repairs and maintenance) is charged as an expense when it is incurred.

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

- a. the purchase price
- b. any costs attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management
- c. the initial estimate of the costs of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located

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

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

Donated assets are measured initially at fair value. The difference between fair value and any consideration paid is credited to the Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, unless the donation has been made conditionally. Until conditions are satisfied, the gain is held in the Donated Assets Account. Where gains are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

- infrastructure, community assets and assets under construction – depreciated historical cost
- surplus assets – the current value measurement base is fair value, estimated at highest and best use from a market participant's perspective
- all other assets – fair value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value – EUV)

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

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at current value are revalued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their current value at the year-end, but as a minimum every five years. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. [Exceptionally, gains might be credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement where they arise from the reversal of a loss previously charged to a service.]

The Revaluation Reserve contains revaluation gains recognised since 1 April 2008 only, the date of its formal implementation. Gains arising before that date have been consolidated into the Capital Adjustment Account.

Impairment

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

Where impairment losses are identified, they are accounted for by:

- a. where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains),
- b. where there is no balance in the Revaluation Reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided for on all property, plant and equipment assets by the systematic allocation of their depreciable amounts over their useful lives. An exception is made for assets without a determinable finite useful life (i.e. freehold land and certain Community Assets) and assets that are not yet available for use (i.e. assets under construction).

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- buildings and infrastructure assets are depreciated on their current value over the estimated useful life of the asset as advised by a valuer from Land and Property Services. Depending on the type of building, installation or fitting, the maximum useful life will be in the range of 3 to 68 years
- vehicles, plant and equipment are depreciated on historic cost using a life of between 3 and 20 years
- The Council applies a full year depreciation in the year of acquisition and no depreciation in the year of disposal.

Componentisation

Where an item of Property, Plant and Equipment asset has major components whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately.

Revaluations

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

xix)

Heritage Assets

Heritage Assets are assets with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that are held and maintained principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture.

Heritage Assets are those assets that are intended to be preserved in trust for future generations because of their cultural, environmental or historic associations. They would be held by this authority in pursuit of our overall objectives in relation to the maintenance of heritage.

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

xx)

Provisions

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

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

When payments are eventually made, they are charged to the provision carried in the Balance Sheet. Estimated settlements are reviewed at the end of each financial year – where it becomes less than probable that a transfer of economic benefits will now be required (or a lower settlement than anticipated is made), the provision is reversed and credited back to the relevant service.

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

xxi)

Reserves

The Council sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. Reserves are created by transferring amounts out of the General Fund Balance. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service in that year against the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The reserve is then transferred back into the General Fund Balance so that there is no net charge against District Rates for the expenditure.

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

xxii)

Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

Services, support services and trading accounts are debited with the following amounts to record the cost of holding non-current assets during the year:

- a. depreciation attributable to the assets used by the relevant service
- b. revaluation and impairment losses on assets used by the service where there are no accumulated gains in the Revaluation Reserve against which the losses can be written off
- c. amortisation of intangible fixed assets attributable to the service.

The Council is not required to raise District Rates to cover depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisations. However, it is required to make an annual contribution from revenue to contribute towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement [equal to either an amount calculated on a prudent basis determined by the Council in accordance with statutory guidance]. Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisation are therefore replaced by the contribution in the General Fund Balance [minimum revenue provision (MRP)] or the Statutory Repayment of Loans Fund Advances, by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

xxiii) **Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute**

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

xxiv) **Value Added Tax**

VAT payable is included as an expense only to the extent that it is not recoverable from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. VAT receivable is excluded from income.

xxv) **Fair Value Measurement**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

b Accounting Standards That Have Been Issued but Have Not Yet Been Adopted

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code) requires an authority to disclose information relating to the expected impact of an accounting change that will be required by a new standard that has been issued but not yet adopted. The Code also requires that changes in accounting policy are to be applied retrospectively unless transitional arrangements are specified, this would result in an impact on disclosures spanning two financial years.

For 2025/26 the following accounting standards have been issued and not yet updated within the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting. It is not anticipated that these accounting changes will impact on the financial statements.

This requirement applies to accounting standards that come into effect for financial years commencing on or before 1 January of the financial year in question (ie on or before 1 January 2025 for 2025/26). For this disclosure the standards introduced by the 2025/26 Code include the following:

- a) IAS 21 The Effects of Changes in Foreign Exchange Rates (Lack of Exchangeability) issued in August 2023.
- b) IFRS 17 Insurance Contracts issued in May 2017.
- c) The changes to the measurement of non-investment assets within the 2025/26 Code include adaptations and interpretations of IAS 16 Property, Plant and Equipment and IAS 38 Intangible Assets. These include setting out three revaluation processes for property, plant and equipment, requiring indexation for tangible non-investment assets and a requirement to value intangible assets using the historical cost approach. These have the same effect as requiring a change in accounting policy due to an amendment to standards, which would normally be disclosed under IAS 8. However, the adaptations also include a relief from the requirements of IAS 8 following a change in accounting policy as confirmed in paragraph 3.3.1.4.

c Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

For the 2025/26 financial year, the Council has not made any critical judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events.

d 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 Council about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates.

The items in the Council's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2026 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

i) Property, Plant and Equipment

Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about the level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual assets. The current economic climate makes it uncertain that the Council will be able to sustain its current spending on repairs and maintenance, bringing into doubt the useful lives assigned to assets.

If the useful life of assets is reduced, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the assets falls.

ii) Fair Value Measurement

When the fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities cannot be measured based on quoted prices in active markets (i.e. Level 1 inputs), their fair value is measured using valuation techniques (e.g. quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets or the discounted cash flow (DCF) model). Where possible, the inputs to these valuation techniques are based on observable data, but where this is not possible judgement is required in establishing fair values. These judgements typically include considerations such as uncertainty and risk. However, changes in the assumptions used could affect the fair value of the Council's assets and liabilities.

Where Level 1 inputs are not available, the Council takes advice from relevant experts to identify the most appropriate valuation techniques to determine fair value.

iii) Provisions

The Council has applied future discount rates to calculate the provision due against the closure of two landfill sites. The Council has made a provision of £2.2m for the closure plans of the two sites, Moss Road and Drumlough.

iv) Pension Liability

Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied. The Council's net pension shows a net asset of £62.56m, largely due to changes in financial assumptions in interest rates and discount factors. The pensions assets in the fund are restricted to comply with accounting practices. Net pension assets comply with the consideration of surplus restriction under paragraph 64 of IAS 19 in the accounts.

2

a Expenditure and Funding Analysis

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

	2025/26			2024/25		
	Net Expenditure Chargable to the General Fund	Adjustments	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	Net Expenditure Chargable to the General Fund	Adjustments	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Leisure & Community Wellbeing	15,086,648	3,450,983	18,537,631	13,781,669	3,864,270	17,645,939
Environmental Services	20,782,935	835,657	21,618,592	22,154,633	949,303	23,103,936
Regeneration & Growth	7,220,278	(98,754)	7,121,524	7,590,814	60,736	7,651,550
Finance & Corporate Services	6,329,574	1,300,337	7,629,911	6,569,032	653,432	7,222,464
Governance & Audit	442,001	(14,218)	427,783	416,160	4,764	420,924
Other Income*	-	-	-	(342,429)	-	(342,429)
Organisational Development & Innovation	4,790,462	566,712	5,357,174	4,255,938	663,256	4,919,194
Net Cost of Services	54,651,899	6,040,716	60,692,615	54,425,817	6,195,761	60,621,578
Other Income and Expenditure	(59,276,569)	(10,093,916)	(69,370,485)	(60,482,362)	(7,545,714)	(68,028,076)
Surplus or Deficit	(4,624,670)	(4,053,200)	(8,677,870)	(6,056,545)	(1,349,953)	(7,406,498)
Opening General Fund			11,120,379			11,385,959
Surplus/(Deficit) on General Fund Balance in Year			(218,395)			(265,582)
Closing General Fund			10,901,983			11,120,378

* Other income relates to the conclusion of a significant sector wide legacy VAT case.

2
b

Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis

This note provides a reconciliation of the main adjustments to Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund to arrive at the amounts in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The relevant transfers between reserves are explained in the Movement in Reserves Statement

Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis

2025/26

Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net Change for the Pension Adjustments	Other Statutory Adjustments	Other non-statutory Adjustments	Total adjustments
	£	£	£	£	£
Leisure & Community Wellbeing	4,001,532	(555,286)	4,737	-	3,450,983
Environmental Services	1,288,497	(448,130)	(4,710)	-	835,657
Regeneration & Growth	108,174	(213,827)	6,898	-	(98,754)
Finance & Corporate Services	1,460,438	(150,439)	(9,662)	-	1,300,337
Governance & Audit	-	(14,579)	361	-	(14,218)
Organisational Development & Innovation	668,293	(110,739)	9,158	-	566,712
Net Cost of Services	7,526,933	(1,493,000)	6,782	-	6,040,716
Other Income and Expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(6,900,916)	(3,193,000)	-	-	(10,093,916)
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	626,017	(4,686,000)	6,782	-	(4,053,200)

Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis

2024/25

Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net Change for the Pension Adjustments	Other Statutory Adjustments	Other non-statutory Adjustments	Total adjustments
	£	£	£	£	£
Leisure & Community Wellbeing	3,879,860	658	(16,248)	-	3,864,270
Environmental Services	976,642	25,033	(52,372)	-	949,303
Regeneration & Growth	52,249	19,719	(11,231)	-	60,736
Finance & Corporate Services	645,328	4,942	3,162	-	653,432
Governance & Audit	-	6,889	(2,125)	-	4,764
Organisational Development & Innovation	656,439	9,759	(2,942)	-	663,256
					-
Net Cost of Services	6,210,518	67,000	(81,757)	-	6,195,761
Other Income and Expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(6,469,714)	(1,076,000)	-	-	(7,545,714)
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(259,196)	(1,009,000)	(81,757)	-	(1,349,953)

3 a Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature

Expenditure		2025/26	2024/25
	Notes	£	£
Employee Benefits Expenses	7	37,140,204	35,059,707
Other Services Expenditure		41,611,897	39,021,833
Depreciation, Amortisation, Impairment	11	6,719,883	6,172,110
Interest Payments	9	1,108,071	1,179,930
Gain on the Disposal of Assets	8	93,420	(16,000)
Total Expenditure		86,673,475	81,417,580

Income		2025/26	2024/25
	Notes	£	£
Fees, Charges and Other Service Income		(27,172,369)	(20,365,644)
Interest and Investment Income	9	(1,733,757)	(2,467,794)
District Rate Income	10	(61,870,321)	(60,828,021)
Government Grants and Contributions	10	(4,574,899)	(4,820,189)
Other Income		-	(342,429)
Total Income		(95,351,346)	(88,824,077)
(Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services		(8,677,871)	(7,406,498)

b Revenue from contracts with service recipients

The Council does not receive material revenue from contracts with service recipients.

4 Adjustments between an Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations

a Amounts included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but required by statute to be excluded when determining the Movement on the General Fund Balance for the year:

		2025/26		2024/25	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Amounts included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but required by statute to be excluded when determining the Movement on the General Fund Balance for the year:					
Revaluation increases/decreases taken to Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	11	807,050		38,408	
Depreciation charged in the year on non-current assets	11	6,719,883	7,526,933	6,172,110	6,210,518
Carrying amount of non current assets sold	8	118,520		-	
Proceeds from the sale of PP&E, investment property and intangible assets	8	(25,100)	93,420	(16,000)	(16,000)
Net charges made for retirement benefits in accordance with IAS 19	20		586,000		3,931,000
Employers contributions payable to the NILGOSC and retirement benefits payable direct to pensioners	20		(5,272,000)		(4,940,000)
Capital Grants and Donated Assets Receivable and Applied in year	10		(395,377)		(806,613)
Adjustments in relation to short-term compensated absences	24		6,782		(81,757)
Amounts not included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but required by statute to be included when determining the Movement on the General Fund Balance for the year					
Statutory Provision for the financing of Capital Investment	12, 26		(6,128,808)		(5,585,562)
Direct revenue financing of Capital Expenditure	12,26		(470,151)		(61,539)
			(4,053,200)		(1,349,953)

b Net transfers (to)/from statutory and other earmarked reserves:					
		2025/26	2025/26	2024/25	2024/25
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Capital Fund					
Interest		(1,183,496)		(1,616,973)	
From Capital		(1,598,604)		(2,692,634)	
Other	26	-	(2,782,100)	-	(4,309,607)
Renewal and Repairs Fund					
Interest		-		-	
Other	26	410,707	410,707	(645,827)	(645,827)
Other Funds and earmarked reserves					
Other	26	(2,471,674)	(2,471,674)	(1,366,692)	(1,366,692)
			(4,843,066)		(6,322,126)

5 Cost of Services on Continuing Operations

a General power of competence

Prior to Local Government Reform on 1st April 2015, expenditure for special purposes was limited under Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. This section was repealed by Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Under Section 79 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, the Council has the power to do anything that individuals generally may do. Councils have the power to do this with or without charge. The power of competence is not limited to benefitting the area or its residents nor is it limited by existing powers.

The actual expenditure under the power of competence amounted to £nil during 2025/26 (£nil in 2024/25).

b External Audit Fees

The Council has incurred the following costs relating to the annual audit of the Statement of Accounts, certification of grant claims and other services provided by the Councils external auditors.

	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
External Audit Fees	71,750	68,300
Other Fees	21,250	22,127
	93,000	90,427

The other fees of £21,250 (2024/25 £22,127) were incurred in respect of performance audit services provided by the appointed auditor.

6 Operating and leases

a Leases (Council as lessor)

The Council does not lease any property or equipment on Finance leases.

b Operating Leases (Council as lessor)

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

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

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

	31st March 2026	31st March 2025
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	60,146	209,030
1 -2 years	41,644	85,067
2 -3 years	41,643	85,066
3 -4 years	21,642	65,066
4 -5 years	21,642	19,651
Later than 5 years	85,734	881,098
	272,451	1,344,978

Council as Lessee

c leases - Right of Use Assets - (Council as lessee)

The Council does not have any vehicles or IT equipment held under finance lease arrangements.

The net carrying amount of assets held under lease arrangements is £344,893 (2024/25 £295,687). The assets are included in Land, Buildings, Vehicles, Plant & Equipment. The rentals paid for equipment held under finance leases totalled £9,858 (2024/25 £45,065).

	31st March 2026	31st March 2025
	£	£
Other Land and Buildings	217,754	289,692
Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment	127,139	5,995
	344,893	295,687

	31st March 2026	31st March 2026
	£	£
Leases liabilities (net present value of minimum lease payments):		
Current	2,430	6,921
Non- Current	21,474	21,754
Finance costs payable in future years	46,162	11,483
Minimum Lease Payments	70,066	40,158

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

	Minimum Lease Payments		Lease Liabilities	
	31st March 2026	31st March 2025	31st March 2026	31st March 2025
	£	£	£	£
Not later than one year	11,363	8,997	9,858	2,076
Later than one year and not later than five years	41,584	13,754	145,348	5,421
Later than five years	17,119	17,407	-	3,986
	70,066	40,158	155,206	11,483

No contingent rentals were recognised as an expense in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the reporting period under review, and no future sub-lease income is expected to be received, as all assets are used exclusively by the council.

The Council has a number of assets of land held by long term leases from 99 to 10,000 years. Rental income is between 1 pence and 1 pound if demanded. Rent is not normally demanded on these premises and therefore future minimal finance lease payments are assumed to be £nil.

d Operating Leases (Council as lessee)

The Council has acquired its office photocopiers and printers by entering into operating leases with typical lives of 3 to 5 years.

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

	31st March 2026	31st March 2025
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	180,896	176,597
Later than 1 year and no later than 5 years	511,204	511,204
Later than 5 years	296,022	406,328
	988,122	1,094,129

No sub-lease payments or contingent rent payments were made or received. No sublease income is expected as all assets held under operating lease agreements are used exclusively by the Council.

The expenditure charged to the Business Change line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the year in relation to these leases was:

	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
Minimum lease payments	192,229	192,029
Total	192,229	192,029

7 Employee Costs and Member Allowances			
a Staff Costs		2025/26	2024/25
		£	£
Salaries and Wages		28,284,744	27,248,443
Employers NIC		3,499,650	2,656,684
Employers Superannuation		5,355,809	5,154,581
Total staff costs		37,140,204	35,059,708

In addition, agency costs during the year amounted to £3,497,329 (2024/25 £3,342,525).

The Council's current contribution rate to NILGOSC scheme is 19%.

At last actuarial valuation dated 31st March 2022 the funds assets meet 111% of liabilities at that date (2019-112%).

Average Number of Employees - where FTE represents fulltime equivalent employees

b Average Number of Employees		2025/26	2024/25
		FTE	FTE
Leisure & Community Wellbeing		290	281
Environmental Services		232	225
Regeneration & Growth		97	98
Finance & Corporate Services		53	59
Governance & Audit		4	5
Organisational Development & Innovation		49	44
Total Number		725	712

	2025/26	2024/25
	Actual Numbers	Actual Numbers
Full-time numbers employed	644	637
Part-time numbers employed	158	144
Total Number	802	781

c Senior Employees' Remuneration		2025/26	2024/25
£50,001 to £60,000		2	-
£60,001 to £70,000		3	4
£70,001 to £80,000		9	9
£80,001 to £90,000		-	-
£90,001 to £100,000		2	5
£100,001 to £110,000		2	-
£130,001 to £140,000		1	1
Total Number		19	19

d Members' Allowances		2025/26	2024/25
		£	Restated £
Basic allowance		754,587	696,952
Mayor's & Deputy Mayor's Allowance		35,618	35,618
Special Responsibility Allowances		85,954	82,819
Allowances paid on behalf of other bodies		8,580	10,680
Dependents' carers allowance		-	57
Employer costs		258,080	209,437
Mileage		10,827	12,121
Travel & Subsistence Costs		99	-
Total		1,153,745	1,047,684

e Northern Ireland Civil Service Pension Arrangements

As a result of Reform on 1st April 2015, staff transferred from Central Government to the Council are members of the Northern Ireland Civil Service Pension Scheme.

The Northern Ireland Civil Service Pension arrangements are unfunded multi-employer defined benefit schemes but the Department for Communities is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities. The most up to date actuarial valuation was carried out as at 31 March 2020. This valuation is then reviewed by the Scheme Actuary and updated to reflect current conditions and rolled forward to the reporting date of the DOF Superannuation and Other Allowances Resource Accounts as at 31 March 2026.

For 2025/26, employers' contributions of £288,819 were payable to the NICS pension arrangements at a rate of 34.2% of pensionable pay, based on salary bands.

The scheme's Actuary reviews employer contributions every four years following a full scheme valuation. A new scheme funding valuation based on data as at 31 March 2020 was completed by the Actuary during 2023-24. This valuation was used to determine employer contribution rates for the introduction of a new career average earning scheme from April 2024. The contribution rates are set to meet the cost of the benefits accruing during 2025/26 to be paid when the member retires, and not the benefits paid during this period to existing pensioners.

No persons retired early on ill-health grounds as such the actuarial cost for employees for the early payment of retirement benefits was £nil.

8 Other Operating Income & Expenditure

a Surplus/Deficit on Non-Current Assets (exc. Investment Properties)

	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
Proceeds from sale	(25,100)	(16,000)
Carrying amount of non-current assets sold (excl. Investment Properties)	118,520	-
	93,420	(16,000)

b Other Operating Expenditure

	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
(Surplus)/Deficit on Non Current Assets	93,420	(16,000)
	93,420	(16,000)

9 Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

a Interest Payable and Similar Charges

	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
Government Loan Interest	1,105,388	1,173,804
Commercial Loan Interest	2,683	6,126
	1,108,071	1,179,930

b Interest and Investment Income

	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
Bank Interest	543,486	835,398
NIHE Loan Interest Receivable	6,775	15,423
Investment income on Fund Balances		
Capital Fund	1,183,496	1,616,973
	1,733,757	2,467,794

c Pensions interest costs and expected return on pensions assets

	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset)	(3,193,000)	(1,076,000)
	(3,193,000)	(1,076,000)

d Income, Expenditure and changes in Fair Value of Investment Properties

	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
Changes in Fair Value of Investment Properties	800,000	-

e Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

	2025/26			2024/25		
	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Interest Payable and Similar Charges	1,108,071	-	1,108,071	1,179,930	-	1,179,930
Interest and Investment Income	-	(1,733,757)	(1,733,757)	-	(2,467,794)	(2,467,794)
Pensions interest cost	-	(3,193,000)	(3,193,000)	-	(1,076,000)	(1,076,000)
Other investment income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Changes in Fair Value of Investment Properties	800,000	-	800,000	-	-	-
	1,908,071	(4,926,757)	(3,018,686)	1,179,930	(3,543,794)	(2,363,864)

10 Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income

a Revenue Grants

	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
General	(4,179,522)	(4,013,577)
	(4,179,522)	(4,013,577)

b Capital Grants and Donated Assets - Applied

	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
Government & Other Grants - Transfer from receipts in advance	(395,377)	(704,564)
Donated Assets - Conditions met	-	(102,048)
	(395,377)	(806,612)

c District Rates

	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
Current year	(61,870,321)	(60,828,021)
	(61,870,321)	(60,828,021)

Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
District Rate Income	(61,870,321)	(60,828,021)
Revenue Grants	(4,179,522)	(4,013,577)
Capital Grants and Contributions	(395,377)	(806,612)
	(66,445,220)	(65,648,210)

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Notes to the Financial Statements
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2026

11 a Long - Term Assets - Current Year

Cost or Valuation	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure Assets	Landfill Sites	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community Assets	PP&E Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total PP&E	Heritage Assets	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance as at 1 April 2025	25,023,257	118,477,624	860,735	-	21,861,087	5,237,282	9,077,736	1,797,750	182,335,471	1,917,002	184,252,473
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 1 April 2025	25,023,257	118,477,624	860,735	-	21,861,087	5,237,282	9,077,736	1,797,750	182,335,471	1,917,002	184,252,473
Additions	156,560	188,288	-	-	314,490	-	32,616,926	-	33,276,264	5,964	33,282,228
Revaluation increases/(decreases) to Revaluation Reserve	5,822,026	3,394,404	-	-	-	41,323	-	469,789	9,727,542	(80,000)	9,647,542
Revaluation increases/(decreases) to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(125,838)	(2,377,966)	-	-	-	(2,926)	-	-	(2,506,730)	-	(2,506,730)
Derecognition - Disposals	-	-	-	-	(1,350,557)	-	-	-	(1,350,557)	-	(1,350,557)
Reclassifications & Transfers	590,995	2,991,020	-	-	1,775,548	75,861	(4,401,123)	(894,039)	138,262	-	138,262
Balance as at 31 March 2026	31,467,000	122,673,370	860,735	-	22,600,568	5,351,540	37,293,539	1,373,500	221,620,252	1,842,966	223,463,218
Depreciation and Impairment	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure Assets	Landfill Sites	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community Assets	PP&E Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total PP&E	Heritage Assets	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance as at 1 April 2025	1,685	4,663,103	210,492	-	18,431,339	3,494	-	-	23,310,113	-	23,310,113
Balance as at 1 April 2025	1,685	4,663,103	210,492	-	18,431,339	3,494	-	-	23,310,113	-	23,310,113
Depreciation Charge	1,848	4,899,927	26,012	-	1,101,735	3,918	-	-	6,033,440	-	6,033,440
Depreciation written out on Revaluation Reserve	(1,685)	(2,162,173)	-	-	-	(3,491)	-	-	(2,167,349)	-	(2,167,349)
Depreciation written out on Revaluation taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	(2,499,680)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2,499,680)	-	(2,499,680)
Derecognition - Disposals	-	-	-	-	(1,232,037)	-	-	-	(1,232,037)	-	(1,232,037)
Reclassifications & Transfers	-	(1,199)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,199)	-	(1,199)
Balance as at 31 March 2026	1,848	4,899,978	236,504	-	18,301,037	3,921	-	-	23,443,288	-	23,443,288
Balance as at 31 March 2026	31,465,152	117,773,392	624,231	-	4,299,531	5,347,619	37,293,539	1,373,500	198,176,964	1,842,966	200,019,930

b Long - Term Assets - Comparative Year											
Cost or Valuation	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure Assets	Landfill Sites	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community Assets	PP&E Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total PP&E	Heritage Assets	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance as at 1 April 2024	24,820,298	115,559,247	860,735	-	22,169,218	5,180,109	5,150,661	1,797,750	175,538,018	1,906,788	177,444,806
Balance as at 1 April 2024	24,820,298	115,559,247	860,735	-	22,169,218	5,180,109	5,150,661	1,797,750	175,538,018	1,906,788	177,444,806
Additions	115,960	-	-	-	83,739	-	9,004,020	-	9,203,719	-	9,203,719
Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,214	10,214
Revaluation increases/decreases to Revaluation Reserve	(43,974)	1,158,473	-	-	-	17,322	-	-	1,131,821	-	1,131,821
Revaluation increases/decreases to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(3,912)	(2,326,461)	-	-	-	(107,439)	-	-	(2,437,812)	-	(2,437,812)
Derecognition - Disposals	-	-	-	-	(1,100,275)	-	-	-	(1,100,275)	-	(1,100,275)
Reclassifications & Transfers	134,885	4,086,365	-	-	708,405	147,290	(5,076,945)	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 31 March 2025	25,023,257	118,477,624	860,735	-	21,861,087	5,237,282	9,077,736	1,797,750	182,335,471	1,917,002	184,252,473
Depreciation and Impairment	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure Assets	Landfill Sites	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community Assets	PP&E Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total PP&E	Heritage Assets	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance as at 1 April 2024	7	4,435,305	179,986	-	18,662,988	3	-	-	23,278,289	-	23,278,289
Balance as at 1 April 2024	7	4,435,305	179,986	-	18,662,988	3	-	-	23,278,289	-	23,278,289
Depreciation Charge	1,678	4,663,052	30,506	-	868,626	3,491	-	-	5,567,353	-	5,567,353
Depreciation written out on Revaluation Reserve	-	(2,035,850)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2,035,850)	-	(2,035,850)
Depreciation written out on Revaluation taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	(2,399,404)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2,399,404)	-	(2,399,404)
Derecognition - Disposals	-	-	-	-	(1,100,275)	-	-	-	(1,100,275)	-	(1,100,275)
Balance as at 31 March 2025	1,685	4,663,103	210,492	-	18,431,339	3,494	-	-	23,310,113	-	23,310,113
Net Book Values											
Balance as at 31 March 2025	25,021,572	113,814,521	650,243	-	3,429,748	5,233,788	9,077,736	1,797,750	159,025,358	1,917,002	160,942,360
Balance as at 31 March 2026	31,465,152	117,773,392	624,231	-	4,299,531	5,347,619	37,293,539	1,373,500	198,176,964	1,842,966	200,019,930

11 c Property, plant and equipment

Depreciation

The useful lives and depreciation rates applied to calculate the depreciation are outlined in note 1 xvii).

Revaluations

Valuations of Land and Buildings are carried out externally by Land and Property Services (LPS), in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). The revaluation results for land and buildings, including an analysis of the revaluations amounts taken to the Revaluation Reserve and the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, are detailed in note 11 a.

d Intangible Assets

The Council accounts for its software as intangible assets, to the extent that the software is not an integral part of a particular IT system and accounted for as part of the hardware item of property, plant and equipment. The intangible assets include both purchased licenses and internally generally software.

All software is given a finite useful life, based on assessment of the period that the software is expected to be of use to the Council. The useful lives assigned to the major software suites used by the Council are given in Note 1: Accounting Policies.

Intangible Assets	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
Balance at start of year:		
Gross carrying amounts	3,645,418	2,834,947
Accumulated amortisation	(1,506,333)	(901,576)
Net carrying amount at start of year	2,139,085	1,933,371
Revaluation increases or decreases	-	5,000
Amortisation for the period	(686,443)	(604,757)
Other Changes	225,538	805,471
Net carrying amount at end of year	1,678,180	2,139,085
Comprising:		
Gross carrying amounts	3,753,569	3,645,418
Accumulated amortisation	2,075,389	1,506,333
Net carrying amount at end of year	1,678,180	2,139,085

Intangible Assets	31/03/2026	31/03/2025
	£	£
Drinks Licence	120,000	120,000
Computer Software	1,558,180	2,019,085
	1,678,180	2,139,085

e Investment Properties

The Council has two Investment Properties: Bradford Court and Ballyoran units. These properties are held at fair value.

There are no restrictions on the Council's ability to realise the value of inherent in its investment property or on the authority's right to the remittance of income and the proceeds of disposal. The Council has no contractual obligations to purchase, construct or develop investment property or repairs, maintenance or enhancement.

Two Investment properties held in 2024/25 have been reclassified in the 2025/26 year, Lagan Navigational House and a property within the Dundonald International Ice Bowl site. Ballyoran units have been reclassified as an Investment property from surplus assets.

Investment Properties	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
Balance at start of the year	4,025,000	4,025,000
Net gains/losses from fair value adjustments	(800,000)	-
Transfers to/from property, plant and equipment	(365,000)	-
Balance at end of the year	2,860,000	4,025,000

Valuation Techniques

The fair value of the Council's investment properties is measured annually at each reporting date. All valuations are carried out externally by Land and Property Services (LPS). In accordance with the methodologies and basis for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors who work closely with Council officers regarding all valuation methods. There has been no change in the valuation techniques used during the year for Investment Properties. Gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of the investment properties are recognised in (Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services - Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure lines.

f Heritage Assets

Plant & memorials consist of a memorial statue to Henry George Ferguson, an Irish engineer and inventor who is noted for his role in the development of the modern tractor, becoming the first Irishman to build and fly his own aeroplane, and for developing the first four-wheel drive Formula One car.

The memorial is a one-off piece commissioned in 2009 to commemorate his achievements and is valued on a historical cost basis. Plant and memorials also includes a restored vintage fire engine. In the absence of market information this is valued using its insurance valuation as the basis.

Art Collection

The Council operates the Irish Linen Museum in Lisburn City which contains a collection of artwork and other artefacts of historical local interest. Policy is to insure all material items with a value estimated to be over £10,000. The Art collection consists of a number of valuable pieces by notable local artists including John Luke and Samuel McCloy. The major pieces in the collection are valued for insurance purposes and this valuation forms the basis of valuation for these financial statements.

Other Artefacts

Other artefacts include an extensive range of pieces in the Museum relating to the history of the local linen industry, Civic regalia and a Vintage Plane. All items with a material value of over £10,000 are valued for insurance purposes and this valuation forms the basis of the valuation for these financial statements.

g Right of Use Assets held under leases (included within Land and Buildings, Vehicles, and Equipment)

	Land and £	Vehicles £	Equipment £	TOTAL £
Cost or Valuation				
At 1 April 2025 (Recognition upon implementation of IFRS 16)	225,960	-	578,505	804,465
Additions	-	-	153,305	153,305
Revaluations	148,520	-	-	148,520
Disposals	-	-	(214,774)	(214,774)
At 31 March 2026	374,480	-	517,036	891,516
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2025	4,283	-	572,510	576,793
Disposals	-	-	(214,774)	(214,774)
Provided for year	2,543	-	36,656	39,199
At 31 March 2026	6,826	-	394,392	401,218
Net Book Value	367,654	-	122,644	490,298
	Land and £	Vehicles £	Equipment £	TOTAL £
Cost or Valuation				
At 1 April 2024	272,973	60,905	1,424,283	1,758,161
Revaluations	(47,013)	-	-	(47,013)
Disposals	-	(60,905)	(845,778)	(906,683)
At 31 March 2025	225,960	-	578,505	804,465
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2024	-	60,905	1,406,183	1,467,088
Disposals	-	(60,905)	(853,425)	(914,330)
Provided for year	4,283	-	19,752	24,035
At 31 March 2025	4,283	-	572,510	576,793
Net Book Value	221,677	-	5,995	227,672

Valuation Process for Surplus Assets

The fair value of the Council's Surplus Assets is measured at minimum 5 year intervals. All valuations are carried out externally by Land & Property Services, in accordance with the methodologies and basis for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

12 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 leases and PFI 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 Council, the expenditure results in an increase in the Capital Financing Requirement (CF), a measure of the capital expenditure incurred historically by the Council that is yet to be financed. The CFR is analysed in the second part of this note.

Capital Expenditure		2025/26	2024/25
		£	£
Opening Capital Financing Requirement		41,460,513	39,885,158
Capital Investment			
Property, Plant and Equipment	11	33,282,228	9,203,719
Sources of Finance			
Capital Receipts	8	(25,100)	(16,000)
Government Grants and Other Contributions	10	(395,377)	(806,612)
Transfers from Earmarked Reserves	27	(808,062)	(1,158,651)
Sums set aside from Revenue:			
Direct Revenue Contributions	4	(470,151)	(61,539)
Minimum Revenue Provision	4	(6,128,808)	(5,585,562)
Closing Capital Financing Requirement		66,915,244	41,460,513

Explanation of Movements in Year		2025/26	2024/25
		£	£
Increase in underlying need to borrow		25,454,731	1,575,355
Increase/(decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement		25,454,731	1,575,355

13 Future Capital Commitments

The Council has an ongoing programme of capital works and the estimated cost of the schemes is as follows:

	Gross Cost	Grant Aid	Net Cost
	£	£	£
Schemes underway	24,891,831	12,940,421	11,951,411
Total	24,891,831	12,940,421	11,951,411

14 Inventories		2025/26	2024/25
		£	£
Central Stores		144,593	207,002
Other		102,090	115,919
Goods for resale		65,491	69,021
Household Waste/recycling		120,035	104,447
Vending		15,849	11,549
Other		18,535	33,619
Total		466,593	541,557

15 Debtors		2025/26	2024/25
a Long Term Debtors			
Government Departments		56,928	72,327
Other Councils		29,043	34,479
Total Long-Term Debtors		85,971	106,806

b Short Term Debtors		2025/26	2024/25
		£	£
Government Departments		764,229	2,764,388
Other Councils		230,221	138,084
NIHE loans		15,398	15,416
Interest Receivable		301,053	721,604
Value Added Tax		1,915,573	4,538,636
Prepayments		216,233	189,588
Other		270,157	199,199
Trade receivables		568,163	690,047
Impairment loss - Trade receivables		(35,260)	(83,217)
Total Short-Term Debtors		4,245,767	9,173,745

Total Debtors		4,331,738	9,280,551
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16 Investments		2025/26	2024/25
Long Term Investments		£	£
Investments - general		3,133	2,691
Total Long-term Investments		3,133	2,691

17	Borrowings		
a	Short Term Borrowing	2025/26	2024/25
		£	£
	Loans re-payable within one year	1,451,433	1,086,453
	Lease Principal	30,321	6,921
	Total Short Term Borrowing	1,481,754	1,093,374
b	Long Term Borrowing	2025/26	2024/25
		£	£
	Between 1 and 2 years	1,849,567	1,450,318
	Between 2 and 5 years	3,417,844	4,322,597
	Between 5 and 10 years	3,258,617	3,682,386
	In more than 10 years	7,941,278	8,354,991
	Government Loans Fund	16,467,306	17,810,292
	Total Borrowing	17,949,060	18,903,666

18	Creditors		
a	Short Term Creditors	2025/26	2024/25
		£	£
	Government Departments	3,619,214	2,586,392
	Other Councils	159,028	337,974
	Accumulated Absences	437,632	430,850
	Loan Interest Payable	169,022	180,241
	Capital Creditors	721,900	105,708
	Receipts in advance	1,573,261	1,922,959
	Trade creditors	1,608,639	1,582,597
	Other	1,628,701	1,498,421
	Total Short Term Creditors	9,917,397	8,645,142

This amount includes £1,426,776 of third party income relating to the Landlord Registration Scheme, Lagan Valley Regional Park and Golf Club Members.

b Payment of Invoices

The council has a target, where no other terms are agreed, of paying supplier invoices within 30 calendar days. During the year the Council paid 18,055 invoices totalling £88m.

The number of disputed invoices were unknown.

The Council paid:

17,279 (95.7%) invoices with 30 calendar days target (2024/25: 76.4%);
15,059 (83.4%) invoices within 10 working days target (2024/25: 55.42%; and
776 (4.3%) invoices outside of the 30 day target (2024/25: 23.6%).

19	Provisions						
		Balance as at	Increase in	Utilised during	Unused amounts	Interest cost	Balance as at 31
		1 April 2025	provision	year	reversed	and/or discount	March 2026
		£	£	£	£	rate changes	£
	Landfill	2,299,204	145,302	(180,843)	-	(59,315)	2,204,348
	Insurance	180,000	234,804	(84,020)	-	-	330,784
	Total	2,479,204	380,106	(264,863)	-	(59,315)	2,535,132
	Current Provisions	(415,439)	234,804	610,128	-	(212)	429,281
	Long Term Provisions	2,894,643	145,302	(874,991)	-	(59,103)	2,105,851
	Total	2,479,204	380,106	(264,863)	-	(59,315)	2,535,132

Comparative Year

		Balance as at	Increase in	Utilised during	Unused amounts	Interest cost	Balance as at 31
		1 April 2024	provision	year	reversed	and/or discount	March 2025
		£	£	£	£	rate changes	£
	Landfill	2,466,996	151,330	(192,377)	-	(126,745)	2,299,204
	Insurance	173,981	76,803	(70,784)	-	-	180,000
	Total	2,640,977	228,133	(263,161)	-	(126,745)	2,479,204
	Current Provisions	(229,792)	76,803	(263,161)	-	711	(415,439)
	Long Term Provisions	2,870,769	151,330	-	-	(127,456)	2,894,643
	Total	2,640,977	228,133	(263,161)	-	(126,745)	2,479,204

Landfill

The Council has responsibility for two landfill sites which were inherited from the legacy councils on 1 April 2015, Drumlough and Moss Road. These sites are at varying stages of closure in accordance with ECC directives. The Moss Road site closed in 2001. The closure plan was approved by NIEA in November 2018. The implementation plan is currently being prepared. With regards to the landfill site at Drumlough, the final closure plan was approved by the NIEA in July 2016. The implementation plan was approved by Council in September 2018.

Other - Insurance Claims

Other provisions related to pending insurance claims and the associated estimated costs. Of the provision carried forward from 2024/25, £84,020 was utilised during the year. New provisions were created in 2025/26 totalling £330,784.

20 Financial Instruments Categories of Financial Instruments

The Council has no material exposure to any of the risk types identified below in its dealings with Financial Instruments.

Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the Council's customers. Customers are assessed, taking into account their financial position, past experience and other factors, with individual credit limits being set in accordance with internal ratings in accordance with parameters set by the Council. The provision for bad and doubtful debts reflects the Council's assessment of the risk of non-payment by trade debtors and, as such, there is no further additional estimated exposure to default and inability to collect.

Valuation assumptions

There is no historical experience of default in relation to deposits with banks and other financial institutions. Therefore there is no estimated exposure to risk of default.

Liquidity Risk

As the Council has ready access to borrowings from the Department of Finance's Consolidated Fund, there is no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under Financial Instruments. The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is included in notes 17 to 19. All trade and other payables are due for payment within one year.

The Council is exposed to risk in terms of its exposure to interest rate movements on its investments. The Council is in receipt of loans from the Department of Finance, however these loans are at fixed concessionary interest rates that differ from the prevailing market rates.

Fair Value of Soft Loans and Government Loans

The Council is in receipt of loans from the Department of Finance at concessionary interest rates that differ from the prevailing market rates. The fair value of these loans is £18,569,607 (2024/25: £19,880,246)

Fair Values of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities that are not Measured at Fair Value (but for which Fair Value Disclosures are Required).

The Council's financial liabilities are classified as loans and receivables and are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost. The fair values calculated are as follows:

Financial Liabilities	Balance as at 31 March 2026		Balance as at 31 March 2025	
	Carrying amount	Fair Value	Carrying amount	Fair Value
Financial Liabilities held at Amortised Cost	18,009,473	18,569,607	19,133,074	19,880,246
Total	18,009,473	18,569,607	19,133,074	19,880,246

The fair value of borrowings is higher than the carrying amount because the Council's portfolio of loans includes several fixed rate loans where the interest rate payable is higher than the prevailing rates at the Balance Sheet date.

Foreign Exchange Risk

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

21 Retirement Benefits

a Participation in the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund.

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its officers and other employees, the Council offers retirement benefits. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the Council has a commitment to make the payments that need to be disclosed at the time that employees earn their future entitlement.

The Council participates in the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund administered by the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee. This is a funded scheme, meaning that the Council and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension's liabilities with investment assets.

b Transactions relating to retirement benefits - Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Charges:

The Council recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the Cost of Services on Continuing Operations when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions.

However, the charge the Council is required to make against district rates is based on the cash payable in the year, and the real cost of retirement benefits is reversed out in the adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations line, in the Movement on Reserves Statement.

The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations line, in the Movement on Reserves Statement during the year:

	Note	2025/26 £	2024/25 £
Net cost of services:			
Current service cost		3,779,000	5,007,000
Net Interest on net defined benefit Liability (asset)		(3,193,000)	(1,076,000)
Total Post-employment Benefits charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services		586,000	3,931,000
Movement in Reserves Statement:			
Reversal of net charges made for retirement benefits in accordance with IAS 19 and the Code		(586,000)	(3,931,000)
Employers' contributions payable to scheme		5,272,000	4,940,000
Net adjustment to General Fund		4,686,000	1,009,000

The service cost figures include an allowance for administration expenses of £110k. (2024/25 - £129k)

Remeasurements recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	Note	2025/26 £	2024/25 £
Liability gains/(losses) due to change in assumptions		2,221,000	32,261,000
Liability gains/(losses) due to due to demographic changes		(1,874,000)	1,349,000
Liability experience gains/(losses) arising in the year		(1,228,000)	(187,000)
Actuarial gains/(losses) on plan assets		6,039,000	(1,968,000)
Other		(9,833,000)	(32,346,000)
Total gains/(losses) recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		(4,675,000)	(891,000)

c Assets and liabilities in relation to retirement benefits

Reconciliation of present value of the scheme liabilities:

	Note	2025/26 £	2024/25 £
Balance as at 1 April		156,406,596	180,888,596
Current service cost		3,779,000	5,007,000
Interest cost		8,934,000	8,576,000
Contributions by members		1,768,000	1,747,000
Remeasurement (gains) and losses:			
Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions		(2,221,000)	(32,261,000)
Actuarial gains/losses arising from demographic changes		1,874,000	(1,349,000)
Actuarial gains/losses arising on liabilities from experience		1,228,000	187,000
Estimated unfunded benefits paid		(33,000)	(34,000)
Estimated benefits paid		(6,639,000)	(6,355,000)
Balance as at 31 March		165,096,596	156,406,596

Reconciliation of present value of the scheme assets:	Note	2025/26 £	2024/25 £
Balance as at 1 April		208,846,442	200,864,442
Interest Income		12,127,000	9,652,000
Contributions by members		1,768,000	1,747,000
Contributions by employer		5,239,000	4,906,000
Contributions in respect of unfunded benefits		33,000	34,000
Remeasurement gain/(loss)		6,039,000	(1,968,000)
Unfunded benefits paid		(33,000)	(34,000)
Benefits paid		(6,639,000)	(6,355,000)
Unrecognised Asset		(62,566,000)	(52,733,000)
Balance as at 31 March		164,814,442	156,113,442

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

The actual return on scheme assets in the year was a gain of £18,166,000 (2024/25 gain of £7,684,000).

Fair Value of Plan Assets	2025/26 £'m	2024/25 £'m
Equity investments	98	86
Bonds	58	41
Property	22	20
Cash	6	22
Other	43	40
	227	209

The above asset values are at bid value as required by IAS 19.

Details of estimates made by the Fund Manager when assessing the fair values of plan assets.

The amounts included in the fair value of plan assets for property occupied by the Council was £nil

The Council's share of the Net Pension Liability (included in the Balance Sheet):

	2025/26 £	2024/25 £
Fair Value of Employer Assets	164,814,442	156,113,442
Present value of funded defined benefit obligation	(165,096,596)	(156,406,596)
Pension asset/(liability) of Funded Scheme	(282,154)	(293,154)
Net asset/(liability) arising from the defined benefit obligation	(282,154)	(293,154)
Amount in the Balance sheet:		
Liabilities	(165,097,000)	(156,407,000)
Assets	164,814,000	156,113,000
Net Asset/(Liability)	(283,000)	(294,000)

d Scheme History

Analysis of scheme assets and liabilities	2025/26 £	2024/25 £
Fair Value of Assets in pension scheme	164,814,442	156,113,442
Present Value of Defined Benefit Obligation	(165,096,596)	(156,406,596)

Surplus/(deficit) in the Scheme	(282,154)	(293,154)
--	------------------	------------------

Amount recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure:	2025/26 £	2024/25 £
Actuarial gains/(losses)	(4,675,000)	(891,000)
Remeasurements recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(4,675,000)	(891,000)
Cumulative actuarial gains and losses	48,292,000	52,967,000
History of experience gains and losses:		
Experience gains and (losses) on liabilities	6,039,000	(1,968,000)

Analysis of projected amount to be charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the year to 31 March 2026

	31/03/2026 £	31/03/2025
Projected current cost	3,779,000	0.0%
Net Interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset)	(3,193,000)	0.0%
	586,000	0.0%

The total contributions expected to be made to the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund by the council in the year to 31 March 2026 is £5,272,000.

History of experience gains and losses

The actuarial gains/losses identified as movements on the Pensions Reserve 2025/26 can be analysed into the following categories, measured as a percentage of assets or liabilities at 31 March 2026.

	2025/26 %	2024/25 %
Experience gains and (losses) on Liabilities	-3.66%	1.26%

e Basis for estimating assets and liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in the future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels, etc. The Council's Fund liabilities have been assessed by Aon Hewitt Limited, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the Council Fund being based on data pertaining to the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2026.

Pension scheme assumptions:	2025/26 %	2024/25 %
Mortality assumptions:		
<i>Longevity at 65 current pensioners:</i>	Years	Years
Men	22.0	21.6
Women	25.3	22.2
<i>Longevity at 65 for future pensioners:</i>		
Men	22.3	24.5
Women	25.6	25.2
Inflation/Pension Increase Rate	2.80%	2.50%
Salary Increase Rate	4.30%	4.00%
Discount Rate	6.20%	5.80%
Pension accounts revaluation rate	2.80%	2.50%

Pension Assumptions Sensitivity Analysis

The pension figures disclosed in these financial statements are sensitive to the assumptions used.

The approximate impact of changing key assumptions on the present value of the funded defined benefit obligation as at 31 March 2026 is set out below.

In each case, only the assumption noted below is altered; all other assumptions remain the same and are summarised in the disclosure above.

Funded Pension Scheme Benefits

Discount Rate Assumption		
Adjustment to discount rate	+0.1%p.a.	-0.1%p.a.
Present value of the total obligation	162,342,000	167,286,000
% change in the present value of the total obligation	-1.50%	1.50%
Projected service cost	3,797,000	4,143,000
Approximate % change in projected service cost	-4.30%	4.40%
Rate of General Increase in Salaries		
Adjustment to salary increase rate	+0.1%p.a.	-0.1%p.a.
Present value of the total obligation	165,144,000	164,484,000
% change in the present value of the total obligation	0.20%	-0.20%
Projected service cost	3,968,000	3,968,000
Approximate % change in projected service cost	0.00%	0.00%
Rate of Increase to Pensions in Payment and Deferred Pension Assumption		
Adjustment to pension increase rate	+0.1%p.a.	-0.1%p.a.
Present value of the total obligation	166,957,000	162,671,000
% change in the present value of the total obligation	1.30%	-1.30%
Projected service cost	4,143,000	3,797,000
Approximate % change in projected service cost	4.40%	-4.30%
Post Retirement Mortality Assumption		
Adjustment to mortality age rating assumption*	- 1 Year	+1 Year
Present value of the total obligation	168,440,000	161,023,000
% change in the present value of the total obligation	2.20%	-2.30%
Projected service cost	4,103,000	3,833,000
Approximate % change in projected service cost	3.40%	-3.40%

* A rating of +1 year means that members are assumed to follow the mortality pattern of the base table above for an individual that is 1 year older than that.

f Major categories of plan assets as percentage of total plan assets

The Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund's assets consist of the following categories, by proportion of the total assets held:

	31/03/2026 %	31/03/2025 %
Equity investments	43.10%	41.30%
Government Bonds	21.40%	15.70%
Corporate Bonds	4.10%	3.90%
Property	9.70%	9.50%
Cash	2.70%	10.70%
Other	19.00%	18.90%
Total	100.00%	100.00%

g Northern Ireland Civil Service Pension Arrangements

The Northern Ireland Civil Service Pension arrangements are unfunded multi-employer defined benefit schemes but the Council is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities. The most up to date actuarial valuation was carried out as at 31/03/20. This valuation is then reviewed by the Scheme Actuary and updated to reflect current conditions and rolled forward to the reporting date of the DoF Superannuation and Other Allowances Resource Accounts as at 31 March 2026.

Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) is a portion of pension that was accrued by individuals who were contracted out of the state pension prior to 6 April 1997. At present there is an inequality of benefits between male and female members who have GMP. Although the Government intends that GMP should be equalised, at present it is not clear how this equalisation will be implemented. In July 2014 the Government stated an intention to develop fully considered proposals and to publish guidance when this work is completed, but no target date was given. The impact of any liabilities relating to the Council is therefore uncertain and no provision has been made in these financial statements.

22 Donated Assets Account

The Council did not hold any donated assets during the year ending 31 March 2026.

23 Capital Grants Received in Advance	Note	2025/26 £	2024/25 £
Opening balance		12,397,692	4,092,304
Add: new capital grants received in advance (condition of use not met)		593,685	9,009,952
Less: amounts released to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		(395,377)	(704,564)
		12,596,000	12,397,692

Analysis of Capital Grants Receipts in Advance Balance

The balance of Capital Grants Receipts in Advance represents grants received that have yet to be recognised as income, as they have conditions attached to them, which will require the grant to be repaid, if conditions are not met. The balances at the year end are as follows:

Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	Note	2025/26 £	2024/25 £
Hilden		-	26,152
DIIB		12,596,000	12,343,351
Hillsborough Forest		-	18,136
Landlord Registration Scheme		-	10,053
		12,596,000	12,397,692

24 Contingencies

In accordance with the Code (and IAS 37), Councils should disclose by way of note if there is a possible obligation arising from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the authority, or a present obligation that arises from past events but is not recognised because:

- a) it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits or service potential will be required to settle the obligation, or
- b) the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

The ARC 21 Joint Committee has with the approval of the Participant Councils, entered into an undertaking with the bidding consortium in the procurement for the Residual Waste treatment Project. Payments made, if any in accordance with this undertaking will be funded by the Participant Councils. This is currently considered a contingent liability. No further information on this agreement can be disclosed due to the commercial sensitivity of the procurement process.

Council is committed to reducing the amount of waste landfilled while increasing recycling and recovery rates for municipal waste. This however comes at a significant cost with a requirement for investment in both infrastructure and waste treatment contracts that will enable Council to meet challenging targets within the Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020.

There is a lack of visibility on the potential impact of implementation of new legislation, e.g. a Deposit Return Scheme could take higher value recyclates out of the household waste stream and Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging. This should see packaging producers bear costs associated with collection and disposal of these items. This will increase the challenges for Council when considering waste collection and treatment going forward and makes financial forecasting more challenging.

The Council identified potential issues following discussions with HMRC in relation to the preparation and submission of VAT returns in the 2024/25 financial year. HMRC has issued an assessment of underdeclared VAT relating to the period. The Council has reviewed the basis of assessment and is challenging the position taken by HMRC. The Council, supported by professional advice, believes it has a reasonable basis to dispute the assessment and is actively seeking to resolve the matter. Due to the uncertainty over the final outcome, no provision has been made in these financial statements. A liability will be recognised if it becomes probable that an economic outflow will be required. While the assessment is of notable value, management remains confident in its position and continues to engage constructively with HMRC.

There are a small number of ongoing Tribunal cases involving the Council as at 31st March 2026. Due to the uncertainty of outcome of these cases, there has been no provision provided within the financial statements.

25 Other cash flow disclosures

a Analysis of Adjustments to Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services

Adjustment to surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	Notes	2025/26	2024/25
		£	£
Depreciation	11	6,719,883	6,172,110
Impairment & downward revaluations (& non-sale	11	7,050	38,408
(Increase)/Decrease in inventories		74,964	(28,001)
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors		4,576,219	(5,765,362)
(Increase)/Decrease in Interest Debtors		420,550	(425,073)
Increase/(Decrease) in impairment provision for bad debts		(47,957)	(22,894)
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors		865,590	6,801,405
Increase/(Decrease) in Interest Creditors		(11,219)	(14,812)
Payments to NILGOSC	21	(4,686,000)	(1,009,000)
Carrying amount of non-current assets sold	8	118,520	-
Contributions to Other Reserves/Provisions		55,489	(161,836)
Movement in value of investment properties-included above		800,000	-
		8,893,089	5,584,945

Adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	Notes	2025/26	2024/25
		£	£
Proceeds from the sale of PP&E, investment property and intangible assets		(25,100)	(16,000)
Capital grants included in "Taxation & non-specific grant income"		(395,377)	(806,612)
		(420,477)	(822,612)

b Cash and Cash Equivalents

For the purposes of the cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and in bank and short term deposits and investments (considered to be cash equivalents), net of outstanding bank overdrafts. Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period as shown in the statement of cash flows can be reconciled to the related items in the Balance Sheet as follows:

	2025/26	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£	£
Cash and Bank balances	2,301,823	44,462,115	25,595,502
Short Term Deposits (considered to be Cash Equivalents)	33,282,029	7,171,419	24,205,789
	35,583,852	51,633,534	49,801,291

c Cash Flow Statement: Operating Activities

	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
The cash flows from operating activities include:		
Interest received	(1,736,439)	(1,807,284)
Interest paid	1,105,388	1,194,742

d Cash flows from Investing Activities

	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
Purchase of PP&E, investment property and intangible assets	32,512,731	9,971,217
Proceeds from the sale of PP&E, investment property and intangible assets	(25,100)	(16,000)
Capital Grants and Contributions Received	(395,377)	(796,398)
Net Cash flows from Investing Activities	32,092,254	9,158,819

e Cash flows from Financing Activities		2025/26	2024/25
		£	£
Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liability relating to a lease and on-Balance Sheet PFI contracts		12,657	38,939
Repayment of Short and Long Term Borrowing		1,095,254	1,138,830
Net Cash flows from Financing Activities		1,107,911	1,177,769

26 Usable Reserves

a Capital Receipts Reserve

These are capital receipts which have originated primarily from the sale of assets which have not yet been used to finance capital expenditure.

The Capital Receipts Reserve is credited with the proceeds from fixed asset sales and other monies defined by statute as capital receipts. These are originally credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain/loss on disposal and posted out via the Movement in Reserves Statement to the Capital Receipts Reserve. The reserve is written down when resources are applied to finance new capital expenditure or set aside to reduce an authority's capital financing requirement (or used for other purposes permitted by statute).

Capital Receipts Reserve	Notes	31/03/2026	31/03/2025
		£	£
At 1 April		1,090,582	1,090,582
Movement			
Disposal of Assets/Capital receipts	4, 8	25,100	16,000
Capital Receipts used to finance capital expenditure	12	(25,100)	(16,000)
At 31 March		1,090,582	1,090,582

b Capital Grants Unapplied Account

Where a capital grant or contribution (or part thereof) has been recognised as income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, but the expenditure to be financed from that grant or contribution has not been incurred at the Balance Sheet date, the grant or contribution shall be transferred to the Capital Grants Unapplied Account (within the usable reserves section of the balance sheet), reflecting its status as a capital resource available to finance expenditure. This transfer is reported in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

When, at a future date, the expenditure to be financed from the grant or contribution is incurred, the grant or contribution (or part thereof) shall be transferred from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account to the Capital Adjustment Account, reflecting the application of capital resources to finance expenditure. This transfer is also reported in the Movement in Reserves Statement or in the notes to the accounts.

c Capital Fund

This fund was established in 2019/2020 to fund future capital projects within the Council.

Capital Fund	Notes	31/03/2026	31/03/2025
		£	£
At 1 April		31,248,799	28,075,643
Transfers between statutory & other reserves & the General Fund		2,782,100	4,309,607
Transfers between Capital Fund & CAA to finance Capital Expenditure	12	(63,870)	(1,136,451)
At 31 March		33,967,028	31,248,799

d Renewal and Repairs Fund

This fund was established under section 56 of the Local Government Act (NI) 1972, however this section of the act was repealed under the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. Councils should disclose details where any of these reserves are earmarked for specific purposes.

Renewal and Repairs Fund	Notes	31/03/2026	31/03/2025
		£	£
At 1 April		1,543,166	919,539
Transfers between statutory & other reserves & the General Fund		(410,707)	645,827
Transfers between Renewal & Repair Fund & CAA to finance Capital Expenditure	12	(35,358)	(22,200)
At 31 March		1,097,101	1,543,166

e Other Balances & Reserves

Other Balances & Reserves	Notes	31/03/2026	31/03/2025
		£	£
At 1 April		16,737,107	15,370,415
Transfers between statutory & other reserves & the General Fund	4	2,471,674	1,366,692
Transfers between Capital Fund/Renewal & Repair Fund & CAA to finance capital expenditure	11	(708,834)	-
At 31 March		18,499,947	16,737,107

These reserves contain the following: reserve for the settlement of future long term liabilities arising from previous capital investments (£8.261m), reserve to mitigate risk of penny product adverse outturns (£1.5m), reserve to fund DEA projects (£462k), reserve to fund Community Investment projects (£2.625m), reserve to fund waste expenditure in future years (£2.568m), reserve to fund Regeneration and Economy (£2.5m) reserve to fund elections in future years (£419k), other investment fund (£104k), reserve for grounds maintenance works (£36k) and reserve built from donations for the purchase of museum artifacts (£25k).

f General Fund

This reserve 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 District Rates. Councils raise rates to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

General Fund	Notes	31/03/2026	31/03/2025
		£	£
At 1 April		11,120,379	11,385,959
Applied Capital Grants	10, 12	(395,377)	(806,612)
Direct Revenue Financing	4, 12	(470,151)	(61,539)
Depreciation and Impairment adjustment	4	7,526,933	6,210,518
Statutory Provision for financing Capital Investment	4	(6,128,808)	(5,585,562)
Surplus/(Deficit) on the Provision of Services	CIES	8,677,871	7,406,498
Transfers between Statutory and Other Reserves and the General Fund	4	(4,843,066)	(6,322,126)
Net movements on Pension Reserve	4, 20	(4,686,000)	(1,009,000)
Disposal of Fixed Assets/Capital Sales	3, 4, 11, 23	93,420	(16,000)
Difference between finance and other costs and income		6,782	(81,757)
Other Movements		-	-
At 31 March		10,901,983	11,120,379

27 Unuseable Reserves

a 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 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 an historic cost basis.

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

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

The Account also contains revaluation gains accumulated on Property, Plant and Equipment before 1 April 2008, the date that the Revaluation Reserve was created to hold such gains.

Capital Adjustment Account	Notes	31/03/2026	31/03/2025
		£	£
At 1 April		65,040,288	61,454,435
Applied Capital Grants	10, 12	395,377	806,612
Direct Revenue Financing	4, 12	470,151	61,539
Depreciation & Impairment adjustment	11	(7,526,933)	(6,210,518)
Statutory Provision for financing Capital Investment	4, 12	6,128,808	5,585,562
Disposal of Fixed Assets/Capital Sales	4, 11	(118,520)	-
Capital Receipts used to finance capital expenditure	4, 12	25,100	16,000
Other Movements	4	2,736,881	2,168,007
Transfers between Capital Fund/Renewal & Repair Fund & CAA to finance capital expenditure	12	808,062	1,158,651
At 31 March		67,959,213	65,040,288

b Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

The Financial Instruments Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for income and expenses relating to certain financial instruments and for bearing losses or benefiting from gains per statutory provisions. The council uses the account to manage premiums paid on the early redemption of loans. Premiums are debited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when they are incurred, but reversed out of the General Fund Balance to the account in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Over time, the expense is posted back to the General Fund Balance in accordance with statutory arrangements for spreading burden on rates. The Council did not hold any financial instruments during the financial year ending 31st March 2026.

c Revaluation Reserve

The Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the Council arising from increases in the value of its Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible Assets. The reserve 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 2008, the date the reserve was created. Accumulated gains arising before that date are consolidated into the balance on the Capital Adjustment Account.

The purpose of this account is to build up a balance based on the revaluation (upwards or downwards) of individual assets. All such revaluations (excluding impairment losses that have been debited to Surplus/(Deficit) on the Provision of Services are mirrored in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. It is a fundamental principle of this account that it never becomes negative. If an asset was held at current value when derecognised, the balance held on the Revaluation Reserve is written off to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Revaluation Reserve	Notes	31/03/2026	31/03/2025
		£	£
At 1 April		59,789,604	58,784,940
Revaluation & Impairment	11	11,814,891	3,172,671
Other Movements		(2,736,881)	(2,168,007)
At 31 March		68,867,614	59,789,604

d Available for Sale Financial Instruments Adjustment Reserve and Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve

The Council did not hold any financial instruments during the financial year ending 31st March 2026.

e Pension Reserve

Pension Reserve	Notes	31/03/2026	31/03/2025
		£	£
At 1 April		(294,000)	(412,000)
Net Movements on Pension Reserve	4, 20	4,686,000	1,009,000
Revaluation & Impairment	20	(4,675,000)	(891,000)
At 31 March		(283,000)	(294,000)

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 Council accounts for post-employment benefits in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs

However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed as the Council makes employer's contributions to pension funds or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible.

f Deferred Capital Receipts Account

The Deferred Capital Receipts Account holds the gains recognised on the disposal of non-current assets but for which cash settlement has yet to take place. Under statutory arrangements, the Council 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. The Council did not hold any deferred capital receipts during the financial year ending 31 March 2026.

g Accumulated Absences Account

The Accumulated Absences Account absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise on the General Fund balance from accruing for compensated absences earned but not taken in the year e.g. staff annual leave entitlement carried forward at the end of the financial year. Statutory arrangements are expected to require that the impact on the General Fund is neutralised by transfers to or from this Accumulated Absences Account

Accumulated Absences Account	Notes	31/03/2026	31/03/2025
		£	£
At 1 April		(430,850)	(512,607)
Difference between finance and other costs and income calculated on an accounting basis and finance costs calculated in accordance with statutory requirements		(6,782)	81,757
At 31 March		(437,632)	(430,850)

h Provisions Discount Rate Reserve

The Provisions Discount Rate Reserve covers the arrangement, put in place by the Department under its amendment to the 2018/19 accounts direction (see DfC circular 18/19), to allow for mitigation of the costs not allowed for by Councils who had adopted the HM Treasury Central Government discount rate for long-term provisions such as Landfill costs.

Subject to agreement with the Department, this arrangement allows a council to spread the cost of the impact of discount rate changes over a period of not more than 6 years.

28 Significant Trading Operations

In deciding whether a trading operation is significant the Council takes both financial and non-financial criteria into account.

Financial criteria taken into account in deciding whether trading operations are significant to the Council are:

- the magnitude of each individual trading operation's turnover when compared with the Council's net revenue budget
- the risk of financial loss the Council may be exposed to in providing the service to the user.

Non-financial criteria taken into account in deciding whether trading operations are significant to the Council are:

- the importance of each individual trading operation to demonstrating the achievement of Council targets and improving performance.
- the exposure of the Council to service reputational loss risk by providing the service
- whether the provision of the service is likely to be of interest to the Council's key stakeholders and their needs.

In applying the aforementioned criteria, the Council considers that it is engaging in the following significant trading operations:

Significant Trading Operations	2025/26		2024/25	
	Turnover	Profit/(Loss)	Turnover	Profit/(Loss)
Irish Linen Centre Shop	47,763	19,622	51,330	23,801
Provision of Car Parking Facilities (8 chargeable)	557,109	335,708	494,895	266,732
Total	604,873	355,330	546,225	290,533

29 Agency Services

The Council provides specialist payroll services and financial services to other bodies namely Lagan Valley Regional Park. Service level agreements exist for each of the bodies and at 31 March 2026 no monies relating to management fees were outstanding.

LCCC are the 'Host Council' for the Local Government Training Group, in which all eleven Councils participate. Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council has delegated authority via a Service Level Agreement, to apply the rules of the LGTG and to manage financial transactions on behalf of the LGTG. Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council administered payments of £197,055 (FY 2024/25 £231,279) and received income from the other Councils of £220,000 (FY 2024/25 £195,121) as reimbursement of its outlay.

The Council lead on the Landlord Registration Services for all Councils. The Council own assets (intangible asset) with a net book value of £244k. The Council manages the financial transactions of the Landlord Registration Scheme which consist of mainly income from landlord deposits and costs associated with running the service such as staff costs, overheads and fees.

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 assess the extent to which the council might have been constrained in its ability to operate independently or might have secured the ability to limit another party's ability to bargain freely with the council.

Central government has significant influence over the general operations of the council - it is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the council operates, provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the council has with other parties.

Members of the council have direct control over the council's financing and operating policies. The total of members' allowances paid in 2025/26 is shown in Note 7d. During 2025/26, works and services were commissioned from companies in which members had control or influence in a decision-making capacity. Contracts were entered into in full compliance with the council's standing orders. In addition, the council paid grants to organisations in which members had positions within. In all instances, the grants were made with proper consideration of declarations of interest. The relevant members did not take part in any discussion or decision relating to the grants. Details are below:

ORGANISATION	No. of Elected Members	2025/26	2024/25
		£	£
Arc 21	4	7,869,510	7,072,021
Belfast Region City Deal Eng Forum	9	90,000	121,065
Belfast Hills Partnership	1	20,770	20,770
Belfast Regional Tourism Partnership	1	27,000	7,800
Lagan Valley Rural Transport	1	15,600	16,418
Lisburn & Castlereagh Local Sports Advisory Council	4	36,000	26,200
Lisburn Commerce Against Crime	2	250,000	250,000
Lough Neagh Partnership	1	3,850	3,850
National Association of Councillors	8	3,402	3,200
NILGA	2	62,247	62,960
NI Museums Council	1	395	405
Somme Advisory Council	2	1,200	1,200

The Council is a member of the ARC 21 Joint Committee which is established for the purposes of managing waste. The ARC 21 Joint Committee is a partnership of 6 councils established to collaborate in implementing the Waste Management Plan to develop an integrated network of regional waste management facilities which would be cost effective to the public. For the year ending 31st March 2026, the Council made payments of £7.87m (2024/25: £7.07m) to ARC 21. At 31st March 2026, the Council owed £145k (2024/25: £205k) to ARC 21 and were due £24k (2024/25: £32k) from ARC 21.

The Joint Committee accounts for its funding by the provision of a statement of accounts which is prepared under Local Government (Northern Ireland) order 2005 and subject to a statutory audit by a local government auditor.

As at 31 March 2026, the Council held £62,791 (2024/25 £6k) of funds collected on behalf of the Mayor's Charities. This money will be paid to the Mayor's nominated charity at the end of the current Mayor's term.

31 Events after the Reporting Period

The Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue on 24th September 2026. 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 2026, the figures in the financial statements have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information.

The financial statements and notes have not been adjusted for the following events which took place after 31 March 2026 as they provide information that is relevant to an understanding of the Council's financial position but do not relate to conditions at that date.

32 Date of authorisation for issue

The Chief Financial Officer authorised these financial statements for issue on 24 September 2026

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRAINING GROUP
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
for the year ended 31 March 2026**

	Notes	Year Ended 31 March 2026	Year Ended 31 March 2025 £	Year Ended 31 March 2024 £
Recurrent Transactions				
Contributions	2	220,000	216,328	183,251
Operating Receipts	3			
		220,000	216,328	183,251
Less Operating Costs	4	197,055	231,279	204,088
Surplus/(Deficit)		22,945	(14,951)	(20,837)
APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT				
Balance brought forward		95,737	110,688	131,525
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		22,945	(14,951)	(20,837)
Balance carried forward		118,682	95,737	110,688
Represented by:				
Usburn & Castlereagh City Council		118,682	95,737	110,688
		118,682	95,737	110,688

Signed:


Chairman Local Government Training Group


Chief Financial Officer (LCCC)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRAINING GROUP
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
for the year ended 31 March 2026

1 BASIS OF ACCOUNTS

These accounts have been prepared and are included within Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Annual Accounts.

	Year Ended 31-Mar-26	Year Ended 31-Mar-25	Year Ended 31-Mar-24
2 CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED			
	£ 220,000	£ 216,328	£ 183,251
3 OPERATING RECEIPTS			
Bank Interest			£ 15,674
Course Fees	£ -		£ 15,674
4 OPERATING COSTS			
Strategic Framework Implementation			
1.1: Leadership & Talent Management			
Chief Executive support		-	-
Leadership Development		-	-
1.2: Performance Culture			
Performance Culture Toolkit			-
Performance Culture eLearning Module			-
OD Projects			-
1.3: Learning Organisation			
In house programme support/Master classes	£ 15,450.00	£ 36,257	£ 396
Regional training Programmes/Cluster courses			£ 2,000
Transformation Initiative			£ 840
	£ 15,450.00	£ 36,257	£ 3,236
1.4: Equality and Diversity			
Equality and Diversity/community relations		-	-
1.5: Capacity Building for Elected Members			
Capacity Building for Elected Members	£ 2,305.00	£ 7,507	
	£ 2,305.00	£ 7,507	
1.6: Miscellaneous Initiatives			
Procurement costs			-
Meetings Costs/Quality standards/IIP	£ 67,000.00	£ 73,861	£ 89,402
	£ 67,000.00	£ 73,861	£ 89,402
TRANSFORMATION			
1.7: Administration			
LGSC Administration	£ 17,000.00	£ 15,000	£ 13,000
LGTG Officer/Agency Costs	£ 51,119.54	£ 55,579	£ 56,120
Printing and Stationery	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000	£ 1,000
Advertising			
Commissioning and Support	£ 43,180.00	£ 42,075	£ 41,330
Phase 2			
	£ 112,299.54	£ 113,654	£ 111,450
Total Operating Costs	£ 197,054.54	£ 231,279	£ 204,088