

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019/2020 - ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1 Purpose of Report

To provide Members with any updates made to the Council's accounting policies in relation to the production of the 2019/2020 financial statements.

This report was due to be presented at the Governance, Audit and Standards committee dated 16 March 2020.

2 Introduction

Prior to the completion of the Statement of Accounts 2019/2020, it is considered good practice that Members are given the opportunity to discuss and comment on the accounting policies to be used in the production of the financial statements. These policies will be applied to the treatment of all transactions that make up the Statement of Accounts to ensure the accounts present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council as at 31 March 2020.

The 2019/2020 Statement of Accounts will be prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019-20 (the Code), based upon International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

3 Updates to the Statement

The 2019/2020 Code introduces amendments to:

- transfers of investment property
- foreign currency transactions
- treatment of income tax
- prepayment of financial instruments

These changes do not impact on any of the Council's policies.

Policy (vi) Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets has been updated to include the basis and useful life used to calculate depreciation on each asset type. This was previously disclosed as within the Notes to the Accounts.

The proposed Accounting Policies for 2019/2020 are set out in the appendix.

4 Financial Implications

There are no direct financial costs associated with the accounting policy updates.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that the Accounting Policies for 2019/2020 be approved.

Background Papers - Nil

APPENDIX

Accounting Policies**(i) General Principles**

The Statement of Accounts summarises the authority's transactions for the 2019/20 financial year and its position at the year end of 31 March 2020. The authority is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2019/20 supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), International Accounting Standards and statutory guidance issued under section 12 of the Local Government Act 2003.

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 Statement of Accounts has been prepared on a going concern basis. As required by IAS 1, it has been assumed that the Council will continue in operation for the foreseeable future.

(ii) 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 debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.

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

As regards private sector housing benefits, payments can relate to periods partly in advance and partly in arrears. The cut-off date applied to such payments is as near to the year end as possible and ensures consistency with the figures used to calculate government subsidy received on such payments.

Council housing rents become chargeable on the Monday of each week for the week ahead. Rent income is accounted for up to and including the last Monday in the financial year. For 2019/20 this has led to 53 weeks of Housing Rent due being charged on the Rent Accounting system. In accordance with proper accounting practice week 53 rent debit has been allocated in proportion between the 2019/20 and 20/21 financial year within the financial statements.

(iii) 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 investments that mature in 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.

(iv) Exceptional Items

When items of income and expense are material, their nature and amounts 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.

(v) Prior Year Adjustments, Changes in Accounting Policies and Estimates and Errors

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

Changes in accounting policies are only made when required by proper accounting practices or the change provides more reliable or relevant information about the effects 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. See note 2 for more details.

Material errors discovered in prior period figures are corrected retrospectively by amending opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period. See note 6 for more details.

(vi) 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 fixed assets during the year:

- Depreciation attributable to the assets used by the relevant service
- 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
- Amortisation of intangible fixed assets attributable to the service

With the exception of works vehicles, depreciation is calculated on a straight line basis over the estimated useful life of the asset. The following useful lives have been used in the calculation of depreciation:

- Council Dwellings (Non Components) – 80 years
- Council Dwellings (Components) – 15 to 40 years
- Other Land and Buildings:
 - Council Offices - 60 years
 - Pavilions - 30 years
 - Cemetery Chapels - 30 years
 - Other - 40 years
- Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment – 5 years
- Infrastructure – 40 years

Any significant components identified in the revaluation of an asset are depreciated separately over their estimated useful life.

Works vehicles are depreciated over their estimated useful lives but with a greater depreciation charge in the early years to reflect the use and diminishing value of these assets.

Where an impairment loss is charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, but there were accumulated revaluation gains in the Revaluation Reserve for that particular asset, an amount up to the value of that loss is transferred from the Revaluation Reserve to the Capital Adjustment Account.

The Council is not required to raise council tax or council housing rents to fund depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisations. However, it is required to make an annual contribution from revenue towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement equal to an amount calculated on a prudent basis determined by the authority in accordance with statutory guidance. This is known as the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP).

Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisations are therefore reversed out of the General Fund (and Housing Revenue Account (HRA)) and replaced by the MRP. This is completed with an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account within the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two. This ensures that depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisations have no overall effect on council tax or housing rent levels.

The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008, require local authorities to approve an MRP policy at the beginning of each financial year on setting aside a sum of money from revenue for the repayment of principal on outstanding debt. From 2012/13 onwards the Council has approved a policy such that, for capital expenditure incurred before 1 April 2008, the MRP is based on 4% of the authority's Capital Financing Requirement for the General Fund. For General Fund capital expenditure incurred after 1 April 2008, the MRP is based upon the estimated life of those assets where the financing was provided by borrowing. The Council has also decided that no voluntary provision for the repayment of debt relating to the HRA should be made in 2019/20.

(vii) Employee Benefits

Benefits Payable During Employment

Short term employee benefits are those due to be settled within 12 months of the year-end. They include such benefits as salaries, paid annual leave and sick leave and are recognised as an expense for service in the year in which employees render service to the Council.

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 and are charged on an accruals basis to the appropriate service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when the Council is demonstrably committed to the termination of the employment of an officer or making an offer to encourage voluntary redundancy.

Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the General Fund or Housing Revenue Account 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 debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end.

Post-Employment Benefits

Employees of the Council are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme, administered by Nottinghamshire County Council. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme in that it provides defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees worked for the Council.

The Local Government Pension Scheme

The Local Government Pension Scheme is accounted for as a defined benefits scheme:

- The liabilities of the Nottinghamshire County Council 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 that reflects the time value of money and the characteristics of the liability.
- The assets of the Nottinghamshire County Council 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
 - Unitised securities – current bid price
 - Property – market value

The change in the net pension's 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 Statement as part of Resources).
 - Net interest on the net defined benefit liability or asset (i.e. the net interest expense for the Council) – the change during the period in the net defined liability or asset that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in 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 or asset at the beginning of the period after taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability or asset during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.
- Re-measurements comprising:
 - The return on plan assets (excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability or asset) charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
 - Actuarial gains and losses (changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions) charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
- Contributions paid to the Nottinghamshire County Council pension fund – cash paid as employer's contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities (not accounted for as an expense).

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the pension fund in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means

that there are appropriations to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and any 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 and Housing Revenue Account 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 authority also has restricted powers to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirements. Any liabilities estimated to arise as a result of an award to any member of staff are accrued in the year of the decision to make the award and accounted for using the same policies as are applied to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

(viii) 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.

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

(ix) Financial Instruments

Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the authority becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument, and are initially assessed at fair value and are carried at 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.

All borrowings shown in the Balance Sheet consist of the outstanding principal repayable plus accrued interest. Annual interest is charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in accordance with the loan agreement.

Gains and losses on the repurchase or early settlement of borrowing are credited and debited to the Financing and Investment income and expenditure line in the

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year of repurchase/settlement. However, where repurchase has taken place as part of a restructuring of the loan portfolio that involves the modification or exchange of existing instruments, the premium or discount is respectively deducted from or added to the amortised cost of the new or modified loan and the write down to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is spread over the life of the loan by an adjustment to the effective interest rate.

Where premiums and discounts have been charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement or the Housing Revenue Account, regulations allow the impact on the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Balance respectively to be spread over future years. The Council has a policy of spreading the gain or loss over the term that was remaining on the loan against which the premium was payable or discount receivable when it was repaid. The reconciliation of amounts charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement or the Housing Revenue Account to the net charge required against the General Fund or Housing Revenue Account Balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Financial Assets

Certain reserves are kept to manage the accounting processes for non-current fixed assets and retirement benefits and do not represent usable resources for the Council - these reserves are explained in the relevant policies below.

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
- fair value through other comprehensive income

The Council's business model is to hold investments to collect contractual cash flows. Financial assets are therefore classified as amortised cost, except for those whose contractual payments are not solely payment of principal and interest.

Financial Assets measured at Amortised Cost

Financial assets measured at amortised cost are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value. They are subsequently measured at their amortised cost. Annual credits to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest receivable are based on the carrying amount of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument.

All such assets held on the Balance Sheet consist of the outstanding principal receivable plus accrued interest. Annual interest is credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in accordance with the loan agreement.

The Council has provided a number of “soft loans” to employees at less than market rates for the purchase of motor vehicles. These should be correctly shown in the Balance Sheet at fair value. However, the value of these loans is not considered to be material. Accordingly, the value as shown in the Balance Sheet represents the value of any loans made less any repayments that have been received.

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

Expected Credit Loss Model

The Council recognises expected credit losses on all of its financial assets held at amortised cost either on a 12 month or lifetime basis. The expected credit loss model also applies to lease receivables and contract assets. Only lifetime losses are recognised for trade receivables held by the Council.

Impairment losses are calculated to reflect the expectation that the future cash flows might not take place because the borrower could default on their obligations. Credit risk plays a crucial part in assessing losses. Where risk has increased significantly since an instrument was initially recognised, losses are assessed on a lifetime basis. Where risk has not increased significantly, or remains low, losses are assessed on the basis of 12 month expected losses.

Financial Assets measured at Fair Value through Profit or Loss

Financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss 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 occur in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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 technique are categorised in accordance with the following:

- Level 1 inputs – quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets that the Council 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 or 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.

Financial Assets measured at Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income

Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income are recognised on the balance sheet when the authority becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured and carried at fair value. Annual income received from the financial instrument is credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when it becomes receivable by the authority.

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 technique are categorised in accordance with the following:

- Level 1 inputs – quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets that the Council 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.

The Council can elect to classify certain instruments as Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income, dependent on the contractual arrangements for the instrument.

For an elected financial asset fair value gains and losses are recognised as they occur in Other Comprehensive Income within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but are balanced by an entry in the Financial Instrument Revaluation Reserve. In all other circumstances the gain or loss is recognised in the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement before being transferred to the Financial Instrument Revaluation Reserve via the Movement in Reserve Statement

On derecognition of an elected financial asset the balance on the Financial Instrument Revaluation Reserve is transferred to the General Fund via the Movement in Reserves Statement. In all other circumstances the balance on the Financial Instrument Revaluation Reserve is transferred to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line within 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 to the Council are not credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement until conditions attached 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 acquired by using 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) Heritage Assets

The Council's Heritage Assets consist of the DH Lawrence Birthplace Museum building and a painting by Dr Ala Bashir, a respected sculptor and painter, of DH Lawrence which is linked to his most famous novel, Lady Chatterley's Lover. The museum building is held for its historical and artistic significance and to promote knowledge and culture. The DH Lawrence Birthplace Museum is recognised and measured (including the treatment of depreciation and revaluation gains and losses) in accordance with the Authority's accounting rules on property, plant and equipment. The building was revalued at 31 March 2017 in accordance with the Council's 5-year revaluation cycle for such assets. The painting was donated to the Council in 2008.

The carrying amounts of heritage assets are reviewed where there is evidence of impairment. For example, this may be where the asset has suffered physical deterioration or breakage or where doubts arise as to its authenticity. Any impairment is recognised and measured in accordance with the Council's general policies on impairment.

(xii) Intangible Assets

Expenditure on non-monetary assets that do not have physical substance but are controlled by the authority 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 is restricted to that incurred during the development phase. Research expenditure cannot be capitalised.

Expenditure on the development of websites is not capitalised if the website is solely or primarily intended to promote or advertise the Council's goods or services.

Intangible assets are measured initially at cost. Amounts are only re-valued 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 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 sales proceeds greater than £10,000) the Capital Receipts Reserve.

(xiii) Interests in Companies and Other Entities

The authority has material interests in companies and other entities that have the nature of subsidiaries, associates and jointly controlled entities and require it to prepare group accounts. Liberty Leisure Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of the authority which manages the provision of leisure and culture services and its accounts are consolidated with the authority's in accordance with IAS 27. See also policy xvi below.

(xiv) Inventories and Long Term Contracts

Inventories are included in the Balance Sheet at cost. Whilst the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2019/20 requires inventories to be shown at the lower of cost and net realisable value, a departure from this is permitted under IFRS due to:

- the value of inventories not being considered to be material.
- the cost of analysing inventories between cost and net realisable value outweighing the value to the user of the accounts.

Long term contracts are accounted for on the basis of charging the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services with the value of works and services received under the contract during the financial year

(xv) 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, based on the amount at which the asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable parties at arm's-length. Properties are not depreciated but are re-valued 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 and expenditure 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 (for any sale proceeds greater than £10,000) the Capital Receipts Reserve.

The Council does not currently have any investment properties.

(xvi) Jointly Controlled Operations and Jointly Controlled Assets

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

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

Whilst the Council does not strictly have any jointly controlled operations and jointly controlled assets in line with the definitions above, the Council has a 50% interest in the Bramcote Bereavement Services Joint Committee with the other 50% relating to Erewash Borough Council. Whilst the Bramcote Bereavement Services Joint Committee is a separate entity in its own right, its decision making and operational arrangements fulfil many of features associated with a jointly controlled operation. Therefore, the Council recognises 50% of the assets and liabilities of the Joint Committee on its Balance Sheet and debits and credits the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement with 50% of the expenditure and income of the Joint Committee. This is also recognised in the Movement in Reserves Statement and the Cash Flow Statement as appropriate.

(xvii) Leases

Leases are classified as finance leases where the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the property, 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 upon the use of specific assets.

Accounting standards yet to be adopted – Leasing

New standards in respect to leasing come into effect from 1 April 2020 which will change the accounting treatment of finance and operating leases. The Council is assessing the implications but considering the low number of leases the Council currently holds as lessee the impact is not considered to be material.